



Diane Beaudoin is part of the *Beacon's* volunteer ad design team. The team is learning Adobe InDesign and graphic design principles as they help create the ads that appear each month in the *Beacon*. Staff photo: Charlie Darling

Beacon Volunteer Team Growing, But More Needed

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

I continue to be very pleased with the way volunteers have been coming forward to help get the *Beacon* into your mailbox throughout the year. For example:

- Paul Fenton, who published the *Beacon* for a dozen years or more, has made himself (and his truck) available to pick up the bundles of *Beacons* when they come off the press in North Haverhill.

- Penney Allen, who handled most of the layout of the Andover Service Club's *Our Town* directory, is now tackling the complex job of prepping and staging ads for the *Beacon's* volunteer ad designers.

Paul and Penney are our most recent *Beacon* volunteers, but there are still plenty of ways left in which you can help the *Beacon*. Whether your goal is to give something back to the community; learn a new skill; or just spend a little time helping out in an enjoyable, social atmosphere, I'm sure we can find a role for you that you'll enjoy.

A Project You'll Really Enjoy

My top priority in recruiting new volunteers is to match each person with a project that they'll really enjoy. But very often people ask me, "What do you most need to have help with?" Since you asked, here are a few of the most important tasks that we could use some help with:

- **Assistant Bookkeeper** – Tatjana Donovan has done an outstanding job of getting the *Beacon's* billing working well in QuickBooks. Now she could use someone to help with the monthly entry of invoices and cash receipts so she can start bringing the rest of our accounting up to snuff. No experience necessary – we're happy to show you how it's done and train you in QuickBooks.

- **Article Editors** – Nancy Tripp has been helping with the editing chores ... now it's time to bring in some reinforcements. If you love words and writing, we'd love to have your help! We can send you articles via e-mail so you can work at home, or you can come into the *Beacon's* office and use our computers – your choice!

- **Traffic Manager** – I don't know what else to call this project. Imagine having to keep careful track of ...

- over 100 articles and potential articles
- several dozen photos, captions, and photo credits
- over 100 ads
- dozens of volunteers

... and you'll see why I'm working so many nights and weekends. If the idea of helping keep track of everything and keeping everything moving forward appeals to you, please call me and we'll find a way for you to help.

- **Article Writers** – One of the most important parts of the *Beacon's* success has been the fact that we can rely, for the most part, on the community to do most of the writing. The Service Club writes about the Service Club, the Historical Society writes about the Historical Society, and so on. But every month there are stories that go untold because we don't have enough volunteers like Sandee Waine or Heather Makechnie or Vicky Mishcon who will tackle whatever story needs to be written. Whether you're an experienced writer or not, I'd love to work with you. Please call!

- **Volunteer Manager** – The more help we get, the more time we need to spend on the care and feeding of our wonderful volunteers – scheduling, planning, coordinating, training, etc. If you like working with people and helping them find satisfying, productive ways to give back to the commu-

Letters

The County budget passed on March 24. I am very pleased to inform you that there will not be any increase in county taxes. Rather, there will be a slight decrease in taxes.

In previous years, our bond rating has been triple B. Due to the hard work of the County Administrators and elected officials, the bond rating has been set at an A rating. This improvement in the rating will save the County money when we borrow money. This change in rating has a long-term effect on our taxes.

Town and city governments are going through very difficult times right now. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you in any way in your community. I can be reached at 228-0331 if you have any questions or concerns.

Leo R. Bernier
County Commissioner

It doesn't end there, because the Democrats in charge dealt a blow by eliminating revenue sharing with municipalities and dropping the funding of school construction aid.

Republicans silenced the Democrat criticism of being the party of no and not offering solutions, however, because we did something they couldn't do when they were in the minority, and that was to offer an alternative budget.

Republicans offered a budget that didn't raise any new taxes or any existing taxes. Republicans restored revenue sharing to municipalities and restored money for school construction aid.

How were House Republicans able to do this? They offered a budget that cut state spending by 2.6%, while the Democrats actually increase state spending.

In these tough economic times, I have to sit at my table and make tough decisions. I know that you do, too. Why shouldn't government have to do the same thing?

The fact is that we are in a recession, and hiking taxes and increasing spending is only going to make things worse. I hope that people remember next year who offered alternatives and who taxed them more.

Jennifer Coffey
State Representative

The state's operating budget has now left the House of Representatives and is headed for the Senate. While the two budgets don't always end up the same at the end of June, it is extremely important that you know what the House budget looked like.

That budget created a new capital gains income tax, a new death tax, and a new tax on gambling winnings. It also doubled the gas tax, increased the rooms and meals tax by 10%, and raised the cigarette tax for the fourth time in five years.

nity, then I sure could use your help in this area.

Do you see something on this list that intrigues you? I promise to work with you to find a way that volunteering for the *Beacon* can be convenient, enjoyable, and rewarding for you.

Nothing on this list strikes your fancy, but you'd still like to help? I'll work with you to find another project you'll enjoy.

Either way, please reach me at 735-6099 or Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com and let's talk.

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