

# MEET THE CANDIDATES - MARCH 2008

The following interviews are excerpts from the question-and-answer sessions with candidates for contested positions that Andover Cable TV Channel 8 is airing at 9 AM, 4 PM, and 8 PM until Thursday, March 6. The Road Agent interviews air at the time given; the Selectmen interviews start half an hour later. Thanks to Charlie McCrave for conducting the interviews.

## Board Of Selectmen

### Mary Anne Levesque

**CM:** Why did you decide to run for Selectman?

**ML:** We're going to be losing a very knowledgeable and outspoken voice on the Board of Selectmen, Andy Guptill. Everyone thanks him for his service to the town. I'm hoping to pick up where he left off, helping in town to get things done, trying to bring our town into the next century. There are a lot of problems that need to be addressed. I'm hoping to bring some change and fresh ideas and to make life easier for people in Andover.

**CM:** What experience do you have that prepares you for this job?

**ML:** Although I haven't held any positions in local town government, I know what it is like to work for a dollar and how to maintain a budget. I do a lot of volunteer work, both for the East Andover Fire Department as a fire-fighter and as a member of the Andover Service Club, which does a lot of community work for the town. I graduated from college with a 4.0 GPA in my ma-

yor. I've worked as a production manager in an electronics shop. That work follows the same protocols of getting things done on time and in budget as the Selectmen have to follow.

**CM:** How would you define the job of Selectman?

**ML:** The Selectmen oversee the town's operations, dealing with financial aspects including roads. Everybody has to work together with the school and other people in the town. People who have issues bring them to the Board of Selectmen to find out what they can and cannot do.

We've had two 100-year floods within a year, and the Selectmen had to deal with the problem at hand. They had to have emergency meetings to redirect resources in the time of need. A lot of it comes down to management of personnel and money.

**CM:** What do you think are the main powers the Selectmen have to get their job done?

**ML:** The Board of Selectmen is there to set policy in the town and to have oversight of the various departments within the town. They carry out

the wishes of the people expressed during Town Meeting.

**CM:** How knowledgeable do you think the Selectmen need to be to manage the Road Agent?

**ML:** Selectmen should have knowledge of roads and bridges – how to maintain them, what is involved, why is a road falling apart? The Road Agent should understand that, too. They have to work together to come up with the best possible alternative, which involves looking into many different alternatives.

You can't be short-sighted. If a project is too big, you'll have to hire outside help. I don't think they should micro-manage every little aspect of the Road Agent's job.

**CM:** Would you recommend putting up more structures at the Transfer Station, such as a garage for the town grader or a shed for sand and salt?

**ML:** We need to protect our investments. The grader is a very big investment. I don't know if the town owns any centrally-located parcel that it could build something on. The town owns the Transfer Station, and it may be the best

spot for now until another alternative comes up. The grader and sand and salt needs to be protected, and the Transfer Station is currently our best choice.

**CM:** Do you think the town should buy its own sand and gravel pits?

**ML:** A lot depends on location and cost. There's a lot of "Not in my backyard." If the town does buy a pit, there will need to be access roads. What are the environmental impacts? How long will it take to pay off the land versus trucking in the sand and gravel from outside? You have to weigh every aspect of cost and benefit.

**CM:** Since growth seems inevitable, how would you like to see the town grow?

**ML:** We need a mix of residential and business. There's a lot of business and industry that it would be good to bring into town, especially green industries. Most of our tax base is residential, and a lot of people are having a hard time. Bringing in more residential brings in more children, and the school budget goes up even more. That's why we need this mix to help the town grow.

See Candidates on page 7

### PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

## Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Mary Anne Levesque,  
and I am running for Andover selectman.

I promise I will work hard on your behalf.  
I will bring frugality and common sense to town government,  
and I will be responsive to your needs.

With your help I look forward to serving our town.

# VOTE FOR MARY ANNE LEVESQUE For Selectman

## *Thank you for your support.*

Paid for by Mary Anne Levesque • PO Box 2 • East Andover NH