



Veterans Day Celebration at AE/MS. Seated (l-r): Richard Kern of Knoxville, Tennessee (Irene Jewett's son-in-law), Francis Frame, Wallace Scott, Bill Leber, Richard Lamos, Frank Haley, George Karales, Darrell Sykes. Middle row: Ralph Doe, Roger Henderson, Lloyd Perreault, Melanie Gotthardt, Reggie Roy, Willis Nowell, Keith Fleury, Charlie Moore, Chris Bengivengo, Pete Thompson, Hastings Rigolet. Back row: Don Mayo, Tim Frost, Dennis Wright, Wayne Nicoll, Dennis Fenton, Jim Goody, Sheldon Rich, Skip Powers, Gene Poulin, Frank Anderson, Mike Haley, Leighton Terwilliger, Dave Grover.

Photo: Charlie Darling

"Jailbirds" Raise Over \$4,500 For New Hampshire Food Bank

By Heather Makechnie
For the Beacon

To put things into perspective, the state's New Hampshire Food Bank in Manchester recently held its first in-house fundraiser. Called Octoberfest, it was held in Manchester, and it was considered a wild success. The event raised \$18,000.

The little town of Andover has held two fundraising events for the New Hampshire Food Bank in two months. October's community-wide yard sale in Cilleyville brought in \$5,168, and November's Food Bank Bash on the Village Green brought in \$4,522. Combined, that's over \$9,600 – more than half of what was raised in big ol' Manchester!

These two Andover events are bright gems in Andover's crown.

Community participation in the November event was over the top. In the three days that this reporter was involved making phone calls to residents, only two people declined to make a donation. In every case, when the head of an organization in town was asked to get his or her group involved in some way, there was an immediate attempt to make it happen.

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Bill "Billy Bob" Matulevich was "incarcerated" on the Village Green for three days while he solicited donations to the New Hampshire Food Bank as a way to "raise bail." He and other "detrainees" raised over \$4,500. Photo: Bob Bussey

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\$2.00

Andover Tax Bills Show 4.65% Rise

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Property tax bills arrived in households across Andover this past month. For property owners whose assessments haven't changed since last year, the bills are about 4.65% higher than last year's tax bills, an increase about a third higher than the federal government's 3.4% inflation rate for 2005.

Leading up to Town Meeting last year, it looked as though this year's tax bills would show a much greater increase over last year than 4.65% – last March's *Beacon* projected a 12% rise. But an unexpected decrease in the County tax rate for Andover and about \$175,000 in unexpended funds from the School District nearly wiped out the impact on tax bills of the increased school budget.

Town Tax Rate

For the fifth year in a row, the Town tax rate is unchanged, at \$1.44 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Again this year the Selectmen used money from prior year budget surpluses to cover expenses that would otherwise have caused an increase in the Town tax rate.

Fire Department Tax Rates

Both the East Andover Fire Department tax rate (which appears on the tax bills of residents who live in the East Andover Fire Precinct) and the Andover Fire Department tax rate (which appears on every one else's tax bills) showed only small increases over last year's rates, coming in at \$.33 and \$.62 per \$1,000, respectively.

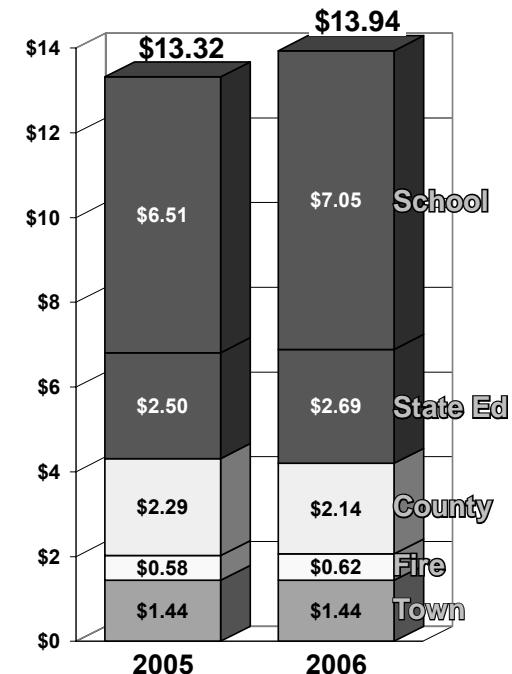
School District Tax Rate

The School District tax rate is up this year, but not by as much as originally expected. The total school budget

is up by nearly 10%, but with about \$172,600 in end-of-year surplus from the 2005/2006 school year to offset part of the increase, the School District tax rate only rose about 8% this year to \$7.05 per \$1,000.

A number of factors contributed to the rise in the 2006/2007 school year budget, including:

- MVHS tuition up 5%
- Special Education costs up 2%



ANDOVER TAX RATES per \$1,000. East Andover tax rates differ only in the Fire amounts.

- Faculty salary costs up 2%
- Architect and engineering fees for plans to update the AE/MS facilities
- An Expendable Trust Fund was established to help cover future increases in high school tuition costs.
- A Reading Specialist / Enrichment Coordinator was added to the staff as the result of a warrant article passed by last year's Town Meeting.

The healthy surplus left over from the 2005/2006 school year came about because the school budget is approved

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