

**Tax Bills from page 1**

every year in March, over five months before the school year starts. That budget has to anticipate a large number of variables like special education needs, the number of students being tuitioned to Merrimack Valley High School, the number of faculty opting for health insurance coverage, and so on.

Prudent management and a little luck throughout the 2005/2006 school year resulted in the excess funds that were used to reduce this year's School District tax rate.

**State Education Tax Rate**

The State Education tax rate is part of the way our School District is funded and is therefore subject to all the factors discussed above. The words "State Education Tax" are perhaps a bit misleading, as it is money raised in Andover to be spent by the Andover School District.

**County Tax Rate**

Despite an increase of 4.6% in the County budget, Andover's County tax rate went down this year.

That's because each town is obligated to support the County's \$30 million budget in proportion to the total property valuation of that town in relation to the total property valuations of all the other towns. Andover's total property valuation rose this year, but not as fast as the valuations of other towns, so the piece of the County pie that Andover must support is smaller this year. Our

County tax rate is \$2.14 for this year, down by over 6.5%.

**Assessment Changes**

Are you seeing a bigger rise in your tax bill than 4.65%? Check your assessment. About a third of the properties in Andover were inspected earlier this year to verify the accuracy of the Town's records.

If yours was one of those properties (and you would have received a letter from the Town in the spring if it was), then the change in your tax bill from last year will be a combination of the 4.65% rise in the total tax rate, plus (or minus) any increase (or decrease) in your assessment.

If your property wasn't inspected this year, don't feel left out – the Town will inspect another third of the properties next year and the final third in 2008.

**Penalties**

Does your tax bill include a \$10 penalty? If it does, it's because you didn't return your inventory form to the Town Office by the April 15 deadline this year.

**Tax Rates In Surrounding Towns**

Springfield	\$13.62
New London	\$13.74
<b>Andover</b>	<b>\$13.94</b>
Wilmot	\$16.55
Webster	\$16.96
Danbury	\$16.97
Hill	\$17.98
Boscawen	\$18.10
Franklin	\$18.90
Warner	\$20.09
Salisbury	\$21.17

**Food Bank from page 1**

Proctor students, faculty, trustees, and staff went out of their way to make the event happen. Parents of Proctor students stopped by to make a donation while they were in town visiting. All this support came despite the fact that it was one of the busiest and most stressful weekends of Proctor's academic year.

And who can forget the sight of camels in the middle of Andover? Mary LeDoux of Stoneridge Farm in Canaan and Sue Rasweiler brought Hulk and Joshua, the camels, and their companion burro. Over 400 people came to see them. How can we thank Mary and Raz enough?

Because of the efforts of so many people, our neighbors and hungry friends will have approximately 40,800 meals.

Many, many thanks to :

- the Andover Police Department, and especially Officer Dave Hewitt, for the wonderful arrest of "Billy Bob" Matulevich
- Mev and Bill "Billy Bob" Matulevich, who organized the event
- Jerry Thompson for his "clink" on wheels
- Scuffy Barton, who made things happen
- Roxanne Shedd of Lake Sunapee Bank, Bridgette LeRoy of The New London Inn, Ron and Judy Evans (with a freshly broken ankle and hand injury), Jon Champagne, and Arthur Makechnie, who were all "imprisoned" to raise bail

- Grant and Nate of the Proctor Academy Kitchen, who gave of their culinary talents to keep "Prisoner" Matulevich sustained
- Amy Rheume and her daughters Maddie and Michaela, who raised \$101 from popcorn, excellent corn chowder, and baked goods
- Grace Stetson and Loretta Bates, who dropped by with their food items
- The Wyldlife Club, which was amazing on Friday. Cathy Ellis, Robin Rego, and Rene Goodwin had their hands full with that energetic crowd. The tidal wave of activity those kids generated was a traffic stopper
- Marc Violette of TDS Telecom, for donating two phone lines
- Ben Saxon of Disabled Veterans Association, who gave a firepit to keep the prisoner warm at night
- Ian Makechnie, who organized the pumpkin smash
- Roger Noona of New Boston, for donating the pumpkins to be smashed
- Laurie Ferguson, for being our media consultant
- Conrad and Brian of WNTK, Bob Bussey, photographer for the *Beacon* and the *Argus Champion*, and the wonderful team from the *Inter-town Record*

Finally, a reminder to those who made pledges over the phone: Please honor those pledges. And thanks to all who made this such an amazing success.

# Happy Holidays From *The Andover Beacon!*



- **Beacon t-shirts** are unique reminders of our pride in Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville.

Our t-shirts feature the *Beacon* logo and say "All the good news from Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville, New Hampshire." They come in adult (\$20) and youth (\$12) sizes and are top-quality Hanes Beefy-T shirts.

Thanks to the Andover Service Club, you can buy *Beacon* t-shirts at the Thrift Shop, which is open Tues 10-2, Wed 3-5, Thu 10-4, and Sat 10-2, or call 735-6099.

- Gift subscriptions for out-of-town friends and family keep giving all year long.

Use this form for gift subscriptions, out-of-town subscriptions, seasonal subscriptions, or for any other donation to *The Andover Beacon*. Thank you!

## GIVE THE GIFT OF THE BEACON!

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

**Andover Beacon • PO Box 149 • Andover NH 03216 • Thank you!**