

Budget Committee Presses For Flat School Budget Next Year

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

On April 1 the Andover Budget Committee met to wrap up this year's budget season and lay the groundwork for next year's. The Budget Committee elected Bill Bardsley as chair for the coming year; Ed Hiller, vice-chair; and Carroll Gautreau, secretary. Vicky Mishcon will represent the Board of Selectmen as an ex-officio member. Don Gould will be the ex-officio member from the Andover School Board, and Reggie Roy will be the Village District's ex-officio member.

Andover School Board members Don Gould and Erik Anderson, AE/MS Principal Jane Slayton, and SAU administrators Kathleen Boucher and Robin Heins were present at the meeting.

The Budget Committee pointed out

that the school district's contribution to Andover tax bills increased over 9% this year, while the Town, fire, water, and county portions are projected to be flat or down slightly. With this in mind, the Committee set as a goal a flat school district budget for next year.

Getting An Early Start

Historically, the school district budgeting process usually starts in mid-October. The Budget Committee suggested that the School Board start earlier this year in order to meet the goal of a flat budget for next year. The Committee suggested a joint work session with the School Board to get things started.

The Committee also suggested a new format for the school district budget to make the budgeting process easier to understand. Robin Heins of the SAU will check with the state as to the suitability of the new format.



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Work has begun in Potter Place around the bridge that will be removed, but demolition won't start until August at the earliest.

Staff photo: Charlie Darling

Preliminary Work Under Way At Potter Place Bridge

No Changes to Traffic Patterns Planned Until After the Old Time Fair in August

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Weaver Brothers Construction Company of Bow has been selected by New Hampshire Department of Transportation for the \$3 million project to remove the Route 11 overpass in Potter Place this year. You've probably already seen the

first signs of activity, though the project won't go into high gear until August.

Weaver Brothers representatives attended a pre-construction meeting at the Andover Town Hall on April 20 to discuss their plans for the project with interested parties including the Town, the New Hampshire Electric Co-op, TDS, AT&T, the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, and the Andover Historical Society.

Much of the project's required signage is already in place, and for the next

See Bridge on page 4

Flowering Trees To Beautify Andover Town Hall Grounds

Contributions Needed to Purchase Materials

By Molly Morgan
For the Beacon

Imagine this: You're driving along Route 4 through Andover on a blue-sky May afternoon, enjoying the fresh smell of spring, windows rolled down, and your hair blowing in the breeze. Passing Andover Town Hall, the red and pink blossoms on a cluster of newly-planted trees catch your eye. The anticipation of summer and the beauty of the day bring a smile to your face. Then you begin to wonder, "Who had the foresight to plant those trees?"

Well, the Andover Conservation Commission (ACC) needs you to be

that person. In an effort to beautify the grounds around Andover Town Hall, the ACC and several members of the Andover community are mounting a tree-planting project this month. Organizers are hoping for a tree planting ceremony in mid- to late May, involving some students and staff from Proctor Academy and AE/MS.

Dr. Susan Schnare of Mountain Brook Consulting has already walked the grounds of Town Hall and has made recommendations for selecting appropriate tree species and sites to ensure that the trees remain healthy after planting. Susan, who has 27 years of experience working with historic landscapes, donates her services to her home town.

See Trees on page 4



ANDOVER TOWN CLEAN-UP WEEK

May 2-9, 2009

By Patricia Moyer
Andover Conservation Commission

As the snow piles melt away and before the beautiful green grass arrives, there lay the remnants of what the past season winds have blown all over, distracting from the beautiful town we live in.

This year the Conservation Commission is working with Town Administrator Dana Hadley on a street-by-street litter clean-up week in honor of Earth Day and in conjunction with New Hampshire The Beautiful.

No matter what your age, or how much or how little you can help, everyone in the community can be a part of the clean up. In order to participate, please call Dana at 735-5332 to pick a street to help with.

The event kick-off day will be on Saturday, May 2, at 9 AM at the Town Hall. You will be provided with blue bags supplied by New Hampshire the Beautiful. Clean-up can take place any time from May 2 to May 9, and Dana will have the blue bags available for

See Clean-Up on page 4



Fourth of July volunteers are raising funds for this year's celebration. Please be sure to donate generously when they call. Pictured is Irene Jewett (l) giving a Fourth of July booster ticket to Rose Tilton. Photo: Judy Perreault

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