

Beacon Bits

Letters To The Beacon

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season, and that 2007 will be a healthy, prosperous year for you and yours.

Support The Beacon In 2007

Delivering the *Beacon* to every household in Andover at no charge every month is a risky business. The risk is that you'll think the *Beacon* is free – and that's far from the truth!

It costs about \$3,000 a month (and many, many hours of volunteer labor) for the *Beacon* to arrive in mailboxes, and advertisers cover only a portion of that expense. The rest has to come from out-of-town subscriptions and voluntary donations from Andover residents.

So if you enjoy the *Beacon* or feel it plays an important role in keeping Andover a great place to live, please use the membership form on page two or the reply envelope inserted in this issue to do your part to keep the *Beacon* coming.

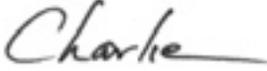
Our goal is to have 275 households show their support. Since last September, we've heard from 52. If you're not one of those, please "get a round tuit" today!

Articles Not To Miss

I'm not in the habit of telling our readers what to read, but may I point you to two must-read parts of this month's *Beacon*?

The information about the school bond (starting on page one) is very important. And hiding under the innocuous headline "Master Plan Update Committee" on page eight you'll find some rather shocking information.

No matter how you feel about government and taxes in general, these two topics present serious challenges for our community. Please be sure you're well-informed in these areas, and help your friends and neighbors do the same.



Next Month's Beacon...

...should be in mailboxes on Friday, February 2. Please get all ads, articles, etc. to us by **Mon., Jan. 15** at the latest. And **earlier is always better!**

While back, we were rushing here and there with errands. I had slipped my bank deposit (mostly cash) into one of those reply envelopes from a magazine to hold it until I got to the bank.

The envelope, unsealed, was mistakenly dropped into the mail slot at the New London Post Office along with the other bills being mailed. I returned home before realizing what had happened.

I drove to the Andover Post Office around 3 PM and explained the situation to Postmaster James Cooper. He called the New London Post Office only to find that the mail was already enroute to Manchester. He then called the Manchester Post Office and apprised them of my story. When he hung up, I felt a hole in my stomach.

However, the next day when my mail was delivered, it contained a US Government envelope addressed to me, and inside was my envelope with the entire deposit intact, down to the penny!

As complex and burdensome as laws and regulations are with which our public employees work, it's amazing that anything gets accomplished, let alone something as remarkable as this. Thank you, Postmaster Cooper.

And while I am at it, I would like to acknowledge the many other federal, state, and municipal employees who make Andover such a reasonable and sane place to live, compared to the world outside.

Kenneth Reid

A heartfelt thank-you for cards sent to Gloria Granger and prayers during her illness. Also to the Andover Congregational Church, friends and neighbors, and the Andover Rescue Squad.

Gloria will be greatly missed.
God bless you all,

Jane M. Walker

A heartfelt thank-you to our friends and neighbors for prayers, cards, and food. Also to the Andover Rescue Squad, East Andover Fire Department, Andover Congregational Church, Pas-

tor John Wagner, and Lake Sunapee VNA Hospice during our recent loss.

God bless you all,

Jane, Wanda, Bill and Rene
The family of William "Ted" Walker

There has been considerable controversy lately concerning the imposition of a so-called "view tax" on real estate. Assessing companies have taken the initiative (with the compliance of town fathers) to separate one taxable item (view) based upon the assessor's estimation of how the "view" impacts the value of the property. The effect of the "view" on the value of the property is so subjective it must be confirmed in the marketplace.

The situation becomes more problematic when larger tracts of land are being assigned a "view" component by the assessor with apparently little if any direct correlation with the market values of the properties when they are developed. In examples of which I have become aware the "views" often only become apparent with considerable removal of trees and offending landscape. Again each lot carved from a "high view" tract must be confirmed in the

marketplace.

The "view" factor is but one of many that routinely go into determining the market value of a piece of property. Why is just "view" highlighted? In addition the view factor is, of course, not a constant and will change with the development of surrounding properties. For properties that over time become surrounded by urban development, a "view" component in the tax bill is clearly inappropriate. Normally assessed properties, of course, would pass through these market changes without a hitch.

The successful development of property is a risk-taking enterprise. The risk takers in a free society have their role and the government has its. It is not the role of government to forecast the future value of property. A new tax based on "view" will have two possible effects, both of questionable value. The "view" tax will so inflate the value of the property that (1) the owner may be forced to sell and (2) the buyer may now find the property too risky to develop.

It's a difficult enough job for a government to fairly assess the properties within its boundaries. Let's not complicate it!

Paul Fopiano

BEACON MEMBERS WIN!

Each month the *Beacon* holds a random drawing among its members to give away valuable prizes provided by area businesses. **Become a member** for a year, support the *Beacon*, and join the fun! This month's winners are:

Andover Pizza Chef	Large 2-Topping Pizza	Kandy & Rick Dukette
Andover Service Club	Cookbook	Candi & Lenny Spaulding
Blackwater Junct. Rest.	Gift Certificate	Joy & David Langtry
East Andover Marketplace	Gift Certificate	Betsy Paine & Mike Henriques
Forest Cone & Evergreen	Yankee Candle	Sandra & John Graves
Jake's Market and Deli	Gift Certificate	Dutch & Betty Morse
Judy Evans	Handknit Scarf	Jerry Hersey
Kearsarge Magazine	1-Year Subscription	Annette Bashaw
MacKenna's Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Wallace Scott
Mary Kay - Laura Condon	Gift Certificate	Lisa Hanscom
New Horizons Hairstylists	Hair Care Products	Gretchen Hildebrand

Winners – contact the Beacon at 735-5331 to collect your prize.

Prizes not redeemable for cash.

BECOME A BEACON MEMBER!

Here's my member donation of \$_____ for (check one):
 Local Seasonal (\$25 min) Out of Town (\$25 min) Gift Subscr. (\$25 min)

Local or Out of Town

Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone or E-mail _____

Seasonal

Other Name _____
 Other Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone or E-mail _____

Seasonal: which months are you at the "other" address?

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Publisher: Charlie Darling
 Ad Sales: Connie Powers, Judy Evans, Tina Barton
 Volunteer Coordinator: Donna Duclos
Beacon Guides: Heidi Terwilliger, Joanie Filon, Ray Mitchell, Carmen Bates, Doreen Perreault, Emily Baker, Shirley Currier, Tracy Merriman
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 Photography: Bob Bussey
 Distribution: Mary Demers, Judy Perreault, Don Gross
 Special Projects: Mary Anne Broshek, Deb Brower, Marilyn Gould

The Andover Beacon
 PO Box 149
 Andover NH 03216 • (603) 735-6099
 Mail@AndoverBeacon.com
 http://AndoverBeacon.com