

Beacon Bits

Letters To The Beacon

The *Beacon's* new office is almost ready! Don Gross has walled off a 7' by 12' space in the back corner of Steele Henderson's screen printing and clothing store on Main Street. I'll spend some time this month fitting out the space as a small office for myself and for one or two volunteers at a time.

I'm hoping to outfit the office with one good Apple Macintosh computer and two good Windows computers. If you have a reasonably up-to-date machine you'd like to donate, please let me know right away at Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com or 735-6099.

The plan is for this office to usher in a new era for the *Beacon* by giving volunteers a place to sit and work. It's vitally important that I not be the only one doing the content management, ad design, page layout, membership tracking, fundraising planning, bookkeeping, etc. With an office where two or three people can work together, I hope to involve more volunteers in the process of creating the *Beacon* every month.

(That's not to say I don't already have a lot of help! See page 28 for a big "Thank you!" to all our *Beacon* volunteers.)

Get A Round Tuit!

As you probably already saw on the front page, our annual fundraising effort isn't done yet. The pretty good news is that we're about 3/4 of the way there.

The not-so-good news is that about 100 Andover households who have donated to the *Beacon* in the past haven't gotten "a round tuit" yet and supported the *Beacon* in 2008.

The even worse news is that about 800 Andover households have *never* supported our community newspaper. Beats me why not, but we'll just keep asking people to "get a round tuit" until they do.



Next Month's Beacon...

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

Many of you will know that I recently ran for the office of Selectman. Even though I did not prevail, it was my honor to participate in this democratic process.

Now, with the election behind us, I would like to thank the people of Andover for this privilege of running for office. Special thanks go out to my friends and neighbors in East Andover who gave me their assistance, encouragement, and support.

It remains my fervent hope to serve our town in whatever capacity my talents and abilities will allow. In other words, I'll be back.

Meanwhile, I offer my congratulations to Vicky Mishcon and to all the others who won in their election bids. May you all serve Andover long and well.

Mary Anne Levesque

I write this after several days' reflection on learning that last month at Town Meeting, which I was unable to attend, the town voted to place vinyl siding on the Town Hall including the portion I constructed only seven years ago.

When the addition and renovations took place, a great deal of time and effort went into the design/build part of the construction. It was important to me, and I thought at the time to the town, for us to have a building of permanent quality, energy efficiency, and aesthetic appeal of which we could be proud for generations to come.

I have no illusions about the building, as the budget was very restrictive as to allow for a true historical reproduction, but I expended quite a bit of my own time and resources, however, adding many items which clearly were not in the original scope, such as a wood shingle drip molding, large crown moldings, large 5/4 corner boards, 5/4 casings on the windows, wood exterior window sills to match traditional windows, and rift grain western hemlock siding that would, with a little care, last 100+ years.

Large overhangs, copper flashings, and 35-year shingles were just a few

more items which were added without adding to the original bid cost of the project. I believed it important to create an addition that would be in keeping with the existing 125+/- year old existing building.

A proper prep and one coat of paint on this building would last at least another eight to ten years and make it shine again. Vinyl is not permanent. After a few years it chalks, needs cleaning, becomes brittle, and shows its age. Most installers do not care about the integrity of the finish and place seams improperly, cut edges poorly, etc. Currently there is no such animal as a 50-year-old vinyl job.

Will our "vinyl job" be continuous coverage or simply fix half the problem? Historically the cost of a high-quality complete-coverage vinyl job equals the cost of three to four paint jobs. I probably will not be alive to say "I told you so," but some 35 years from now what will that vinyl job look like?

Why did we place a brick veneer on the school addition, which is a few hundred yards from Main Street, when the front and center representation of our town will have vinyl on it? My wife related a story to me about her Art History professor in college regarding the legacy that the then-current generation should

leave the next. I believe her professor's statement says best my feelings regarding wrapping our Town Hall with vinyl: "Do not make the only legacy you leave future generations Tupperware and vinyl siding."

Sincerely,

Kevin S. Sleeper

Once again I have had the privilege and pleasure to go on a road trip with the Andover One Wheelers. This time we went to Arizona, where the team did a spectacular job of riding in the Old Dutchman Parade in Apache Junction. I think this was a treat for the team, as it was all flat and straight, which is much different than some of their other parades where it is hilly and windy and much more difficult. The weather was bright and sunny, which also was a wonderful change from all the snow and cold we have been having this winter.

I am amazed at the dedication of the adults that organize and provide supervision for the team. The leaders, Mrs. Michelle Keezer and Mrs. Diane Adams, are great role models for the team. They have the ability to have fun but at the same time have the respect of everyone on the team.

See Letters on page 3

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	Bryant Adams
Blackwater Junction Rest.	Gift Certificate	Carter Whitman
East Andover Marketplace	Gift Certificate	David Jewett
Jake's Market and Deli	Gift Certificate	Rich & Stephanie Gross
Kearsarge Magazine	1-Year Subscription	Valerie Ferris
MacKenna's Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Jean & Alfred Flint
Mary Kay - Laura Condon	Gift Certificate	Edna Peters
New Horizons Hairstylists	Hair Care Products	Susan Baker

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

Prizes not redeemable for cash.

BECOME A BEACON MEMBER!

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

Local or Out of Town

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

Seasonal

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

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

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