

Letters on the Beacon's 50th Issue

The best day of the month in Andover is the day when the *Beacon* comes out! I have saved every *Beacon* since it started coming out again, and now I will have to count to make sure that I have 49!

I hope that it is around for many, many more years. I appreciate everyone who puts an effort into the *Beacon*, and thank you to Charlie for your dedication!

Carmen Bates

The *Andover Beacon* is a great way to keep up with Andover's doings even if you can't make it to all of the meetings, games, and activities. And my mom in Maine reads every word. She thinks it's the best little paper and loves the ads, stories, and photographs, especially those containing the occasional Hanscom girl. Thank you, Charlie, and all of your helpers.

Alan Hanscom

Hard to believe that the *Beacon* is publishing its 50th issue – and that its editor has survived! The paper is a vital community resource that is all too easy to take for granted.

We suspect that none of us will ever know the extent to which its success is the result of the dedication of one man – Charlie Darling! But this note is not to praise the editor, but to extoll the virtues of the *Beacon* as a community resource that is unmatched by any other for news, views, and information. (Even its advertisements tell us what we need to know.)

When you want to know what is going on in the Selectmen's meetings, read the *Beacon*. When you want to know what is happening in the coming month in your town, read the *Beacon*. When you want to know what your schools are doing, read the *Beacon*. Or if you want to find some essential services or get some estimates for a job, look at the

50th Issue from page 4

haul: content, volunteers, and finances. Content and finances are both "good enough" for now, so our goal for the next four years is to keep them at least as sound as they are today.

Voluntarism, however, is the thing that could kill us over the next four years. Therefore, my passionate focus has to be to get us to the point where I can work a 40- or 50-hour week every week of the month; and where if I were to fall ill or become incapacitated, the community could carry on with the *Beacon* in my absence.

If we can achieve this by our 100th issue – or, hopefully, much sooner! –

we will have ensured that the *Beacon* can survive for as long as the community chooses to keep the three legs it stands upon firm and in good repair. And doing that would give Andover a community project that just keeps on giving.

Can you help us realize this dream? No special skills are needed, and volunteering for the Beacon is a great chance to learn new skills and meet new people. Call Charlie at 735-6099 to learn more.

And if you haven't supported the Beacon financially in 2008, please send a donation to PO Box 149, Andover 03216. There's even a form on page 2 you can use if you like. Thanks!

advertisers in the *Beacon*.

But most of all, if you want to keep in touch with the whole town of Andover, even areas you might not normally know anything about, *read the Beacon*.

Thank you all, who contribute to making this paper the information central for our town. It takes a village, but it doesn't do any good unless we know what our village is all about.

Keep up the good work.

Ed and Mary Hiller

When *The Andover Beacon* arrives at our house, everyone, age six and up, eagerly awaits their turn to read the paper. The *Beacon* has been a great addition to our family and to our town. Thanks to all those volunteers that tirelessly make it happen each and every month!

The Marcus Family

Congratulations on your 50th issue, *Beacon*! Thank you for keeping me in touch with everything happening in town. I appreciate all the meeting notes of committees and boards; it would be impossible to know what is going on without them. Here's to 50 more, and many more after that.

Myra Mayman

Congratulations on the 50th issue of the *Beacon*! I have read the paper front-to-back since its inception and watched the steady growth of the paper with the increased volunteer participation. They all do a very professional job.

It is a great community service and is becoming very comprehensive, including much news that we cannot get from Channel 8 or any other newspaper. I feel I really know more about what is going on in Andover after I read the paper.

Grace Stetson

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