

Proctor students played the roles of victims of a mock explosion in an important medical drill for the northern New England disaster response team.

Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Andover Hosts Regional Medical Drill At Proctor

By John Kinney
Andover Rescue Squad

On October 25, Proctor Academy served as the host site for an emergency medical preparedness drill conducted by the Northern New England Metropolitan Medical Response System (NNE MMRS) and, more specifically, the New Hampshire Medical Task Force (NH MTF) led by Steve Fecteau of Andover.

The drill was the first operational

test of NNE MMRS and Steve said that Proctor Academy was the ideal site for many reasons. Because this would be the first test for the group, it was important that the host site be somewhat small.

Additionally, the drill was going to need about a dozen or more "patients," so Steve called Philip Hackmann, the Safety Officer at Proctor Academy, to recruit students from his Wilderness

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Andover Food Pantry Open In Basement Of Town Hall

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

Recognizing the need for a food pantry in our own community, the Lions Club and *The Andover Beacon* have joined forces to establish the Andover Food Pantry at the Town Hall.

The Selectmen and Town Administrator gave approval for use of space in the basement of the Town Hall. "A



hutch and two bookshelves are beginning to fill with canned goods and other non-perishable items, like soap, toothbrushes, disposable diapers, and toilet paper," said Andover Lion Don Gross.

Don, who chairs the Lions' Food Pantry program, worked with Lions president Tom Schwendler and with Ellie George, chair of the Lions' Christmas Food Basket program, to bring this idea to fruition. Furniture for the Andover Food Pantry was made by Mike Keyser of Gimpy's Workshop and was donated to the pantry by Joan Gross and her family, by Don and Karen Gross, and others.

"This is a simple idea, one that will be increasingly important in the current economy," said Don Gross. "It is not government regulated. There are no forms to fill. There is no attempt to embarrass anyone. There is no need to repay. There is no appointment needed. If you are hungry, or have a neighbor who is in a pinch, simply go down to the

shelves and take what you need. Conversely, if you are on your way to Town Hall, bring a couple of cans of something and drop it off."

This grass roots effort cannot get too big. Says Don, "If stuff starts to pile up, we'll take what is extra to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry in Franklin. If there is not enough, we'll let the community know through the *Beacon*, through word of mouth, and through posters around town."

It is hoped that our community non-profits will fully endorse and support the pantry through the efforts of their members. It is hoped that residents of Andover will keep the shelves stocked. When you shop, buy an extra can of something. When you come to Andover village, make a regular drop-off stop to the pantry. If you want to put items on the shelves, do so. If you just want to drop off a bag, that's fine, too.

The Andover Food Pantry is open whenever the Town Hall is open.

Happy Holidays!
Andover Beacon

AndoverBeacon.com Holidays 2008 \$2.00

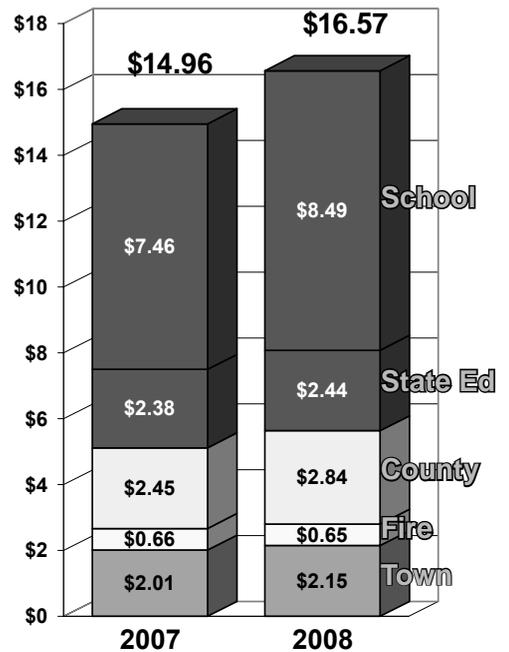
Andover Tax Bills Up 10.8% Over 2007

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Property tax bills arrived in households across Andover this past month. For property owners whose assessments haven't changed since last year, the bills are over 10% higher than last year's tax bills, an increase approaching three times the government's 3.66% inflation rate for the past 12 months.

Leading up to Town Meeting last year, the Budget Committee's recommended budget would have meant a 3.5% rise in 2008 tax bills. But that prospect dimmed at Town Meeting when voters added \$80,000 to the recommended budget to cover cost overruns on the Highland Lake dam project and the road expenses of an unusually harsh winter.

When it came time to print the 2008 tax bills last month, the news got worse. The county tax rate was up 16% over last year's. The school tax rates were up 11%. And the Town tax rate was up 7%, leading to a bottom-line increase of over 10%.



ANDOVER TAX RATES per \$1,000. East Andover tax rates differ only in the Fire amounts.

Town Tax Rate

Two forces were at work throughout the year to drive the Town tax rate up almost 7% this year, from last year's \$2.01 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$2.15.

As in 2007, both the Highland Lake Dam project and an unusually demand-
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SSR Promises To Make Recycling Easier In Andover

By Vicky Mishcon
Andover Recycling Committee

Trash is becoming more and more costly to our pocketbooks, our town, and our planet. Increasing the amount we recycle reduces the amount of trash that is trucked away and incinerated at great expense.

Fortunately for Andover, we will likely have the opportunity to at least double our recycling in the next few years. How? By switching to Single Stream Recycling (SSR), which offers people the ease of placing all their recycling into

just one container – no more separating paper, plastic, metal, glass, etc.!

There have been many stories in the media recently about SSR. The trash co-operative that Andover belongs to is purchasing a piece of land next to the incinerator in Penacook for the purpose of building an SSR Center. The Co-op expects to have the facility up and running by spring of 2010.

Here's how it will work. Our transfer station will collect all recyclables (no sorting needed!) into a single open bin,

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