



Jess Clifford and AJ Barton untangle themselves from the pile after their team loses at tug-of-war. More Mud-A-Thon on page 31. Photo: Charlie Darling

Jon Champagne Takes Over As Andover's New Road Agent

Andover elected Jon Champagne as its new Road Agent on Town Meeting Day in March. Vicky Mishcon, who was elected to the Board of Selectmen that same day, interviewed Jon recently for the Beacon.

The Andover Beacon: First of all, congratulations, Jon, for being elected. This is not a new position for you – you've served as Road Agent before. Can you tell us how your previous experiences have prepared you for the job?

Jon Champagne: First of all, I would like to thank everyone for all their support. I tip my hat to John Thompson and crew for a job well done. They all

deserve a pat on the back.

Many of you already know I own my own business, J&B Landscaping and Excavation, LLC. All good businesses are run the same: respectful, good public relations, budget and planning, knowledge, and training. I am a Master Road Scholar with good common sense and judgment, and, last but not least, honesty.

AB: In what ways has the job changed since your last term?

JC: The demands of the public, for example. Roads need to be plowed and sanded sooner. Roads need to be graded more frequently. An old expression says See Road Agent on page 2

Hillside Greenhouses Ready For Another Growing Season

By Laretta Phillips
Beacon staff

I welcome the warmth of the spring sunshine. We seem to have suddenly turned the corner and there it is – warmth and spring and crocus and snow drops. As soon as I see those little bell-shaped flowers, I get what my grandma used to call "spring fever". Little tiny blossoms make me want to get right out there and get my flowerbeds ready.

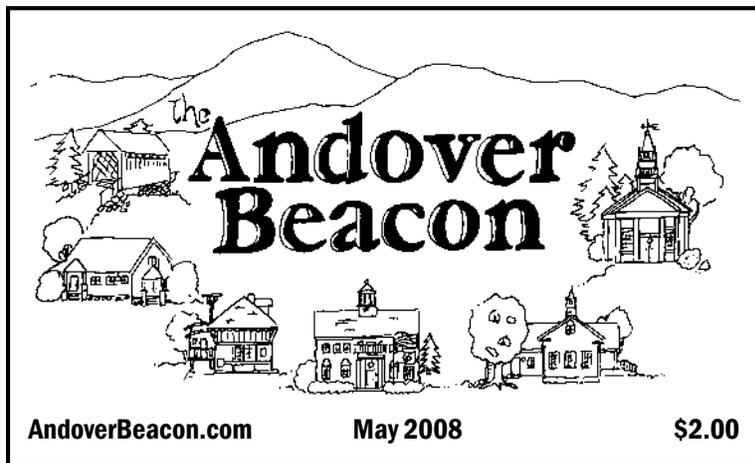
Then, of course, my thoughts naturally turn to the place where I love to go to walk around and imagine what those flowerbeds are going to look like come summer. That place is the Hillside Or-

chard on Flaghole Road in Andover.

Gordon and Ellen Osborne built their first greenhouse in 1975? Ellen used to work for the IGA store in Franklin as a meat wrapper. Hours got longer, and the job got to be a lot more stressful, so she finally quit. She and Gordon decided to build their first greenhouse.

That was just the beginning. For years they had a produce stand in Franklin – first selling apples and cider from Gordon's orchard, then plants and vegetables.

As we walked along, Ellen was deciding to move the bell peppers from See Hillside on page 3



Potter Place Bridge Project Planned For 2009

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

At the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 21, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) updated the Board on its plans to replace the bridge at the intersection of Routes 4 and 11 in Potter Place with two intersections – one for Route 4 to head north from Route 11, and one for Depot Street to meet Routes 4 and 11 before they diverge.

The main topic of discussion was how to detour traffic around the construction site from April 2009 until August 2009, when the work is planned. DOT presented three options.

One of the options requires permission from the Board to divert traffic coming from New London onto Potter Road, left on Cilleyville Road to Potter Place, left on Depot Street, and right up the existing ramp to Routes 4 and 11 eastbound. Traffic coming from Andover would trace that same route in the opposite direction.

The other two options were based on building a detour across private land, making each of them \$60,000 or \$80,000 more costly for DOT and delaying the project at least a year to obtain rights-of-way and other issues.

Obviously, DOT likes the first option best and presented these points in its favor:

- **Timing:** The detour would be in effect from April 1, 2009 to August 1, 2009. DOT gave assurances that traffic would be back up on Routes 11 and 4 by August 1, 2009 and therefore wouldn't interfere with the Andover Historical Society's annual Old Time Fair in Potter Place.

- **Upgrades:** The portions of Potter Road, Cilleyville Road, and Depot Street that would be carrying the detour traffic would be scraped and then upgraded with one and a half inches of asphalt. The poor drainage at the corner of Cilleyville Road and Depot Street would be investigated for improvement. All driveway entrances and the Historical Society museum's parking area would be tapered to match the new road surface.

- **Crossing:** The railroad track crossing at the train station would not be disrupted by filling it in with asphalt. This is important to the Historical Society, which runs a hand-pumped railroad cart across that crossing during the Old Time Fair.

See Detour on page 5



On Earth Day, some skateboarders pitched in to clean up the skateboard park. Tim Bates and Nick Shaw (front) worked with Joey Rego (back right). Carmen Bates helped, too, while nine-month-old Eric Bates supervised the whole project from his stroller (back left). Photo: Charlie Darling

The Swap Shop will be open on May 10 from 8 AM to 2 PM and welcomes reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. (Drop off by 1 PM.) Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.

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