

Please! Get A Round Tuit!

# BEACON 2007 FUNDRAISING ONLY AT HALFWAY POINT

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon Staff

With less than a month to go, we're just a bit more than half way to our goal of 275 donations from Andover residents. If you enjoy receiving the *Beacon* every month – if you think it makes a difference in the quality of life we enjoy in Andover – then please take the time right now to send a check for any amount to *The Andover Beacon*, PO Box 149, Andover 03216.



proud to mail the *Beacon* at no charge to every Andover address (nearly 1,200 of them), but to make the magic happen we rely on voluntary donations for a large portion of our annual budget.

We've set a goal of just 275 donations – less than a quarter of the addresses we mail to – but at this point I'm concerned that we'll fail to drum up even that modest level of support from the community.

The *Beacon* is published by a New Hampshire non-profit corporation run entirely by Andover residents. We're Please prove that Andover does value the *Beacon*! Clip the form on page 3 and send a donation today!

## School Bond Addresses Complex State And Federal Educational Requirements

By Vicky Mishcon  
Andover School Board

Our elected state and federal legislators have created many new educational laws and requirements over the past 30 years, many of them "underfunded mandates." These laws are aimed at improving educational standards for all students. They have required improvements in educational programs, higher qualifications for teachers, increases in services to support regular education, smaller class sizes, and expanded programs for students with disabilities, to name just a few. The proposed school bond issue will address AE/MS' needs in meeting today's educational standards.

many laws and programs that schools must address today:

The **Individuals With Disabilities Education Act** of November 1975 guarantees a free and public education to all children ages 3 to 21 with disabilities.

Under this law is **Least Restrictive Environment**, which says that a child with disabilities can receive an education designed to meet their needs while being educated with peers without disabilities in the regular educational environment to the maximum extent appropriate. In order to successfully mainstream special needs children in the regular classroom setting, many support systems need to be in place.

See **BOND** on page 4



Ice-out in January on Highland Lake. Warm weather, rain, and wind broke up the ice covering about half of Highland Lake over the weekend of January 6.

Photo: Mark Stetson

# SUPPORT THE BEACON!

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**Andover Beacon**

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## 2007 Tax Bills Could Rise 21%

By Ed Hiller  
Andover Budget Committee

Budget proposals for the coming year have been prepared by the Andover School Board, the Andover Board of Selectmen, and the two Fire Precincts. If accepted by the voters, these budgets will result in a total increase in the tax rate for the coming year of approximately 21%! This means that the 2007 tax bill for a representative property with an assessment of \$200,000 will go up by about \$580 over this year's 2006 tax bill.

It is up to the Andover voters to decide whether to adopt these budgets and thereby accept the resulting tax burdens, or to amend them before giving them their final vote of approval.

The School budget, which accounts for about 72% of the total tax burden, will be presented and voted on at the Andover School District annual meeting

on March 5. The Town budget, which accounts for an additional 10% of the tax burden, will be presented and voted on at the Andover Town Meeting on March 13. The County assessment, which is beyond the Town's control, accounts for about 15%. The Fire Precinct budgets account for the remaining 3%.

Every Andover voter is urged to attend both the Town Meeting and the School District Meeting and to participate in these budget and funding decisions.

### School District Budget

The Andover School Board's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2007-08 is in two parts. The first part is for the operating budget. The second part is for funding for new construction and renovations of the school building.

The operating budget appropriated for the present year is \$3.57 million.

See **Budget** on page 2

## Planning Board Seeks To Extend Growth Management

By Roger Godwin  
Andover Planning Board

A public hearing will be held at the Andover Town Hall on Tuesday, February 6, at 7 PM on the Planning Board's proposal to keep Andover's growth management provisions (Article XI of the Andover Zoning Ordinance) in place as is for up to five more years.

These growth management provisions allow the issuance of building permits to any owner of a lot on which a residence could be built on March 11, 2002, provided application is made by the end of February of any year. They limit the number of building licenses for new residential units to a percentage of existing housing stock which is the average of growth experienced in the preceding year in all towns abutting Andover. And they provide for the "phasing" of larger new developments (those of five or more lots), but do not affect the typical "mom and pop" subdivision of one lot into two.

The extension requested is five years. That's how long the Planning Board believes may be needed to:

- Complete the current master plan update, then
- Prepare proposed amendments to the present zoning ordinance, and
- Present them to a future town meeting for vote by Andover's citizens.

If that vote happens sooner, the growth management limits expire sooner.

### Residential Development

The Planning Board believes that the conditions that justified adoption of a temporary growth management ordinance in 2002 continue to apply. Andover continues to be attractive as a residential town due to

- its location between I-89 and I-93 and at the junction of Routes 4 and 11,
- its nine-grade school and local private residential high school, and
- its general suitability for commuting to four significant employment areas.

See **Growth** on page 7

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