

We know you've been meaning to support the *Beacon*, but you just haven't quite gotten...



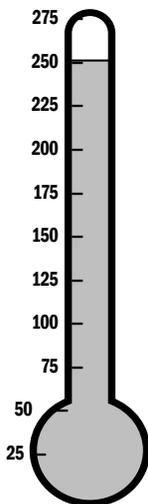
Well, now you've got one!

**SEND A CHECK TODAY!**

We're more than 90% of the way to our goal of 275 Andover households supporting the *Beacon* with a voluntary donation. If you haven't sent your 2007 donation, please do so today!

You'll find a handy form on page two, or just send your check to:

The Andover Beacon  
PO Box 149  
Andover NH 03216  
Thank you!



**Andover Beacon**

AndoverBeacon.com April 2007 \$2.00

## School District Meeting Votes Down \$3.8M Bond

By Walter Alarkon  
Concord Monitor staff

Andover residents turned out in droves to reject a proposed \$3.8 million expansion to Andover Elementary/Middle School [on Monday night, March 5].

They voted 271-121 against the plan at the annual school district meeting – a far cry from the two-thirds support it needed to pass. The proposal called for a new cafeteria-gymnasium room, a new lobby, and repairs to the roof's

surface. The roof had to be reinforced with beams last year after an engineer discovered structural problems.

School Board Chairman Douglas Boisvert said the renovation was needed because the cafeteria-gymnasium, built in the early 1960s, didn't meet building codes. The floor tiles contained asbestos, prohibited in new buildings.

The project would also free up space elsewhere in the school. The old cafeteria-gymnasium room would have been

See School Bond on page 3



Boston Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez (l) gives Julio Lugo some pointers. Photo: Bill Leber

**A BEACON EXCLUSIVE:**

## RED SOX TRAINING CAMP

The *Beacon's* intrepid Red Sox correspondent, Bill Leber, at great personal expense and sacrifice, was at the Sox's training camp again this year to bring you exclusive glimpses into the start of another exciting year. Here are some of his notes from Fort Myers.

**February 28**

We beat Manny to Spring Training again. I am sending a few pictures. The team looks good, but we haven't seen them put to the test yet. The first game is tonight with Schilling pitching against the Twins, and tomorrow Beckett pitches.

The "new guy," Dice-K, pitches

against Boston College on the March 2. We saw him pitch batting practice, and he didn't give up any really good hits to the big guys like Manny and Papi and Lugo.

The practice session at the Player Development Complex finished yesterday, and the games start tonight at the City of Palms Stadium in downtown. So much fun!

Hope you don't get too much snow to contend with.

**March 4**

The pictures are just a few at the Player Development Complex where

See Red Sox on page 6

## 2007 Town Meetings Reduce Tax Increase

By Ed Hiller  
Andover Budget Committee

The School District Meeting on March 5 made significant decisions regarding school funding. The Town Meeting on March 13 also accepted proposals to reduce expenditures in several areas. As a result, the tax rate for 2007 is now estimated to be up only about 13% over last year, in contrast with the prediction of a 21% increase made in the February issue of the *Beacon*.

**Andover School District**

The School District Meeting dramatically rejected by a 69% to 31% vote the proposed \$3.8 million project for new building construction and renovations, to be funded by a 10-year bond. This decision reduced the 2007 budget by \$527,066, the estimated first year's debt payment on the bond. However, the meeting went on to approve an increase of \$113,000 for additional building repairs and improvements.

These actions resulted in a net reduction of \$414,066 (10%) from the

proposed \$4.19 million to \$3.77 million. This appropriation is 5.7% above last year's appropriation. The 2007 tax rate for the Andover School District (based on published figures for state support, which are significantly reduced from last year) is estimated to be \$10.89, up

Tax Rate Estimates				
Department	2006	2007	Increase	
School	\$9.74	\$10.89	\$1.15	11.8%
Town	\$1.44	\$1.61	\$0.17	11.8%
Fire				
Andover	\$0.62	\$0.67	\$0.05	8.1%
E. Andover	\$0.33	\$0.33	---	---
County	\$2.14	\$2.57	\$0.43	20.1%
Total Estimated Tax Rates				
Andover	\$13.94	\$15.74	\$1.80	12.9%
E. Andover	\$13.65	\$15.40	\$1.75	12.8%
Tax On A \$200,000 Property				
Andover	\$2,788	\$3,148	\$360	12.9%
E. Andover	\$2,730	\$3,080	\$350	12.8%

11.8% from last year's figure of \$9.74.

**Andover Town Budget**

The Town Meeting voted to reduce the proposed appropriation of \$1.41 million by \$29,075 to \$1.38 million. This reduction resulted from:

- a reduced estimate to repair culverts on Sam Hill Road (\$28,000 reduction)
- a reduction in the Recreation bud-

See Town on page 5



If you've ever wondered how good the spaghetti is at Immaculate Conception Church's annual Spaghetti Supper, this photo of John Bates from Barrington, grandson of Bill and Loretta Bates, should answer your question.

Photo: Bob Bussey

Andover Beacon  
PO Box 149  
Andover NH  
03216-0149

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER