

Please! Get A Round Tuit Today!

BEACON FUNDRAISING FOR 2008 STARTS SLOWLY

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

With less than a month to go, the Beacon's 2008 fundraising effort is only about one-third of the way to our goal of 325 voluntary donations from Andover residents.

Please – if you saved the envelope from last month's issue, take a moment and get it in the mail today! It's vital that the Beacon cover its expenses every year, and that just won't happen without voluntary donations from a large chunk of the community ... starting with you!

If you didn't save the envelope from last month's issue, just use the form on page two of this issue, or donate up to \$50 online at AndoverBeacon.com.

The Beacon is published by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a New Hamp-

shire non-profit corporation that relies on voluntary donations for about a third of the Beacon's annual operating expenses.

Other than a small salary for me and commissions for our ad salespeople, the Beacon is produced entirely by volunteers. But it still takes a budget of about \$48,000 a year to bring the Beacon to every mailbox in Andover every month at no charge.

About two-thirds of our budget is covered by the approximately 90 advertisers you see in the Beacon every month. That leaves a full third of our annual budget that has to come from somewhere other than ads. Some comes from out-of-town subscribers and gift subscriptions, but most has to come as voluntary donations from the residents of Andover.

See Round Tuit on page 2





AndoverBeacon.com **February 2008** **\$2.00**

2008 Tax Bills Could Rise 3.5%

By Ed Hiller
Andover Budget Committee

The Andover Budget Committee has finalized their 2008 budget recommendations for the Andover School District, the Town of Andover, the two Andover fire precincts, and the Andover Village District. These recommendations will be presented to the voters at the annual meetings in March.

The school tax rate is predicted to go up from \$9.84 to \$10.77, an increase of \$0.93, or 9.5%. The Town tax rate is predicted to go down from \$2.01 to \$1.61, a decrease of \$0.40. The tax rates for each of the Andover fire precincts are predicted to remain the same. The Andover Village District budget is funded primarily by charges to its customers for their water use. It does not receive any real estate tax monies.

Neglecting any increase in the County tax rate, which is unknown at this time, the total 2008 tax rate for Andover will increase by \$0.53 over the total 2007 rate. For property in the Andover fire precinct, the rate will go up from \$14.96 to \$15.49. In the East Andover fire precinct the rate will go up from \$14.63 to \$15.16. In each case the increase is about 3.5%. Any increase in the County tax bill will have a direct impact on these predictions.

School District Budget

The school budget accounts for approximately 70% of the total tax bill. For the current school year of 2007-08, the total appropriation voted at the 2007 annual School District meeting was \$3.773 million.

A number of revenue items reduced
See Tax Bill on page 6

Public Hearing On Proposed Cell Tower Postponed

By Don Gould
Andover Planning Board

The Town of Andover has hired both a radio frequency engineer – David Maxsom of Broadcast Signal Lab in Massachusetts – and a special legal counsel – Russell Hilliard of Upton and Hatfield in Concord – to assist the Andover Planning Board and the Andover Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) in the investigation, review, and decision-making regarding Verizon Wireless' applications for a special exception to construct a ground-mounted personal wireless service facility ("cell tower") on property at 135 Beech Hill Road and a variance to exceed the Andover Zoning Ordinance height limit of 100 feet to a tower height of 120 feet.

The ZBA had planned a public hearing on Tuesday, February 12, to receive comment from the public and from legal counsel and radio frequency engineers representing both Verizon Wireless and the Town of Andover, but at Verizon's request it has been postponed for at least a month or more.

The ZBA is empowered by statute

to hire independent experts, at the applicant's expense, to assist in the investigation and review of cell tower applications. The radio frequency engineer hired by Andover, upon hearing the Verizon Wireless experts, will assess the need for the proposed tower, as well as the types of available alternatives that might be more compatible with the letter and spirit of the Andover zoning ordinance and master plan.

Special legal counsel is required since applications for cell towers are governed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TCA) which allows communications providers whose applications are denied by the local land-use boards to appeal directly to the federal court. The TCA places certain restrictions on the manner in which the ZBA addresses telecommunications applications. Because of the risks and pitfalls posed by failure to comply with the TCA, the boards must enlist the aid of experienced counsel familiar with the TCA and its interaction with local land-use regulations.



Al Laughy used the pedestrian catwalk across the intake structure at the Highland Lake dam to avoid the big trench in which the new box culvert was installed on January 29. More on page 5. Photo: Charlie Darling

Three-Year Cycle Of Appraisal Inspections Concludes

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

In 2006, representatives from Avitar Associates, under contract to the Town, conducted physical inspections of about a third of the properties in Andover. In 2007, they visited another third of the properties in Andover. In both cases they were looking for obvious discrepancies between what they can see on a property and what the tax records show.

The process continues this year with the final third of Andover properties to be inspected later this month and into March. If you weren't visited by Avitar in 2006 or 2007, then within a couple of weeks you should receive a letter letting you know that they'll be calling. In the weeks to follow a representative from

Avitar, wearing a photo ID, will visit you requesting information about your property. He or she will measure the exterior and will inspect the interior.

The inspection itself will not result in a change to your assessed property value except to correct errors, or if the inspector finds changes have been made to your property.

All of this is in aid of complying with a state law that requires every municipality to keep the overall level of property value assessments within approximately 10% of the actual market value of the property. Keeping the Town's assessment database as up-to-date as possible is the most efficient and economical way to be sure we comply with the law and that everyone's assessment is as fair and accurate as possible.

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Beacon Bits

The *Beacon's* 2008 push for local donations isn't off to as fast a start as I'd hoped. We're about a third of the way to our goal of 325 donations from the 1,150 Andover households that receive the *Beacon* free every month. The plan was to wrap up this year's fundraising effort by February 29, but that's looking pretty doubtful at this point.

If you haven't donated to the *Beacon* in 2008, we're all hoping you'll "get around tuit" today! Use the form below, or visit AndoverBeacon.com and donate online. Either way, your donation means a great deal ... please take care of it right away.

Publicize Your Event Or Project

One of the very important roles that the *Beacon* plays in the community is to help everyone be informed about all the fun, interesting, and worthwhile events and projects that our local non-profit clubs and organizations tackle every year to benefit the community or to raise money to further their work.

But because the *Beacon* doesn't have a staff of paid reporters, we have to rely on the organizations themselves to create their own publicity in the form of articles, photos, requests and ideas for ads, etc.

If you're involved with event planning for your club or organization, please use the *Beacon* to your fullest advantage! That means more than a quick, last-minute "when-and-where" note. Good, effective publicity takes planning, and we're happy to help with that part. Call me at least three months in advance of your event and we can make a plan that will get all our *Beacon* readers interested and eager to participate in your event or project.

Charlie

Next Month's Beacon...

...should be in mailboxes on Friday, Feb. 29. Please get all ads, articles, etc. to us by **Friday, Feb. 15**, at the latest. And **earlier is always better!**

Letters

To the 17 Kucinich voters of Andover:

Wouldn't it be interesting to know who we are? Here is our chance to get together and converse.

Please come to a gathering of progressives on Sunday, February 17, from 4 to 6 PM. Bring an hors d'oeuvre to share, if you like. Snow date: February 24.

222 Tucker Mountain Road in East Andover. Look for the Kucinich sign. Questions? Call 735-5586

Strength through Peace,

Donna Baker-Hartwell & Brad Hartwell

Round Tuit from page 1

This year we've set a goal of 325 voluntary donations from Andover residents by February 29. That's less than one third of the 1,150 households in Andover – a pretty small fraction of the people who receive and enjoy the *Beacon* at no charge every month, but an important token of the community's support nonetheless.

Please! I know you've been meaning to "get a round tuit" and show your financial support for the *Beacon*. Well, now is definitely the time to act on that generous impulse! Please make today the day you "get a round tuit" and show your support for our community newspaper, *The Andover Beacon*.

Donate Online!

You can now donate up to \$50 to *The Andover Beacon* by visiting AndoverBeacon.com and clicking the new "Click To Give" button.

The *Beacon* has signed up with Amazon.com's "Honor System" program, so Amazon.com will handle the entire secure transaction for us. We receive your donation, but we never see your credit card number.

But please be sure to click the "Send Info" button on the confirmation page so we know who the donation is from. Thanks!

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

On January 8, Andover and the rest of New Hampshire voted in the first presidential primary of the 2008 election season. The first column of numbers are from Andover. The second is the statewide tally.

Democratic Candidates		
Biden	1	642
Caligiuri		254
Capalbo	1	108
Clinton	192	112,610
Crow		37
Dodd		205
Edwards	96	48,818
Gravel		404
Hewes		17
Hughes		16
Hunter		95
Keefe		51
Killeen		11
Koos		10
Kucinich	17	3,901
LaMagna		8
Laughlin		47
Obama	270	105,007
Richardson	35	13,239
Savior		29
Skok		32

Republican Candidates		
Cort		53
Cox		39
Fendig		13
Gilbert		33
Giuliani	44	20,439
Howard		44
Huckabee	73	26,859
Hunter	8	1,225
Keyes		203
Klein		19
Marchuk		124
McCain	186	88,571
Mitchell		30
O'Connor		45
Paul	42	18,308
Romney	95	75,546
Shepard		27
Supreme		41
Tancredo		80
Thompson	7	2,894
Wuensch		44

Donate!

The *Beacon* relies on voluntary donations for a substantial part of its budget. Use the form below, or donate online at AndoverBeacon.com.

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	Ed & Madelyn Constant
Blackwater Junction Rest.	Gift Certificate	Janet Corliss
East Andover Marketplace	Gift Certificate	Erik & Sarah Anderson
Judy Evans	Handknit Scarf	Toby Locke
Forest Cone & Evergreen	Yankee Candle	Jane Slayton
Jake's Market and Deli	Gift Certificate	Cherie Blessing
Kearsarge Magazine	1-Year Subscription	Daniel Kelley
MacKenna's Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Jim Goody
Mary Kay - Laura Condon	Gift Certificate	Bonnie Lockwood
New Horizons Hairstylists	Hair Care Products	Trudi Otto

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

Prizes not redeemable for cash.

BECOME A BEACON MEMBER!

Seasonal	Gif	Local or Out of Town	Here's my member donation of \$ _____ for (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Town (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Subscr. (\$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? _____			

The Andover Beacon is published monthly by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a New Hampshire non-profit corporation. Board of Directors: Steve Darling, Nan Kaplan, John Kinney, Betsy Paine, Chuck Will.

The *Beacon* is mailed free to all Andover addresses. We ask for a minimum \$25 annual donation from out-of-town or seasonal subscribers who would like the paper mailed to them. **We depend on donations from the community** for a large part of our operating budget.

Publisher: Charlie Darling
 Ad Sales: Connie Powers, Joy Langry, Suzy Brown
 Member Drawings: Judy Evans
Beacon Guides: Heidi Terwilliger, Joanie Filon, Ray Mitchell, Carmen Bates, Doreen Perreault, Shirley Currier, Tracy Merriman
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Photography: Bob Bussey
 Distribution: Mary Demers, Judy Perreault, Don Gross, Lily Ordway, Wayne Nicoll
 Special Projects: Mary Anne Broshek, Marilyn Gould

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

7 Building Permits For 2008

By Don Gould
Andover Planning Board

Andover's Growth Management Ordinance, adopted at the 2002 Town Meeting and extended at the 2007 Town Meeting, requires the Planning Board to base the number of residential building permits available each year on the previous year's growth rate in Andover and abutting towns. That growth rate for 2007 turned out to be 0.685%, as shown in the follow-

provisions of the growth management ordinance.

Small Subdivisions

A quarter of the 2008 building permits (two permits) must be reserved for "mom-and-pop" subdivisions, in which one lot is subdivided into two lots. To be eligible for one of these reserved permits, the small subdivision must be approved between January 1 and August 31, 2008.

Existing Lots

Residential building lots existing when the Growth Management Ordinance was adopted on March 12, 2002 are entitled to 2008 building permits without limitation, as long as application is made by February 29, 2008. Any permits issued under this rule get deducted from the seven permits that can be issued in 2008.

After March 1, you can still apply for a building permit for an existing lot, but you'll only get a permit if there's one available out of the five permits that aren't set aside for small subdivisions.

Towns	2006 Homes	New Homes	Growth
Andover	956	7	.73%
Danbury	542	12	2.21%
Franklin	3,681	12	.33%
Hill	437	7	1.60%
Salisbury	514	2	.39%
Warner	1,183	5	.42%
Wilmot	566	9	1.59%
TOTAL	7,879	54	0.685%

ing table. This is nearly 35 percent lower than that for 2006, which was 30 percent lower than that for 2005, which was nearly 30 percent lower than that for 2004. The slowdown of new home building in Andover and surrounding towns continued.

With 963 full-time homes in Andover at the end of 2007, a 0.685% growth rate provides for up to seven new residential building permits to be issued in 2008. Those seven permits, however, are subject to several other

Town Matters

The *Beacon* needs volunteers to help with reporting about town news. If you can help, call Charlie at 735-6099

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THE BEACON NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT IN 2008!

Every month the *Beacon* arrives FREE in each of Andover's 1,150 households. Last year, only 290 of those households supported the *Beacon* with a donation.

Our goal this year is to have 325 Andover households make a voluntary donation of any amount they choose.

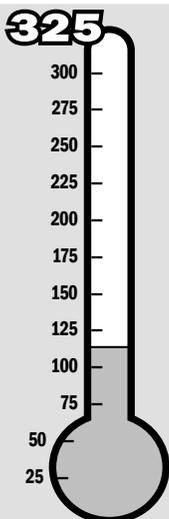
Please! Show your support of the Beacon with a donation!

Are there **325** households in Andover that value the *Beacon*?

Please help us reach our goal!

Households donating so far to help support the *Beacon* in 2008:

113



HELP THE BEACON IN 2008

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

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Trash Co-op Ponders Single Stream Recycling

By Chelsea Conaboy
Concord Monitor staff

Condensed from the January 18
Concord Monitor

The cooperative that handles trash disposal from Concord and 26 surrounding towns [including Andover] is considering building a state-of-the-art recycling facility, hoping to offset the rapidly increasing tipping fees on garbage. If it is built, residents would no longer have to separate paper and cardboard from bottles and cans. Everything could go in one bin.

Jim Presher, director of the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative, said the approximately 60,000-square-foot facility would likely be located near the Interstate 93 corridor between Concord and Franklin. It would use a “single-stream” process, meaning all recyclables would be dumped on the same conveyer belt and then separated by sensors.

Experts say the added convenience for consumers would drive up [people’s participation in recycling], which would translate to less trash. Less trash means less money that the towns have to spend to have it hauled to the Wheelabrator incinerator or another disposal site.

“[Participation in recycling] can double easily, simply because it’s simple,” said Don Maurer, state supervisor of solid waste technical assistance.

Presher said the facility would also be able to process all seven types of plastic, while most recycling operations only accept three or four [types]. It could be the first single-stream center in the state, though another has been proposed in Southern New Hampshire.

First, Presher said, the cooperative has to decide whether the \$11 million project is feasible. He said the facility

would have to bring in between 15,000 and 20,000 tons of recyclables per year to make it work. The cooperative members produce about 10,000 tons annually [about 225 tons of which came from Andover last year]. He has invited municipalities within about a 50-mile radius from Concord to join.

“We have to make sure economically that it works,” Presher said.

He hopes to determine that by May. It would take about a year and a half from then to build and get online. In the meantime, he said, he’s talking with interested towns and looking at five possible sites.

Members of the cooperative [including Nan Kaplan, Susan Schnare, and Ken Tripp from the Andover Recycling Committee] visited a single-stream facility in Portland, Maine, last year. They observed cameras analyzing bottles and paper on the same conveyer belt and the air jets blowing them into one bin or another. [Some of Susan’s photos of the operation appeared on page 11 of the January *Beacon*, which you can see online at AndoverBeacon.com/online.asp.]

“It sounds kind of like Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,” said Chip Chesley, Concord’s General Services director, who went on the field trip. “When you see it, it’s pretty impressive.”

In 2009, the cooperatives contract with Wheelabrator runs out. Tipping fees are expected to increase from \$43 per ton to between \$55 and \$65 per ton, Presher said. [Andover paid \$42.50 per ton last year and sent 1,240 tons to the incinerator. When the contract runs out, Andover’s tipping fee could rise to \$60 per ton, and after 2018 to \$80 per ton.]

The problem of increasing fees is not unique to New Hampshire, where trash

See SSR on page 5

State Changes Rules For Disposing Of Mercury

By Nelson Lebo
Andover Recycling Committee

As of January 1, New Hampshire residents can no longer dispose products containing “intentionally-added” mercury in landfills and incinerators. Lawmakers are concerned about the high toxicity of mercury as well as the way it accumulates in human tissue over time. Mercury causes damage to the liver and kidneys and is especially harmful to the brain.

The new state law bans the disposal of such products as:

- thermometers
- thermostats
- electrical switches
- mercury button cell batteries
- fluorescent light bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs

regardless of the amount of mercury they contain. This ban affects both ho-

meowners and businesses.

So what do you do now? There are several legal disposal options.

The Andover Transfer Station currently accepts fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Please see the attendant. There is no fee.

The Andover Transfer Station does not currently accept thermometers, thermostats, electrical switches, or mercury button cell batteries. Please save these items for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Andover has not budgeted for a collection day in 2008, but likely will in 2009.

Homeowners and small businesses may also take up to six fluorescent lamps to participating TrueValue and Ace hardware stores where the lamps will be accepted and recycled. There is no cost to the consumer for this service.



Above, the new, square hole in the intake structure awaits the new box culvert. Below, the large trench for the box culvert leads across Maple Street to the brook that flows to Webster Lake. Photos: Charlie Darling

Construction And Engineering Projects Around Town

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Construction continues on the Highland Lake dam. With the new cut-off walls at the heart of the dam complete, the construction crew has turned its attention to replacing the old culvert that runs under Maple Street.

In order to protect the structural integrity of the old culvert pipe as they dug around and beneath it, the crew strapped a steel I-beam along the top of the pipe to support the weight of the pipe itself and the outflow water it was carrying.

With the old culvert pipe supported, exposed, and ready to be removed, in early January the crew put the stop logs back into the intake structure, cutting off the outflow through the old culvert and starting the process of re-filling Highland Lake. They removed the old six-foot-diameter culvert and changed

the hole in the input structure from a six-foot circle to a five-foot by 10-foot rectangle to match the shape of the new box culvert that will carry the outflow under Maple Street. The new culvert was set in place on January 29.

Ice Is Still Very Dangerous

When the January thaw hit in mid-month, Highland Lake began to fill up fast. With the lake approaching half full and no culvert in place to carry water out of the lake and into Sucker Brook, the contractor installed a temporary plastic pipe where the old culvert used to be and took out the stop logs, draining Highland Lake once again.

With the lake level rising and falling unnaturally like this, the ice on Highland Lake continues to be a potentially life-threatening hazard. Town officials urge everyone to stay off Highland Lake for the rest of the winter.



New Maps Impact FEMA Flood Insurance Program

By Roger Godwin
Andover Planning Board

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is changing the rules for people eligible for flood insurance. New and more accurate flood plain maps will shortly be furnished to Andover and will be available for inspection in Town Hall. FEMA is requiring that the Town change its zoning ordinance and subdivision and site plan regulations to accommodate new definitions and has provided the wording we must use.

The maps are provisional, provided to the towns for comment and correction. Probably there will be very few changes to them before their formal

adoption next summer or fall.

How does this affect you?

If your house is not in a flood plain or is in a low-risk area on present maps but appears to be within one of those flood plains or in a higher-risk area on the new maps, you can get flood insurance at present rates and have that rate "grandfathered," even if it later appears that you are in a higher-risk area.

The changes to the zoning ordinance will be on the ballot on Town Meeting Day. A vote for the changes means that our neighbors in flood-risk areas can get flood insurance. A vote against the changes means that FEMA will suspend Andover from the flood insurance program.

SSR from page 4

disposal is a \$250 million industry, Maurer said. The Northeast is plagued with high rates, largely due to a lack of landfill space.

But in recent years, recycling has become a good business, with resale rates staying steady. Maurer said corrugated cardboard can sell for about \$120 per ton and mixed paper for about \$70 per ton. Much of that is shipped overseas for processing. Aluminum cans sell for about 70 cents per ton and plastic bottles

for about 16 to 18 cents per ton.

Presher said he couldn't say what effect the facility would have on the need to site a landfill in the region. The cooperative submitted an application to the state in 2005 to build a landfill near the Merrimack River in Canterbury. The plan met heated opposition from some community members and environmentalists. The group withdrew its application last August after extending its contract to send trash to the incinerator until 2014.

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Matchmakers?

Ah, February, with Valentines Day close at hand. That must be why love is in the air. (So that's what all the white stuff falling from the sky is!)

Sellers are in love with their houses. They've raised families, made friends and established roots in the community. They've invested time, effort and resources in making their house into a home and are proud of how it reflects upon them and what it says about them. Sellers think with their hearts.

Buyers are in love with the idea of a new house. The dream of owning a new house, of creating a lifestyle they've longed for, of making a home for their family and pets. Buyers see with their hearts.

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Get Ready For Town Meeting Season 2008

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Town Meeting season is upon us. Here are the dates you need to keep in mind in order to participate in the important decisions facing our town this year.

Friday, February 1 – Filing period for Andover Town and School District Officers ends at 5 PM.

Tuesday, February 5 – Last day to petition the Selectmen to include an article in the warrant for Town Meeting.

Saturday, March 1 – Supervisor of the Checklist available to correct the checklist, Town Hall, 11 AM

Monday, March 3 – Andover School

District Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7 PM.

Monday, March 3 – Andover Village District Annual Meeting, Andover Town Hall, 7 PM.

Tuesday, March 11 – Voting, AE/MS Gym, 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, March 11 – Andover Town Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, March 18 – East Andover Fire Precinct Annual Meeting, East Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, March 19 – Andover Fire District Annual Meeting, Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

For more info, contact the Town Office at 735-5332 or AndoverNH@tds.net.

Tax Bill from page 1

the portion of this amount that had to be raised by taxes. A State Education grant of \$715,467 was received. Other revenue items totaled approximately \$181,000. And unexpended surplus from 2006-07 of \$265,698 was available.

The net amount to be raised by taxes was \$2.610 million. The resulting school tax rate for 2007-08 was \$9.84.

For the coming school year of 2008-09, the Budget Committee is recommending a total budget of \$4.066 million.

Estimated revenues to be received during this coming year 2008-09 are uncertain. However, in order to estimate the school tax rate for the coming year based on this budget, it is assumed that the offsetting revenues remain unchanged (including the amounts of State and Federal aid and the amount of unexpended surplus).

The amount of unexpended surplus used to offset 2007-08 taxes was \$265,968. The amount available to off-

amount to be raised by taxes is \$2.859 million, an increase of \$249,000 over the previous year. The School tax rate for 2008-09 is predicted to be \$10.77, which represents an increase of 9.5% over the previous year's rate of \$9.84.

The major changes in the budget for 2008-09 over the previous year are:

High school tuition	+ \$130,560
Negotiated staff salaries	+ \$94,093
Other salaries and benefits	+ \$29,712
SAU assessment	+ \$11,104
Negotiated benefits	+ \$10,000
Food service support	+ \$8,500
Transportation	+ \$4,000
Reduce teaching staff	- \$28,804
Building repairs (see note)	- \$26,470
Other increases	+ \$15,566
TOTAL INCREASE	+ \$248,261

Note: The appropriation for building repairs for 2007-08 provided \$113,000 to install an intercom system, install new door locks, and make roof repairs.

The recommended budget for building repairs for 2008-09 (Warrant Article VI) provides \$86,530 for further roof

repairs and entry-way improvements. The reduction from the previous year is \$26,470.

The Andover School Board is also proposing (Warrant Article VIII) to budget \$10,000 to address life safety issues in the school building. The Budget Committee decided not to recommend this war-

Tax Rate Estimates for 2008				
Department	2007	2008	Increase	
School	\$9.84	\$10.77	\$0.93	9.5%
Town	\$2.01	\$1.61	-\$0.40	-19.9%
Fire				
Andover	\$0.66	\$0.66	---	---
E. Andover	\$0.33	\$0.33	---	---
County	\$2.45	\$2.45	---	---
Total Estimated Tax Rates for 2008				
Andover	\$14.96	\$15.49	\$0.53	3.5%
E. Andover	\$14.63	\$15.16	\$0.53	3.6%
Tax On A \$200,000 Property				
Andover	\$2,992	\$3,098	\$106	3.5%
E. Andover	\$2,926	\$3,032	\$106	3.6%

set 2008-09 taxes will not be known until the end of the current school year, but is assumed to be the same as last year for the purpose of predicting the tax rate for this recommended budget.

Also a grant of \$45,000 is in hand that will fund completely the budgeted cost of the sidewalk improvement project.

With these assumptions, the net

rant article, since there was not available a breakdown of prioritized safety issues and estimated costs of remedial actions to justify the requested funds. The Budget Committee understands that the School Board plans to assemble supporting documentation for their proposal and to present that information to

See Tax Biss on page 7

Got News? Mail@AndoverBeacon.com or PO Box 149 or 735-6099

Recreation Committee To Propose Land Purchase

By Alan Hanscom
Andover Recreation Committee

The Andover Recreation Committee is looking forward to the next step in the development of Blackwater Park. At Town Meeting, the Recreation Committee will seek permission to purchase a parcel of land from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation that is adjacent to the Northern Rail Trail and Blackwater Park.

To help understand the property in question, picture a railroad freight yard where Blackwater Park now sits. All of the land between the railroad and the Blackwater River was owned by Clarence Carr. Where left field is now stood a warehouse owned by Mr. Carr and the US Hame Company. Instead of a beautifully groomed lawn for baseball and soccer, it was a dusty industrial yard with carts loaded with products waiting for shipping. The rail yard was active beginning in the 1880s and continuing into the 20th century.

After local production of hames ceased, the warehouse property was acquired by the Andover Village District. It was used for storage until the district voted to give it to the Town in the 1970s. Development of the present recreational area began in the 1980s.

To get products from the warehouse onto trains, the Boston & Maine Railroad owned a triangle of land next to the warehouse for a rail siding. This

siding ran from the practice backstop at the far end of Blackwater Park towards the first base dugout. The property line extends across the skating rink to Lawrence Street. The parcel encompasses most of the existing parking lot and entrance driveway, the entire baseball infield, both dugouts, and part of left field.

Knowing where the property line is helps us to understand how difficult it would be to construct a building and leach field on Town property. After proper setbacks from the side line and the Blackwater River wetland areas, little if any buildable land remains.

This three-quarter acre parcel came under State of New Hampshire ownership with the purchase of the Northern Railway in 1996. Disposal of surplus State property is spelled out in RSA 4:40, Disposal of Real Estate. The statute requires a property appraisal. The purchaser pays fair market value for the property and an administrative fee. The process takes over a year and ultimately requires Governor and Council approval.

The approximately \$8,000 cost of the land purchase would come from a fund set up in the 1990s for a concession stand, bathrooms, and equipment storage. The fund currently contains more than \$24,000.

Purchase of the land will enable the Recreation Committee to develop building and site plans this summer.

See Rec Comm on page 9

Selectmen Propose Limiting Road Projects

By Roger Godwin
Andover Board of Selectmen

1993's Town Meeting directed the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to develop a long-term plan for the restoration of Andover's roads and bridges on a fairly "level funded" basis, getting the job done without busting the budget. That became known as the Ten-Year Plan. It proved a sound addition to municipal financial planning, so much so that 15 years later we're still at it.

The Selectmen believe that the time has come for another comprehensive look at our road and bridge restoration needs as a whole. There are some upgrades that are clearly needed, but only a hard look at the condition of all of our transportation network can reliably inform us of where the town's buck is going to have the biggest bang.

We've seen that bridge replacement can come in above a quarter-million dollars and we can't begin to predict the future price of oil as it factors into asphalt. We do know, though, that thinking it all out and shaking the loosely justified pieces out can only help overall.

Fortunately we will again have the help of computer software developed by the University of New Hampshire

and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, enabling us to do the great bulk and perhaps all of our own analysis, assessment, and provisional budgeting. The Selectmen have resolved to pursue this inquiry over the next year, and we assume that we will have the support of whoever is elected as Road Agent, a pertinent question to raise during the campaign.

With this in view, we have pulled in our investment horns for this year, and our 2008 project list is priced at an estimated \$188,424. It consists of:

- paving Maple Street by the dam to the end of the drainage project
- installing a culvert on Channel Road by the fire station with paving to Maple Street
- crushing 8,000 yards of gravel at the Transfer Station for road projects
- preparing and submitting the necessary permit applications to the state for future work on Sam Hill Road
- completing the Highland Lake dam repair project

We welcome all suggestions for inclusion in the new 10 year plan, but strongly recommend that they be put in writing and justified with facts to avoid getting lost in the clutter.

Tax Bill from page 6

the School District meeting when this warrant article is discussed.

Town Budget

The Budget Committee recommends a Town budget for 2008 of \$1.325 million. Of this total budget, \$84,650 will be funded by directly offsetting revenues, resulting in a net budget for 2008 of \$1.240 million. This is a reduction of \$144,000 from the 2007 appropriations of \$1.384 million.

The major changes in this 2008 budget compared with the 2007 appropriations are shown in the table above.

As a result of the major unexpected extra costs involved in the Maple Street drainage project, the Elbow Pond Road project, and the Highland Lake dam reconstruction project, the Board of Selectmen propose for 2008 only a limited number of special projects in addition to completion of the dam reconstruction.

The Selectmen anticipate that there will be sufficient unexpended funds available from 2007 to allow the Town

tax rate for 2008 to be returned to a value of approximately \$1.61, the goal that they had set for 2007 before the highway project cost overruns caused that rate to go up to \$2.01.

Andover Fire Precincts

The proposed budgets for 2008 for the Andover Fire Precinct and the East Andover Fire Precinct are approximate-

Major Changes in Town Budget for 2008			
	2007	2008	Difference
Highway projects	\$337,000	\$159,944	-\$177,056
Police salary/benefits	\$105,301	\$114,805	+\$9,504
Highways & bridges	\$279,800	\$287,800	+\$8,000
Town office repairs	\$12,000	\$20,000	+\$8,000
Other changes			+\$7,420
TOTAL CHANGES			-\$144,132

ly the same as the appropriations for 2007. The resulting tax rates are expected to remain at \$0.66 for the Andover precinct and \$0.33 for the East Andover precinct.

Estimated Total Andover Tax Rate for 2008

The table on page 6 shows the components of the total estimated tax rate for 2008 compared with the actual values for 2007. Note that there is no information available at this time regarding the County tax rate for 2008. Any increase in the County tax rate will have a direct impact on Andover's total tax rate.



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School Board Negotiates New 15-Year MVHS Contract

By Vicky Mishcon
 Andover School Board

The Andover and Merrimack Valley School Boards have negotiated a new 15-year contract for sending Andover high school students to Merrimack Valley High. A termination clause in the contract allows either school district to withdraw from the contract following a three-year written notice to the other district.

The contract will be presented to voters at the boards' respective District Meetings in March. The voters in each district will have to approve the contract before it can take effect. Andover's School District Meeting is on Monday, March 3, at 7 PM in the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym.

If passed, the new contract will take effect in the 2009-2010 school year. Therefore, it will have no impact on next year's (2008-2009's) school district budget.

What follows is a summary of the contract. You can read the actual contract on the *Beacon's* Web site at AndoverBeacon.com/MVHS_Contract.pdf.

In summary, the contract contains 11 paragraphs, as follows:

1. Pupils to Attend Merrimack Valley High School. This section guarantees

that all Andover students who plan to attend public high school will be able to attend Merrimack Valley High School.

2. Joint Committee(s). A committee consisting of members of both school boards will review manifest hardship applications and any other issues that may arise between the two boards.

3. Tuition. Andover's tuition cost per student will be the same as the statewide cost per student averaged over the most recent three years. By using state average figures from the New Hampshire Department of Education, there will be little fluctuation in the tuition rate from one year to the next.

Andover will be billed on a monthly basis and the bill will reflect the actual number of Andover students enrolled for each month.

4. 90% Minimum. A minimum of 90% of Andover students attending public high school must attend Merrimack Valley High. This does not include Andover students enrolled in private schools such as Proctor Academy.

5. Out of District Placements and Extraordinary Special Education Expenses. These costs will be covered by the Andover School District.

6. Term. The agreement takes effect on July 1, 2009 and expires June 30, 2024. An extension clause exists. If the contract were to expire, any Andover

students already in attendance would be able to complete their high school program under the terms of the contract.

7. Transportation. The Andover District provides regular transportation of Andover students. Merrimack Valley will provide transportation related to school field trips, sports, etc. MV provides a late bus for an additional cost.

8. Joint Review. Either district may initiate joint review of the contract for any reason.

9. Termination of Agreement. Either district may withdraw from the agreement with a three-year written notice.

10. Only Agreement. This ensures that this is the only agreement between the two districts, superseding any previous contracts.

11. Approvals Necessary. Both the Andover and Merrimack Valley School District meetings must approve the contract. After approval by the voters, the State Board of Education must then approve the contract.

A Good Contract

The Andover School Board believes

Per-Pupil High School Tuition Costs Around The Area			
District	2007-2008 Cost	2008-2009 Estimate	2009-2010 Estimate
Merrimack Valley	\$8,560	\$9,200	\$11,043
Franklin	8,813	9,165	9,673
Concord	9,929	10,479	11,060
Kearsarge	10,497	11,079	11,692
Newfound	12,844	13,556	14,308
Sunapee	12,927	13,643	14,399

that this contract is a good and fair agreement for both school districts. Attorneys for both districts were involved throughout the design of the contract, ensuring that the result is legally sound and in the best interests of both parties.

The board's decision to pursue a 15-year agreement reflects a current trend in New Hampshire to secure long-term contracts to guarantee students a placement in a high school program. The termination clause should relieve any anxiety of being stuck in a contract that no longer serves the needs of our students.

Next year (2008-2009) will be the final year of our current five-year contract with Merrimack Valley. According to the terms of that contract, tuition for 2008-2009 will increase by \$640 per student to a total tuition cost of \$9,200 per student. We will still be under the state average cost per pupil, which is projected to be approximately \$11,086.

Because of this discrepancy, there will be a significant increase in the tuition rate for the first year of the new contract. At this time, the board is estimating a 20% increase in the tuition rate for the 2009-2010 school year as we begin the new contract and "catch up" to the statewide average tuition cost per pupil. In subsequent years, the annual increase in tuition cost should fall below the statewide average.

See Contract on page 9

Police Department To Propose Taser Purchase

By Glenn Laramie
Chief, Andover Police Department

At this year's Town Meeting in March, the Andover Police Department (APD) will seek approval from Andover voters to purchase four TASER X26 law enforcement electronic control devices, one for each of Andover's police officers. The goal is to provide our officers with the next generation of less-than-lethal law enforcement options in order to keep our officers and the suspects they have to deal with safe.

The cost of the devices (about \$4,000 total, including training) would not affect Andover taxpayers, as it would be paid out of donations APD has received and money it has earned on road construction details.

What Is A Taser?

The TASER X26 is a handheld, pistol-like device that shoots a pair of tiny, barbed probes. Each probe is attached to the X26 by a 25' wire, so when the probes attach to a suspect's skin or clothes the X26 can deliver a brief high-voltage, low-amperage shock to the suspect. The X26 continues delivering brief shocks five seconds apart, but only for as long as the officer is pulling the trigger.

The X26 is capable of sending up to 50,000 volts to its probes, but its electronics modulate the voltage so that the suspect actually receives a shock of about 1,500 volts – about the same as an everyday static electricity shock. But while a static shock has almost no amperage to it, the X26 sends

almost three amps down the wires to the probes. That's enough to knock you off your feet, as any electrician can tell you.

The result is a non-lethal weapon that an officer can use to take down a suspect to protect himself or others without the risk of injury inherent in using a baton, pepper spray, or a gun. And unlike pepper spray, which can incapacitate a suspect for up to 45 minutes and requires extensive clean-up to recover from its effects, a suspect who has been tasered can get up almost as soon as the officer stops pulling the trigger.

TASER devices are widely used in law enforcement. The New Hampshire State Police officers who patrol Andover all carry them, as do the Merrimack County Sheriff's Department officers and New London police officers.

The TASER X26 is a very appropriate non-lethal option for Andover police officers, particularly since we each patrol alone. And because it is a safer, more effective option – the Phoenix Police Department reports a 67% decrease in suspect injuries since they started using taser devices – Andover taxpayers will appreciate the reduced risk of the town being held liable for an injury to an officer or a suspect.

You can find much more information about the TASER X26 at Taser.com. I hope you'll become informed on this subject and support our proposal – at no cost to Andover taxpayers – at Town Meeting in March.

Andover Town Clerk

By Marj Roy
Andover Town Clerk & Tax Collector

As required by RSA 466:1, all dogs must be licensed each year by April 30. To prevent the initiation of a late penalty of \$1.00 per month, please renew your dog license(s) by April 30.

If you wish to license your dog by mail, please send a check payable to "Town of Andover" along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Rabies vaccinations must be current. If your dog has had a rabies vaccination since last April, please enclose a copy of the Rabies Certificate from your veterinarian. We will return the certificate to you. Of course, you may come in to license your dogs, too.

Dog License Fees

- Unaltered male/female dog \$9.00
- Neutered/spayed dog 6.50
- Senior Citizen (1st dog only) 2.00
- Puppy (up to seven months) 6.50
- Group License (6+ dogs) 20.00
- Commercial License 20.00

Please call the Town Clerk's office if you no longer own the dog so that we do not issue penalties.

Is Your Birthday In Feb.?

If your birthday is this month, you should have received your mail-in vehicle registration renewal forms in the mail by now. If you follow the instructions and mail them back to us, you won't have to come into the office.

If you come into the office, the state now requires you to *have your current vehicle registration in hand* for us to renew it. Please be sure to bring it with you.

How To Reach Us

In the Town Clerk's office:

- Monday and Wednesday
9 AM to 2 PM
- Tuesday and Thursday
1:30 to 6:30 PM
- The last Saturday of the month
9 to 11 AM

By mail: Andover Town Clerk,
PO Box 61, Andover NH 03216
By phone: 735-5332, ext. 223

POLICE BLOTTER

The Andover Police Department responded to 134 calls between December 15 and January 15. The following is a partial breakdown:

- Traffic summons – 7
- Traffic warnings – 40
- Accidents – 3
- Abandoned vehicles – 2
- Assist to other police agencies – 9

- Harassing communication – 3
- Thefts – 1
- Bank alarm – 1
- Pistol permits issued – 3
- Civil stand-bys – 3
- Assist to ambulance – 2
- 911 hang-up – 2
- Assaults – 1
- There were no arrests for the period.

Contract from page 8

tween 5% and 6%.

Please feel free to review the entire contract online at AndoverBeacon.com/MVHS_Contract.pdf. If you have any questions, members of the school board will be happy to assist. Please plan to come to the annual School District Meeting on Monday, March 3, at 7 PM in the school gym. Our next regular school board meeting is Tuesday, February 5, at 6:30 PM in the AE/MS library.

Rec Comm from page 7

We anticipate going to Town Meeting in 2009 seeking permission to build the recreation building.

To legally spend money from this fund, the 2008 Town Meeting must approve a warrant article. The article will appear on this year's warrant with the recommendation of the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The committee would appreciate your vote at Town Meeting.

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East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

If you stop by the East Andover fire station you will see several construction and fix-up projects in various stages of completion. I happened to stop by the Andover station last weekend and they were also working inside to make improvements. It is always nice to complete projects and make the stations look good, and winter is a great time to get inside work done. I suspect that encouragement from our spouses to get out from under foot helps.

If you happen by when we are there, please stop in. We're firemen – we love to show off our nice station and our big toys.

911 Magic

When you dial 911 and request help, say to an auto accident, several very important things happen to save time.

The 911 operator requests information that will help decide the proper people and equipment needed to help you. Through the magic of electronics the information you are giving 911 is also transmitted to our dispatch center in Laconia. The information appears on a large monitor as you are speaking. In some cases your location will also appear.

From the information you provide, the dispatch center alerts the proper fire station and medical team. Full-time career as well as volunteer emergency responders are alerted by pager, again through the magic of microwave electronics. (We really do have some neat toys.) Critical information is transmit-

ted as the responders are putting on their gear. The gear was designed to provide maximum personal protection and to be donned very quickly.

When we arrive at the station, the lights inside the building come on with motion to save time. The trucks are plugged into a power supply and an air compressor to assure that the equipment will start quickly and require no warm up time to delay our response.

You've all seen us drive down the road – we are very focused on getting to your accident. Our entire system, from the initial call to the emergency equipment responding, is about saving time.

True Story ...

Next is a true story: We arrive at an accident, and the patient is inside the car, banged up and a little bloody. We lean in the car to ask if everyone is okay. The patient raises a hand to tell us to be quiet so they can finish talking on their cell phone. The good Lord strike me dead if I'm lying!

After choking back a naughty word and discussing with the patient the wisdom of some medical attention, my pleasant, angelic demeanor returned.

The number of times we have had to ask people to turn off their cell phones and concentrate on us – you did call 911 after all – is becoming more common on calls. We, the emergency services, do all we are able to have in place the best people and equipment available. Help us help you. Please turn off the cell phone when we arrive.

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By Tina Cotton
Andover Conservation Commission

Do you have an interest in preserving Andover's rural character? Would you like to learn more about regulations concerning land use or conservation easements? Please consider joining the Conservation Commission.

You may express your interest by calling Mary Anne Broshek at 648-

2539 or another member; Town Administrator Mark Stetson at 735-5332; or by coming to our next meeting on Wednesday, February 13, at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall meeting room.

We are also looking for a volunteer to help us with the minutes. If you are good at taking notes and want to be involved as a non-member, please let us know.

Andover Libraries

By Diane Rice
Library Trustee

The Trustees of the Andover and Bachelder Libraries are already anticipating the book sale on the Village Green on the Fourth of July. Books can be dropped off at either library during the hours that each is open.

Certain items will not be accepted for sale this year. These include encyclopedias, textbooks, Reader's Digest, VCR tapes, or books teach-

ing computer programs, etc. Demand for these items for the past few years has been almost non-existent, and the difficulty of disposing of the remaining books has increased dramatically.

Eliminating these categories will provide needed space for other books and facilitate cleanup at the end. The Trustees thank you all for your continued interest and support of this greatly appreciated fundraiser.

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Board Of Selectmen

December 17

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectman Roger Godwin, and Town Administrator Mark Stetson

Fenton opened a hearing to accept public comment in accordance with RSA 31:95-b to expend unanticipated revenue. Noting no public comment, Fenton closed the hearing. The Board then unanimously voted to expend unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$182,387.64 that was received from FEMA in conjunction with the April flood disaster.

The Board then met with Road Agent John Thompson who reported that the recent frequent snowstorms have kept his crews busy plowing roads. He told the Board that Maple Street is now typically being sanded twice each day. He told the Board that all but two culverts on Boston Hill Road had been cleaned prior to the onset of winter.

The Board discussed with Thompson the scope of work needed on Sam Hill Road with a general consensus that any drainage work done at the bottom of the hill should include work on the hill between that area and Route 11 at the same time.

Thompson told the Board that he has made some changes to the plow routes in order to improve efficiency. There was also a discussion regarding the proposed work to replace the culvert on Channel Road in front of the fire station.

The Board then met with Police Chief Glenn Laramie who reported that his department responded to 169 calls for service for the previous 30-day period, which included among others issuing 71 warnings and 10 summonses for motor vehicle violations, and assisting at three motor vehicle accidents. Laramie also reported that one of those summonses was for a speed violation on Maple Street where the operator was clocked traveling 50 miles per hour in a 25 zone.

Laramie told the Board that he is compiling an extensive file of news and other reports documenting taser use by police departments. He commented

that the vast majority of those articles conclude the benefits outweigh any negative aspects. He extended an invitation to the Selectmen and any interested members of the public to review the information that he has gathered.

Under old business, Stetson told the Board that at the Highland Lake dam project work is progressing to construct the additional cutoff wall behind the spillway. The Board reviewed and approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$22,793.50 for work performed by A.J. Coleman & Son representing work beyond that specified in the contract that has been completed to date as recommended by the Town's consulting engineer. Stetson told the Board that the engineering firm is also working on an appeal of the state's hazard classification finding.

The Board further briefly reviewed its 2008 proposed budget.

The Board asked Stetson to verify the validity of two complaints. One alleges a violation of the Town's sign ordinance and the other alleges a violation of the Town's zoning ordinance.

The Board decided to accept a plea agreement deal that calls for restitution only for the painting contractor who reneged on his deal and failed to return the deposit that he was paid. He is currently incarcerated pending sentencing on other charges.

The Board accepted Katherine Stearns' resignation as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and appointed her to an alternate position. The Board similarly accepted Amy Rankins' resignation from her alternate position and appointed her to a regular position on that Board.

The Board approved an abatement request to correct an assessing error for property on Depot Street.

The Board reviewed and approved an agreement and release between the Town and David and Doris Shedd which provides indemnification to the Town for Shedd's use of the Class VI portion of Morrill Hill Road.

The Board reviewed and approved a Current Use application for property owned by Susan Rochon off of Tucker Mountain Road.

The Board moved into nonpublic

session to discuss welfare case #07-15.

January 7

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Chairman Dennis Fenton, Selectmen Roger Godwin and Andrew Guptill, Town Administrator Mark Stetson

The Board met with Road Agent John Thompson who reported that Mark Thompson has renewed his request for compensation for the Town's use of his garage while working on Town-owned equipment. The Board again agreed to the request conditioned upon the drafting of an agreement that clearly defines the scope of the Town's use and defines what the payment is to include. Godwin suggested Stetson query other towns to see if any have similar agreements in place.

Thompson agreed to investigate what, if any, damage was caused by a snowplow to the railings at the bridge on Bradley Lake Road at the dam.

Under old business, Stetson told the Board that work on the Highland Lake dam project is still progressing.

Stetson reported that, during a recent site visit to a property on Main Street, he was unable to verify the sign ordinance violation alleged in a complaint received by the Board. Godwin agreed to take a second look.

Stetson also reported that during a recent site visit to another property on Main Street, he was unable to verify a zoning ordinance violation as alleged in

a complaint.

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Mrs. Sliter disputing the violation of the Planning Board's site plan review decision for property on Franklin Highway. Godwin offered to draft a response for the Board's review.

Under new business, Stetson informed the Board that a new state law went into effect on January 1 banning incineration of any device containing any amount of mercury, which includes even the "environmentally friendly" fluorescent bulbs that had previously been thrown in the trash hopper. Now residents must see the attendants at the Transfer Station to recycle all fluorescent bulbs.

Stetson reported that the contractor who hauls the Town's trash to the waste-to-energy plant in Penacook told him that during a recent trip to the plant to off-load the Town's trash, one of the plant's operators spotted a computer monitor in the load. State law prohibits incineration of televisions and computer monitors, and the penalties for violation carry misdemeanor-level jail terms and fines up to \$25,000. That operator allowed the contractor to remove the monitor and return it to the Transfer Station this time. The Selectmen asked Stetson to request that the Recycle Committee remind residents of both laws through articles in the *Beacon*.

Stetson reported that the operator
See Selectmen on page 12

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Selectmen from page 11

of the Main Street Garage has been invited to attend the next Planning Board meeting in order to resolve a complaint about his failure to comply with previous Planning and Zoning Board decisions.

The Board then met with Zoning Board chairman Don Gross to review the procedure for enforcement of planning and zoning violations. The Board reiterated its previous commitment to pursue compliance of the Town's ordinances and regulations, including action in court if necessary.

Planning Board

December 11

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Don Gould, Chair; Paul Currier; Jon Warzocha; Bill Zimmerman; Nancy Teach; Roger Godwin; and Wood Sutton, alternate appointed to Eric Johnson's position.

Correspondence / Announcements

Nancy Teach was introduced as the newest Planning Board member.

Letter from McLean law firm requesting a possible joint meeting for the December 18 Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting. The Planning Board decided they prefer not to conduct a joint meeting until consulting with an attorney.

Public Hearing: Minor Subdivision for David and Doris Shedd; represented

by David Krause; for property at Morrill Hill Road and Monticello Drive

Zimmerman recused as he is an abutter. David Krause presented a plan of the proposed minor subdivision which indicates the subdivision of 3.463 acres from the parent lot of 6.940 acres.

Krause presented the hold-harmless agreement required by New Hampshire statutory law (the landowners' release of the Town of Andover from liability for various public-safety concerns due to the location of the proposed residence on a Class VI road) and was advised that the agreement would have to be agreeable in form and substance to the Selectmen and that the tax map and lot numbers of the property affected must be shown in the agreement and release.

Krause also stated that subdivision state approval is still pending and that the driveway permit has been submitted to the Road Agent. Abutters Bill Zimmerman and Brenda Jurta both state they support this subdivision.

The Board determined that final approval will be deemed at the January 8 meeting.

Public Hearing: Annexation / Subdivision for Mark and Deborah Broderick for property on Gale Road

Mark and Deborah Broderick state they would like to purchase 0.21 acres from property indicated on the plan as lot 1, which is currently part of [a lot] which is owned by Donna and Leo McCabe, and annex it to their current property. Approval for annexation was re-

ceived from Donna and Leo McCabe.

Abutter Harvey Best asked if this was strictly the purchase of the property and adding it to their current property and the response was yes. Mylars and plats were also presented.

There being no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the annexation / subdivision as presented.

Suitability Determination: Proposed single family dwelling in the Forest and Agricultural district for Douglas Bent for property on Tucker Mountain Road which is currently owned by Frank Baker

Bent states he has a Zoning Board of Adjustment application for approval to construct a single family dwelling in the Forest and Agricultural district. A previously approved subdivision plan was presented along with a new plan indicating the proposed locations of the dwelling and the well.

When the original subdivision was approved, no provisions were made for dwellings on the lots. An application for a driveway permit was also presented.

There being no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of deeming the site suitable for a single-family dwelling.

Additional Items: Packets which include adoption of required changes to the zoning ordinance to meet National Flood Insurance Program requirements were distributed for review and approval. A public hearing will be held Tuesday, January 8.

two of the 2008-09 school calendar.

Project Quotes: Quotes were included for the exit and emergency lights. Robin Heins asked how the Board would like them to proceed. Dave Hewitt asked about the contactor for the boiler. Vicky Mishcon would like to spend some more time to earmark specific money for maintenance. Robin Heins shared that the language of the warrant article needs to be more specific. It can go to the Budget Committee as a draft on January 9. Robin Boynton asked to have the quote broken down or itemized. Doug recommended that we have the electrical bid broken out.

Life Safety: Robin Heins shared the quote for a life safety inspection. The fee is approximately \$1,000 for the day. The Board discussed getting the inspection done now rather than later. The Board voted unanimously to expend not more than \$1,200 to obtain a report from a fire protection engineer.

There was also discussion about the smoke detectors for the gym. They are \$150 each to get three new detectors, and then we would need access to a lift to do the work. There was also discussion for moving switches for the fire suppression system in the kitchen.

Lobby Floor Tiles: Mike Langlois provided options for the floor in the lobby. Robin Boynton spoke to the idea of pulling up the tile and exposing the concrete floor, then covering it with non-skid surface. It is not a good time of year to replace anything.

Dave Hewitt spoke to option 5, to keep up the appearance. Time would be needed for the work to be done and set. Doug shared that work cannot be done until the February vacation anyway. Doug, Jane, and Mike L will look at the floor and options and get back to everyone at the February board meeting.

Budget Hearing: January 9 will be the public hearing on the proposed budget. Doug and Dave Powers will help explain the proposed high school tuition contract to the Budget Committee. Discussion followed regarding the tuition contract and the teacher contract. There is a big increase in the 2900 line. Both items will require some support from

See School Board on page 13

School Board

January 8

Present: School Board Members Doug Boisvert, David Hewitt, Vicky Mishcon, Robin Boynton, David Powers; Administrators Mike Martin, Christine Barry, Robin Heins, Jane Slayton, Julie Gaudette, Kathleen Boucher

Old Business

Calendar: There is one major difference in the proposed Andover and MVSD calendar options. Andover is able to have teacher workshops in August, therefore teachers return earlier. The Board unanimously accepted draft



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School Board from page 12

Board members for the meeting.

Other: Vicky Mishcon asked about the roof on the old building. The roof does have water and ice shield but there is no insulation therefore causing ice buildup. Melanson has been up there twice to shovel off the roof. There was leaking in a classroom until Monday. It was noted that this is an unusual situation with the amount of snow this winter.

Vicky asked if we have an issue with electrical getting wet. Jane reported that electrical has not been an issue at this time. Leaks are on the outside wall in the third grade classrooms and the music room, and it seems to be from ice damming. Doug recommended we stay in contact with Melanson and monitor the situation. Dave Powers spoke to the ice and water shield.

New Business

Literacy Presentation: Molly Kidane, Jay Hubbard, and Susan Avis shared an overview of the literacy initiative. A common language is being used at all grade levels to provide consistency in the literacy programming. The teachers presented many examples of strategies, and Susan Avis explained the professional development aspect of this program.

Recycling Committee

January 10

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Mark Stetson, Ken Tripp, Nan Kaplan, Susan Schnare, Vicky Mishcon, Nelson Lebo.

Old Business

Susan presented a slide show of the tour of EcoMaine, the Single Stream Recycling Facility in Portland, Maine. Three members of the Recycle Committee toured the facility in November.

The Trash Cooperative, of which Andover is a member, will be voting in April or May as to whether or not to proceed with studies and plans to build a Single Stream Recycling Facility.

If Single Stream Recycling is instituted in Andover, recycling will be expanded to include all plastic containers, and the Recycle Committee will

be focusing on introducing the concept of Pay-as-You-Throw. SSR and Pay-as-You-Throw will significantly reduce trash tonnage and the cost to the Town for trash removal. The Recycle Committee would focus on educating the community.

New Business

All fluorescent bulbs, even the green-tipped ones, must be taken out of the trash stream.

No changes in the fee schedule for electronics, etc. We are \$600 to \$700 in the black with electronics.

Ken distributed copies of the Recycle Committee report for the Town Report. There will be another recycling insert in the Town Report.

A recent load brought to the incinerator was almost rejected due to contamination by a TV or computer monitor that had been thrown down the hopper in Andover. Potential is there for rejection of the remainder of the load or financial penalty.

Article for the Beacon –Nelson will write an article to include fluorescent bulbs and contamination of recent load at the incinerator by a TV or computer monitor.

Conservation Commission

December 12

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Mary Anne Broshek, Tina Cotton, Sandra Graves, Jerry Hersey, Nan Kaplan, Bob Ward

Newman Easement Monitoring:

Bob reported on the monitoring. Bob, Nan, Sandra, Jerry, and Tina conducted the monitoring. The landowner, Jim McKenna, accompanied Commission members on the monitoring. The silt fence will be removed when the area is stabilized and vegetated. The postings on the land were discussed and suggestions made to revise them to meet the terms of the easement.

The landowner was encouraged to come up with a list of questions regarding the easement so that the Commission can obtain answers. Bob has filled out the monitoring form and updated the ownership and contact information.

Definition of Working Farms

Sadie Puglisi from the UNH Co-

operative Extension was invited to the meeting to help the Commission develop a definition of working farms that was in agreement with state law and accepted statewide definitions.

Sadie brought a binder of information and a video called "Preserving Rural Character Through Agriculture". We spent the most time reviewing the state laws and the work done by the town of Warner.

Sadie provided the following information:

- Many towns are establishing Agriculture Commissions, and this may be something Andover wants to do.
- There is a myth of fading agriculture in New Hampshire. In fact, even though there are fewer dairy farms, agriculture in New Hampshire is booming because there are many more small farms.
- The Current Use definition for farms is 10 or more acres or, if there is \$2,500 of gross income as shown by sales receipts, there is no acreage requirement.

We reviewed the definition we used in the co-occurrence mapping for conservation priorities: prime soils and soils of statewide importance. We also used the 2003 Department of Agriculture aerial map to identify farms and hayfields known to Commission members.

There were three questions that came up during the discussion:

- Should our definition require that a farm produce income, or should we

also include farms that are producing products that are not sold?

We decided that our definition will not have an income producing requirement and will include all farms – both income producing and producing products that are not sold. We changed the name from "working farms" to "agricultural lands."

- Should we add the Current Use definition to our definition?

We decided that the Current Use definition will be added as an "or" so that we can use the Current Use information maintained by the Town to identify income producing farms and other farms meeting the Current Use requirement.

- How will "farm" be defined?

We decided to use the state laws at RSA 21:34-a (Farm, Agriculture, Farming) and RSA 674:32-b (Agricultural Uses of Land) as the basis for our definitions.

Commission members will determine an update policy for the conservation criteria. We want to be sure that Andover residents have a way to advise the Commission of newly established farms and of changes to current farms.

Shoreland Protection

There was a workshop on the new Shoreland Protection Act. Bob Ward and Mark Stetson attended. The new act does not mention Conservation Commissions review or oversight. New staff have been added to DES for this new state law – increasing staff from 2

See Cons Comm on page 14

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Cons Comm from page 13

to 8. The new law covers tidal, lakes, ponds and fourth-order streams like the Blackwater River.

There is a site specific map of areas covered by the new law. Bob will obtain a copy for the ACC.

January 9

Present: Mary Anne Broshek, Tina Cotton (after the school meeting ended), Sandra Graves, Jerry Hersey, Nan Kaplan, and Bob Ward

Minutes

Our secretary, Lorraine Cline, has resigned. We thank Lorraine for her enthusiasm and hard work. The Commission will explore hiring someone to take the minutes and will also see if someone is interested in volunteering.

Tina will assume doing the minutes for three months or until we can get a new member and/or select another secretary. Tina will do a request for potential members and a volunteer secretary in the *Beacon* and on the cable TV bulletin board.

Review of Action Items

We reviewed the action items from the past two meetings. Any outstanding items have been given to the responsible member and will be reported on at the next meeting.

Sandra provided a list of scenic roads.

We discussed potential Conservation Commission members and members volunteered to contact these individuals to determine their interest.

Definition of Agricultural Lands

The draft definition was handed out and discussed. We reviewed the decisions made at the December meeting. A motion was made to approve the new definition of agricultural lands as amended to clearly show that land meeting any one of the criteria would be considered agricultural land. The vote was unanimous to approve the new definition.

The new definition for the Andover Conservation Commission co-occurrence maps used to identify conservation priorities is:

- Prime soils and soils of statewide importance as identified on the current co-occurrence maps or;
- Lands that meet the current use definition for farm lands or;
- Lands used for agriculture, farming, dairying, pasturage, apiculture, horticulture, floriculture, silviculture and animal and poultry husbandry in accordance with RSA 624:26. Such use can be income producing or not. Agriculture and farming mean all operations of a farm stated in RSA 21:34-a. This land will be identified by Commission member knowledge and by obtaining input from Andover residents and farmers. There is no minimum or maximum acreage limit.

Correspondence

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) complete Forestry Notification dated December 14 – Green Crow. Bob will talk to Mark about

concerns expressed by the Commission.

Copy of letter from DES to New Hampshire Department of Transportation regarding the culvert at Cemetery Corner. The letter states “A field inspection of the project determined that the applicant has not considered alternatives other than the design submitted or no build. Attached is an inspection report which the DES requests the applicant consider and respond to. The DES notes the safety issues and numerous vehicular accidents, but believes the roadway can be improved without impacting the Designated Prime Wetland and reducing temporary impacts.”

Grant Application: GIS Software

Tina made a motion asking for approval of \$100 for the grant application fee for GIS software – if we are eligible to apply for the grant. Eligibility requirements say applicants must be non-governmental entities.

Tina will check with the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions to determine if they can apply for Andover. If this is not possible, she will determine if other non-governmental groups might be interested, i.e. Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

Tina stated that it may be possible to also get a computer.

Discussion resulted motion removed.

Town Report

We thanked Tina for her efforts in writing the Conservation Commission Report for the Town Report. Comments were provided and Tina will send out

the revisions in a few days.

Land Resource Mgmt Workshop

Bob provided information on a DES Land Resource Management workshop. It will be held from 8 AM to 4 PM at DES in Concord on January 16 or February 14 or March 6. Topics include new shoreland protection act, alteration of terrain, landscaping at waters edge, wetlands protection and oversight. At the afternoon session, participants choose either wetlands or shoreland.

Rail Trail

Bob reported on the latest Rail Trail activities. They are putting in an application to New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development for a \$30,000 grant to build another 2.5 miles of trail to Sam Hill Road/ Dyers Crossing. The application needs a letter of support. Bob presented a letter and a motion was made and approved to sign and submit the letter. Bob will deliver the signed letter to the Rail Trail group.

Conservation Plan

At our next meeting we will finalize our conservation plan and will work with our map to determine priorities and assignments. We also want to do some educational meetings for residents who want to learn more.

Mary Anne will prepare a draft proposal for how we will implement our plan, specifically what tasks will be taken to proactively conserve lands that show as meeting the most criteria, as well as contacting individuals who have shown an interest in conserving their land.

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This beautiful hooked rug designed by Jodi Sleeper will be raffled off by the Andover Historical Society at its annual Town Meeting Day raffle.

Andover Historical Society

By Joanna Sumner
Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society will be holding its annual raffle on voting day in March. Please stop by our table and take this opportunity to support the Historical Society and to renew your membership – or become a new member.

Jodi Sleeper has generously donated one of her designer rugs for our raffle. This particular rug/tapestry is called *Wet & Wild*, is approximately

three feet by four feet and is made from 100% wool. The retail value is \$125.

Jodie found her inspiration for this particular design in the marsh lands that surround our local village. It is a beautiful collection of birds, flowers, ferns, and bugs that you see every day as you travel in and out of Andover. You can visit her Web site at AmericanCottageRugs.com/rugs-wholesale to see more of her lovely hooked rugs and pillows.



Nearly 75 years ago on Main Street, Bill Bardsley (left) visits with Bill Loden and his team of oxen. The former Andover Arms, which the Bardsleys rented from 1934 to 1937, is in the background.

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1950: Eddie Coyne points to the road sign in Potter Place



2000: Eddie Coyne points to where the road sign once was.

A History Mystery

This month's History Mystery comes from Eddie Coyne, who now lives in the Boston area. He sent "before and after" photos taken 50 years apart in Potter Place (above). The 1950 photo is one of two known photos of the Potter Place road sign in existence. "What happened to this sign?" Eddie asks. "It would be a key fixture as part of historical Potter Place" if we could find it.

"Although I now live in Boston, I am as active as I can be with the Andover Historical Society. My project is researching all the Civil War veterans who had any connection with Andover. Part one of that project is now at the Potter Place Railroad Station Museum."

Do you know what happened to the road sign in Potter Place? When did it come down? Where might it have gone? Send your thoughts or reminiscences to

the Beacon, and let's see if we can piece together this month's History Mystery.

Last Month's History Mystery

Last month's History Mystery was a photo from Frank Baker of a group of men at a railroad siding. Lloyd Perreault's evidence (bottom) suggests strongly that the photo was taken in East Andover at the railroad shed.



Last month's History Mystery photo.

But the names of the men are still a mystery. Do you recognize any of them?



Lloyd Perreault sent in this old photo of Halcyon Station in East Andover. The station itself is in the foreground. Last month's History Mystery photo certainly could have been taken on the track side of the freight shed down the tracks from the station.



The snowmobile club's BR180 groomer at work on in East Andover with the Rail Trail sign in the background. Photo: Allan Houle

Andover Snowmobile Club

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

The Andover Snowmobile Club's BR180 groomer has been hard at work already this year grooming the railbed in East Andover. The installation of all of the ledge pack on the railbed has made this trail one of the best in the state. No more rocks to be thrown onto the surface of the trail.

This month's meeting will be held on Monday, February 11 at 7 PM in the Science Room of the Andover Elementary/Middle School.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our annual Italian Buffet and Easter Seals Raffle. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and benefits the Easter Seals Society of NH.

It is amazing the support that we receive at this event and all of the activities that are required to support an active snowmobile club. Without willing volunteers we would be hard pressed to

get any of these tasks completed. Thank you to everyone that came out to support this event.

Trail work has gone very well this season with the early snow and cold temperatures. Trail Master Greg Miller has been very active keeping our trails in awesome condition. We have two groomers and six operators to keep 80+ miles of trails groomed. With a grooming speed of four to five miles per hour, you can see that there are many hours spent on the trails.

Most grooming is done at night. The temperatures are typically colder, and it is easier to see the groomer with all those lights and the flashing beacon. However, grooming can take place anytime the temperatures allow.

If you do come upon a groomer, be sure that you have a safe line to pass. It is the responsibility of the rider to be sure they have their machine under control. Enjoy the trails and be safe.

Andover Fish And Game Club Hosts Willis Nowell Memorial Ice Fishing Derby

The Andover Fish and Game Club is sponsoring its 25th annual Willis Nowell Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby at Eagle Pond in Wilmot, just off Route 4. The Derby is for kids 15 and under. Registration starts at 9 AM, and the Derby runs from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

The Derby will be held on Saturday,

February 23, with a bad-weather date of Sunday, February 24. Tackle will be provided.

There will be plenty of free food and drink, and lucky prizes, ribbons, and trophies will be awarded. Please join us for a great time. If you have any questions, call 735-5311.

Blackwater Ski Area

The people of Andover are invited to a celebration of the Blackwater Ski Area on Saturday, February 9, from 5 to 9 PM. Bring your skis, and enjoy an evening of skiing under the lights.

Fires will be blazing inside Yarrow's

Lodge, and a sumptuous barbecue will be served. There is no cost to Andover residents and your guests. We are celebrating the new T-bar lift and other improvements to this great facility.

Join us!

Celebrate!

The *Beacon* needs your help gathering news of births, marriages, honors, and other notable events. Call 735-6099.

Subscribe!

For a minimum donation of \$25 you can have the *Beacon* mailed anywhere, even to a seasonal address.

Time To Register For NHF&G's Annual Moose Hunt Lottery

By New Hampshire Fish & Game

Lottery applications are now available for the adventure of a lifetime – hunting moose in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's 2008 moose hunt lottery is open. The non-refundable entry fee is \$15 for New Hampshire residents and \$25 for non-residents.

New Hampshire's moose hunt is nine days long, starting the third Saturday in October. This year's hunt runs from October 18 through 26. The state's current moose population is estimated at about 6,000 animals.

The odds of being selected in last year's lottery were about 1 in 20 for New Hampshire residents and about 1 in 55 for non-residents – some of the best odds in the nation for moose hunting.

Visit HuntNH.com to enter the moose hunt lottery online or to print an application to mail in. Applications can also be picked up from Fish and Game license agents statewide.

Moose hunt lottery applications for 2008 must be postmarked or submitted online by midnight Eastern Time on May 30, or they may be delivered to New Hampshire Fish and Game headquarters in Concord prior to 4 PM that day. Winners will be selected through a computerized random drawing on June 20.

Last year more than 16,700 appli-

cants entered the lottery for the chance to win one of 675 permits.

Those who are lucky enough to take part in the hunt have an excellent chance of success. Last year almost three-fourths of New Hampshire permit holders got their moose. Permit holders can choose another hunter of any age to accompany them on the hunt, but only one moose may be taken per permit.

Each applicant can enter the moose hunt lottery once each year. A bonus point system improves the chances for unsuccessful applicants who apply each consecutive year. Hunters who get permits are not eligible to enter the lottery for the following three years.

It is not necessary to have a current hunting license to enter the lottery, but hunters who are offered and accept a permit must buy a \$150 resident or \$500 non-resident moose hunt permit, as well as a New Hampshire hunting license.

Both state residents and non-residents may enter the moose lottery. The number of permits available to non-residents is capped, based on the prior year's sales of non-resident hunting licenses (about 15 to 17 percent of the total).

On HuntNH.com you can find more information on moose hunting, including a moose hunt Q&A, regional success rates, and photos and stories from past New Hampshire moose hunts.

Andover Fish & Game Club Willis Nowell Memorial Kids Ice Fishing Derby

Saturday, February 23 • 9 AM
Bad weather: February 24

Kids, 15 & under!
Free food and drink
Lucky prizes
Ribbons
Trophies
Tackle provided

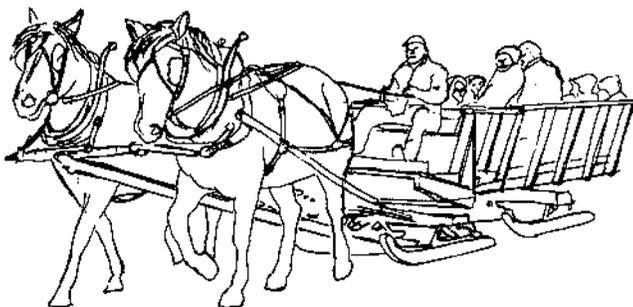
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SUNAPEE-RAGGED-KEARSARGE GREENWAY

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge (SRK) Greenway Coalition's February weekend snowshoe hikes are in five area towns with distances ranging from three to six miles. A hike in Bradford is included for the first time.

For the full winter schedule and other SRK information, go to SRKG.com.

Please call the hike leader at least the night before to learn starting location and time. Snowshoes are the presumed mode of transport. Be prepared for winter conditions with clothing layers, food, and water.

Saturday, February 2: Andy Hager (526-2846) – Cross-Country Ski trip from the New London/Springfield town line near Twin Lake Villa to Morgan Pond. 6 miles. Moderate.

Saturday, February 9: Brian Faughnan (526-7838) – In New London and Wilmot, a hike along the Langenau Forest Trail and Pleasant Lake High Trail. 4 miles. Moderate.

Saturday, February 16: Wayne Nicoll (735-5721) – SRK Greenway Trail #10 from Winslow State Park on Mount Kearsarge to Proctor Academy in Andover. All downhill! 6 miles. Moderate.

Saturday, February 23: Ann Eldridge (938-5266) – In Bradford, on and off trails on Haystack Mountain and Pickett Hill. 3 miles. Moderate.

Greenway guidebooks are available at local book stores. The SRK Greenway Coalition, incorporated in 1993, is a ten-town all-volunteer non-profit organization with members throughout the SRK region and beyond.

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Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

January 16
Condensed from draft minutes
Present: Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward.

Old Business
Technology Report (Steve): Seasonal photos have been added to some pages on the FNRT web site. A blog is now available on the bottom of the home page. (This may be moved to the left-hand side bar).

Heather and Steve recommend the online payment system Google Checkout. There will be no setup, gateway, or monthly service fees for the coming year. Alex proposed that Steve proceed in establishing the Google Checkout system on our Web site in order to improve the ease of donating to FNRT-MC. The motion was seconded and passed. The April 17 dinner at the New London Inn is also posted on the site.

Policy on Web links to other rail trail sites. The Windham Trail has put FNRT as a link on their site. Alex proposed that Steve be authorized to create reciprocating links with New Hampshire rail trails on the FNRT Web site. The motion was seconded and passed.

Signage: Design consistency, Potter Place kiosk, mile markers. The FNRT does not have authorization on what signs go up along the trail. An organization that wants a sign on the trail needs to work with the New Hampshire Trails Bureau.

The Andover Sign Ordinance also designates what signs are billboards and where they are allowed. Another issue is who is liable if an accident or injury is caused by a private business sign. There will be a question of how the trail experience is impacted as signs proliferate.

Bob suggested we contact the New Hampshire Trails Bureau to ask about the role they expect/envision for us in supporting them manage the trail (and signage). Alex will follow up on this.

New London Inn Dinner April 17: Myra reported for Lindy that fundraising dinner plans are underway and encouraged all present to reserve a table and invite their friends.

Pathways to Healthy Living Initiative: Myra has been talking with the Franklin Hospital and Dr. Amy Schneider to develop a health program that will get more people using the trail. They have discussed marking miles on the trail along with a local users map and walking log.

Franklin Hospital will organize a walk on the Northern Rail Trail as part of Walk New Hampshire Week, the first week of June.

Andover Snowmobile Club January Dinner: Bob will attend and hopes to have another member to join him.

New Business
RTP '08: Vote to approve submission with Charles as project manager. This motion approves the 2008 RTP application for a \$30,000 grant to go 2.5 miles from East Andover to the Franklin city line. Seconded, and approved.

Work Days: Saturday, June 7, National Trails Day. To clear brush for Highland Lake views.



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Kayakers Kick Off New Year

The Merrimack Valley Paddlers and Friends of the Winnepesaukee River held their annual New Year's Day Paddle on the Winnepesaukee River in Tilton, Northfield, and Franklin again this year.

Paddlers took to the water between 11 AM and 1 PM; novice and intermediate boaters paddled the upper Winnepesaukee from Route 140 to the train station in Northfield, and advanced boaters paddled the lower Winnepesaukee from Cross Mill Road in Northfield to downtown Franklin, taking their boats out at Trestle View Park.

Spectators were encouraged to attend, with the best viewing at Trestle View Park. The Park featured a heated tent with coffee, cocoa, and chili provided by Choose Franklin and the Franklin Rotary Club. Spectators walked, snowshoed, or skied on the Winnepesaukee River Trail to watch paddlers coming down the Class III and IV rapids.

Paddlers gathered at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Franklin, which was open from 10 AM to 4 PM for socializing and the Merrimack Valley Paddlers' annual dinner. The public was welcome at this event. Merrimack Valley President Pat Taft encouraged those attending to bring food donations for the local soup kitchen. "The holidays are a difficult time of year for many families, and it would be nice to return all the years of good will this community has shown to paddlers by helping out the local soup kitchen."

Whitewater Paddling

The goal of this year's paddle was to draw attention to the proposed



Doug Morin of Franklin enjoyed his first-ever New Year's Day run.

Photo: Sarah Stanley

scheduled water releases for whitewater paddling during the summer. During the past year, the City of Franklin, the Tilton Main Street Program, Choose Franklin, the Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation, and the Greater Franklin Chamber of Commerce all went on record supporting summer water releases for whitewater.

Noting the potential economic benefit to the area, Jeff Savage of the Merrimack Valley Paddlers stated, "The communities of Tilton, Northfield, and Franklin have invested in recreation through the Winnepesaukee River Trail, Trestle View Park, and River Front Park. Scheduled whitewater releases will return some of the investment by bringing hundreds of boaters and spectators to the area who will spend money at local establishments and will be a benefit to the local economy."

Advertise in The Andover Beacon

The Beacon is Andover's most eagerly read source of good news from Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville. It is mailed every month to over 1,100 households in Andover and to many seasonal residents and out-of-town subscribers. For more information, call our ad sales team or visit AndoverBeacon.com

Ad Size	12 months prepaid	6 mo ppd	3 mo ppd	1 mo ppd
Sixteenth page	\$230	\$130	\$68	\$24
Eighth page	\$422	\$238	\$125	\$44
Quarter page	\$758	\$427	\$225	\$79
Half page	\$1,526	\$859	\$453	\$159
Full page	\$2,774	\$1,561	\$824	\$289
Pre-printed insert	\$1,526	\$859	\$453	\$159

Connie Powers
735-5454

Suzy Brown
735-5309



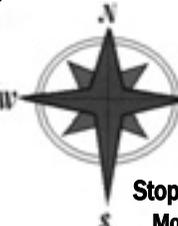
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To advertise your business,
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Community Dance At Bluewater Farm Lodge

By Jackie Adams
Bluewater Farm

Remember those town dances at the Andover school gym? I remember as a kid my parents used to go, and it was so much fun. They would get to visit with their friends, while all us kids played, danced, and spied on the grownups. School was a fun place to play hide and seek.

I also remember the square dances behind the old fire station on the Fourth of July. It was a great way for people in town to meet each other and have some fun. I have a lot of great memories of growing up here in Andover.

Now I am working for Deb Brower at Bluewater Farm, and Deb, who absolutely loves this town, would like to bring back some of those memories. Our first dance, which will be held on Saturday, February 9, will feature a dance/rock style band from the Concord area called *Four on the Floor*. We are hoping to sell all of our 60 tickets, and it is open to the public. It will be held at the Bluewater Farm Lodge on Bradley Lake.

Of course, things have changed since the '70s, but there's no reason we can't all have some fun and meet some people from town we may not know! If this dance is a hit, we hope to have them two to three times a year and change them up a bit. An old fashioned square dance in the fall, maybe a Valentines Day theme next year. We welcome any suggestions!

So ... if you have no plans on Saturday, February 9, come and join us for the evening. The dancing will begin at 8 PM and end promptly at midnight. Doors will open at 7 PM. It is a BYOB event, and we will have some light snacks. Pizza will be sold by the slice, with proceeds from the pizza sales going to Andover Elementary/Middle School's eighth grade trip to New York.

Tickets (18 and older) are \$35 per couple or \$20 for a single. Parents can bring children: 12 and under are free, ages 13 through 17 will be \$10. Give us a call at 735-5159 for tickets. Hope to see you there!



The cast of SKIT's presentation of Rodgers and Hart's *Beguiled Again* rehearses for the upcoming shows.
Photo: Bob Bussey

SKIT Presents *Beguiled Again*

On Friday, February 8, the stage at the New London Town Hall will come alive with the songs of Rodgers and Hart in the Sunapee Kearsarge Intercommunity Theatre (SKIT) production of *Beguiled Again*.

Two years ago, SKIT presented *Our Town* to benefit the Andover Historical Society. This year a cast of 24 singers will perform to benefit the Sutton Historical Society. The show will feature songs like *My Funny Valentine*, *With a Song in My Heart*, *My Romance*, *Falling in Love with Love*, and many more, all just in time for Valentine's Day!

Show dates are:

- Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9, at 8 PM
- Sunday, February 10, at 2 PM
- Friday and Saturday, February 15 and 16, at 8 PM.

Tickets are available at Flash Photo, Morgan Hill Bookstore, and Tatewell Gallery in New London. Tickets will

also be sold at the door. Call 526-2910 for more information.

Beguiled Again is directed by Don Boxwell, with Susan Cancio-Bello, musical director, Judy Lowe, producer, and Martha Bristol, stage manager.

The incredible cast of 24 talented singers are all from the Sunapee-Kearsarge area. The cast includes: Brenda Balenger, Tiffany Barnes, Wally Borgen, Carlton Bradford, Jessica Carmichael, Lenny Crowley, Nancy Edwards-Cogswell, Charley Freiberg, Alice Field, Patti Lacroix, Jay and Linda Lambert, Bonnie Lewis, Davie Marten, Toby Messitt, Alice Perry, Nina Rogers, Doug Ryder, Veronica Shubert, Lauri Smerald, Cole Subik, Jack Tate, Adele Warner, and Ellen Wassell.

Be sure to mark your calendars now, and don't miss this wonderful production presented by SKIT in partnership with the Sutton Historical Society.

Publicize Your Fundraiser!

Articles, photos, and/or ads in the *Beacon* both before and after the event will help raise awareness and \$\$\$ for your cause. 735-6099

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Graduating seniors with financial need who live in Andover or Danbury: contact your Guidance Counselor or call Jim Goody (735-5676) or Ellie George (735-5990) for an application.

ANDOVER LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

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BLUEWATER FARM LODGE DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

18 and older: \$20 single/\$35 couple
Kids with parents: 13-17, \$10; 12 & under, free
Doors open at 7 • Dancing 8 to 12
Music by *Four on the Floor*

BYOB - light snacks provided

Any adult bringing someone under the age of 21 must be responsible for that person.

Andover Lions Club News Andover Service Club News

By Tom Schwendler
Andover Lions Club

The Andover Lions Club is finishing up its newest and most exciting fundraiser, the Second Annual Calendar Sweepstakes. This is a raffle where only 1,000 tickets were printed, and a winner is selected for every day of the month of January. The winners receive a prize ranging from \$50 to \$400, depending on the day they were picked.

Starting last July, all members of the Andover Lions Club have been selling these tickets for \$10 each all around

town. You may have seen one of us at the Transfer Station, at the elementary school during voting day, or in front of Blackwater Junction Restaurant selling tickets.

With your help, this fundraiser was a great success! We were able to raise over \$3,500 for the local communities of Andover, Danbury, East Andover, and West Franklin. In addition, a portion of these funds will help us fight curable blindness around the world.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Tom Schwendler, at 526-2105.

By Joyce Egge
Andover Service Club

The Andover Service Club is publishing a telephone booklet for Andover called *Our Town*. Make sure your business or service is listed in this valuable resource tool which will be made available to all Andover residents. Listings are free and ads will cost as follows:

- Quarter page (business card size): \$15
- Half page (4" x 5"): \$30
- Full page (8" x 5"): \$60

Please call one of the following members for inclusion in this directory: Gisela Darling, 735-5681; Trudi Otto, 735-652; or Joyce Egge, 768-5543.

Thrift Shop News
By Gisela Darling

Our Andover Service Club Thrift Shop has been busy during the last few months, and we would like to thank all of our customers, consignors, and people who donated items to our shop.

We do take winter clothing on con-

signment now and are always thankful for donated winter items as well. Consignments should be in new or excellent condition.

Donations should be in very good, clean, and saleable condition. Please be sure to check the items over before you drop them off at the Thrift Shop. We do not take clothing that is stained, torn, or otherwise damaged.

We pride ourselves in offering good quality clothing!

During February we will have our Red Sale with any red donated clothing item 50% off. Please visit us and see what treasure you may find.

We still have a nice assortment of women's clothing in larger sizes.

Our winter hours are Tuesday, 10-2; Wednesday, 3-5; Thursday, 10-4; and Saturday, 10-2.

Please also note: If school is closed due to snow or bad weather, the Thrift Shop will be closed as well. Call the shop at 735-5269, or Gisela Darling at 735-5681 or Gillian Smith at 735-5945

Andover Lions Club Calendar Raffle Winners			
1/1	Bev Rowsell	Canaan	\$350
1/2	Eula Epperly	Danbury	\$50
1/3	Kimberly Burke	Bristol	\$50
1/4	George Kidder	Andover	\$100
1/5	Allen Libbey	Franklin	\$150
1/6	Sue Currier	Andover	\$100
1/7	Carmen Ayala	Boscawen	\$50
1/8	Susan Doyle	Milford	\$50
1/9	Mike Wilson	New London	\$50
1/10	Sharon Gaines	Newbury	\$50
1/11	Dawn Cook-Hoy	Danbury	\$100
1/12	Barbara Barton*	Andover	\$150
1/13	Don Gould	Andover	\$100
1/14	Alex Barton	New London	\$50
1/15	Billy Hefler	Newton	\$50
1/16	Ken Woodward	Chesterfield	\$50
1/17	Chris Towne	Andover	\$50
1/18	Barbara Barton*	Andover	\$100
1/19	Delaney McGonigle	Danbury	\$150
1/20	Laura Powers	Andover	\$100
1/21	Don Gross	Andover	\$50
1/22	Rebecca Taylor	Andover	\$50
1/23	James Locke	Gilmanton	\$50
1/24	Kevin Farrington	Andover	\$50
1/25	Chris Seufert	Franklin	\$100
1/26	Maura Gorman	New London	\$150
1/27	Chris Gentes	Claremont	\$100
1/28	Janet Davis	Danbury	\$50
1/29	Richard Davis	Danbury	\$50
1/30	Mertin Austin	Danbury	\$50
1/31	Victor Phelps	Andover	\$400

*Barbara Barton of Andover won twice on the same ticket!

Lions Club Scholarships

By Diane Rice
Andover Lions Club

The Andover Lions Club is pleased to announce that scholarships totaling \$2,500 will be awarded in June:

- John Thompson Memorial Scholarship – \$500
- Stephen Jewett Memorial Scholarship – \$500
- Vocational-Technical Scholarship – \$500
- Nick Meier Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000

All applicants must reside in either Andover or Danbury. First priority will be given to graduating high school seniors in the class of 2008 with financial

need and strong academics. Second priority will be given to students of Andover or Danbury enrolled in continuing education programs at the undergraduate level.

Forms will be available at the guidance departments of Merrimack Valley High School, Newfound Regional High School, and Proctor Academy. Each application and all supporting materials must be received by Friday, April 4. There will be no exceptions. Further information may be obtained by calling the following members of the Scholarship Committee of the Andover Lions Club: Ellie George at 735-5990; Jim Goody at 735-5676; or Diane Rice at 735-5365.

TIME TO APPLY for Andover Service Club SCHOLARSHIPS

Available to:
**Andover's Graduating
Seniors and Adults**
entering or continuing
**College or Professional/
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DEADLINE: MAY 1

Application forms at ASC Thrift Shop, Andover Middle School, Proctor Academy Guidance Office, and MVHS Guidance Office

Lois Magenau - rmagenau@aol.com
Diane Rice - drice226@tds.net

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contactus@bluewaterfarm.net
www.bluewaterfarm.net

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

By Judy Perreault

NH Circle of Home and Family.

Are your feet "dog tired"? New shoes give you blisters. Strange aches and pains, and is that a crooked toe? If "Yes" is the answer to all those questions, then you should have been at this month's meeting of NHCHF for the program *Agony of DeFeet*.

We explored the anatomy of feet and some common foot complaints and cures. The importance of well-fitting shoes and the correct shoes for different activities were also discussed.

It was also advised to shop for shoes in the afternoon, as feet swell during the day, and if those shoes are too tight in the store they will be tight at home. Shoes should not require a "break in" time.

Did you know that runners are advised to discard their shoes after 200 to 400 miles of use? We didn't figure this was going to be a problem for us, as no one could imagine running 400 miles.

Foot etiquette in other countries was rather interesting. In some cultures bare feet are considered offensive. In certain countries it is offensive to show the soles of your feet, and this is in a population

where a large percentage of the people go barefoot. It must be pretty tricky to observe this rule. Some people like to decorate their feet either by painting or with jewelry.

We tried some foot pampering with vibrating slippers that no one wanted to give up, a heated vibrating footbath, and refreshing peppermint foot spray.

We also tried some foot exercises that were supposed to promote healthy feet. My husband wasn't too happy when I raided his golf bag for the golf ball massage.

Then there were the missing elastics for the toe pulls. I guess I went a little too far when I snuck the marbles out of the Chinese Checker Game for the marble pick up. Hey, I'd like to see you pick up a bunch of marbles with your toes!

Next month our program is *Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate*. Want to know what it's about? Well, come to the meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 25, at the Merrimack County Extension Office. It will be presented by Marilyn Sullivan, a County Extension educator. For more information, call 735-5493.

By Sally Bergquist
KUUF

As Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (KUUF) enters the second half of its 2007-2008 year, there are some exciting things ahead. KUUF will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on Sunday, April 6, with a program at Colby-Sawyer College's Ware Campus Center in New London. Dr. Bill Schulz will be the speaker. Dr. Schulz was President of the Unitarian Universalist Association from 1985 to 1993 and Executive Director of Amnesty International from 1994 to 2006.

Also, the Reverend Emily Burr and Sandra Lebeau will be offering a class on diversity - *Creating Community, An Exploration of our Human Diversity* - at Tracy Memorial Library in New London on five Tuesdays, starting on

February 5 and finishing on March 4. The classes will run from 2 PM to 4 PM. Together, we will discover how different abilities, ages, races, classes, religions, and gender are woven to create the fabric of our lives.

The first class will start with a showing of Dan Habib's documentary film *Including Samuel*, which examines the educational and social inclusion of youth with disabilities. The film is built on the efforts of Habib and his family to include Samuel, 7, in all facets of school and community.

The film recently won the annual Positive Images in Media award from TASH, an international group committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities. The film was also named Best Documentary of Concord's 2007 Somewhat North of Boston Film Festival.

Volunteer!

The Beacon is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers for almost everything. Please do your part to keep our community newspaper going strong. To find a role that's right for you, call Charlie at 735-6099.

SOO-NIPI AUDUBON EVENTS

On Friday, February 8, the Soo-Nipi chapter of the Audubon Society will present Larry Denencourt for a visit to the beautiful island of Sanibel in Southwestern Florida. We'll escape the dead of winter to look at *The Nature of Sanibel Island in February* as seen through the camera lens. The program will be presented at Tracy Library in New London. Join us for refreshments at 7 PM and the program

at 7:30 PM. Call Jan Prew at 526-6790 for more information.

On Saturday, February 9, Soo-Nipi Audubon will have a field trip to Cape Ann to look for over-wintering birds. Meet at the Warner Park & Ride at Exit 9 on I-89 at 8 AM. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, and warm clothing. Call leader Peter Newbern at 763-4308 for more information. Inclement weather cancels the trip.



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Suzy Norris shares a laugh with Diane Fowler, LPT, during an open house last month at Ragged Mountain Physical Therapy's new office on Lawrence Street. Mindy Grinold Bicknell, LMT, who offers appointments for massage at the Andover location, was also on hand. Photo: Bob Bussey

Ragged Mountain Physical Therapy Opens In Andover

By Sandee Waine
Beacon staff

Ragged Mountain Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy opened last month at 10 Lawrence Street in Andover. Owner and physical therapist Diane Fowler held an open house on January 23.

I met with Diane recently, and we discussed who needs therapy. If you have had a sports-related injury, personal injury, or perhaps major surgery, you and your doctor decide if physical therapy is your next step. Your doctor then refers you, and then you contact Diane, who works with most major insurance companies to preauthorize the

number of visits.

Whatever your needs are, Ragged Mountain Physical Therapy has the equipment to assist you in your recovery, including an upper body ergometer (or "upper arm bike"), a total gym, weights, a private treatment room, gym balls, and more.

Diane received her masters degree in Physical Therapy from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and a masters in Exercise Physiology from Columbia University in New York City.

If you have any questions, please give her a call at 735-6114. She is currently open Monday through Thursday from 12 PM to 6:30 PM.

COA Walking At Proctor

By Grace Stetson
COA Walking Program

The walking program in the Proctor gym, sponsored jointly by Kearsarge Area Council On Aging (COA) and Proctor Academy, has just completed a record-breaking year for 2007. We have had a total of 62 people who have walked a total of 5,266 miles. Based on an average 25-minute mile, this converts to 2,150 hours of walking.

This far exceeds previous years, partly due to the fact that Proctor allowed us to walk all summer and also due to a very nice article in the *Concord Monitor* last January about our walking program.

Some participants walked only a

couple of times, but we have numerous regular walkers who walk four or five days a week. Our top walkers (both in miles and years of participation) are female and are also our oldest walkers, at 84 and 86 years of age. They put the rest of us to shame! They credit the walking for a great deal of the good health that they enjoy.

We welcome new walkers and invite you to join us in the Proctor gym on Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10 AM. All you need to walk is a pair of clean, dry sneakers or tennis shoes.

It really is an enjoyable start to the day! Come join us.

And thank you to COA and Proctor from all the walkers for this program!

Kearsarge Council on Aging

By Kay Butler
COA Chairman

Kearsarge Area Council on Aging (COA) is a service organization for seniors which serves Andover, Danbury, Grantham, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sutton, Sunapee, and Wilmot. In 2007 COA celebrated its 15th anniversary! We continue to grow, and the services below show the increase in our participation levels and transportation provided to area seniors:

- 628 members in 1996 ... 2,452 members in 2006
 - 4,900 people participated in programs in 1996 ... 10,000 people participated in programs in 2006
 - 4,000 volunteer hours contributed in 1996 ... 11,600 volunteer hours contributed in 2006
 - 16,000 miles of transportation were given in 1996 ... 60,000 miles of transportation were given in 2006
- Our mobility lending program of walkers, canes, wheelchairs, and other

equipment is used almost daily. Programs of education, exercise, culture, and sociability are available through our Chapin Senior Center in New London every day. All these services continue to be free of charge to our members, and we hope to keep it that way. It is through the generosity of the towns serviced, our business sponsors, and individual contributions that we are able to do this.

Our annual budget of \$100,000 is possible only because of the excellent volunteer support that COA receives from hundreds of people in all towns. COA has a paid staff of one executive director and one part-time administrative assistant. Volunteers do the rest, sharing their talents and time with COA.

COA is most grateful for all donations. Without them, we would not have the vibrant organization that we have. We look forward to seeing you at the Center.

Thank you for your support!



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Events At The Fells

The Fells at The Hay Estate in Newbury is offering area residents a variety of winter educational programs, including landscape design using native plants, and the first of their 2008 history series. There will also be several different outdoor activities that present the opportunity to enjoy and learn about the winter landscape and wildlife, using cross-country skis and snowshoes. Any or all of these programs are a great way to beat the mid-winter blahs and cabin fever.

Residential Landscape Design. Co-sponsored with the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) and may be applied towards the NEWFS Certificate in Native Plant Studies. This multi-session course will introduce participants to the landscape design process, with special emphasis placed on using native plants in the residential landscape.

Workshop sessions will focus on design methods using site analysis techniques and schematic design tools. Students will design a plan of their own, with assistance from the instructor, Liz Krieg. Liz will also present material on plants and habitats, including information about plant choices and their placement in the landscape.

Saturday, February 2, 10 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, February 9, 10 AM to 4 PM

Required materials: 11 x 17 quadrille graph paper, 12 x 18 tracing paper, a ruler, and pencil. Appropriate for beginners. Meet at The Fells Gatehouse.

To register, call NEWFS Registrar Lana Reed, 508-877-7630 ext. 3303. Limit 16. Fells and NEWFS members \$175, non-members \$210.

The Grand Resort Hotels of the White Mountains: History, Architecture and Personalities. Part of the 2008 history series *Hosting Our Summer Guests: The 1880s through the 1930s*. Join Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., celebrated author and professor, and Director of Museum Studies, in this slide-illustrated lecture which focuses on the architecture and related history

of the grand resort hotels of the White Mountains, targeting the period from 1850 to 1950. Presented in collaboration with The Fells, The New London, Sunapee, and Newbury Historical Societies, and The New London Barn Playhouse.

Newbury Town Office, Thursday, January 31, at 4 PM (snow date: February 7)

Register by calling 763-4789 ext. 3. Limit 70. Members \$4, non-members \$6.

Trail-walk Series: Cross-Country Skiing at The Fells. Join Laura and Bruce Crawford on the first Fells Trail-walk of 2008. Explore winter's wonderland at The Fells, breaking trail across the grounds and adjacent woodlands. Learn tips for off-track Nordic skiing, and search for signs of winter wildlife. Families welcome! Bring your own skis. Meet at The Fells Gatehouse.

Sunday, February 10, 1 PM to 3 PM (snow date: February 17). Register by calling 763-4789 ext. 3. Limit 15. Members free, non-members \$5.

Winter Mammal Tracking: Stories in the Snow. Co-sponsored by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Accompany Naturalist Dave Anderson for a hike (or snowshoe) in the Forest Society's Hay Forest Reservation.

Late winter is the perfect time to observe a winter's worth of well-traveled wildlife trails. You will see signs of late emerging mammals, including skunks, raccoons, and chipmunks, learn the names of five weasel species found in our local forests, find out how gray squirrels tap maple tree buds, and discover how mice use a network of tunnels to find food and hide from hungry predators.

Warm winter boots recommended. Deeper snow may necessitate snowshoes.

Wednesday, February 20, 3 PM to 5 PM (snow date: Wednesday, February 27). Register by calling 763-4789 ext. 3. Meet at The Fells Gatehouse. Limit: 20. Members \$16, non-members \$20.

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Debra Wilson, Director of Radiology Services at New London Hospital, with NLH's newest digital mammography system.

New System For Advanced Digital Mammography At NLH

In 2001, New London Hospital became the first hospital in the state of New Hampshire to offer digital mammography. Today, this commitment to women's health is enhanced with the acquisition of state-of-the-art technology called Senographe Digital Mammography. This new system continues to offer computer-aided diagnosis as well as a more comfortable experience for the patient, more automated features for the technologist, and a more advanced viewing work station for the radiologist.

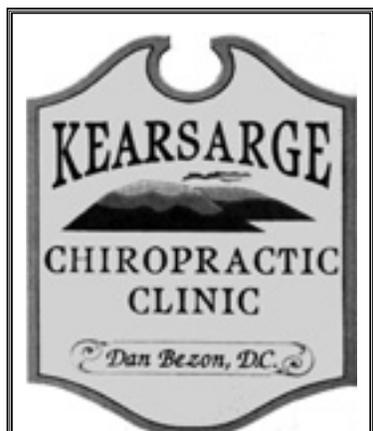
"This new system has the largest available field of view, enabling us to tailor the exam for women of diverse shapes and sizes," said Debra Wilson, Director of Radiology Services. "Other benefits include a new curved and more comfortable design. Also, the system is now wheelchair accessible, making it easier for every type of patient." Another feature is that the digital image is ready to read within ten seconds and can be sent electronically to a consulting physician instantaneously.

Digital technology offers advantages over traditional x-ray film. These include the ability to read digital mammograms immediately on a computer monitor; the ability to manipulate images during viewing; and the electronic transmission of digital mammograms. Digital mammography has been shown to be significantly better than traditional film in detecting early cancers among women who are pre-menopausal,

younger than age 50, or who have dense breast tissue.

Statistics indicate that breast cancer will affect more than 900 women in New Hampshire in 2008. Mammograms are among the best early detection methods, yet 13 million women 40 years of age or older have never had a mammogram, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. "Providing the best diagnostic equipment possible is a vital step towards good preventive health and one we take very seriously," Wilson stated. "We encourage women to speak with their health provider about the advisability of having a mammogram."

New London Hospital provides over 3,000 mammograms yearly for women in the hospital's service area. The hospital established a Mammography Fund in 1990 to cover the cost of the procedure for any woman who cannot afford a mammogram or other diagnostic service related to breast health. Call Claire Boyd in Customer Service at 526-5292 to determine if you qualify for using the fund. To schedule a mammogram, please call 526-5249.



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Red Dress Gala To Benefit Cardiac Programs At FRH

Did you know that February is American Heart Month? According to the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, heart disease is the number one killer of American women. In fact, one in four women dies of heart disease.

Plans are being finalized to kick off National Heart month in style at the social event of the season. The fourth annual LRGHealthcare Red Dress Gala: The Heart of Women's Health presented by MetroCast will be held on Friday, February 1, at the beautiful Church Landing in Meredith.

The event is held annually to

raise awareness about women and heart disease. All proceeds from the event will benefit the purchase of new cardiac rehabilitation equipment for Franklin Regional Hospital and Lakes Region General Hospital, and Women and Cardiac Services at LRGHealthcare.

This year's event includes a live auction, silent auction, dinner, and dancing to the sounds of Paul War-nick and Phil 'n the Blanks.

If you would like more information or to make a donation, please contact the LRGHealthcare Office of Philanthropy at 527-2865.

Cholesterol Class At FRH

Did you know that high cholesterol is one of the major risk factors for heart disease? In fact, the higher your cholesterol level, the greater your risk of developing heart disease or having a heart attack. Even small changes in your diet can lead you on the path of a heart healthy lifestyle.

Please join LRGHealthcare dietitian Kathleen Hayward for a *free* program on healthy eating choices, the importance of fiber and exercise, and

a breakdown on ways to improve your HDL, LDL, and triglycerides cholesterol numbers.

Classes are offered at Franklin Regional Hospital on Monday, February 11, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, or at Lakes Region General Hospital on Monday, February 4, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. To register for either class, please call the LRGHealthcare Education Department at 527-2997 or 934-2060 x329.



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BORN Asa Catherine Gilman

Asa Catherine Gilman was born on November 26, 2007 to Brian and Sarah Gilman of Andover. She weighed nine pounds, three ounces and was 20 inches long. Her paternal grandparents are Steven Gilman of Loudon and Judy Gilman of Concord. Her maternal grandparents are Sandy Bartlett and the late Charlie Bartlett of Webster.

GRADUATED Alexander Green

Army National Guard Private Alexander Green, the son of Susan Christiansen, graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma.

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YOUNG LIFE DINNER

By Sandee Waine
Beacon staff

Ragged Mountain Lodge will be hosting this year's Mount Kearsarge Young Life celebration dinner on April 12. The celebration begins at 5:30 PM with a silent auction, followed by appetizers and dinner.

This is an annual event: a celebration, a special night when the youth of Young Life give back to the community and share who they are and their message with others.

Dinner is served by area youths, who will wait on tables. Music and conversation will flow throughout the evening, reflecting how this program constantly changes the lives of so many.

If you would like to donate items for the silent auction or attend the celebration, please contact Cathy Ellis at 735-5025 or CathyE@tds.net.

Tickets are free, but donations are accepted. Please RSVP as soon as possible, as seating is limited.

Young Life members are from Andover, Salisbury, Wilmot, Franklin, Hill, and New London. Please come and celebrate with them on this special night.

OBITUARIES

PAUL JURTA, 95, died on January 3 after a period of failing health. He was born in Czechoslovakia to Paul and Anna Zona Jurta and lived most of his life in East Andover.

He worked on the family farm for many years and also worked for more than 42 years for the state highway department as a truck driver and plow operator.

Family and friends found Paul to be a kind and gentle man. He enjoyed spending time in his homemade boat on Highland Lake.

He was predeceased by his sister, Ann Jurta Stretson, and husband Carlo of New York City; and by his brother, John, and wife, Margaret Keating Jurta, of Franklin. He is survived by family members including nephew Carlo Stretson and his wife, Margaret, of Johnsonville, New York; and by cousins.

Services will be held in the East Andover Congregational Church in the spring, with burial in Lakeview Cemetery.

RICHARD N. EICHELL, 82, of Franklin died January 14 at Pleasant View Center in Concord. He was born in Ozone Park, New York, the son of Arthur and Margaret (Northrup) Eichell. He lived in New York before moving to Potter Place in 1963 and then retired to his cabin on Webster Lake in Franklin in 1990.

Mr. Eichell was a cabinetmaker, owning his own business and then working for Steenbeke and Sons in Boscawen. He served in the US Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a 45-year member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in New London. Mr. Eichell had been a Mason for 60 years and a member of King Solomon's Lodge #14 F & AM in Elkins since 1963.

He was a 42-year member of the Andover Lions Club. Last year, Mr. Eichell worked at the Lions Club

pancake breakfast and rode in their Concord stagecoach in the Andover Fourth of July parade. He collected many prizes for the Chinese auction and set the tables for the Lions Lobster Dinner in August.

His beloved wife, Dorothy (DeGroot) Eichell, died in 2003. Members of his family surviving include a daughter, Ruthann Fox of Penacook, a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and John Boschetti of Franklin; a granddaughter, Jennifer Fox of Milton; sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Lions Club Scholarship Fund, PO Box 204, Andover 03216. To sign an online guestbook, visit www.ChadwickFuneralService.com.

NANCY LEE CAILLER, 55, died January 15 at Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen after a long illness.

Born in Concord, she was the daughter of John and Betty Bartlett. She attended Concord High School and Mount Ida College in Massachusetts. She was employed by the Concord Monitor for more than 15 years, working for the business and distribution departments.

Nancy was a Sunday school teacher for Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord.

Survivors include her husband, Tom Ahearn of Andover; four children, Zac Cailler, Wendy Cailler, Joe Cailler, and Katie Cailler, all of Concord; her father, of Concord; one sister, Virginia Bridle of Hampton; two grandchildren, Gauge and Nathan; and two nephews, J.R. Bridle and Wesley Bridle, both of Hampton.

Services will be held in the spring. Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, New Hampshire Chapter, 10 Ferry St., Suite 427B, Concord 03301.

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Mike Barton sets up the next run for the Pinewood Derby while Hayden Buswell watches intently. That's Don Rankins in the back. Photo: Bob Bussey

Cub Scouts Pack 489

By Heidi Terwilliger
For the Beacon

It was an exciting night of double elimination racing at the Cub Scouts annual Pinewood Derby. The boys get together and race cars that they build from official Cub Scout kits that were handed out at the previous pack meeting. They work hard at coming up with their own design and finishing touches.

Once the car is all together and ready to go it has to meet certain requirements such as wheel base width, but the most important is the weight of the car. The overall weight cannot exceed five ounces. It is not out of the ordinary to see wood being chiseled or drilled out of the bottom of the car at the last minute to meet the five-ounce weight limit.

But it is not all about the race – creativity counts, too. Judges are picked out of the audience to look at the cars and vote on creativity. Some of the cars are very elaborate once they are finished.

The race results for this year were:

- Nicholas Terwilliger, first

- Jared Frost, second
 - Austin Marceau, third
- The creativity awards went to:
- Nicholas Keniston, first
 - Matthew Bent, second
 - Samuel Ladd, third

The boys also received prizes and trophies for their popcorn sales, which is where the majority of the funding comes from to keep the pack up and running. The boys received a patch and a prize of their choice based on the level of sales, as well as trophies for the top three sellers. This year's trophy recipients were:

- Nicholas Terwilliger, first
- Ethan Collette, second
- Hayden Buswell, third

The evening is wrapped up with a drawing for a \$150 gift card from Dick's Sporting Goods. Each boy's name goes into the drawing once for every \$150 in popcorn sales that they have made. This year's winner of the raffle was Ethan Collette.

The Cub Scouts would like to give a

See Scouts on page 28



Cub Scouts Awards Night. (l-r) Austin Marceau, Jared Frost, Nicholas Terwilliger, Ethan Collette, Hayden Buswell, Samuel Ladd, Matthew Bent, Nicholas Keniston
Photo: Leighton Terwilliger

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Wilmot Learning Place

By Karen Schwendler
Wilmot Learning Place

Wilmot Learning Place is excited to inform you of our Thirty Days of Summer Fun Raffle. Raffle tickets are on sale now.

This raffle will be drawn daily throughout the month of June. It is packed with tickets to New England attractions such as Water Country, Canobie Lake Park, Storyland, even Six Flags New England. Each winning ticket stub will be "thrown back in the pot" for a chance to be drawn again and again. A maximum of 1,000 raffle tickets will be sold, so the more you buy, the better

your chances!

Raffle tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased by contacting Karen Schwendler at 526-2105 or KSchwend@comcast.net.

The Wilmot Learning Place would like to thank Greg Hamel of the Blackwater Junction Restaurant in Cilleyville for his generosity in allowing us to use his entryway for our bake sale on December 23. He and his staff also contributed greatly to our cause by purchasing goods as well as donating monetarily. Greg has shown incredible selflessness over the years in helping to promote local non-profits.

Scouts from page 27

big "Thank you!" to those who helped make all of this possible.

Thank you to Mike Barton for making time in his schedule to open the school, setup the track, run the race, take the track down, do a sweep of the floors, and lock up after everyone had gone home.

Thank you to RP Johnson and Son

for purchasing all of the car kits that are given to each of the Cub Scouts. Thank you to David Stepp at Andover Academy of Self Defense for donating all of the pizza that was enjoyed by everyone.

Cub Scouts is open to boys in grades first through fifth. If your son is interested in joining the Cub Scouts or for more information contact Leighton Terwilliger at 735-6502.

BEACON DEADLINE: THE 15TH!

Please have your ad, article, photo, letter, etc. to the Beacon by the 15th of each month! Or at least let us know by then the date it's coming.
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Brooke MacDuffie, Bradley Roberts, Alexa Jenkins, and Connor Little enjoy one of January's heavy snowfalls. Photo: Doreen Perreault

East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault
East Andover Village Preschool

The winter weather has left its impact on our Preschool II children, who have missed a lot of school due to snow-covered roadways. You've got to love New England!

Despite the weather, we were able to enjoy a field trip to Pizza Chef here in Andover. Once again, AB Transportation and Ms. Melissa provided an exciting bus ride to our fun-filled morning. The children were guided by Missy as we learned many behind-the-scenes surprises at our favorite pizza place. We enjoyed pineapple, pepperoni, and green peppers on our pizzas.

Thank you, Pizza Chef, for allowing us to sneak behind the counters and explore! We had a great time.

We are looking forward to our long-awaited Winter Wonderland show. At press time, it was scheduled for Monday, January 28. The children will be recreating the story *The Mitten* and our characters will come alive as we squeeze our way into a very small mitten. In the end, a sneeze from the big bear sends all our winter friends flying into the air. It's a wonderful story and a great adventure to re-create.

The children will also be singing a few songs, one about the seasons, and we will end with one of our favorite "action songs," *The Bunny Hop*. Preschool II children are looking forward to this wonderful night.

Special thanks to everyone who purchased a candy bar for our recent fundraiser. We still have a few boxes remaining. Candy bars are \$2 each. We are hoping to add some much-needed classroom manipulative to our shelves and help build our scholarship fund.

Preschool I children have been enjoying nursery rhymes. They tested their egg dropping skills as we talked about Humpty Dumpty. It's amazing how fast he can fall from a wall!

The children made some delicious haystack cookies with Chef Combo. We made a Hickory Dickory Dock and of course, a mouse to climb up the clock. We ended the month with Wee Willie Winkie and a pajama party.

Special thanks to all our Advisory Board members. It has been a busy few months working hard on our 2008-2009 budget, a task that involves a lot of time and thought. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication. EAVP continues to shine because of you all.

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Advancing in January: Front (l-r): Ashley Lucas, Christophe Courtine, Evan Raeuchle, Charlie Reed, Shane Ryan. Back: Sandra Raeuchle, Jesse Connell, Amber Gove. Photo: Heidi Terwilliger

Andover Academy Of Self-Defense

Andover Academy of Self Defense ended 2007 with a very busy day on December 22. The day started with the regular mixed kids' class where the students practiced demonstrations. After class the families joined the students to watch their demonstrations that included techniques, forms, and weapons forms.

Awards were then presented. All of the students from the children's classes received a medal for all of their hard work during the year. A Helping Hands plaque was given to adult students Aimee Linehan, Heidi Terwilliger, Michael Schamel, Adam Hatch, and Brian Alexander and to advanced students Nicholas Terwilliger, a Junior Instructor, and Nathan French, a Trainee Instructor, for help around the dojo with different tasks such as teaching, helping with the kids' classes, installing equipment, or doing odd jobs.

An Instructors Award was given to Heidi Terwilliger for leadership, performance, sacrifice, and dedication for all of the time and effort contrib-

uted to the school. Everyone brought some food to share, and Andover Academy of Self Defense supplied a cake and beverages for a holiday get-together. The day ended with a raffle where several items ranging from t-shirts to a free month of karate were raffled off.

The new year began with another round of testing on January 12. The students that tested and advanced in rank were Charlie Reed, advancing to 1st degree Brown Belt; Shane Ryan, advancing to Brown Belt; Sandra Raeuchle, advancing to Blue Belt; Jesse Connell and Ashley Lucas, advancing to Purple Belt; Amber Gove, advancing to Orange Belt; and Little Tigers Evan Raeuchle and Christophe Courtine, advancing to Green Belt and Purple Belt, respectively.

Andover Academy of Self Defense is looking forward to another year of hard work and learning, as well as fun, in 2008. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success in the past.



Awards ceremony for 2007. Kneeling (l-r): Evan Raeuchle, Jake Morse. Front: Ashley Lucas, Griffin Merriman, Bailey Christensen, Christophe Courtine, Hayden Christensen, Juliette Courtine, Hannah French. Middle: Nicholas Terwilliger, Frank Cummings, Joren Schamel, Hunter Heath, Charlie Reed, Shane Ryan, Danny Cummings, Nathan French, Heidi Terwilliger. Back: David Stepp - Head Master, Abigail Heath, Aimee Linehan, Adam Hatch, Michael Schamel. Photo: Leighton Terwilliger



Joyce Jones (l) of Andover and John Rumpfelt of Manchester compete at a meet hosted by Andover's Wicked Cool Fencing Club. The meet was held on January 27 at Proctor Academy. Both Joyce and John fence for the Wicked Cool Fencing Club. Photo: Bob Bussey



Rick Estes (r), owner of the Wicked Cool Fencing Club, opposes Delaney Granizo-MacKenzie of Norwich, Vermont. Photo: Bob Bussey



Tristan Jones (l), fencing for the Wicked Cool Fencing Club, challenges Delaney Granizo-MacKenzie of Norwich, Vermont. Photo: Bob Bussey

Tristan Kai Jones (l) fencing foil at a Junior North American Cup in Dallas. He earned his A rating (the highest possible) in foil in early December at an Open competition in Saco, Maine.

Tristan is a member of the Wicked Cool Fencing Club of Andover and a senior at Proctor Academy. He will attend Duke University in North Carolina in the fall to fence on their NCAA Division I epee team. Photo: Joyce Jones





AE/MS students involved with KYHA celebrated Kearsarge Youth Hockey Day on January 22. Rear, l-r: Taylor Methven, Max Barrett, Breanna Davis, Cameron Wood. Front: Chloe Methven, Logan Marcus, David Benjamin, Nick Stiles, Keith Davis. Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

KEARSARGE YOUTH HOCKEY

January 22 was officially declared "Kearsarge Youth Hockey Day" by the Kearsarge Youth Hockey Association's board of directors. Players wore their uniform jerseys to their schools and offered videos and flyers describing the association's programs.

Founded in the late 1970s, KYHA currently offers hockey and learn-to-skate programs to over 100 participants between the ages of three and 19. Team programs are offered at the Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget levels. There are co-ed teams as well as girls-only teams. Learn-to-skate and learn-to-play-hockey programs round out the association's programs.

Andover kids playing on KYHA teams include Taylor, Chloe, and Ryan Methven; Logan Marcus; Ronan Walsh; Keith Davis; David Benjamin; Max Barrett; and Nicholas Stiles.

KYHA home ice is located at Proctor Academy's Maloney rink. Current board president Dr. Greg Curtis hopes to encourage local players who have left the program over the years to return to KYHA.

Dr Curtis also encourages all inter-

ested players to join up regardless of their skill level, stating, "It is never too late to learn, and we will have a program to help you play this great game." He goes on to say that KYHA is a volunteer non-profit program that is blessed with excellent coaching. We have coaches who have played in the NHL and college, as well as at least three current coaches who have coached at Proctor Academy at the varsity level.

One of Kearsarge's more famous players is Tara Mounsey, of Olympic fame, who played on her first team at Kearsarge.

Next Year

For the 2008/2009 season, the association is working on programs designed to assist new players who want to play but have missed the younger programs. KYHA is especially interested in increasing its player numbers with the Pee Wee (age 11 and 12), Bantam (age 13 and 14), and girls' programs. The association is offering a discounted fee of \$350 to Pee Wee players for the 2008/2009 season.

For more, visit KearsargeHockey.com or call any board member on the Web site.



Ski jumpers from four states and many New Hampshire towns competed at Blackwater Ski Area on January 6. Photo: Michele Bartlett

Andover Outing Club

By Lynn Cox
Andover Outing Club

The Andover Outing Club's January 6th Freestyle Sprint race was a huge success, with almost 70 skiers coming from the Mount Washington, Lebanon, Eastern Massachusetts, Gunstock,

By Tim Norris
Andover Outing Club

On January 6, Andover Outing Club (AOC) jumpers competed with juniors, masters, and high school jumpers from Lake Placid and from all around central New Hampshire.

Highlights for AOC jumpers:

On the K10, Jake Hubbard finished 1st for the J4 boys with a long jump of six meters, edging Max Saggiotes (5 m), while Curtis Chamberlin was 2nd for the J5 boys with a longest of 4.5 meters.

Emily Rauseo was 1st for the girls (4.5 m) with Maggie Hicks (4 m) second.

On the K18, AJ King was a strong second (9.5 m) for J5 boys, while Warren Bartlett was 1st (10 m) for J4 boys. Davey Rauseo was 2nd for J3 boys (9 m).

In the masters class, Vincent Dude (11 m) edged Jared King (10.5 m). Kyle Horner of Salisbury was outstanding in his first meet.

On the K30, J4's 2nd was Warren Bartlett (12.5 m), while Master John Conley went 20.5 meters.

On the K38, AOC's Luke Daniels won the J4s with a long ride of 27 meters to beat his Lake Placid rival Miles Lussi by half a point. Matt Doyle was 3rd (21.5 m).

In the high school class, Parker Haynes of Kennett was 1st (32 m), and Ethan Black of Proctor was 2nd (25.5 m), edging Gavin Quay of Concord (24.5 m).

The masters class (all from Lebanon) was won by Jon Farnum (29 m), and Dan Brown was 2nd (22.5 m). Bill Ryan (23 m, but lower style points) was 3rd. Tying the longest jump of the day, Senior Chris Jones also jumped to 32 meters.



Maddy Pfeifer pushes hard for the finish line. Photo: Lynn Cox

Blackwater Nordic, and Lake Placid clubs.

About a dozen racers competed as combined skiers after a jumping meet at Andover's Blackwater Ski Area in the morning. Younger nordic skiers raced in two heats, and the J3 group skied three heats.

The course was fast and over varied terrain, as the Andover Outing Club (AOC) has the benefit of skiing at Proctor Academy's fabulous ski area. The following AOC racers were fast and smooth and finished successfully: Maddy Pfeifer, Elizabeth Chesley, Andrew Young, Patrick Allen, Cody Nixon, Hallie Southworth, Ben Cox, Kelsey Allen, Thaddeus Bicknell, Willy Cox, Mackenzie Nixon, Herman Nixon, as well as our littlest lollipoppers, Nikolai Bofinger and Ingrid Cole-Johnson.

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Charlie at 735-6099.



Erin Hanscom (l), Rebekah Stearns, and their teammates pedalled around and around the AE/MS gym in a Ride-A-Thon to raise money for the Andover One Wheelers' spring trip to Arizona. Photo: Bob Bussey

Publicize Your Fundraiser!

Articles, photos, and/or ads in the *Beacon* both before and after the event will help raise awareness and \$\$\$ for your cause. 735-6099



The AE/MS seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball team. Front (l-r): Ricky Dansereau, Madison Powers, Tim Braley, Steele Henderson, Shrief Elmasry. Back: Coach Tom Frantz, Cody Barton, Brendan Coll, Jesse Coffey, Caleb Frantz, Derrick Nowell, Cameron Doucet, and Manager Matt Jolley.

Photo: Hannah Frantz

AE/MS Basketball

By India Thompson, Jessica George, and Derrick Nowell

The Lady Eagles basketball season is off to a good start with a record of 3-1. On January 24 the ladies played the Kearsarge Middle School Cougars and came away with a 33-19 win. The ladies came out strong in the first half, scoring points quickly. Brianna Davis was the lead scorer for the Eagles with 10 points.

The seventh and eighth grade boys' team is also off to a great start. Their current record is 3-2 with their three wins com-

ing against Sunapee and Laconia Christian. Their two losses were to Kearsarge and Franklin.

Please come and support your Eagles. There is a new concession stand, and all proceeds support AE/MS athletics.

The home schedule for the rest of the season is:

- Feb 5 Winnisquam 3:30 PM
- Feb 6 Barnstead 3:30 PM
- Feb 11 Newfound 3:30 PM
- Feb 18 Laconia Christian 4:00 PM

The girls play at the time listed above. The boys play after that.

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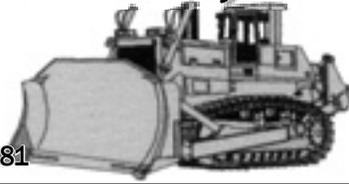
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AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

January is typically a quiet month at AE/MS. The teachers take advantage of the long stretch of weeks before February vacation to accomplish a lot in the classrooms. Many projects and long-term assignments are underway. You can hear the productive buzz of working students Monday through Thursday, but on Friday afternoons AE/MS students hit the slopes, the trails, and the ice.

The children in Andover are very fortunate to have the opportunity during the school week for winter recreation. Due to the generosity of the town, all students have the affordable opportunity to alpine ski or snowboard at Ragged Mountain Resort, or Nordic ski at Blackwater Ski Area, or ice skate at Proctor Academy's Teddy Maloney Rink. We appreciate the collaborative effort of the town recreation committee, AB Transportation, and Proctor Academy as they work together each winter to make this possible for our students.

We are also grateful for the donation and swapping of winter equipment that takes place. Our collection of skates is impressive. Through a grant we received several years ago, we are also able to supply our skaters with helmets.

Of course, without the parent and community volunteers none of this could happen. We have parents who regularly ski and skate with the children and transport all the equipment.

Our Nordic skiers had a treat the first time they skied at Blackwater Ski Area this year. Also, on the trails with them was Andover's very own Olympian – Kris Freeman! It was not that many years ago, that Kris Freeman, a former AE/MS student, was learning as our students are today.

Bees At AE/MS

Bee season is over at AE/MS. The AE/MS Spelling Bee and Geography Bee winners now await the next competition. Derrick Nowell, an eighth grade student, won the Geography Bee at the school level and now awaits results of a written examination he was administered. Students who score in the top 100 advance to the state level of the Bee.

Siobhan Reid, also an eighth grade student, was named champion of the Spelling Bee at the school level. Siobhan now advances to the regional competition in March, and the winner there will go to the state level of competition. Good luck to Derrick and Siobhan!

Congratulations also go to Katelyn Ashburn, a seventh grade student who was runner-up in the Spelling Bee.

AE/MS Web Site

If you have not checked out the AE/MS Web site lately, please do.

Chris Connor, our technology person, has loaded the site with lots of news and information. Please visit www.andover.k12.nh.us.

Speaking of technology, many of our parents now receive the weekly AE/MS newsletter through their e-mail. We are pleased that we are able to communicate with parents more quickly and easily while also saving on the amount of paper going out every week. If you want your e-mail address added to the list, please give Gail Parenteau a call at school or e-mail us through the AE/MS Web site.

Parent Breakfast

February will be a busy month at AE/MS. Most importantly, we have the Parent Breakfast on February 21. This is an annual favorite event that brings many parents into the building. Parents are able to enjoy a delicious breakfast with their child. Parents are invited to linger after breakfast and explore classroom displays with an international theme.

SPIRIT Week

Parent Breakfast is during SPIRIT Week at AE/MS. The Student Council organizes SPIRIT Week and gives each day a theme. The favorite day of the week is always Friday – Beach Day! No matter how frigid the outdoor temperature may be, it is tropical in the gym! Students and staff all are caught up in the excitement as they dress for each themed day. Also, during SPIRIT Week is the Andover Idol competition. Who will get the trophy this year?

Invention Convention

Third grade students are starting to think about Invention Convention in March. If you have to invent a contraption to make daily life easier, March is not too far away! The Invention Convention gives students an opportunity to build upon what they are learning in the classroom by expanding their creativity, problem-solving skills, and inventive thinking. Come to the Invention Convention at AE/MS on March 13 at 6:30 PM and see what our young inventors will be unveiling.

Travel Plans

Travel is in the future for some of the students. Plans are becoming firm for the eighth grade trip to New York in June. Fifth and sixth grade students will enjoy a week at Nature's Classroom in March.

Coming up at the end of February is the Andover One Wheelers' big trip. The One Wheelers will fly to Arizona accompanied by parents, coaches, and supporters. We are proud of their efforts and know they will impress all in the west.

Graduation Plans

Eighth grade graduation had been tentatively set for June 10 but See News on page 33



Is It a Cold or the Flu?

Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Fever	Rare	Usual; high (100°F to 102°F; occasionally higher, especially in young children); lasts 3 to 4 days
Headache	Rare	Common
General Aches, Pains	Slight	Usual; often severe
Fatigue, Weakness	Sometimes	Usual; can last up to 2 to 3 weeks
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Usual; at the beginning of the illness
Stuffy Nose	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Common	Sometimes
Chest Discomfort, Cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can become severe
Treatment	Antihistamines Decongestant Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medicines	Antiviral medicines—see your doctor
Prevention	Wash your hands often Avoid close contact with anyone with a cold	Annual vaccination; antiviral medicines—see your doctor
Complications	Sinus congestion Middle ear infection Asthma	Bronchitis, pneumonia; can be life threatening

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Keeping The Kids Healthy

By Heather Hill
AE/MS Nurse and Health Teacher

Your child has the signs and symptoms of a cold ... "Or is it the flu?" parents ask. The US Department of Health and Human Services offers the following guidelines:

Should I send my child to school?

Children with a fever should remain at home until the fever has resolved for 24 hours.

Children remain at home if they are vomiting or unable to function in the classroom due to illness.

Children remain at home if they have a cough that cannot be controlled and is a disruption to the child and classmates.

Simple tips to keep your children healthy:

In this cold weather, remember the essential five: jacket, hat, mittens, boots,

and snow pants.

Encourage drinking plenty of water. Encourage your child to carry a water bottle at school.

Children should get at least eight hours of sleep each night.

Eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day.

Replace sugary snacks and baked goods with a piece of fruit or vegetables.

Replace soda with low fat milk or water.

Teach your child the importance of proper hand washing after using the bathroom, before and after meals, and anytime in between to remain germ free.

You can find more tips and parent resources at Mrs. Hill's Healthy Choices link on the AE/MS Web site at www.Andover.K12.nh.us.

News from page 32

that will need to change because of snow days. As we get a bit further through the winter months, we will set the date. I know it is an important evening and family members like to plan ahead. This is one of our biggest graduating classes in recent years - 34 students!

Kindergarten Registration

While we prepare to send the eighth grade students off, we also are preparing to welcome the next kindergarten class. If your child will be five years old before September 30, please contact us to receive information regarding kindergarten. We

have an information gathering day in the spring and we want to have you on the mailing list.

SHARE Day

SHARE Day is coming! We are gearing up for the biggest and best SHARE Day ever as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of SHARE Day.

Important Dates

February 18-22: SPIRIT Week
February 21: Parent Breakfast
February 22: Andover Idol
March 3: Andover Annual School District Meeting
March 13: Invention Convention
April 17: Poetry Night
May 1: Spring Concert
May 19: SHARE Day



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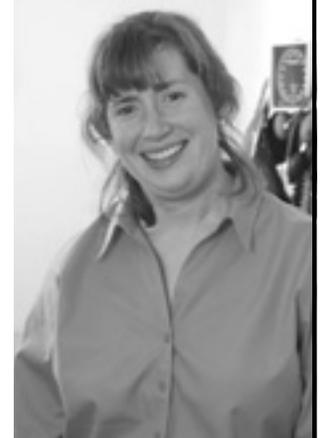
Parent to Parent...

Should my child have a flu shot?

The flu is a viral infection spread by coughing and sneezing or touching flu-infected areas. Getting vaccinated is still the best way to prevent and control it.

Flu vaccine is recommended for all children ages 6 through 59 months old, and their household and daycare contacts. It is also recommended for children older than 6 months if they have chronic diseases such as asthma, HIV or heart disease or who are on long-term aspirin treatment for another illness. Mid-October to mid-November is the best time to be vaccinated.

If your child does get the flu, comfort measures (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, fluids, saline nasal spray, or humidity) may help. *Never give aspirin to children and adolescents with the flu.*



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Proctor Students Serve Andover Community

By Chuck Will
Proctor Academy

The term "community service" means many things at Proctor. On one hand, the school itself benefits from student volunteers every day, washing dishes and providing campus tours to hundreds of families visiting the Admission Office. Then, there's student work that benefits the people of Andover. Students dedicate time to the Thrift Shop, the After School Program at the Hamp House, and a small team of volunteers tackles spontaneous projects in the village.

In March, during Project Period, students will be working as teachers' aides at Andover Elementary/Middle School. Other project groups will perform community service across the region.

For all that is accomplished, it is safe to say that Proctor is not entirely happy with the scope of community service as it is currently structured. Many teachers favor a comprehensive service program that would involve every student. Others argue that students should be responsible for more of the housekeeping and maintenance of the school's facilities. Still others feel that the truly volunteer aspect of service must be protected, so that

students experience pride in initiating their work projects. Compounding the matter is time, and the lack of time that we experience trying to tackle our current schedule! What would we sacrifice to provide more time for volunteer activities?

One thing is for certain: communi-



Proctor students rake snow off a roof in the village. Photo: Chuck Will

ty service will continue to command attention and time in faculty meeting discussions as we wrestle with the complexities of the matter. Everyone agrees that young people should experience the pride and satisfaction of giving back to the community. Now, if we can find the right system, given all of our competing goals!

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AE/MS Parent-Teacher Organization

By Carmen Bates
AE/MS PTO

At our January PTO meeting, Dee Benjamin presented her ideas for the library project. Pat Frost was invited and was there to get an understanding of the ideas. He will be contacted when we get further along. We appreciate him giving us his time and thoughts.

The first step of the project is canvases that will go on the walls and will be painted by local artists with ideas from the children. Canvases will be purchased and classrooms will begin giving ideas for "When I read, I can..." Thank you, Dee, for all of your time and energy on this project!

Letters to get donated items for the auction were handed out. The auction is for the teachers and staff for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week in May. We have all kinds of ideas for themed baskets, so if you would like to help in any way with this, please get in touch with me.

Emergency window covers are done and are hung in all of the class-

room windows. These window covers are just pieces of fabric that are rolled up to the top of the window but in the case of an emergency and the need to cover the window, they can be pulled down by a release of a string. Thank you to Loretta Bates for making these for all the classrooms!

The school sign at the entrance of the school on the road is newly painted and looks great! Thank you to Kait Armstrong for her talent on the sign! It is good to have the eagle back out front.

Children in fifth and sixth grades are going to Nature's Classroom this year, and we will be having a meeting on January 23 to organize a fundraiser for this. If any community members would like to help sponsor a child with this adventure, please contact principal Jane Slayton at 735-5494. Thank you to RP Johnson and Son for sponsoring a child.

Birthdays in the month of February are Mrs. Young, Mrs. Gagne, Mr. Tucker, and Mr. Silverstein. Happy Birthday!

The next meeting is Monday, February 4, at 6:30 PM in the AE/MS Library.

If you would like to help in any way, contact Carmen Bates at canddplus4@comcast.net or 735-5589.

Got News?

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Siobhan Reid Advances To Regional Spelling Bee

By Amanda Lauster
AE/MS Reading Teacher

On January 16, 38 AE/MS students in grades four through eight participated in the local 2008 Scripps Spelling Bee. This was the first year that the practice words were available online. To see this year's entire list, please go to myspellit.com.

This year's runner up was sixth grader Katelyn Ashburn, who put forth a great effort but was knocked out in the 12th round. Katelyn will

compete at the next level if the winner is unable to do so.

Our AE/MS 2008 Spelling Bee Champion is eighth grader Siobhan Reid. This is Siobhan's second year in a row as champion. This year her championship round word was "relevant."

Siobhan will continue on to the regional level in Plymouth on Saturday, March 15. Good luck, Siobhan! We will be R-O-O-T-I-N-G for you.

AE/MS Teachers Help Students Become Lifelong Readers

By Susan Avis
AE/MS Reading Specialist

The Andover Elementary/Middle School faculty is working together to develop consistent teaching practices in the area of literacy and comprehension instruction.

Since studies point to teacher expertise as the critical variable in effective literacy instruction, teachers meet monthly in small groups to discuss best teaching practices based on current research. Dr. Kim Boothroyd visits the school monthly to lead discussions, conduct lessons in classrooms, and work one-on-one with classroom teachers. As a result of this professional development, teachers from kindergarten to eighth grade are using common instructional language and practices.

"Just Right" Books

Ask your student what a "just right" book is. They should tell you it is text that is not too easy, not too hard. When you read aloud from a "just right" book, your reading sounds like talking, and you only

have to slow down occasionally to fully understand it.

The more time students spend reading "just right" books, the stronger they become as readers. Teachers assist students in selecting "just right" books based on each student's personal interests and reading level.

At a recent presentation to the School Board, Jane Slayton and three Andover teachers invited the board members into a fourth grade classroom to demonstrate what reading instruction may look like in many of the classrooms. They also shared observations they have made regarding the students and staff since starting this professional development initiative in August.

As teachers develop the same instructional language, we hear students across the grades using the same terms. Students are spending a lot more time reading "just right" books. Students are more enthusiastic about reading when they get to choose their own books. Teachers are having more conversations with other teachers; they are collaborating and sharing their understandings as we all learn together to help all students become lifelong readers.



Students from Andover Elementary/Middle School who made either the Honor Roll or the High Honor Roll received a free ticket to attend the Manchester Monarchs vs. Binghamton Senators hockey game during Student Achiever Night on January 5. Among the early arrivals at the game were (l-r) Nicholas Terwilliger, Vincent Bolte, and Adrian Bolte. Other students, parents, teachers, and Andover residents were also in attendance.

The game was very exciting, ending with the Senators taking the win in an overtime shootout. The kids had a great time watching the game.

Photo: Leighton Terwilliger

Survey from page 36

asked to allow schools to further disaggregate and understand the responses. The statements probe the conditions that affect students' aspirations and, ultimately, their personal, social, physical, and academic development.

My Voice includes statements like:

- I push myself to do better academically.
- Teachers recognize me when I try my best.
- I feel accepted for who I am at school.
- Students are supportive of each other.
- Teachers believe I can be successful.
- I work hard to reach my goals.
- My classes help me understand what is happening in my everyday life.

Students respond to the My Voice statements on a five-point scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree." The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

By collecting data on how students perceive their school environment, AE/MS is provided with a powerful tool for understanding both what motivates and inspires students to achieve and

how well students believe their school is meeting those objectives. My Voice provides data that is critical for initiating innovative, meaningful reform.

Collecting data for school improvement is not a new concept for AE/MS. We try to reassess the school climate on a regular basis. In fact, it is so important that it is listed as a goal in the AE/MS Long Range Plan as part of the "Promoting a Positive Learning Climate" category.

The AE/MS Student Council will utilize survey data as part of the action plan they have designed to improve the middle school. They are looking at issues of respect and positive recognition.

The New Hampshire Department of Education, under the leadership of Commissioner Lyonel B. Tracy, is dedicated to providing a personalized education that helps New Hampshire students learn today, graduate tomorrow, and prepare for the future by supporting their personal, social, physical, and academic growth.

"Aspiration is the ability to dream about the future, while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams"
- Dr. Russell J. Quaglia

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Highlight: Mrs. Symington

By Gail Fitzpatrick
AE/MS Language Arts Teacher

"I feel enriched each day as I expand my experiences within this precious small school community." These are the soft-spoken words of Bessie Symington, a new member of our special support staff here at AE/MS.

Mrs. Symington comes to us with a wide range of life experiences. As an art major at the Pennsylvania Academy

of Fine Arts, she traveled extensively throughout Europe studying classical art and Fresco style painting.

Bessie studied and reproduced paintings from the British Museum and the National Gallery in London, and spent time in Florence, Italy continuing her studies of the classics. She earned her degree in Fine Arts, returned to New England, and later went back to college to obtain her degree in Special Education.

She is currently certified to teach both Art and Special Education. Working with children of various ages and abilities, Bessie says that she continues to learn more about herself as a teacher and an artist. When she's not here enjoying her day at AE/MS, she can be found in her cozy 1820s historical Cape style Bristol home drawing portraits, painting New England landscapes, and being company for her two beloved bunnies.

Mrs. Symington has found the perfect balance in life: the solitude life of an artist, and the dynamic life of a member of our AE/MS community.



Jessica Lewis and Chloe Methven enjoy "partner reading." For more about AE/MS' literacy initiative, see page 35. Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

Survey Measures Students' Feelings About AE/MS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

Andover Elementary / Middle School faculty and students hope to answer this question and more by using the My Voice Student Survey as a tool for school improvement. This survey is made possible through the Follow the Child Initiative, which helps schools foster student aspirations and promote student success through an emphasis on personalized learning and assessment.

The first step in this process is for schools to gain insight into whether students perceive their schools as places in which they are known, supported, challenged, and inspired. Last year,

the sixth through eighth grade students were administered the survey. Grades two through five will be administered the survey in early February.

Survey administration for parents and faculty is also in the planning stage. It is important that we gather information and feedback from all stakeholders in our school community.

The My Voice Student Survey, developed by the Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations, asks students to respond to a series of statements about their learning environment. Although students' names are not reported on the survey, important demographic questions are

See Survey on page 35

SHARE Day Is May 19

By Gisela Darling
SHARE Day Coordinator

SHARE (See How The Arts Reach Everyone) Day is scheduled for Monday, May 19, and will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

Again, as in years past, we hope to involve many volunteers from the community who are willing to share their time, energy, and expertise with the students of the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Each student will choose two two-hour workshops from among the many workshops offered, including all kinds of activities from visual arts, dance, drama, sports, crafts, and so on.

If you would like to offer a workshop to our students, or help in various other ways to make the day successful, please contact Gisela Darling (workshop and volunteer coordinator) at 735-5681 or sdarling@tds.net or call Principal Jane Slayton at school at 735-5494.

MVHS News

Emily Laro was nominated by the faculty for recognition as Student of the Month for December.

Art Awards

Among the winners of the statewide level of the Scholastics Art and Writing competition were Andover students James Carey and Claire Dusell. James earned an Honorable Mention for his painting entitled *Dangerous Business*. Claire earned Honorable Mentions for her art portfolio as a whole and for her painting entitled *Blueberry Blue*.

To date, Merrimack Valley High School art students have captured 32 outstanding awards!

Mark Your Calendar!

- Feb 3:** Youth Group, Andover Firehouse, 5-7
- Feb 4:** AE/MS PTO, School Library, 6:30
- Feb 4:** Board of Selectmen, 7
- Feb 5:** Last day to petition for a warrant article
- Feb 6:** School Board, AE/MS, 6:30
- Feb 7:** Kearsarge Masonic Lodge, Potter Place, 7:30
- Feb 9:** Bachelder Book Club, Bachelder Library, 8 AM
- Feb 9:** Blackwater Ski Area Celebration, 5-9
- Feb 11:** Lions Club, Mr. D's, 6:30
- Feb 11:** Snowmobile Club, AE/MS, 7
- Feb 11:** Cable TV Committee, 7:30
- Feb 12:** Planning Board, 7
- Feb 12:** Andover Rescue Squad, East Andover Fire Station, 7
- Feb 13:** Andover Service Club, Potter Place, 10
- Feb 13:** Conservation Comm., 7:30
- Feb 14:** Recreation Comm., AE/MS Science Room, 7
- Feb 14:** Recycling Committee, 7
- Feb 15:** Deadline for March Beacon
- Feb 17:** East Andover Grange Hall Restoration Baked Goods Sale, 11
- Feb 17:** Youth Group, Andover Firehouse, 5
- Feb 18:** SPIRIT Week begins at AE/MS
- Feb 18:** Board of Selectmen, 7
- Feb 19:** WCA Senior Lunch, Wilmot, 526-4540, Noon
- Feb 19:** Kearsarge Area ADD/ADHD Parent Support Group, Tracy Memorial Library, New London, 6:30
- Feb 19:** Zoning Board of Adjust., 7:30
- Feb 20:** Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, AE/MS Science Room, 7
- Feb 21:** AE/MS Parent Breakfast, 7-8
- Feb 21:** Library Trustees, 7:30
- Feb 23:** Kids Ice Fishing Derby, Eagle Pond, Wilmot, 9
- Feb 23:** Spaghetti Supper, Immaculate Conception Church, Potter Place, 5-7
- Feb 24:** Youth Group, Andover Firehouse, 5-7
- Feb 25:** NHCHF, Merrimack County Extension Office, Gerrish, 12
- Feb 25:** Lions Club, Mr. D's, 6:30
- Feb 25:** Master Plan Update Comm., 7
- Feb 25:** Proctor Liaison Committee, Proctor Dining Hall, 7:30
- Feb 26:** Planning Board, 7
- Feb 26:** Andover Fish & Game, East Andover Clubhouse, 7:30
- Feb 28:** Lake Sunapee VNA Annual Meeting, Wilmot Comm. Center, 4
- Mar 1:** Supervisor of the Checklist available to correct checklist, Town Hall, 11
- Mar 1:** Chocolate Challenge, New London Inn, Noon
- Mar 3:** Board of Selectmen, 7
- Mar 3:** Andover School District Meeting, AE/MS, 7
- Mar 3:** Andover Village District Meeting, Town Hall, 7
- Mar 4:** School Board, AE/MS, 6:30
- Mar 5:** Fourth of July Committee, Andover Fire Station, 7
- Mar 11:** Voting, AE/MS, 11:30-7:30
- Mar 11:** Town Meeting, AE/MS, 7:30