

Happy Holidays!



AndoverBeacon.com

Holidays 2009

\$2.00

Andover Must Raise 5.8% More For 2009

By Ed Hiller
Andover Budget Committee

Andover must raise a total of \$4.69 million through real estate taxes for 2009. The corresponding amount that had to be raised through taxes last year was \$4.43 million.

The total amount to be raised for

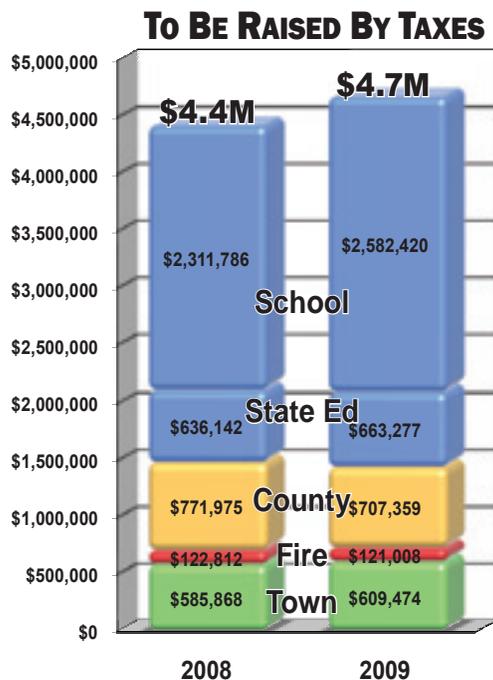
Merrimack County. Note that the taxes required for the school district went up approximately \$298,000; for the Town, up \$24,000; and for Merrimack County, down \$65,000.

School Taxes

The Andover School District taxes account for about 70% of our total tax

levy. The total School tax burden to the town for 2009 is \$3.25 million, compared to \$2.95 million for 2008. This is an increase of about \$298,000 or 10.1%. This represents a significant component of the net \$255,000 increase in our tax bills this year.

An unbudgeted amount of \$195,000 was expended at the very end of the 2008-09 school year in response to school building modifications mandated by the New Hampshire Fire Marshall. This unanticipated expense of \$195,000 would have been part of the unexpended surplus and would have been used



this year is about \$255,000 (or 5.8%) higher than last year. The table on page 6 shows the breakdown of where these taxes go: to the Andover School District (through the local school tax and through the "State Ed." tax); to the Town; to the fire departments; and to

to reduce taxes if we hadn't been mandated to spend it.

Town Taxes

The net Town appropriations for 2009 (omitting pass-through items, which come with their own source of

See Taxes on page 6



Surrounded by decorated wreaths waiting to be picked up outside the AE/MS gym, Michelle Bengivengo checks out the bassinet she got at the Recycling Committee's Holiday Swap Shop in the gym.

Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Andover Taxpayers Throw \$44,000 Into Trash Hopper

By Vicky Mishcon
Andover Recycling Committee

By throwing many recyclables down the hopper at the Transfer Station, Andover residents will add about \$44,000 to the Town budget next year.

According to the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), Andover's recycling rate is currently at 24%. Andover residents have recycled 157 tons so far this year. The tipping fee for sending our trash to the Penacook incinerator increased to \$62 per ton start-

ing December 1, a 40% increase from the \$48 per ton we had been paying. At this new rate, 157 tons of recycled trash means the town can save \$10,988 in tipping fees next year.

What would we save if our recycling rate were 100% -- if 100% of mixed paper, cardboard, and glass, plastic, aluminum, and steel containers went into the appropriate recycling bin instead of into the hopper? Since our current rate recycling rate is close to 25%, we can

See \$44,000 on page 2

H1N1 Update

There will be a **free H1N1 clinic** in Franklin on December 12 **by appointment only** for anyone from six months to 24 years old; from 24 to 64 with underlying health issues; people with direct patient contact; pregnant women; people caring for infants. Call 934-0177 x162 for an appointment.

Also, Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice will be holding H1N1 clinics. For updated clinic information please call the VNA at 526-4077.

For more information call 211 or visit NH.gov.

LRGHealthcare Resumes Seasonal Flu Shots

From LRGHealthcare

Seasonal flu shots are once again available on a first-come, first-served basis to adults and children over the age of nine at these LRGHealthcare locations:

- On a walk-in basis at the Lakes

Region General Hospital Emergency Department – Fast Track between the hours of 9 AM and noon; and between 4 and 7 PM, seven days per week

- At Franklin Regional Hospital's

See Flu Shots on page 2



Brooke Ellis, daughter of Andover Fire Chief Chuck Ellis, accepts payment for a poinsettia at the Andover Fire Department's annual poinsettia sale.

Staff photo: Bob Bussey

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Veterans from Andover and area veterans organizations gathered again this year at AE/MS where they joined the entire school for a program of appreciation for our veterans and our active servicemen and women. Among those in attendance were (seated, l-r): Gene Poulin, Bob Welch, Jay Boynton, Les Shaw, Roger Henderson, Frank Haley, Larry Wilson. Middle: George West, George Karales, Wilbur Kate, Charles Barry, Chris Norris, Mike Haley, Raymond Hersey, Bill Leber. Back: Pete Thompson, Wayne Nicoll, Peter Zak, Lloyd Perreault, Ralph Doe, Ken Coombs, Wallace Scott, Dennis Fenton, Skip Powers, Tom Barber, Tim Frost and his grandson Jared Frost, Charlie Giles, Jeffrey Sweeney. Staff photo: Charlie Darling



Lilly Carlson, 5, gets a helping hand from her grandmother, Joanne Jones (who drives one of the AE/MS busses). Lilly was skating at the Proctor Academy ice rink, which is open for public skating every Sunday afternoon in the winter starting at 3 PM. Skaters must wear a helmet.

Staff photo: Bob Bussey

\$44,000 from page 1

multiply our savings of \$10,988 by four, which brings us to approximately \$44,000 in savings in tipping fees.

\$44,000 could go a long way in the Town's budget. In fact, it could cover the cost of any one of the following:

- Winter materials for the Highway Department. This covers the cost of sand, salt, and other materials needed for winter road maintenance.
- The salary for one full-time police officer.
- The proposed operating budget for the Andover Emergency Medical Services.
- Summer equipment rental for the Highway Department.
- The operating budget for the Recreation Committee and the Library combined.

The Town budget is gone over with a fine-toothed comb at Town Meeting every year. Sometimes a few hundred dollars can be the subject of lengthy debate. Keeping recyclable materials out of the hopper seems like an easy way to save the town a significant chunk of change, money that could otherwise be put to very good use. Why just throw it away?

For more information about recycling in Andover or for help in setting up your household to recycle more, contact the Town Office at 735-5332.

Flu Shots from page 1

Infusion Therapy (FIT) department, by appointment only, between the hours of 8 AM and 6 PM, Monday through Friday; and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 AM to noon. To make an appointment, please call 934-2060, ext. 8850

Please note that the seasonal flu shots offered in Fast Track and the FIT are for adults and children over the age of nine only. For younger children, please call your pediatrician's office.

Seasonal flu shots cost \$50 at LRGH, FRH, Laconia Clinic, and in LRGHealthcare's local provider practices. Patients who choose to pay at the time of service can access a 20 percent discount through our Patient Advantage Program, so the cost will be just \$40. Please note that many insurance plans will cover a flu shot.

Please note that *these are not H1N1 vaccinations*. The H1N1 vaccination is currently available only to those at highest risk of complications from the H1N1 flu. For information about who is currently eligible to receive H1N1 vaccine, please visit the LRGHealthcare Web site at www.LRGH.org, or call the LRGHealthcare Flu Hotline at 527-7069.

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HELP FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT

By Dana Hadley
Andover Town Administrator

The past year has been a challenge for our community to provide the services that are needed and required. The past year's economic conditions have been either the most difficult in our memory, or certainly the most difficult in a long time. I hope to address in this article resources to which families who are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet can turn for help.

One resource is the Andover Food Pantry, located in the basement of the Andover Town Hall. There are no records kept of who uses the pantry or what is taken, and everyone is welcome to use the pantry when the building is open. This is made possible by the efforts of the Andover Lions Club, *The Andover Beacon*, and many Andover citizens.

We are fortunate to be served by the Community Action Program for Belknap and Merrimack Counties, with an office in Franklin. They offer assistance with a commodity supplemental food program; a congregate meal at the Franklin senior center; the meals-on-wheels program; a fuel assistance program; an electric assistance program; a women, infants, and children program; and family planning assistance.

The Kearsarge Council on Aging's Chapin Senior Center in New London has many services for the senior segment of our population, with various activities and a transportation program providing a way to give people a ride to get to a doctor appointment or other necessary errands. Perhaps one of the biggest advantages that it provides is an opportunity for social interaction which is especially good for folks who live alone.

The Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice, based in New London, gives many people the ability to remain in their homes and to have health needs met and monitored as well as providing hospice care.

Are you concerned about being able to pay for prescriptions? Merrimack County offers a prescription discount card. By using this card there is an av-

erage savings of 20% to 50% on costs. Pick up your card at the Town Office: look for the brochure table outside the Town Clerk's office, or ask one of us. You can start using it right away.

Speaking of health and well-being, there is the New Hampshire Healthy Kid program. This program provides health insurance for your children to age 18 at a greatly reduced cost which is based on family income.

ServiceLink Resource Center can connect you to the resources you need for independent living and healthy aging.

Stay Warm NH is a public/private partnership that can help you weatherize your home against the cold or help you pay your heating bills.

Those are some of the programs that are available to us. We also have another link to resource information with the New Hampshire 211 program. You can access it by dialing 211. This is a free call from anywhere in New Hampshire. Or you can visit their Web site at 211NH.org.

Economists are now telling us that the economy is improving. I hope they are right, and I know it may take us a while before we are where we were, but in the meantime we need to remember that we are not alone. This is not a very happy subject for this time of year, but with these services, family, and friends it gives opportunities for solutions to these needs.

For More Information

Andover Food Pantry: visit the Andover Town Hall or call 735-5332

Community Action Program: www.BM-CAP.org, 225-3295

Kearsarge Council on Aging: KearsargeCOA.com, 526-6368

Lake Sunapee Region VNA: Lake-SunapeeVNA.org, 526-4077

Merrimack County Rx Discount Card: pick one up at the Town Office NH 211: 211NH.org, or just dial 211

NH Healthy Kids: NHHealthyKids.com, (877) 464-2447

ServiceLink: ServiceLink.org, 866 634-9412

Stay Warm NH: www.StayWarmNH.org, or just dial 211

Two Towns Threaten To Pull Out Of Trash Co-op Over SSR

By Trent Spiner
Concord Monitor staff

From the December 2 Concord Monitor

Hopkinton and Webster will pull out of a regional trash cooperative [of which Andover is a member] if plans for a single-stream recycling center in Penacook move forward, according to a joint letter sent by the towns yesterday morning.

The letter, unanimously approved by both boards of selectmen, is the first step in a lengthy process to get out of the co-op. In it, the boards demand that co-op officials immediately stop spending money on plans for the recycling facility.

The towns said building a new facility isn't necessary right now, and even if it was, the co-op should provide them with a complete business plan for the facility and allow them to decide whether to participate.

"Because the co-op has decided to go with single stream, Hopkinton and Webster don't feel that it is cost effective at this point to be part of that," said Hopkinton Town Administrator Neal Cass in an interview.

A co-op official said it will take time to formally respond to the letter but added that plans for single-stream recycling will move forward with or without Hopkinton and Webster. "We'd love to have them involved, but it is their decision at this point," said Jim Presher, director of the Concord Regional Solid Waste/Resource Recovery Cooperative.

The co-op is responsible for incinerating trash from 27 towns and cities [including Andover] across the region at a waste-to-energy facility in Penacook.

Designs have already been drawn up for the proposed \$11 million recycling facility, Presher said.

It will be paid for out of a reserve account with \$13 million set aside for a landfill expansion in Penacook that never got off the ground.

Construction will begin once the co-op has commitments from enough communities to assure 25,000 tons of recyclables per year. Right now, Presher said, the 27 member communities represent about 15,000 tons. He has commitments from Hooksett, Milford, Goffstown, and other

communities for an additional 8,000 tons per year. That leaves 2,000 tons per year still up in the air, Presher said.

Hopkinton and Webster haul out about 750 tons of recycling every year, according to Steve Clough, assistant director of public works for waste in Hopkinton.

The two towns currently share a transfer station in Hopkinton. They also share operating expenses and tipping fees through a formula based on population, Cass said.

"We're convinced there are other options available and that it really won't affect people coming to the transfer station. They won't even really know there is a difference," Cass said.

Clough said the towns would look into contracting with another vendor to remove trash from the transfer station if selectmen voted to get out of the co-op. None of the transfer station's policies would change, Clough said.

Hopkinton and Webster pay \$62.10 for each ton of trash hauled to the co-op's incinerator. Clough said private vendors would cost about the same.

As it stands now, the towns sell off their recyclables through private brokers. If they ended that practice and moved to single-stream recycling, Clough estimated a loss of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in annual revenue.

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Food and Necessities for People in Need

*sponsored by
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We need your donations of non-perishable staple foods and other necessities. (Please check expiration dates!)

The food pantry is located downstairs at the Andover Town Hall and is open whenever the Town Hall is open.

It's self-service, no questions asked. Take what you need or drop off what you can.

If you know someone in need, tell them about the pantry. If they are not comfortable going to the pantry themselves, for whatever reason, let a Lion or Beacon volunteer know –

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Beacon Bits

What a year 2009 has been for the *Beacon*! A great new office ... many wonderful new volunteers ... our fifth anniversary ... and now, color photos! They're a lot of work and extra expense, but as long as a few advertisers are willing to pay for color in their ads, we'll be able to bring you some color photos in each issue.

I hope you're supporting our advertisers and thanking them for their ads in the *Beacon*. There could not be a *Beacon* without them. Be sure to let them know how much you appreciate that.

There also could not be a *Beacon* without our volunteers! This month our ad design team, Penney Allen and Pat Cutter, updated almost 70 ads, and Amanda Vaine laid out the articles for this issue nearly single-handedly. Like all the rest of our wonderful volunteers, they're making a huge difference in the *Beacon's* long-term viability.

Informed Dissent

The February issue is the perfect time to speak up about Andover issues. Send a letter by January 15 ... the community needs to hear your voice!



Next Issue of the *Beacon*...

...should be in mailboxes on Friday, Jan. 29. Please get all ads, articles, etc. to us by **Friday, Jan. 15**, at the latest. And **earlier is always better!**

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BEACON MEMBERS WIN!

Each month the *Beacon* holds a random drawing among its members to give away valuable prizes provided by area businesses. **Become a member** for a year, support the *Beacon*, and join the fun! This month's winners are:

Andover Pizza Chef	Large 2-Topping Pizza	Bill and Pat Cutter
Blackwater Junction Rest.	Gift Certificate	Bud and Diane Rice
Jake's Market and Deli	Gift Certificate	Janet Corliss
Kearsarge Magazine	1-Year Subscription	Joan Bullock
MacKenna's Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Kenneth Heath
Mary Kay - Laura Condon	Gift Certificate	Dorothy Hersey
New Horizons Hairstylists	Hair Care Products	Bart and Elizabeth Green

Winners - call volunteer Judy Evans at 735-5331 to collect your prize.
Prizes not redeemable for cash.

Support Our Advertisers!

We couldn't publish the *Beacon* without them.
The best way to keep them advertising is to be sure to thank them for supporting our community and *The Andover Beacon!*

And if they advertise a coupon or a special offer, be sure to clip it out and use it!

The Andover Beacon is published monthly by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a New Hampshire non-profit corporation. Board of Directors: Steve Darling, Nan Kaplan, John Kinney, Betsy Paine, Chuck Will.

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Seasonal	Local or Out of Town	Here's my member donation of \$ _____ for (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Town (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Subscr. (\$25 min)
		Your Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____
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Seasonal: which months are you at the "other" address? _____		

Andover Beacon • PO Box 149 • Andover NH 03216 • Thank you!

Around the World with the Beacon



Herbie Bonk was recently spotted in Monte Carlo at the Monaco Kart Cup with the Andover Beacon in his back pocket. Herbie says, "I never leave home without it."



Chris and Kit Norris pose with the Beacon in front of what became their favorite pub in Edinburgh, Scotland. "We staggered into here the first morning after a red-eye flight from Newark and went back several times for sustenance and what felt like a 'real' Scottish experience," says Chris.



Sara Swenson, granddaughter of Dennis and Margie Fenton, is on an extended stay in Canberra, Australia. In this photo she's visiting Sydney, with the Sydney Opera House in the background.

Letters

In the four years since 2005, our property taxes have increased 36%! The bulk of that increase is due to school expenses, for which the tax rate increased 50%. A secondary cause was Town expenses, for which the tax rate increased 59%!

I'm sure it has been explained before, but during this recession particularly, it would be helpful to get a definitive and quantitative reminder of why we had to make these large investments and what we got in return.

I have read of good work being done to define the reasons people like living in Andover and how growth and development can be guided in the future to maintain and enhance the desired qualities of life here. It seems to me that these questions become moot if some alternative cannot be found to rapidly rising property taxes.

As a retiree on fixed income it is discouraging to contemplate the future if property taxes continue on the same trajectory. I am pretty sure it's no better for other retirees, and I doubt if many of the working residents of Andover saw their income increase at anything near the rate of their property taxes.

Is there no solution?

Respectfully,

Ron Charles

After reading in the October edition of *The Andover Beacon* about the results of Andover middle school students on the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) standardized testing, those of us who teach in the Science Department at Proctor Academy feel compelled to comment.

While we cannot speak to specific issues from the NECAP science test, we can speak to the calibre of science students who have come to Proctor from Andover Elementary/Middle School. More to the point, incoming ninth graders from AE/MS have been among Proctor's strongest science students, often significantly so. They have an excellent foundation in the scientific process, remember what they have previously learned, and just as important – they are truly excited about science. They are fantastic students to have in the classroom! The middle school's science teacher, Ryan Murphy, has transferred a passion for science to his seventh and eighth grade students, and for that, we are grateful.

Given what we see in our classrooms at Proctor, we are mystified by the result of "17% proficiency in science among 8th graders" quoted in the October *Beacon* article. As our AE/MS graduates are so strong in science, it really makes us wonder what kind of science abilities the NECAPs are actually measuring.

It is our opinion that standardized tests tend to measure "mile wide, inch deep" knowledge. Kids can be "taught to the tests" but don't necessarily learn to think critically like scientists. Ryan Murphy is developing real science students who could be on their way to careers in science.

While we understand there may be politics and funding questions behind students' performance on these tests, we want to be clear that the students coming out of Andover – especially over the past five years – are among the best science students we have ever encountered. Proctor teaches students from all over the US, many from very high-powered schools, and Andover's students consistently outperform most of them in our science classes. This is an accomplishment that should be recognized and honored.

We understand from the October *Beacon* article that AE/MS is considering some changes to its science curriculum and instructional methods. We hope that whatever changes being considered do not result in students simply being more proficient at filling in standardized test forms than being the scientifically literate and excited students that they are right now.

Respectfully,

Susan Houston, Phil Hackmann, Heide Johnson, Eric Viandier, Ian Hamlet, Bug Morison, Sarah McIntyre, Josh Norris, Alan McIntyre, Megan Hardie, Chris Young, Kayden Will

The Science Dept. at Proctor Academy

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

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Taxes from page 1

funding and therefore don't impact this year's taxes) were about \$12,000 higher than for 2008.

Significant changes in appropriations for 2009 (rounded to the nearest \$1,000) included:

- \$60,000 to complete the reappraisal of property values (compared to \$18,000 appropriated in 2008 for this purpose).
- An increase in the Highways and Bridges appropriation by \$65,000 for additional summer materials and winter equipment rental.
- Reduction in Highway Capital Improvement Projects by \$74,000.
- Reduction in Town Office expenses by \$15,000.

On the revenue side there were a number of unexpected changes.

- The shared revenue contribution from the State of New Hampshire (typically about \$8,000) was held back this year because of budget problems at the State level.
- A significant grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency of \$123,000 was received. Of this, \$108,000 was compensation for

the damage caused by the Mother's Day Flood of 2006. An additional \$15,000 was to compensate for the damages caused by the ice storm of 2008.

To Be Raised By Taxes - 2009				
Department	2008	2009	Change	%
School	\$2,311,786	\$2,582,420	\$270,634	11.7%
State Ed.	\$636,142	\$663,277	\$27,135	4.3%
Town	\$585,868	\$609,474	\$23,606	4.0%
Andover FD	\$71,593	\$69,975	-\$1,618	-2.3%
E Andover FD	\$51,219	\$51,033	-\$186	-0.4%
County	\$771,975	\$707,359	-\$64,616	-8.4%
TOTAL	\$4,428,583	\$4,683,538	\$254,955	5.8%

- The amount of surplus that the Selectmen applied toward reducing taxes was much less than in previous years - only \$100,000 this year. This reduction was based on their concern that next year's expected revenues will be significantly lower due to the threatened loss in Room and Meals Tax distribution from the State, and that the surplus account should therefore not be unduly depleted this year.

As a result, the total taxes required to support the Town operations for 2009 were \$609,474, compared to \$585,868 for 2008, an increase of \$23,606 or 4.0%.

Fire Department Taxes

The total amount to be raised by taxes for the Andover and East Andover fire departments dropped by about \$1,800 (or 1.5%) in 2009.

County Taxes

The amount Andover is charged to support Merrimack County in 2009 is \$707,359, down from the 2008 amount of \$771,975, a drop of about 8.4%. This reduction results primarily from the fact that the County building projects for the jail and nursing home in Boscawen have been completed.

Overall Tax Bills

For a property in the Andover Fire District valued at \$200,000, the total tax bill for 2009 is \$3,610. For a property in the East Andover Fire Precinct valued at \$200,000, the total tax bill for 2009 is \$3,546.

Does your tax bill include a \$10 penalty? If it does, it's because you didn't return your inventory form to the Town Office by the April 15 deadline this year.

Are you seeing a rise in your tax bill greater (or less) than this year's approximately 5.8% increase in the total amount to be raised by taxes? If you are, then check your assessment. With this year's town-wide revaluation, the total value of all properties in Andover decreased by about 3% compared to the total value in 2008.

If your property assessment for 2009 decreased by 3% compared to 2008, then your share of the total tax burden should be the same as it was in 2008, so your tax bill should be up by about 5.8% (the same as the 2009 increase in the total tax burden).

If your assessment for 2009 decreased by less than 3% (or actually increased), then your share of the total tax burden increased, and your tax bill for 2009 should be up more than the 5.8% increase in the total tax burden.

If your assessment for 2009 decreased by more than 3%, then your share of the total tax burden decreased, and your tax bill for 2009 should have gone up less than 5.8% (or perhaps even decreased).

For more information on how a town-wide revaluation impacts taxes, see the article on page 4 of the October issue of the *Beacon*. It's online at AndoverBeacon.com/online.asp.

Total Andover Tax Rate Up 8.9%

The town-wide revaluation makes it particularly confusing to look at the tax rates this year. We've seen that the total amount to be raised by taxes is up by 5.8% this year. But if you look at the table of tax rates below, you'll see that the total tax rate for properties in the Andover Fire District is up by 8.9%,

and for properties in the East Andover Fire Precinct by 9.2%.

The difference between the increase in the tax burden (5.8%) and the increase in the tax rate (8.9%) is 3.1%,

Tax Rates for 2009				
Department	2008	2009	Change	%
School	\$8.49	\$9.78	\$1.29	15.2%
State Ed.	\$2.44	\$2.64	\$0.20	8.2%
Town	\$2.15	\$2.30	\$0.15	7.0%
Andover FD	\$0.65	\$0.65	\$0.00	0.0%
E Andover FD	\$0.32	\$0.33	\$0.01	3.1%
County	\$2.84	\$2.68	-\$0.16	-5.6%
Total Tax Rates				
Andover	\$16.57	\$18.05	\$1.48	8.9%
E. Andover	\$16.24	\$17.73	\$1.49	9.2%

or the amount by which the total of all property assessments decreased with the revaluation in 2009.

If the total of all property assessments had stayed about the same from 2008 to 2009 (as it pretty much does in a typical year), then the tax rate - the charge per thousand dollars of property value - would have changed by about the same

TAX RATES IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

New London	\$15.07
Webster	\$17.42
E Andover	\$17.73
Andover	\$18.05
Wilmot	\$18.26
Salisbury	\$18.29
Sutton	\$18.33
Danbury	\$18.50
Franklin	\$20.59
Boscawen	\$21.60
Warner	\$23.60

percentage as the tax burden. That's what we see in a normal year, and that's why we're used to thinking of changes in the tax rate and changes in our taxes as being pretty much the same thing.

But because the total town assessment dropped by about 3% in 2009, there was less total property value to which to apply the tax rate in order to raise the money required. Therefore the tax rate - not the total taxes, just the charge per thousand dollars of property value - had to go up by 3% just to keep the total taxes raised even with last year.

But staying even with last year wasn't good enough this year. The tax rate had to raise about 5.8% more in total taxes than it raised last year. So with about 3% just to keep even and 5.8% to deal with the increased tax burden, the tax rate had to go up 8.9% for properties in the Andover Fire District (and 9.2% for properties in the East Andover Fire Precinct, which had less of a decrease in its tax burden than the Andover Fire District did).



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AE/MS Addresses Life Safety Issues Without Having To Raise Additional Funds

By Don Gould
Andover School Board

The Andover School Board had no preparation for the crisis resulting from visits by Investigator Stephanie Johnson of the New Hampshire Fire Marshall's office on February 11 and 25, 2009, to the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Although AE/MS staff and Andover Fire Chief John Landry had identified some of the deficiencies and proposed solutions, there was no budgeted action plan.

During the first visit, occupancy was evaluated for compliance with the current fire code and found to be seriously deficient, putting at risk the life safety of students, staff, and visitors. Immediate corrective actions were ordered.

Effective crisis management meant improving the life safety conditions to meet mandated corrections with minimal disruption of the education process and within the budget approved by district voters for the 2008-2009 school year. To accomplish emergency construction changes of the magnitude of \$185,000 without a special district meeting and bonding funds is indeed rare. But we're doing it, with lots of help.

Fire Inspector Visits

From the New Hampshire Department of Safety: "It is the mission of the Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshall to prevent deaths, injury, and property loss by promoting a safe fire, building, and hazardous materials environment for the citizens and visitors of New Hampshire through education, engineering, investigation, and enforcement." That department is a resource for local fire departments, which must administer and implement fire safety in the community.

On the investigator's first visit, February 11, Investigator Johnson became alarmed about the life safety conditions within the school. Of particular concern that day was the kindergarten – small children in a room unprotected from two dangerous ignition sources: the kitchen and an out-dated, over-loaded electrical service box, with no compliant egress. Demand was made to relocate the kindergarten to a safe area before students returned from winter break on March 2 or close the school until this was satisfactorily completed.

Staff and teachers moved the kindergarten to the library during their vacation and corrected several life safety infractions that had been noted in that brief visit.

Investigator Johnson returned February 25, during winter break, to emphasize corrective action must be taken regarding the kindergarten and conduct a limited visual inspection of the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Also present during the inspection were Principal Jane Slayton, Custodian Bill Anderson, and Chief John Landry of the Andover Fire Department.

During this second visit, she suggested that if one read the book *To Sleep With The Angels*, the story of a fire at the Our Lady of Angels School in Chicago in 1958, they would understand her concerns. Copies were purchased and have been read by several. As a result of this completely avoidable fire, 92 pupils and three nuns died. Investigation of that fire is included in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Life Safety Handbook and is a basis for Chapter 15 of the Life Safety Code. Several of the Life Safety Code violations that contributed to the disas-

Description	Funds Encumbered	Actual Cost
Sprinklers-kitchen and boiler room	\$35,000	\$21,008
Kitchen fire-rated door and roll-up window	Included in above	\$3,897 \$2,020
Electrical: 3 new subpanels	\$15,000	\$17,950
Attic barriers	\$15,000	Delayed by load capacity studies
Window Projects • Music room egress • Middle school repair • Original building	\$60,000	\$3,109 \$4,070 Delayed by lead concerns
South egress door	\$5,000	\$4,950
Propane tanks relocation	\$5,000	\$1,809
Kindergarten egress	\$50,000	Alternatives under study
Total Project Costs	\$185,000	\$58,814

trous outcome of that fire were evident in our kindergarten room.

Letter Listing Code Violations

A letter was received May 8 from the state Fire Marshall's office which listed many life safety code violations that had to be corrected immediately, subject to penalties detailed in New Hampshire RSA 153:24.

Many of the minor code violations were quickly corrected by staff, and those requiring contractor efforts were defined. Unspent funds within the approved 2008-2009 budget were encumbered to finance timely compliance with mandate of the Fire Marshall's office. These are described in the table above.

Funding and Tax Impact

An additional \$10,000 was encumbered to pay unfunded retirement cost increases which had been passed down to the towns and districts to assist the state budgeting process. This unfunded mandate is being contested, but must be paid nonetheless beyond the budgeted amount. Thus, the total of encumbered funds became \$195,000.

The School Board was still able to return unspent funds of \$126,023 for a reduction of 2009 taxes. This lowered the tax rate by approximately 43 cents per thousand, or \$86 on a property assessed at \$200,000. This was not an easy accomplishment in view of the fire safety crisis.

Conclusion

Investigator Stephanie Johnson of the New Hampshire Fire Marshall's office raised life safety code infrac-

tions at the Andover Elementary/Middle School to the level of enforceable citations based on her experience and concern. This concern is best expressed by a quote from Hal Bruno of ABC News that appears on the cover of *To Sleep With The Angels*: "Every parent, teacher, and school administrator should read this story of tragic loss of life that could have been prevented if the lessons of fire safety had been heeded. Unfortunately, those lessons are still being ignored. America could have another school fire like Our Lady of the An-

gels." Investigator Johnson's professional guidance and cooperation are appreciated.

The crisis that followed was so well-managed that it was transparent to the majority of Andover residents, students, and visitors. Few knew about the Sunday afternoon conversation between the Fire Investigator and Andover Fire Chief John Landry, deciding if school should re-open following winter break.

Many contributed – too many to list – including the Andover Fire Department; AE/MS staff who worked many extra hours during the winter break and afterwards; contractors who worked nights and weekends so as not to disrupt classes; SAU 46 business administrator Robin Heins, who tirelessly sought alternatives and lower bids; but most of all a principal who conducted crisis management in a quiet, professional way.

We are not done yet, for we must repair windows in the oldest part of the building after the lead hazard abatement requirements are determined, and upgrade the smoke barriers above the middle school wing after structural requirements are determined that are necessary to meet both fire and snow load safety. Roof trusses, compromised by the unusual snow loads of two years ago, cannot support both the sheet rock required for fire safety and potential snow loading.

There is still work to be done, but the Eagles are in a safer school today.

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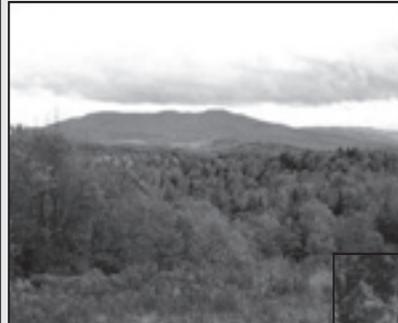
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Run For Town Office In 2010!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

With Town Meeting coming up in March, it's time to think about who's going to fill all the positions in town government that keep the wheels turning smoothly.

The following is a run-down of what offices will be on the ballot in March and what the incumbents may be planning.

Town Officers

Moderator for two years – Ed Becker is the incumbent.

Selectman for three years – Dennis Fenton is the incumbent. He does not intend to run for re-election.

Road Agent for two years – Jon Champagne is the incumbent and intends to run for re-election.

Supervisor of the Checklist for six years – Betsy McDonald is the incumbent.

Treasurer for two years – Shirley Currier is the incumbent and intends to run for re-election.

Town Clerk and Tax Collector for three years – Marj Roy is the incumbent and intends to run for re-election.

Budget Committee for three years (two positions) – Bill Keyser and Jeff Newcomb are the incumbents.

Library Trustees for three years (two positions) – Sandra Graves and Janet Moore are the incumbents. Sandra and Janet each intend to run for re-election.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years – Alex Estin is the incumbent.

Cemetery Trustees for three years – John Graves is the incumbent.

The Town paid positions up for elec-

tion this year are:

Selectman – \$1,500 / year

Road Agent – hourly

Supervisor of the Checklist – hourly

Town Clerk and Tax Collector – hourly

School District Officers

School Board for three years (two positions) – Lynn Baker and Charlie McCrave are the incumbents. Both Lynn and Charlie intend to run for re-election

Moderator for one year – Bill Bard- sley is the incumbent.

Clerk for one year – Christie Coll is the incumbent and intends to run for re-election.

Treasurer for one year – Shirley Currier is the incumbent and intends to run for re-election.

The School District paid positions up for election this year are:

School Board – \$100 / year

Moderator – hourly

Clerk – hourly

Treasurer – \$840 / year

How To File

Filing to run for office is very easy. There is no longer a filing fee for any position.

The filing period for these positions is 10 days long. It begins on Wednesday, January 20, and ends on Friday, January 29. The filing form can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall during her normal business hours:

Mon. and Wed., 9 AM to 2 PM

Tues. and Thurs., 1:30 PM to 6:30 PM

For more information, contact the Town Office at 735-5332 or TAdmin@TownOfAndover.org.

Andover/Proctor Liason Committee

In an effort to maximize beneficial communication between the Town of Andover and its largest business entity – Proctor Academy – an ad hoc Town-Proctor Liaison Committee was established more than 10 years ago. Comprised of town representatives and Proctor administrators, the group convenes several times annually to monitor real and potential concerns and opportunities for mutual benefit.

The committee met in the Proctor Block building on Monday evening, October 27, with Bill Bardley, Dennis Fenton, Don Gould, John Cotton, and Laurie Ferguson representing the town, and Mike Henriques, Karl Methven, Alex Estin, and Chuck Will representing the school. Following approval of minutes from March 30, discussion focused on dangers posed by students crossing Main Street as well as foot traffic down Lawrence Street. The possibility of a flashing pedestrian light will be explored, and the school will continue to confront inappropriate student behavior (including skateboarding.)

School Board Chair Don Gould listed the following contributions to the

town by Proctor:

- Proctor students have volunteered as teaching assistants in first and second grades
- Faculty contributed significantly to SHARE Day, and Proctor facilities were open to that program
- Proctor has donated technology hardware as well as 40 classroom desks
- Proctor's Maintenance Department replaced AE/MS parking lot lights using its ladder truck
- Teddy Maloney Rink is open for skating during the Ski Fridays program
- Public skating is available on Sunday afternoons (starting in January)
- Proctor faculty volunteered as teachers at Math Night
- the George family continues to volunteer extensively to maintain town playing fields

The next meeting is scheduled for March 29 at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall, and townspeople are invited to direct topics, suggestions, and observations to committee members.

Wanted: Candidates For Selectman

By Dennis Fenton
Andover Board of Selectmen

I am not running for the Board of Selectmen this year. My first appointment to a Town board was the Planning Board in 1958. I have been on many boards over the years, and I will miss the interaction with folks, but it is the time to leave active duty.

The *Beacon* asked me to write this article about being a Selectmen and the kind of person that should be a candidate.

First, the fact that you are busy is not a legitimate excuse! Everyone can use that one, but it's the town's well-being that is at stake, so we all have to find time to do the things that are really important to us.

What background should you have? There's no one right answer to that question. George Upton, for example, took an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Selectman before the moving van was completely unloaded when he came to Andover. He went on to win re-election. George only had on-the-job training, which is the hard way.

The two current Board members serving with me took a different path, being on boards and committees to gain experience. All these folks had one thing in common as a part of the community – they wanted to give something back to Andover.

My own path started in 1958, when I was appointed a member of the Planning Board. I had listened to my grandfather Dennis, who was first elected Selectman in 1912. I had watched my parents serve in many positions over the years, so I accepted the fact it was time for me to follow their example.

Things have changed over time. We used to do the tax blotter with a pencil and eraser. Property values were established by the whims of the Board members, with most times not a very good rationale for the final product. The state having uniform requirements for each class of property and certified appraisers doing the work has been a benefit for fairness, and it allows Board members to get involved with other tasks which prior to this got short-changed.

I can remember years ago that one Board member decided to take a step ladder and sneak around when people weren't home to look in their windows to see if the other two Selectmen might be doing too much for some of their friends when it came to property values. Things have improved since then, in spite of what we sometimes think.

A Good Candidate

What makes a good candidate? The first item on any candidate's agenda should be what is good for the majority. When a new problem arises, the

solution is not the easy way out, but what serves our town the best.

As a Selectman, you are one of three overseers whose job it is to manage the town's resources and problems. When a vote is taken, be supportive even if you might like something a little different.

Another very important function is the appointment of various Town committees; try to have diversity in philosophy with as many parts of town represented as possible.

To make the job less of a burden, we have a Town Administrator and a Secretary/Bookkeeper who look after the day-to-day operations. Having those positions well filled should give any interested candidate reassurance that taking on this job is manageable.

Your main charge is to have needed services provided to the town at a reasonable cost. An important tool available to you in pursuit of that goal is the Budget Committee. Their job is to review all budgets in town and present the budget to be voted on at Town Meeting, School District Meeting, and the meetings of the various precincts.

The Budget Committee takes the prejudice out of an individual budget as they look at the big picture. It is important that we all, boards and citizens, listen very closely to the story they tell each year as they attempt to keep our tax rate at a manageable level.

Share Your Talents

To all you good folks out there: You are not too busy to make a commitment to share your many talents. Being a Selectman is not a thankless job. People appreciate your willingness to serve, and you will be surprised how many times you are told this.

I don't know who will sign up, but you are out there. The filing dates for selectman candidates to file with the Town Clerk are Wednesday, January 20, through Friday, January 29. This is for your town. It is all worthwhile. Good luck!

Andover Town Clerk Appointed To NHCTCA Executive Board

Andover's Town Clerk and Tax Collector, Marjorie Roy, was recently appointed to the Executive Board of the New Hampshire City and Town Clerks Association (NHCTCA). The Association was formed 84 years ago when the city and town clerks of the state "realized the value and great importance of making and preserving true and accurate records which are required by law, not only for present use, but the future reference; and [were] further cognizant of the need to exchange management skills and information critical to the performance of [their] duties."

The Association is dedicated to the following purposes:

- To develop, exchange, and disseminate information, ideas, recommendations, resolutions, and techniques relating to the offices of the clerk of cities and towns.
- To promote an understanding of intergovernmental relations.
- To foster and encourage a higher degree of professionalism among clerks.
- To bring together by annual, regional, or any other informational meetings, the clerks of this state with a view not only to the exchange of ideas and fostering of a better acquaintance among the

clerks, but also for the promotion of cooperation in the solution of common problems.

Marj will serve as the Regional Co-Chair for the Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee Region, which is made up of 36 towns. Her duties will include organizing and providing training for clerks in the region and serving as a liaison between those clerks and the NHCTCA. She is anxious to work with the NHCTCA board, and she looks forward to continuing to serve as Andover's Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

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Santa's Elves Run the Workshop While Santa Answers a Call

At 8 AM on Saturday morning, December 5, just as the East Andover Fire Department's annual Christmas tree sale was getting under way, members of the fire department left the elves in charge of the sale to answer an emergency call. Firefighter Jessica West, assisted by Mary Ann and Carla Levesque and Kimberly Scott, stayed with the elves to supervise.

Back: (l-r): Mary Ann, Kimberly, and Jessica. Middle: Thomas Miller, Ethan Collette, and Steven Miller. Front: Michael Miller, Rachel Collette, and Brandon Miller.

Thank you to the elves and their supervisors for keeping the sale going!
Photo and caption: Carla Levesque

East Andover Fire Department

By Chief Rene Lefebvre
East Andover Fire Department

As I write this story we are a few days away from Thanksgiving. We will be traveling to Maine to be with family and friends. As much as I like Christmas, and I really do, for me Thanksgiving is all about spending time with people you are most comfortable with. Having a great meal and spending the afternoon being lazy is about as good as it gets.

There is a term that I sometimes hear used to describe volunteer firemen. The term is "volley." It is used to describe a volunteer fireman in a condescending manner, as in, "Well, what do you expect, they're only vollies." You tend to shrug it off and move on with your day.

However, hearing the term used recently started me thinking. A person will come to our fire station with a curiosity bordering on interest about who we

are and what we do. This often idealistic view will change to a notion of commitment as the time and energy required for training become clear.

After some initial training the rookie volunteer starts to realize we are a team with common goals and interest, and he or she will likely want to be part of that intense sense of belonging. The rookie also brings to the team everyday skills; perhaps a computer programmer or an engineer, electrician, or carpenter. These skilled, successful people, who enter the workplace every day, still have enough desire to care about their community.

Do we volunteers have some shortcomings? Yes. Though our training is intense, experience is a long time coming because we simply do not have a large volume of fires to fight. This is not in itself a bad situation, but it makes it

See EAFD on page 11

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Ed Becker turned the tables on *Beacon* staff photographer Bob Bussey by using Bob's own camera to take his picture as he bought a Christmas tree from Firefighter Jessica West at the East Andover Fire Department's annual Christmas tree sale.
Photo: Ed Becker

POLICE BLOTTER

Chief Glenn Laramie
Andover Police Department

The Andover Police Department responded to 208 calls for service from October 15 through November 15. The following is a partial breakdown:

- Assaults: 1
- Animal complaints: 5
- Ambulance calls: 3
- Burglaries: 1
- Thfts: 1
- Traffic summons: 7
- Traffic warnings: 53
- Criminal mischief complaints: 3
- House checks: 33

- Pistol permits issued: 4
- Suspicious person/vehicle: 9
- Welfare checks: 3
- Domestic complaints: 1
- Juvenile runaways: 1
- Road rage complaint: 1
- Assist to other police: 11
- Harassing communications: 3

Arrests

- One female juvenile, runaway
- Mark Fuller, 25, Andover, operating after suspension (two counts)
- James Mullen, 47, Andover, simple assault (three counts)

Andover Rescue Squad

By John Kinney, EMT-B
Andover Rescue Squad

Thoughts of safety recently came to mind in preparation for our 16-month-old grandson's visit for Christmas. Last year, a holiday guest declared that our tree was clearly one for a home without any children.

As an EMT, I can safely say that pediatric emergency calls are almost always frightening for everyone involved. At this time of year, nothing is more wondrous to a child than a home that's been decked out for the holidays.

I certainly do not want to put a damper on anyone's celebrations or decor, but if proper precautions are not taken, a beautifully decorated home can turn out to be very dangerous. Concealed in many idyllic living room scenes are a host of hazards. All of the following are potential threats to a baby or toddler. Some should be used with care while others shouldn't be used at all – at least not until your child is older, wiser, and less vulnerable.

Mistletoe and Jerusalem Cherry: Both of them can be deadly if eaten. Do not bring them into your home or let children play near them when visiting.

Holly: This plant is only slightly poisonous (large quantities must be consumed for a child to suffer serious consequences). It is wise to keep this out of a young child's reach.

Poinsettia: This holiday beauty can cause local irritation to the mouth and perhaps serious stomach upset if large quantities are ingested. Keep out of reach.

Evergreens: A cut tree should be fresh and should be kept well-watered. Dried-out trees should be discarded to avoid a fire hazard. Artificial trees don't let you off the safety hook entirely. Choose one that is labeled fire resistant. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Regardless of the type of tree, pulling on a branch could lead to a child pulling down a tree.

Pine Needles: Sweep these up regularly and if possible, keep pine trees, wreaths and branches out of reach of babies and toddlers. Pine needles can cause a persistent croupy cough if they lodge in the trachea. Seek medical help if you suspect this.

Snow-Scene Paperweights: Although the liquid inside these is not poisonous, once broken it can become contaminated with germs. Discard if

the paperweight becomes cracked.

Angel Hair: This is spun glass which can irritate skin and eyes and cause internal bleeding if swallowed. Use high up and out of a young child's reach if at all.

Artificial Snow Spray or Flocking: These can aggravate a respiratory problem, so don't use them if anyone in the family has a respiratory problem.

Tree Lights: Because young children can bite these enticing ornaments and suffer internal cuts, hang them high out of reach. Keep cords out of reach too. Be careful about small blinking lights which contain a chemical which is hazardous if ingested.

Candles: Light them and keep completely out of reach for babies and toddlers, and of course away from curtains and other flammable materials. Never leave them lit and unsupervised. Make sure they are thoroughly extinguished before leaving the house or retiring at night. If you display them in a window be sure curtains are securely tied back.

Mini-Decorations: Very small tree ornaments, tree lights or any item smaller than the diameter of a toilet paper tube (or with small parts that can be broken or pulled off) can cause choking. Only use them when you are sure a baby or toddler cannot get to them.

Tinsel, Glass, or Plastic Ornaments and Styrofoam: All of these are choking hazards. If a piece is bitten off, it can get stuck in the throat or depending on what the ornament is made of can cause internal bleeding.

Tree Preservatives: If you use these make sure a curious child can't dip into a tree container for an unusual and unhealthy snack.

Food and Drink: Every year hundreds of young children are rushed to hospitals after downing a martini, beer, or cupful of eggnog or spiked punch left carelessly within their reach. Others choke on olive, nuts, cocktail sausages, etc. So play it safe when hosting a Christmas party. Be sure such items are not left around even briefly on coffee or end tables where even moderately active little hands can get to them.

With a little preparation, planning, and common sense, there's no reason everyone can't enjoy a beautiful, peaceful, and safe holiday season. May all the blessings of this holiday season be shared by all.

EAFD from page 10

challenging to bring good people along and retain our experienced members.

A volley is a volunteer, a person with the attitude and desire to help his community and to use his life skills as a member of a great team.

"What do you expect, they're only volleys."

You know, I kind of like that.

Check Your Detectors

While the holiday season is a very special time, it is also a time of crammed

activities. Please take some time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. You will by now have closed your homes tight to the cold, and the heating appliances are on full blast. These life-saving detectors are your first and best line of defense against a holiday you would rather forget.

The only holiday gift we at the fire station can offer you is that we are here and ready. We will not only try to do our best, we will also try to do it right. Our very best holiday wishes to everyone, from Your Volunteers.

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TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Board Of Selectmen

October 19

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Dennis E. Fenton, Victoria L. Mishcon, Jacob B. Johnson, Dana Hadley
Road Agent Jon Champagne met with the Board. He said that summer road projects are complete. The crew repaired the driveway at the Transfer Station last week, and he attended a class on invasive species that he found very useful.

Selectman Johnson said that after the discussion at the October 5 Selectmen's meeting regarding the snow storage on Poplar Street, he spoke to property owner, Iris Holden. She verbally agreed to allow the snow to be stored in the same area used in the past. She asked that the Road Agent clean up the area in the spring, and she asked for the Road Agent to come to talk with her about this. Jon will contact her.

Prosecutor Services

The Board discussed the agreement proposed by Merrimack County for prosecution services that includes an increase to the cost of this service. A letter will be drafted to the county attorney expressing the thoughts of the Board. They would like to know how the amount asked of the Town was determined and what the formula is, how the costs vary for different services such

as the cost of an arraignment versus a bail hearing, etc., and how the cost for Andover was calculated.

Highland Lake Dam Mill Pond Project

The Board reviewed the letter received from the attorney for the owner of the mill pond dam that outlined requirements for the project. In addition, the Board received notice from New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources relative to the Town application. They advised the Town that it will be necessary to hire a consultant to complete an historical analysis of the mill pond dam as it is more than 50 years old. After discussion and due to financial constraints it was decided not to pursue the project at this time.

Town Sand/Salt Storage

Mark Thompson has indicated that he is in agreement with the proposed agreement for right of way privileges to the Town pit. He will sign the agreement and return it to the Board for their signatures.

Directional Sign Request Bluewater Farm

The Board discussed options regarding directional signs for businesses. In other communities, directional signs for businesses have been allowed. The sign will be white letters on blue background; only the name of the business
See Selectmen on page 13

Office Hours & Meetings

OFFICE HOURS

Town Office: Mon-Fri 8:30-1

Town Clerk & Tax Collector:

Mon & Wed, 9-2

Tue & Thu, 1:30-6:30

Last Saturday of month, 9-11

See Below For Special Hours

Building Inspector: Tues, 6-7

Andover Library:

Mon, 6:30-8:30

Wed, 9-12 & 6:30-8:30

Thu, 12:30-4:30

Sat, 10-12

Bachelder Library:

Tues, 9-12:30 & 6:30-8:30

Thu, 6:30-8:30

Fri, 1:30-5

Transfer Station:

Wed, 7-6 (7-5 during winter)

Sat, 7-5

Swap Event (May-Oct):

2nd Sat (rain date: 3rd Sat)

Transfer Station, 8-2

MEETINGS

At the Town Hall unless otherwise noted

Board of Selectmen:

1st & 3rd Mon, 7

Planning Board: 2nd & 4th Tue, 7

Master Plan Update: 4th Mon, 7

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

3rd Tue, 7:30

Conservation: 2nd Wed, 7:30

Recycling: 2nd Thu, 1

Cable TV: 2nd Mon, 7:30

Recreation: 2nd Thu, 7, AE/MS

Library Trustees: 3rd Thu, 7:30

Andover Library or

Bachelder Library

Fourth of July: 1st Wed (Feb-Jun),

Andover Fire Station, 7

Andover Fire Dept: 1st Mon, Busi-

ness, 7; 3rd Mon, Training, 7

Explorer Scout Post 321: 2nd Wed,

7, East Andover Fire Station

East Andover Fire Dept:

2nd Wed, 7:30

Rescue Squad: 2nd Tue, 7

East Andover Fire Station

School Board: 1st Tue (except July

and August), 6:30, AE/MS

For more information, call the Town Office at 735-5332.

Mark Your Calendar!

DECEMBER

15: Zoning Board of Adjustment, 7:30

15: Building Inspector, 6-7

17: Library Trustees, 7:30

19: **Town Clerk's Office Open 9-11**

21: Public Hearing on use of \$1,000 of conservation funds for new conservation easement, 6

21: Board of Selectmen, 7

21: Andover Fire Dept Training, 7

22: Building Inspector, 6-7

22: Planning Board, 7

24: **Town Clerk's Office Open 9-2**

25: **Town Clerk's Office CLOSED**

26: **Town Clerk's Office CLOSED**

31: **Town Clerk's Office Open 9-2**

JANUARY

4: Board of Selectmen, 7

4: Andover Fire Dept Bus Mtg. 7

5: School Board, 6:30

5: Building Inspector, 6-7

12: Rescue Squad, Proctor, 7

12: Planning Board, 7

13: Explorer Scout Post 321,

East Andover Fire Station, 7

13: East Andover Fire Dept, 7:30

13: Conservation Comm., 7:30

14: Recycling Comm., 1

14: Recreation Committee,

AE/MS Science Room, 7

15: **Deadline for for Feb. Beacon**

18: Board of Selectmen, 7

18: Andover Fire Dept Training, 7

19: Building Inspector

20: Zoning Board of Adjustment, 7:30

21: Library Trustees

26: Building Inspector, 6-7

26: Planning Board, 7

FEBRUARY

1: Board of Selectmen, 7

1: Andover Fire Dept Bus. Mtg. 7

2: Building Inspector

2: School Board

9: Planning Board, 7

ANDOVER BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are in the Andover Town Hall at 7 PM. Except for the January 14 meeting, all meetings are on Wednesdays.

Dec 16: School Budget

Jan 6: Public Hearing:

School Budget

Jan 13: Public Hearings:

East Andover Fire

Andover Fire

Andover Village District

Andover Town Budget

Jan 14: Final Meeting (if needed)

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(and that includes everyone who writes an article or takes a photo!)

We couldn't publish the *Beacon* without you.

Everyone in Andover appreciates everything you do for the *Beacon*!

Selectmen from page 12

is allowed and a direction arrow. Directional signs can only be placed when a turn from another street is necessary. The size is not to exceed 8.5 inches in height and 40 inches long.

Police Department

Chief Laramie reported on the activities of the department. There were 224 calls for service for the period of September 15 to October 15. There were nine summons issued and 53 warnings given. There were also four thefts during the period. One involved a motor vehicle.

The chief spoke to the Board about the costs to the department for animal control. He explained that each animal control call takes time away from police work. Transporting an animal to Penacook often ties an officer up for one or two hours. He spoke about how the cost impacts his budget. There is a line item in the budget under Health and Welfare for animal control in the amount of \$2,500. He asked the Board to consider moving that line to Public Safety.

New Sign Request - Powers

The Board reviewed a request from Richard and Constance Powers for a sign at Johnson Lane and Cilleyville Road. The size of the sign is in line with the sign ordinance. Selectman Mishcon and the Town Administrator will visit the site.

Other Business

Board members signed a Timber Warrant and three Land Use Change Tax orders.

November 2

Present: Dennis E. Fenton, Victoria L. Mishcon, Jacob B. Johnson, Dana Hadley

Road Agent

Road Agent Jon Champagne met with Selectmen and reported on the current activities of the Highway Department. There was gravel put down on the Transfer Station's driveway to eliminate the ruts and bumps. This will help with snow plowing.

The Road Agent expressed his concern that the expense of plowing Town facilities impacts his budget. He asked the Board if funds for plowing these driveways could be assessed to appropriate departments' budgets rather than the Highway budget. The Board said they have no plans to change the method of

budgeting for plowing of Town facilities.

The Road Agent asked if he would be responsible for plowing the new sidewalk currently being installed from Main Street to the Andover Elementary/Middle School. The Board said that the sidewalk is not part of the agreement for plowing that the Town has with the school.

Following an earlier meeting regarding snow storage on Poplar Street, Jon said that he has met with the property owner and they have agreed that the Town can store snow on this property.

Jon presented his 2010 budget proposal to the Board.

Summer Labor	\$30,000
Summer Equipment Rental	50,000
Summer Materials & Misc.	60,000
Winter Labor	14,000
Winter Equipment Rental	170,000
Winter Materials & Misc.	44,000
Road Sand/Oil Sealing	35,000
Driveway Permits	150
Grader Maintenance & Repair	10,000
Grader Fuel	5,000
Bridges	7,500
Projects	180,000
Street Lights	7,000
Street Signs	2,000
DOT Drug testing	300
TOTAL	\$614,950

He asked the Board for an additional line item in the amount of \$35,000 for road sealing. He spoke about the need to keep road maintenance as a priority.

This year there is a large overrun in the summer maintenance and equipment line. A significant factor is the roadside clean up done as a result of last December's ice storm. The Town received assistance from FEMA, but due to gross budgeting, that amount cannot be directly applied to that line.

The Road Agent's 2010 proposed budget is \$38,000 more than the appropriated 2009 budget. The increases are \$5,000 for summer labor, \$5,000 for rental of summer equipment, \$35,000 for road sand/oil sealing, \$5,000 for grader maintenance, and a reduction in the project line of \$12,000.

The planned project for 2010 is to resurface the lower portion of Chase Hill Road from Route 11 to the beginning of last year's project. This has an estimated cost of \$145,000. There are also four culverts to replace. He said that the additional \$5,000 in grader

maintenance is to replace tires.

Selectmen Fenton said that there should be sufficient funds in this year's highway budget to buy the new tires.

Recreation Department

The Recreation Department was represented by the chairman, David Powers. This proposed budget for 2010 totals \$25,050. This is a reduction from the 2009 appropriation by \$970. There is an increase of \$800 for Blackwater Park, with \$300 more allotted for park improvements, \$100 more for electricity and water, and \$400 more for the skating program. The ski program remains at the same level of \$10,950.

The beach program was reduced by \$1,370, with a decrease in the stipend for the swim instructors of \$220 and a reduction of \$1,150 for water testing and permits which will not be needed in 2010.

The other increases are \$100 in the basketball program, an increase in the soccer program of \$50, an increase for background checks in the amount of \$150, and a decrease in softball equipment of \$500. This brings the overall recreation budget proposal to \$25,050.00.

David spoke with the Board about the committee's intention to move forward with the Blackwater Park Recreation Building. The Town took title to the property this year as directed by the 2008 Town Meeting. The committee will be forwarding further information on this project in the near future.

Andover Library Trustees

The Board met with the Andover

Library Trustees, and treasurer Sandra Graves discussed the financial position of the Bachelder Library. The library receives funds for its operations from Mr. Bachelder's trust as per the stipulations of his will.

Due to changes in the way that the Internal Revenue Service views the trust as a private foundation rather than as a charitable organization and the current economy, the income from the trust is no longer adequate to support the expenses. The trustees asked the Board to consider supporting the librarian's salary of \$9,469 from town funds.

The Board asked that the trustees write a letter to them asking for a warrant article to be placed on the town's 2010 warrant. There was discussion of the history of the trust as well as other assets that belong to the library.

Andover Rescue Squad

The Board met with Phil Hackmann and John Kinney of the Andover Rescue Squad. At a previous meeting the squad had outlined their financial situation and asked the Board to assist them to become a Town department. They are asking for a budget totaling \$41,475. This includes contracting daytime ambulance service to the City of Franklin at an estimated cost of \$10,000 and \$12,000 for medical supplies. Formerly the ambulance service was able to replenish its supplies at the hospital, and the hospital would take care of billing the patient. This is no longer allowed.

See Selectmen on page 14




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Selectmen from page 13

The squad asked the Selectmen to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for replacement of the ambulance. They have suggested a Town appropriation of \$42,500 for this purpose. There is a plan to begin "soft" billing, and the ambulance squad's preference is for those funds to be directed into the Ambulance Capital Reserve. The Board took this budget under advisement.

Police Department

The Board met with Chief Laramie who presented to them his proposed 2010 budget. The Police Department's total budget proposed is \$172,882, which is an increase from the 2009 appropriated budget by \$10,096. Changes are: an increase of \$2,760 in the part-time officers line; an increase of \$1,726 in the full time line; an increase of \$3,268 in the full time benefits; and an increase of \$325 in the Fourth of July line.

Office expense has an increase of \$364, the telephone line has an increase of \$1,200, dispatch increases \$353, and prosecution \$300. There is a decrease of \$100 each in the Equipment and Cruiser Expense lines.

Chief Laramie asked the Board to support his recommendations for wage increases for his staff. The department is a small one, and all the members contribute to its efficient operation.

Other increases are fixed costs that are necessary, such as the dispatch and prosecution line. He also told the Board

about an updated communication system that will be available – this is the reason for the increase in the telephone line.

He spoke of his concerns and the need for an additional officer at the Town's Fourth of July celebration. This cost possibly would be offset by the Fourth of July committee. The Board took this budget under advisement.

Other Business

Selectman Johnson advised that he had spoken with Michelle Bengivengo regarding an opening on the Planning Board. She expressed an interest to serve on that Board. Selectmen said that they would like to have Michelle come to a meeting so that they could meet her.

Planning Board

September 11

Condensed from approved minutes

Members present: Eric Johnson, Chair; Jon Warzocha, Vice-Chair; Nancy Teach; Paul Currier; and Jacob Johnson.

Also present for duration of appropriate items: Bud Rice; Mary Anne Broshek

Update on Master Plan

Paul Currier gave an overview on the Master Plan Update Committee process which began in 2004. The primary duty of the Planning Board is to create a Master Plan. The Planning Board needs to adopt the Master Plan, which can be written chapter by chapter.

A public hearing is scheduled for September 28, at which time the Land Use chapter will be presented to the public. The Natural Resources chapter needs to be drawn up.

Proposed new zoning is identified via expansion of existing zones (i.e. Route 4A area) and the removal of other zones. The Innovative Techniques Handbook has model ordinance verbiage for updating of the Andover Zoning Ordinance, which should be prepared for the 2011 Town Meeting.

October 27

Condensed from draft minutes

Members present: Eric Johnson, Chair; Jon Warzocha, Vice-Chair; Nancy Teach; Paul Currier; Jacob Johnson; Wood Sutton; and Don Gould joined the meeting at 7:25 PM

Also present for duration of appropriate items: Chris Norris; Colin Brown

Announcements / Correspondence:

Letter from Department of Environmental Services requesting more information regarding Standard Dredge and Fill application for Armand Boisvert for property on Sam Hill Road in Andover.

Letter from Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust regarding easements on the adjacent properties of Don and Lorraine Cline and Barclin Land Company LLC, on Shaw Hill and Raccoon Hill Roads.

Newspaper article regarding Laco- nia Planning Board heading toward restricting or prohibiting development on slopes of 15% or more.

Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Subdivision / Annexation for Christopher and Kathleen Norris, 303 Emery Road

Colin Brown presented a map of the location indicating the proposed subdivision/annexation. The Smith property has 77.50 acres, of which 2.40 acres will be annexed to the Norris property. A letter from William and Diane Smith authorizing Colin Brown as their representative was also presented.

The application was presented and reviewed as well as requests for waivers. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the request for waivers as there are no alterations being proposed.

Payment and abutter list was also presented. The Board voted unanimously in

favor of deeming the application complete. A public hearing was scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, November 10.

Preliminary Discussion: Proposed addition to Zoning Regulations / Small Wind Energy Ordinance

A model Small Wind Energy Systems Ordinance was distributed for review. Communication from Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) indicates small wind energy systems must be allowed by towns by ordinance. Eric will forward the OEP link for Board members to review in order to draft Small Wind Energy Systems regulations that conform to state law.

A wind map for New Hampshire was also distributed. A unit 100 kilowatts or less is considered a small unit and is peak size for a home unit. The Board agreed that more than one unit per lot would require site plan review by the Planning Board.

The Board's agenda is to draft an ordinance; hold two public hearings; present at Town Meeting. The board authorized Warzocha to review and mark-up the model ordinance to meet Andover's needs.

Site Plan Review Follow-Up Actions

Discussion took place on how to follow up to possible site plan review violations. Eric will bring files to the meeting for review and present to the Select Board if necessary. Concerns include Dino Green (Green's Auto).

Conservation Commission

September 9

Present: Tina Cotton, Sandra Graves, Nan Kaplan, Jerry Hersey, and Patricia Moyer. Guest Laura Alexander

Treasurer Report: Tina reported that as of August 31, 2009 there is a total of \$57,530.60 total in all three funds. However, there is a total amount of \$36,470 of encumbered funds on the four pending issues that should be noted as follows:

\$1,720: Laura Alexander for assistance updating co-occurrence map for the Master Plan for 2009

\$4,000: Tucker Mountain Road easement with SPNHF for 2010

\$28,750: Roger Hersey easement with ASLPT for 2010

\$2,000: Cline/Barclin request for
See Cons Comm on page 15



TOWN of ANDOVER
Filing Period for Andover Town & School District Officers
Jan 20 to Jan 29
File at Town Clerk's office
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Tue & Thur, 1:30 - 6:30
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TOWN of ANDOVER
2009 Andover Town Report
Committee reports are due at the Town Office by January 15.
Having them e-mailed to TAdmin@TownOfAndover.org is greatly appreciated!
 PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332



TOWN of ANDOVER
PUBLIC HEARING
 The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Andover will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 21, 2009 beginning at 7:30 PM at the Andover Town Offices located at 31 School Street, Andover, NH. The hearing is to present and receive input regarding the adoption of a resolution to accept the special flood hazard area by the Federal Management Agency in its "Flood Insurance Study for Merrimack County, NH" dated April 19, 2010.
 The special flood area was accepted into the Andover Zoning Ordinance by Town Meeting vote of March 11, 2008, but this resolution by the Board of Selectmen is also necessary in order for the community to remain enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program.
PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 735-5332



TOWN of ANDOVER
Andover Budget Committee Public Hearings
Town Hall • 31 School St.
Andover School Budget January 6, 7 PM
Town, Fire, and Water Budgets January 13, 7 PM
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Cons Comm from page 14

stewardship with ASLPT for 2009

Old Business: Jerry reported that he has been in touch with Don Gross with regards to the building permit for work being done under a Comprehensive Shoreland Protection permit.

Laura Alexander: Laura agreed to assist us with working on accurate definitions of the farms and forests to update those layers on our co-occurrence conservation priorities map. We have \$1,720 remaining for Master Plan work, and Laura has agreed that any work she does will be under this amount.

We agreed that logically, getting the shape files on the existing land use map which shows a current update of farms should wait until after the September 28 public meeting. This way people attending the meeting can make corrections before we use the files for the co-occurrence map update.

The corrected LRPC files should be available in October. Laura has the 2008 tax parcel files and will get the NAIP 2008 background. She will then compare the forest layer, first using forested acres greater than 10 acres and then greater than 20 acres to see which makes more sense.

October 14

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Jerry Hersey, Mary Anne Broshek, Sandra Graves, Tina Cotton.

Correspondence

Culvert on Sam Hill Road: Correspondence from DES requesting more information from Town Administrator, letter from Dana Hadley to Jerry Hersey requesting sign-off on project, letter from Armand Boisvert to DES agreeing to 2½-foot buffer on stream, letter from Jerry Hersey to DES providing sign-off on project.

Thompson Point Lane: DES acknowledgement (September 9) of Shoreland Permit and subsequent DES approval (September 29) for residential dwelling and septic system subject to conditions outlined in the letter.

Natural Resource Section of the Master Plan

The Natural Resource chapter will be a five-page summary of the Natural Resources Inventory, which includes:

- A description of Andover's natural resources and the most important areas to protect based on the maps.
- Mention of the Master Plan guiding principles that pertain to natural resources (principles 1, 3, 5, and 6).
- A list of the already-existing priority items in those guiding principles that need action.

The Conservation Commission could also have educational workshops or a photo display of special places and natural resource maps that were used by the Master Plan Update Committee during the selection of potential candidates for new zones.

Monitoring

For town properties – Mary Anne will send out the list of properties for which the Conservation Commission has primary monitoring responsibility. Members will be asked to select two and complete an updated easement summary form and take the lead for the monitoring.

Newman Easement: Call made to Steve Walker to set date with the landowners. When we met in April, Steve had indicated it was time for him to join us in the monitoring as the LCIP representative.

Fenton Easement: Sandra will set it up with Nan and the Fentons.

Check boundary lines for Bradley Lake properties owned by the Town and monitored by the Conservation Commission – still need to get this done.

Easements

Fundraising for Roger Hersey project: \$14,000 raised so far to meet need of \$40,000. Andover is the back-up easement holder.

Cline/Barclin easement: Andover is the back-up easement holder.

Coverts Training

Lots of good information at Extension.UNH.edu/Wildlife/Wildlife.htm

Mary Anne attended the Coverts training in September. This was an excellent four days of intensive training on wildlife and forestry. Twenty-five New Hampshire residents from all over the state are selected each year to attend this training, which is sponsored by New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, New Hampshire Fish and Game, and other wildlife organizations.

Priority for selection is given to Conservation Commission members, and

all members are encouraged to look at the Web site and apply for next year.

As part of the program, Mary Anne must do 40 hours of volunteer work related to the training. Two projects will be:

Conservation Commission information on the Town Web site

Conservation section at town libraries

New Driveway Culvert

Tina and Jerry will determine if a wetland permit is needed.

Bradley Lake

Sign has been ordered and article will be in November 2009 *Beacon*

Tree cutting: Numerous phone calls have been made to DES and to the Town Administrator by area residents. Dana Hadley will review this cut and determine if there are potential DES violations.

Forest Management Document

The public comment period for New Hampshire's keystone forest management document, *Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire*, has been extended to December 1. Visit GoodForestry.org and click the link to review and comment on the draft chapters.

To receive a paper copy of the *Good Forestry in the Granite State* draft or any of its chapters for review, contact Kristina Ferrare at 862-3883 or Kristina.Ferrare@unh.edu.

Tree Planting by Town Hall

It is important to communicate between the Andover Service Club and

the Andover Conservation Commission on the landscaping around Town Hall.

Scenic Road Policy

In May, the Conservation Commission met with a representative from the Local Government Center, the Town Administrator, and the Road Agent to review the state laws on scenic roads. At that time, we decided that it would be a good idea to have a town policy on scenic roads so everyone was clear on responsibilities.

Sandra has agreed to do a draft policy, and we reviewed her ideas. There was discussion on whether additional town roads should be proposed for scenic road designation. Shaw Hill Road will be explored.

A scenic road designation does prevent landowners from cutting trees on their property. Unless it is an emergency, a meeting is required when the Town wants to cut trees, so landowners on a scenic road can have an opportunity to voice their opinions.

School Board

October 20

Work Session

Condensed from draft minutes

Board members present: Lynn Baker, Don Gould, and Charlie McCrave

Administrators present: Mike Martin, Chris Barry, Robin Heins, Kathleen Boucher, Jane Slayton, and Julie Gaudette

Transportation Bid Document: The See School Board on page 16



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Jazz On A Sunday Afternoon

The 18th annual Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon series, also known as JOSA (joe-suh), returns with a Winter/Spring line-up that began December 6 and runs twice monthly through April 4. The shows are held at the Center at Eastman in Grantham from 4 to 7 PM, with doors opening at 3 PM. A bistro menu and full beverage selection is offered by the award-winning Bistro Nouveau during all performances.

The series, created and produced by pianist Bill Wightman, Director of Instrumental Music and Music Technology at Proctor Academy, brings light and warmth into the chill of winter with world-class jazz artists performing in an intimate cabaret-style setting. JOSA replicates the atmosphere of jazz sessions usually found only in large cities, such as New York or Chicago.

These renowned and often legendary entertainers play all over the world, and their arrival at JOSA is an event well worth setting aside multiple, if not all, scheduled Sundays. Those who have experienced JOSA are well aware of the transformational musical experience of these collaborative jazz sessions, bringing them back to the series

again and again.

The remainder of the season's Sunday line-up includes:

December 13: Rebecca Parris, legendary jazz vocalist

January 17: Greg Abate, Grammy-nominated alto saxophonist

January 31: Grace Kelly, award-winning prodigy vocalist and saxophonist

February 14: Tiger Okoshi, international trumpeter

February 28: Giacomo Gates, legendary vocalist

March 14: Jim Porcella, Boston vocalist and entertainer

March 28: Cercie Miller, "spirited and spunky" (*Jazz Times*) saxophonist

April 4, the season finale: Ritchie Cole, legendary alto-saxophonist

To learn more about the artists, the JOSA ensemble, JOSA archives, and the current series visit JOSAJazz.com.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors (62+) or students (-17). Reservations are recommended by calling the box office at 763-8732; e-mailing Bill.Wightman@comcast.net; or visiting JOSAJazz.com.

For reservations after 2 PM on the day of the show, call the venue at 863-8000.

School Board from page 15

document was presented in its final form for Board approval. There was some discussion on the bidding process and how the bids will be opened. Kent was recognized for all of the time and energy he put into preparing the bid document.

Motion by Charlie McCrave, second by Lynn Baker to approve the document as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Work: There was discussion regarding the e-mail received from Ed Hiller as it relates to the \$195,000 reserved by the Board from the 2008-2009 budget. Robin explained that she had spoken with the District's auditor, who will put his response in writing regarding the legality of reserves.

Additionally, the auditor suggested since we had been able to resolve the kindergarten egress issue for less than the \$50,000 reserved, we could return the \$40,000 difference towards the fund balance for 2008-2009.

Motion by Lynn Baker, second by Charlie McCrave to return \$40,000 of the \$195,000 from the reserved funds to the unreserved fund balance. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board was asked for direction/goals for the 2010-2011 budget. There was much discussion regarding the need for a tight budget, finding out what is working or not working, and maintaining a quality education for our students. Common goals were established: attract and retain quality faculty/staff, continue high quality educational programs, and maintain community support.

Also discussed was the loss of some federal funds for the 2010-2011 budget.

Charlie asked for a date that the Board can meet with the Budget Committee as has been requested. It was the consensus of the Board that Don will contact Bill Bardsley and invite the Budget Committee to our Board meeting from 6:45 to 7:15 PM on November 3.

Next budget work session was scheduled for October 27 at 6 PM, when a first draft of the budget will be presented.

October 27 Work Session

Board members present: Don Gould, Erik Anderson, Lynn Baker, and Charlie McCrave

Administrators present: Mike Martin, Chris Barry, Robin Heins, Jane Slayton, and Julie Gaudette

Robin distributed and explained the new budget framework. She explained that our first draft does not include wage increases for non-bargaining unit employees, but the teacher's agreement (third year) is included. Further, it does not include last year's maintenance reserve or repair and maintenance funds (gym floor).

Discussion ensued on the number of tuition students attending Merrimack Valley, Proctor, etc. Mike explained that with the change in the law on the high school drop-out age, it is possible that we may have more students than originally anticipated.

There was discussion on the balances in the expendable trust funds as to how they might be used to make up for potential cuts in the general fund budget (high school tuition, special education tuition, etc.).

A conversation ensued on special education placements. Lynn suggested *See School Board on page 17*

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Andover Libraries

By Diane Rice
Andover Libraries

What's new at the Andover Public Library? Lots of things!

Walk into the entryway and enjoy the holiday displays of books for people of all ages and interests. These constantly-changing displays are for your enjoyment and enticement, so don't hesitate to take one or two as Priscilla will, quick as a flash, replace them with something just as interesting.

Walk through the doors, and right before your eyes are the latest books – fiction and non-fiction – that have been added to the library's collection. Books by bestselling authors such as John Grisham, Michael Creighton, Stephen King, and Barbara Kingsolver are flying off the shelves.

Turn a bit to the right, and notice the collection on the wall entitled "Classics for Adults." Then turn left into the Reading Room and discover all the large print books, new and old, now located on the wall to your left.

Then spin around and return to the Main Room and there, behind Priscilla's desk, is a great grouping of the most popular paperbacks for your reading enjoyment. A dizzying but delightful experience awaits you all!

New acquisitions at the Bachelor Library in East Andover include *Supperfreakonomics* by Levitt and Dubner, another book by the popular author Sue Grafton, *U is for Undertow*, as well as John Grisham's and Barbara Kingsolver's latest.

Perhaps, if you are lucky, you can take a moment during this busy season and pick out a favorite story to read to a child or grandchild, or to a Mom or Dad who might love to be read to as they sit with you by the fire or woodstove. Or perhaps, after all the celebrating is over, you can just curl up by yourself and enjoy the luxury of going to another world for a few special moments.

We wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons, and a new year filled with good health, love, and peace.

What Your Friends And Neighbors Are Reading

By Charlie McCrave
For the Beacon

A review of *Finger Lickin' Fifteen* by Janet Evanovich, available from the Andover Libraries.

Janet Evanovich writes a good novel, but she could write for *Saturday Night Live*. I think that this is a very funny book.

Our heroine, Stephanie Plum, is recruited by her friend Ranger to work under cover at his alarm service. Several of his clients have been burglarized by someone who has the alarm code. Must be an inside job? Stephanie has a full time position as a bounty hunter for a bail bondsman, so she is armed and dangerous.

Stephanie's friend, Lula, also an employee of the bail bond service, is the only witness to the murder of a famous TV chef who is in town for a barbecue cook-off. Unfortunately for him, he literally loses his head as soon as he arrives.

The killers, who are as inept as you can get, spend most of the book trying to kill Lula, the lone witness. Lula is also armed, dangerous, and street smart. We won't discuss her career path, but she's been around the block a few times.

Stephanie's grandma, who car-

ries a long-barrel revolver, teams up with Lula to capture the killers, collect the reward, and also try to win the barbecue cook-off. The fact that neither one of them knows anything about barbecue doesn't faze them at all, and it's great fun watching them learn.

Everyone involved appreciates the assistance of a big, handsome, macho fireman who happens to have a very extensive woman's wardrobe. 'Nough said.

All in all, this is a fun read, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Happy Birthday!

Cyndi Langdon
Dec 10

John Bridgmon
Jan 7

Eric Allen
Jan 16

Libraries Have Computer And Projector To Loan

From the Andover Libraries

Now available for your use and enjoyment, thanks to funds received by the Trustees of the Andover Libraries, are a Hewlett Packard laptop computer and an LCD projector. The equipment is available to responsible adults 18 years or older having a current card from the Andover Public Libraries who understand the use and care of the equipment. The computer and projector can be requested for individual or organizational needs.

The Library cannot provide operators for this equipment. However, an extremely detailed step-by-step set of instructions is available for the borrower to facilitate this process. The borrower must sign a responsibility form

for the equipment, and is, of course, responsible for any loss or damage to said equipment.

The usual loan period will be one library day. Adjustments for weekends, holidays, and special needs of the borrower must be made at the time the equipment is booked.

The equipment may be booked by stopping by at either library during normal library hours, by telephone at 735-5333, by e-mail to AndoverPL@comcast.net or WABLibrary@comcast.net, or by contacting Dana Hadley, the Town Administrator, at 735-5332.

We encourage individuals as well as the many town committees and service organizations in Andover to make use of this equipment.

School Board from page 16

lie put together information on costs for out-of-district placements, as the public may not be aware of the costs should such a placement have to be made.

The repair and maintenance account in the 2620 function was discussed. Lynn stated that \$15,000 is not enough to take care of AE/MS, and we are naive to think it is, given the age of the building. Charlie reminded us that we still don't know what the structural en-

gineer will find. Mike suggested that we resurrect the maintenance list to see what remains to be done.

Average teacher salary information was requested of Robin. She will work in gathering information from various state sources.

Class size was also discussed. Jane stated that we are anticipating 32 students in kindergarten next year.

The next budget work sessions were set for Tuesday, November 17, and Tuesday, November 24, both at 6 PM.

Each year, about 1.5 million lives are changed by a cancer diagnosis.



At New London Hospital, our cancer patients receive exceptional service and support.

Having cancer and undergoing chemotherapy is a life-changing experience. **Kate's** experience began with a diagnosis of non-Hodgkins lymphoma in her thyroid. **Dr. Marc Gautier** and New London Hospital's oncology team put Kate at ease during her chemotherapy treatment. Her cancer is now in remission.



New London Hospital provides comprehensive primary and specialized health services. For a complete list of services, visit us at: www.newlondonhospital.org

Sign up for our e-newsletter, **Discover Health**, by sending your email to discover.health@newlondonhospital.org

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Speakers Explore Native American Presence in New Hampshire

The Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum (MKIM) began its Second Sunday Speaker Series last month to explore Native American presence in New Hampshire through archaeology, history, culture, and discussion of contemporary issues. All the lectures are being held in the auditorium at MKIM at 18 Highlawn Road in Warner at 1 PM.

The series began on Sunday, November 8, with a lecture by Robert Goodby, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Franklin Pierce University, titled *Digging Into Native History in New Hampshire*.

On Sunday, December 13, Michael Caduto will offer a talk on *A Time Before New Hampshire*. Michael is the director of Programs for Environmental Awareness and Cultural Exchange (PEACE).

The series will continue on Sunday, January 10, when David Stewart-Smith will speak on *Native New Hampshire Before Contact: Archaeological and Tribal Perspectives*. David is the historian for the New Hampshire Intertribal Council. He will also be the featured speaker on Sunday, February 14, when he will discuss the *Native American History of New Hampshire*.

On Sunday, March 14, Darryl Thompson will explore the history of *Shakers and Native Americans: A Curious Affinity*. Thompson lived among

the Canterbury Shakers and has studied Shaker culture and history for many years.

The series will close on Sunday, April 11, with David Stewart-Smith's lecture on *Indian Issues in New England: Settling with the Past*.

All the talks in the series are free and open to the public. Learn more at IndianMuseum.org or call 456-2600.

Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum, Education and Cultural Center, is dedicated to connecting people of today with 20,000 years of ongoing Native American cultural expression. The Museum embraces cultural diversity and encourages responsible environmental action based on respect for nature. Through exhibitions and programs, the Museum seeks to challenge and inspire all of us to improve the quality of our lives and our world.

The Museum is open May through October, Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday noon to 5 PM; weekends and by appointment in November and December; and by appointment January through April. It is located at 18 Highlawn Road, one mile north of the center of Warner.

For further information on 2010 programs and events, contact Shawn Olson at 456-3244, mkim.director@tds.net, or visit IndianMuseum.org.

50 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 1959

Here's some old news from the Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville "gossip" columns of the Franklin Journal Transcript, selected by Heather Makechnie.

December 10, 1959

Franklin's "Welcome to Industry" dinner turned out to be a big one. There were 350 on hand to [welcome] Franklin's newest industries, Acme Staple Company and Webster Valve Company. Governor Wesley Powell matched the formal greetings of the City government offered by Mayor Wiggin P. Gilman. Senator Styles Bridges was the guest speaker for the evening. W. Earle Goss, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, noted that two years ago a state official speaking in Franklin said that Franklin was, "about at the end of its growth, that its labor pool was just about used up." Goss said further, "The two new plants we're welcoming tonight came to this area since then."

January 7, 1960

The following officers were elected at the regular Andover Fish and Game Club meeting recently: President Bud Albee, Vice President Lewis Putney, Treasurer and Secretary Charles Putney, Chairman Tink Reed. The following deer prizes were awarded: Largest Buck, Joe Keyser; Second Largest Buck, Robert McDonald; Largest Doe, Jane McLaughlin; Second Largest Doe, Francis Heath; Smallest Buck, Eddie Parks; Smallest Doe, Murray F. Smith; Nearest Average Weight, Nahum Ally; Lucky Weight, Carl Evans. The Jackpot went to Malcolm McDonald. An oyster stew was served by Tink Reed.

January 14, 1960

Joseph J. Burleigh cleaned out an old desk at his Webster Place home the other day. Among the papers which came

to light were some records left by his grandfather, the late Wallace Burleigh, who once farmed what is now the Kimball Thousand Acre Tree farm. The records dealt, of all things, with grasshoppers.

Now these days hardly anyone, farmers included, gives much thought to grasshoppers. Modern insecticides and poisons are so effective that it takes a pretty hardy grasshopper to survive, and it is rare that there are enough of them to cause concern. But back in the old days hoppers were a scourge to be reckoned with. There were summers when the insects could just about chew a field of growing stuff right down to the ground.

That's why Grandfather Burleigh set down a record with obvious relish of the fact that on the 21st day of June in the year 1884 he trapped 17 bushels of grasshoppers, and on the 14 of July in that same year he trapped and destroyed 22 and a half bushels of hoppers. His bag for the whole season was 107 and a half bushels!

Here's how it was done. The farmer would rig up a net behind a rake, and place a couple of big cans half full of crude oil at the ends. Then he'd get his best team, and starting at one end of the field or pasture, whip up the horse to full gallop as if hell bent for sure. The horses and the partially raised tines of the rake would stir up the hoppers and they would land in the net. A sizeable proportion of them would slide into the cans of oil.

The process was almost as hard on the crops as it was on the horses, but at least a fellow could feel that he was getting hunk with the grasshoppers for the damage they were causing – until someone could come up with a better way.

Andover Historical Society

By Joanna Sumner
Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society stays busy all year gathering historical data, maintaining buildings, fundraising, and preserving Andover's history. Our oral history collection is still growing.

We have just published a new book called *Reminiscences of People and Events in East Andover*. The book is a collection of newspaper articles written by Frank Joseph Brown during the late 1800s. The book can be purchased for \$25. We also have a 2011 calendar being put together which will be available next summer.

We have begun our fundraising for 2010. Our first raffle, scheduled to be drawn on Town Meeting day, is already underway. Tickets can be purchased from Grace Stetson and Joanna Sumner. The first prize is a framed watercolor print of the

neighborhood near the railroad station in Potter Place. The watercolor was done by Linda Petersen and is on display at the Town Office.

The second prize is a copy of the book *Elder Moody's Hat* and the DVD called *This Old Town*, which shows local residents reading from the book. Third prize is a \$20 gift certificate to the Blackwater Junction Restaurant. Tickets are selling at \$2 for one or \$5 for three.

We are also making a change in our quarterly newsletter. In the past, we have mailed over 300 copies to our members. It is a time-consuming and costly process. This year we have decided to go "green." E-mail addresses are being gathered from our members so that we can transmit our newsletter electronically. Those who do not have an e-mail address will continue to receive their newsletter in the mail.



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Just For Fun: Here's a photo from 1943 of two well-known Andover fellas – do you recognize them? If you do, drop a note to Articles@AndoverBeacon.com or call us at 735-6099. We'll publish the answer and a tally of how many people recognized these "future old-timers."

Do you have a decades-old photo of one or more former or current Andover residents? If so, please send it to the *Beacon* and we'll see how many readers can correctly identify the people.

How Andover Got Its Name

Doris McDonald had saved this newspaper clipping in her copy of the Eastman town history. Her daughter, Marj Roy, found it recently and passed it along to the Beacon. We don't know what newspaper it's from, but the Franklin Journal Transcript is probably a good guess.

By Elmer Munson Hunt

[Andover] appears to have had as its first settler in 1748 an early physician, Dr. Anthony Emery, who came there from Hampton after graduating from Harvard in 1736, and from whom it took its early name, Emerystown.

Dr. Emery took a leading part in raising a colonial force to assist the British in the capture of Louisbourg at Cape Breton, serving as surgeon under Colonel Blanchard in 1758, and upon his return secured grants of land in his neighborhood for 60 soldiers who took part in the expedition, naming the new

town New Breton after Cape Breton where they had made their successful campaign against the French.

Cape Breton, an island 110 miles long, was considered to be an important citadel by northern New England, second only to Quebec, and its capture was desired for the employment of Boston's over-population at the time, which might engage in its fisheries, as well as the prevention of French colonial expansion to the west along the St. Lawrence.

The incorporation of New Breton under the new name of Andover took place in 1779 following the outbreak of the Revolution. The name Andover was probably selected by Dr. Emery, since in that year the Academy at Andover, Massachusetts, endowed by John Phillips, was completed. Dr. Emery was related by marriage to Mr. Phillips and was his college-mate at Harvard in the 1730s.

Blackwater Grange #152

Blackwater Grange #152 met on November 12 with 10 members present, Clayton Nowell presiding. Dictionaries arrived and have been given to Andover, New London, and Hill third grades along with four pairs of mittens to each school.

The Grange held its annual election of officers:

Master: Clayton Nowell
 Overseer: Florence Blay
 Lecturer: Marjorie Huntoon
 Steward: Florence Blay
 Asst. Steward: Ella Phelps
 Lady Asst. Steward: Bernice Nowell
 Chaplain: Margaret Jewell

Treasurer: Marcia McWethy
 Gate Keeper: Marjorie Huntoon
 Ceres: Charlotte Clark
 Pomona: Lana Nelson
 Flora: Eileen Brennan
 Executive Committee for three years:
 Vic Phelps

The meeting continued with quizzes and jokes, including Things You Never Knew Your Cell Phone Could Do.

The Grange also met on December 10. The next meeting will be in the spring, on Thursday, April 8, at 7:30 PM in the Masonic Hall in Potter Place.

Seasons greetings to all, from members of the Blackwater Grange #152!

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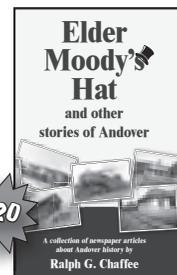
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We know you've been meaning to support the *Beacon*, but you just haven't quite gotten...

Well, now you've got one!

PLEASE SEND A CHECK TODAY!



Mark Your Calendar

ANDOVER

ON-GOING EVENTS

Andover Library

Saturdays, 10 AM to 12 PM

Public Skating at Proctor

Sundays, 3 PM

Teddy Maloney Rink, Proctor Academy

Free. Sunday afternoons through the winter. Skaters must have proper head protection (a helmet of some kind).

Andover Knitting Club

Mondays, 2:45 PM to 3:45 PM

AE/MS

Learn to knit or crochet, or visit with others while you work on a project. Open to all.

Andover Wyldlife Group

Mondays, 6 PM to 7:15 PM

Andover Bible Church

Club does not meet on the third Monday of the month.

Andover AI-Anon

Mondays

Highland Lake Grange Hall

Confidential first-name basis only. Open to all. Information: 344-1669 or 934-4360.

MVHS Younglife

Tuesdays, 2:45 PM to 4:30 PM

MVHS Cafeteria

Club does not meet on the third Tuesday of the month.

Andover's Biggest Loser

Tuesdays, 6 PM

AE/MS

Weigh-in starts at 4:30 PM. The program starts at 6 PM.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Bachelor Book Club

Sat, Dec 12, 9 AM

Bachelor Library, East Andover

Christmas Is For Kids!

Sun, Dec 13, 3 PM to 5 PM

Bluewater Farm on Bradley Lake

Includes a visit from Santa! The AE/MS PTO will hold a bake sale.

NH Circle of Home and Family

Mon, Dec 14, 12 PM

Judy Perreault's home, East Andover

Christmas Meeting

AE/MS PTO

Mon, Dec 14, 6:30 PM

AE/MS Library

Andover Snowmobile Club

Mon, Dec 14, 7 PM

AE/MS Science Classroom

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Wed, Dec 16, 7 PM

Andover Fire House

Lions Club Christmas Party

Sat, Dec 19, 6 PM

Proctor Academy Dining Hall

For more information call Bill Leber at 735-5144.

Christmas Caroling

Sun, Dec 20, 6 PM

Andover Congregational Church

Meet at the church to travel together to homes for caroling.

Christmas Eve Service

Thu, Dec 24, 7 PM

Andover Bible Church, 46 Main Street, Andover

The service will be followed by fellowship and light refreshments.

lowship and light refreshments.

Christmas Eve Service

Thu, Dec 24, 7 PM

Andover Congregational Church

Non-perishable staple food items will be collected for the Andover Food Pantry.

Andover Fish & Game Club

Tue, Dec 29, 7:30 PM

East Andover Clubhouse

Kearsarge Masonic Lodge

Thu, Jan 7, 7:30 PM

Potter Place

For meal information call 735-6492.

Bachelor Book Club

Sat, Jan 9, 9 AM

Bachelor Library

Andover PTO

Mon, Jan 11, 6:30 PM

AE/MS Library

Andover Lions Club

Mon, Jan 11, 6:30 PM

Masonic Lodge, Potter Place

Dinner Meeting

Andover Snowmobile Club

Mon, Jan 11, 7 PM

AE/MS Science Room

Andover Democrats

Tue, Jan 12, 7 PM

Lake Farm Realty office, 164 Main St

Andover Service Club

Wed, Jan 13, 10 AM

Potter Place

Blackwater Grange

Thu, Jan 14, 6 PM

Masonic Lodge, Potter Place

NH Circle of Home and Family

Mon, Jan 18, 12 PM

Pat Fleury's home, Wilmot

Program: "Game Day"

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Wed, Jan 20, 7 PM

Andover Fire House

File To Run For Town Office

Wed, Jan 20 to Fri, Jan 29

Town Clerk's Office

See page 8 for details.

COA

37 Pleasant St, New London
526-6368

ON-GOING EVENTS

Walking at Proctor

Weekdays, 8:30 AM to 10 AM

Proctor Gym, Andover

Walk with friends. Wear clean sneakers.

Tom & Tom's

Men's Discussion Group

Mondays, 8:45 AM

We want to hear your stories and we'll share a few of our own. Come visit over an endless cup of coffee.

In Stitches Craft Group

Mondays, 10 AM

Chair Exercises

Mondays and Fridays, 10:15 AM

This low impact exercise program is perfect for those looking for an easy, effective exercise routine

Duplicate Bridge

Mondays, 1 PM

Bidding boxes

Walking for Seniors

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

New London Outing Club

\$2 fee

Outdoor Recreation for Seniors

Tuesdays, 10 AM

Location varies. Call 526-6368 for details.

Outdoor programs include biking, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Poker

Tuesdays, 2 PM

Duplicate Bridge

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM

Choose Life - Regardless

1st & 3rd Wed in Dec, 1 to 2 PM

1st & 3rd Wed in Jan, 2 to 3 PM

Explore and share what "Choosing life, regardless" means to each of us. Fun and lively discussion. Call to register

Hand and Foot Card Game

Wednesdays, 1 PM

A fun and simple card game

Tai Chi

Wednesdays, 2:30 PM

New London Presbyterian Church

Contract Bridge

Thursdays, 9:30 AM

Dominoes

Thursdays, 1 PM

Scrabble

Fridays, 1 PM

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Long-Term Care Planning

Fri, Dec 11, 10:30 AM

Learn more about your options for long-term care with Wayne Blanchard from ServiceLink. Call to register.

Questions About Medicare?

Tue, Dec 22, 1 PM to 3 PM

Anita Oelfke will answer your Medicare Questions. Call 526-6368 to register.

Conversations with Lunch

Mon, Dec 28

None this month. COA is closed December 28.

Blood Pressure Clinic

Fri, Jan 8, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

VNA Foot Care Clinic at COA

Fri, Jan 8, 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM

\$20 (\$25 for diabetics with doctor's order). Call for appointment.

Computer Questions - Open Forum

Sat, Jan 9, 9 AM

Bring your computer questions for Laura Thompson. Call to register.

Genealogy Workshop

Thu, Jan 14, 10 AM to 12 PM

Receive assistance with your genealogical research

TRIP

22 Canal St, Franklin • 934-4151

Gift Wrapping

Fri, Dec 18, 9 AM to 11 AM

Volunteers will wrap your gifts. Paper and bows provided. Donation.

Help with Medicare and Medicare D

Tue, Dec 22, 10:30 AM

Anita Oelfke will provide free advice to seniors.

VNA Blood Pressure clinic

Tue, Dec 22, 10:30 AM

Free clinic

Long Term Support Counseling Under Medicaid

Tue, Dec 22, 10:30 AM

Wayne Blanchard will provide free advice.

Yankee Swap

Tue, Dec 22, 11:30 AM

Lunch at 11:30 AM. Followed by Bingo and then Swap. \$5 gift limit. Egg nog and cookies.

New Years Luncheon

Thu, Dec 31, 10:30 AM

Special entertainment at 10:30 AM. Pork dinner with all the fixings at 11:30 AM, then Bingo. Bring a friend.

Andover Lions Club
 Mon, Jan 25, 6:30 PM
 Masons Hall, Potter Place
 Business meeting only.

Andover Fish & Game
 Tue, Jan 26, 7:30 PM
 Club House

Italian Buffet
 Sat, Jan 30, 5 PM to 6:30 PM
 AE/MS Gym

To benefit the Andover Snowmobile Club. Plenty of food. Raffle after the meal with proceeds going to Easter Seals.

Kearsarge Masonic Lodge
 Thu, Feb 4, 7:30 PM
 Potter Place

For meal information call 735-6492.

ELSEWHERE

ON-GOING EVENTS

Winter Farmer's Market
 1st Saturdays, 9 AM to 2 PM
 Grange Hall, North Road, Danbury
 Local meat, produce, and handcrafted items. Hot lunch of homemade soups and desserts.

NH Employment Security
 Tuesdays, 9 AM to 3 PM
 Franklin Public Library
 Representatives help with job search and unemployment benefits

Storytime and Crafts for Children
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM
 Franklin Public Library
 All materials provided free, no sign up, all area children and families welcome

Blood Pressure Clinic
 Tuesdays and Thursdays,
 9 AM to 12 PM
 VNA New London Office

Foot Care Clinic
 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays,
 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM
 VNA New London Office
 Call 526-4077

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Christmas In New London
 Fri, Dec 11, 6 PM
 Town Gazebo, New London
 Santa arrives on a fire truck! The evening continues with the town tree lighting and caroling. See page 30 for details.

Spiritual Wisdom on Health and Healing
 Fri, Dec 11, 7 PM to 8 PM
 Lake Sunapee Bank
 Community Room, New London
 Sponsored by Eckankar. Information: 800 713-8944.

Pemi Choral Society Holiday Concert
 Fri, Dec 11, 7:30 PM
 St Paul's Church, Franklin
 Admission by donation.

Christmas In New London
 Sat, Dec 12, 10 AM
 Morgan Hill Bookstore,
 New London

Story hour with Tomie dePaola. See page 30 for details.

Christmas In New London
 Sat, Dec 12, 11 AM to 1 PM
 Outing Club Indoor Center,
 New London
 Free photos with Santa. See page 30 for details.

A Time Before New Hampshire
 Sun, Dec 13, 1 PM
 Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum,
 Warner
 Michael Caduto speaks as part of the lecture series exploring the Native American presence in New Hampshire. See page 18 for details.

Pemi Choral Society Holiday Concert
 Sun, Dec 13, 3 PM
 Plymouth State University
 \$10. Discount rates available for seniors, students, and groups. Call 535-ARTS.

Christmas In New London
 Sun, Dec 13, 4 PM
 New London Town Hall
 Story telling and carols. See page 30 for details.

WCA Senior Luncheon
 Tue, Dec 15, 12 PM
 WCA Barn, Wilmot Flat
 A Capella Choruses of Kearsarge Regional High School See page 22 for details.

Storytime
 Fri, Dec 18, 9:30 AM
 Peabody Home

A special storytime for Peabody Home residents, children, and their families. Franklin Public Librarian "Miss Rachel" will read a special selection.

The Children's Nutcracker
 Sat, Dec 19, 2 PM
 Franklin Opera House
 Beautiful and timeless holiday ballet, kid-sized, performed by Ninth State Dance.

Baroque Concert
 Sat, Dec 19, 2 PM
 Franklin Public Library

Caregiver and Partner Support Group
 Thu, Dec 24, 1 PM to 2:30 PM
 Lake Sunapee VNA, New London

Cross-Country Skiing Class
 Sat, Dec 26, 11 AM to 12:30 PM
 Pine Hill Ski Club
 Tune up your flatland and downhill techniques. Free to season pass members; \$10 to others. Reserve a spot at 526-6772 or visit PineHillSkiClub.com.

First Day Franklin
 Fri, Jan 1, 11 AM to 2 PM
 Trestle Park, Franklin
 Watch whitewater kayakers; walk, snowshoe, or ski the Winnepesaukee Trail. See page 34 for details.

Stayin' Alive
 Fri, Jan 1, 7 PM
 Franklin Opera House
 Murder mystery dinner will have you rolling in the aisles.

Free Snowshoeing And Cross-Country Skiing
 Sat, Jan 9
 Bretton Woods, Great Glenn Trails,
 King Pine, and Tenny Mountain
 Try snowshoeing or cross-country with free equipment, lessons, and use of trails. See page 34 for details.

Native New Hampshire Before Contact
 Sun, Jan 10, 1 PM
 Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum,
 Warner
 David Stewart-Smith speaks as part of the lecture series exploring the Native American presence in New Hampshire. See page 18 for details.

WCA Senior Luncheon
 Tue, Jan 19, 12 PM
 WCA Barn, Wilmot Flat
 Kathy Ashton of Home Transitions will discuss downsizing. See page 22 for details.

Cody Michaels Winter Suite
 Sat, Jan 23, 8 PM
 Franklin Opera House
 Piano soloist and composer returns with his most recent release.

NYC Jazz with Jesse Elder Trio
 Fri, Jan 29, 8 PM
 Franklin Opera House
 An energetic show with original compositions, arrangements of standards, and improvisations.

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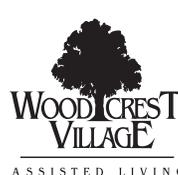
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League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Annual Ornament

Looking for a distinctive and functional holiday gift? Consider the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen's annual ornament, aptly named The Gift. Created by juried League member Joseph DeRobertis of New London, The Gift is hand crafted with aluminum, brass, and gold-filled metal. "A gift to me represents fantasy and imagination on the part of the giver and the recipient," said Joe.

A master metal craftsman and a juried League member since 1986, Joe has been making at least one new holiday ornament every year for the past 11 years. His Rocking Horse metal ornament was selected as the League's 1996 ornament.

Joe also creates distinctive jewelry and sculpture using silver, 18k gold bi-metal, copper, bronze, steel, and other mixed metals. He also hand-forges steel and other metals to make customized pieces for home interiors, such as stair railings, gates, fireplace screens, and stove hoods. His designs reflect his love of nature, wildlife, and humanity – and living in



New Hampshire.

The Gift ornaments are sold exclusively by the seven League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Retail Galleries and online at NHCrafts.org. Each ornament is signed by Joe, dated 2009, and numbered as one of a limited edition. The ornament comes beautifully gift-boxed and sells for \$21.50. Major credit cards are accepted for ordering the ornament by telephone from any Retail Gallery.

New Online Store

The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen has launched a new online store. The fine craft items featured in the online store are all hand made by juried members of the League. Each of the League's seven retail galleries selected an item for this store that is being sold in their galleries, and is now available online for shopping convenience.

For more information about the annual ornament or the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, call 224-3375 or visit NHCrafts.org.

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family

By Judy Perreault
NHCHF

It's in the bag! At least it will be by Christmas. The Halcyon Seekers provided over 700 bags for the AE/MS Holiday Shop.

The Holiday Shop allows students to buy Christmas presents for their family at a reduced rate, as all the items are donated. They are also provided a decorative bag for each of their purchases.

The bags were purchased by the Halcyon Seekers. About half were brown paper bags that members hand decorated with a variety of materials and holiday greetings.

Each member brought to the November meeting scissors, glue, felt, ribbon, tape, Christmas paper, holiday napkins, stickers, construction paper, Christmas

cards, etc. and then let the creative juices flow. The end product was an array of colorfully and artistically decorated bags. Some featured Santa, Christmas trees, snowmen, elves, Christmas scenes, candy canes, stockings, and animals. One creative lady used cookie cutter animals as a template and traced the outline onto the bags and hand-drew forest scenes around the animals.

We all enjoyed this fun project and were happy to provide the AE/MS students these bags to contain their Christmas purchases.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas Party and Auction.

If you are interested in starting an NHCHF club in your town or would like to attend one of our meetings, call 735-5493.

WCA SENIOR LUNCHEON

By Kate McKibben
Wilmot Community Association
December Luncheon

On Tuesday, December 15, at noon, the A Capella Choruses of Kearsarge Regional High School, led by conductor Ernie Mills, will entertain at the Wilmot Community Association's (WCA) monthly luncheon with a variety of musical selections. The boys' and girls' choruses will sing separately and join together.

The luncheons are held at the WCA Barn on Village Road in Wilmot Flat and are sponsored by the Wilmot Community Association and the Wilmot Ladies' Aid Society in cooperation with the Belknap/Merrimack County Community Action Program. All area seniors are invited to join us for good food and conversation. Reservations

should be made by calling 526-4540, or e-mail KMckibbin@comcast.net. A \$2 donation is requested.

January Luncheon

On Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at noon, Kathy Ashton of Home Transitions will discuss the process of downsizing – moving seniors from one location to another, whether relocating to assisted living, nursing care, or a new independent home. This presentation should be of interest whether you have a lifetime of possessions that you need to sort through, or perhaps a friend or relative is approaching a point in their lives where they could use this type of assistance and you are not able to provide it yourself. Home Transitions provides assistance with sorting, downsizing, packing, and unpacking as you settle into your new home.

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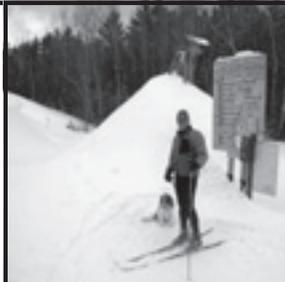
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Bradley Lake Water Quality Issues: An Update

By Larry Chase
For the Beacon

At an August 24 public meeting on Bradley Lake water quality (reported on in the past three issues of the *Beacon*), attendees identified several issues for further consideration and action. I volunteered to address some of the issues on behalf of the Andover Conservation Commission, sponsor of the meeting. Last month I mailed a progress report to major Bradley Lake stakeholders: watershed property owners and Village District residents who drink the water. Excerpts from the letter follow.

Water Testing

I have contacted the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), which runs a Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. They will provide training, testing equipment, and some laboratory analysis for three to five tests per year. Some additional testing costs will have to be borne either by the Town of Andover or by a Bradley Lake Association (see below). I am working with the town to see if it will foot the bill – about \$500 for five tests.

If you are interested in helping with the tests, please let me know.

Bradley Lake Protective Association

From old family papers, I am aware that there have been at least two associations in the past: a Bradley Lake Boating Club, and a Bradley Lake Protective Association. If either of these is still an active non-profit corporation, perhaps it can be resurrected without new paperwork.

In any case, the sense of the August 24 meeting was to schedule an organizational meeting in late spring or early summer, and to make certain that Andover Village residents – those who drink the Bradley Lake water – be invited to participate. I will try to make this meeting happen. DES and a private non-profit called New Hampshire Lakes can help us launch this organization.

Meanwhile, if anyone has any information about the status of either the “Boating Club” or the “Protective Association,” please send it to me as soon as possible. And if you’d like to help get the organization off the ground, please

let me know as well.

New Sign

According to the November *Beacon*, “A new sign has been ordered for Bradley Lake to describe the restrictions necessary to maintain water purity. The restrictions are based on Department of Environmental Services and state law.”

The sign will replace an older sign that was removed several years ago. According to the newspaper, “Depending on when the sign arrives, it will be put in place this fall or in the spring, probably by the parking lot and swimming area.” Signs on how to protect the lake from invasive species have also been posted, and additional signs on how to respect nesting loons will be posted.

Bradley Lake Inventory

DES offers step-by-step guidelines for conducting a Comprehensive Lake Inventory that would provide a “snapshot in time” of the lake and its watershed. A Proctor Academy faculty member is interested in involving his students in such an inventory.

Bradley Lake Loons

An article in the October *Beacon* began: “Andover’s Bradley Lake ranks among the top 25 per cent of New Hampshire ‘loon territories’ according to statistics collected over the past 15 years by the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) in Moultonborough. A loon territory is a body of water that regularly attracts a pair of nesting loons. Rankings are determined by the frequency of nesting pairs and the successful production of chicks.” I’m hoping we can arrange a public meeting next spring or early summer to hear more from an LPC field biologist.

Keeping In Touch

It would be easier for me, and less expensive for the Town, to communicate with you by e-mail rather than the US Postal Service. If you have an e-mail address, please send it to me at LBChase@aol.com. I’ll be glad to share any e-mail addresses I receive.

Also, if you have additional thoughts on the above subjects (or on any lake-related matter), please don’t hesitate to send them along.

Pine Hill Ski Club

By John Schlosser
Pine Hill Ski Club

On Sunday, Dec 26, there will be a Cross-Country Skiing Tune-Up class from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at the Pine Hill Ski Club. It will include some flat-

land skiing and some down-hill ski technique. The class is free to Season’s Pass members and \$10 to others.

There is a limit, so reserve a spot at 526-6772 or visit PineHillSkiClub.com.

ANDOVER SNOWMOBILE CLUB

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

It is that time of year again, when the trails begin to open for riding in New Hampshire. The Andover Snowmobile Club has had a very busy fall getting ready for this very special day.

We started out re-decking some larger bridge projects on our rail bed trail and continued on with many of our side trails that needed bridge upgrades. The smaller bridge projects can sometimes be just as challenging as the larger projects when you have to transport materials into these areas. We have had a wonderful turnout of volunteers when the call has come to help out.

Trail signing is complete and also a very valuable part of our trails system. These signs not only direct us along our way to other trail junctions, but also to those valuable stops for food and fuel.

We would like to thank all of our landowners for once again trusting us with the use of their property. It is this support that keeps us going and allows us to provide and maintain our trails system. Please protect this privilege and respect the land-

owners’ rights.

Our groomer staff is ready for another great season. We are adding qualified personnel each season. This also makes the task of grooming over 80 miles of trails a manageable one. Thanks, everyone, for your support.

Our Annual Italian Buffet will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 5 to 6:30 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School Gymnasium. There is always plenty of food, beverage, and dessert for everyone to enjoy. And don’t forget our very large raffle table, with all the proceeds going to Easter Seals, which takes place right after the meal.

There is also a lot of excitement around the many vintage events that are held during the winter season. I, for one, would like to get to one of the many vintage races and vintage rides that are getting so popular. This part of the sport is really taking off. Hope you get to see or partake in an event.

Our club meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at AE/MS, and we welcome all members and guests to attend. Hope to see you there.



VNA | Self Care During the Holidays

During the busy holiday season self care is more important than ever. Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice wishes you a happy and healthy holiday season and reminds you to take CARE!

- Get enough sleep.
- Delegate, consolidate or eliminate projects and errands when possible.
- Give yourself ½ hour of self care each day: massage, read, nap, yoga etc.
- Set up walking dates instead of lunch dates with friends
- Eat breakfast.
- Put less focus on the food and more on conversation at holiday parties.
- Limit alcoholic drinks as they inhibit your body’s fullness signals
- Enjoy the moment!



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Andover Service Club News

By Joyce Egge
Andover Service Club

The November meeting of the Andover Service Club, held on Veterans Day, was again well attended.

Each month the Thrift Shop will be featuring a special sale on selected donated items.

Scholarship checks will be distributed during the month of December.

Some new ideas for fundraising and for a service project were discussed.

Following the business meeting, President Joyce Egge asked for a moment of silence for those veterans who gave their lives for our freedom. Refreshments were then served.

Program chair Diane Rice introduced the speaker, Sonny Coady from New London, who presented slides and a fascinating narration of her trip to India. While there she attended the wedding of a friend of hers and experienced first hand the culture of this wonderful country.

The Masons requested the club cater a dinner for them on November 20.

Thanksgiving Pie Sale

The annual pie sale will be held on November 24 and 25 at the Circle K in Potter Place. The girl scouts will once again help us out with the Christmas tree lighting at the Andover Town Hall on November 29 at 5:30 PM.

We will be selling raffle tickets for three different Christmas baskets of holiday cheer during the month of December. Tickets will be sold at the Thrift Shop as well as at the Holiday Fairs in Salisbury, Danbury, and East Andover, all on December 5.

The members' annual Christmas luncheon will be held at the Wilmot Community Center with catering by Susan Nye. For those members who would like to attend, contact Mary Ofenloch.

The Andover Service Club welcomes new members and new customers at their Thrift Shop.

ANDOVER FISH & GAME CLUB GOES BACK OVER 75 YEARS

"Andover Fish & Game Club was perhaps formed in 1933; a meeting was held at Ward's Hall by four members: 'Dick' Pohle, 'Red' Beauregard, 'Buck' Albec, and Henry Marsden. There were 67 people interested at the meeting ... all who signed as charter members. Some 56 signed later."

— From Ralph Chaffee's history of Andover.

By Tim Frost
Andover Fish and Game Club

Many older Fish and Game Club enthusiasts have gone before us, but a great number of us would not now know who they were. Here are a few that I remember: Harry Yeaton, William Miller, Charles Putney, Earl Parady, A. W. Frost, William George, Donald Miller, and Cy Miller.

To go back some, in 1935 the club accepted a gift of a building to be used as a club house, along with a gift of \$500 for renovations. The building was the former Colby and Durgin Grain Storehouse and was given by William A. Richardson. The new club house was dedicated July 30, 1936.

Many projects were undertaken through the years, such as the reclaiming of Highland Lake, Hopkins Pond, and Adder Pond; and support of various state sportsman clubs as well as support of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

The Andover Fish and Game Club initiated great interest in the community, and its membership grew through the years. Some special projects were: a gift from Franklin Fish and Game Club of 10 rabbits; construction of two rearing pools, in which the Andover Fish and Game Club raised rainbow trout as well as other trout and even horned pout. These fish, at a young age, were taken to local small ponds such as Huntoon Pond, Shaw Pond, and March Pond as well as Sucker Brook and maybe even the Blackwater River. It was a hurry-up project, perhaps, with small backpacks with water in them; some fish maybe didn't survive.

It's amazing that in 1946 there were 246 members, in spite of the ongoing war (World War II).

Back in my younger years, I remember the reclaiming of Highland Lake that created quite a conflict around the East Andover townspeople. The lake was drawn down, and the state Fish and Game Department flew a plane over with rotenone to kill all the "junk" fish in order to restock the lake with trout.

Many of us high school kids were given a day off from school to assist in picking up dead fish. There were many buckets full of perch, sunfish, small bass, pickerel, and others. Some people took them for their garden fertilizer! In a year or so the lake was stocked with many trout.

Another highlight of my early years was the Andover Fish and Game Club's annual chicken barbeque held at "the Pines" on Route 11 in East Andover (which is now the Forsberg property). People came from all over for this Saturday event. A great number of chickens were served, and wives of members provided the extras. (I think some hard cider was even hidden somewhere). It was a great fundraiser.

The present clubhouse on the channel road by the lake is of historic value to the town, being over 75 years old. It stands on Channel Road in East Andover and still maintains a good membership. If anyone is interested, there is always room for more members. The club is known for its attention to our youth, with many good projects such as the annual stocking of the channel water for the kids' annual fishing derby in the spring.

Another project is the winter fishing derby, and there are scholarships to the Fish and Game camp, known as Camp Barry, located in Miland, New Hampshire.

Most folks today know of the Club's famous beef barbeque, which takes place in the summer and has been held in recent years at AE/MS. And, of course, there's the turkey raffle held at the clubhouse in October. Another worthwhile project is the rabies clinic for vaccination of dogs and cats, usually held in the spring.

The clubhouse has a number of new improvements: new windows, new siding, new bathroom, new paint inside, and a new heating system. This is thanks to fundraisers and dedicated members. The interior of the clubhouse has a great amount of interesting Fish and Game history.

Club meetings are held at 7 PM on the last Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse. It would be a hope that any person who loves hunting and fishing would join the club. Dues are \$10 a year. The sale of club shirts and the dues support us. This is a great small-town organization.

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop

By Gisela Darling
Andover Service Club

The Thrift Shop is carrying a good assortment of clothing for the colder season. We get "new" items in every week, so come and check to see if you find that very special something. Visit us and browse through the racks full of clothing!

We are staffed by volunteers of the Service Club who are willing to help you.

Shopping at our Thrift Shop not only saves money but also supports the many worthwhile organizations in town.

We are now taking consignments for winter clothing in new or excellent condition.

Please remember we do not take the following items for consignments: sleepwear, underwear, socks. We will accept those items only if new. We also do accept shoes or boots, but only in ex-

cellent condition as well.

We also accept donations of clean, saleable, and seasonal items.

Please do not leave clothing outside the shop when we are closed!

We would like to thank all of our customers for their support throughout the year.

Our winter shop hours are Tuesday, 10 AM to 2 PM; Wednesday, 3 to 5 PM; Thursday, 10 AM to 4 PM; and Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM.

Please remember that the Thrift Shop will be closed if school is out due to a snow day. If the weather is questionable, please call ahead at 735-5269 just to be sure we are open.

The shop will be closed for the holidays from Thursday, December 24, through Saturday, December 26; and on Thursday, December 31.

We wish all of our customers a happy and healthy new year!

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The Beacon is Andover's most eagerly read source of good news from Andover, East Andover, West Andover, Potter Place, and Cilleyville. It is mailed every month to over 1,100 households in Andover and to many seasonal residents and out-of-town subscribers. For more information, call our ad sales team or visit

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Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ragged View Farm Embraces Traditional Methods

By Larry Chase
For the Beacon

Ten years after he and his wife bought the old farm house and 18 large-ly wooded acres up on Bradley Lake Road, Andover's Mark Cowdrey is still working toward his goal: a life largely supported by the land he lives on, the crops he grows, the animals in his care – and doing so, mostly, in the ways of a traditional New Hampshire hill farmer.

The long odds of fully achieving that goal are reflected in the name Mark has given to the property: Ragged View Farm, so-called both because of the visible mountain to the north and because, as he says, "Sometimes things look pretty ragged around here."

The goal may not be within his reach, he acknowledges, for a number of reasons: He may not have the requisite acreage, skills, patience, and stamina for the long haul. (He's 55 now.) And when the going gets tough, it can be tempting to



switch to modern, mechanized farming methods. (He owns a diesel-powered tractor, but prefers to use the considerable power of his two draft horses.)

"But it's good to have a goal you can measure progress against," he says. And by a number of measures, he's making progress. Some major milestones:

1999: After moving into the small 1840 house, undertakes major renovations, adding a chimney, mudroom, and woodshed, bumping out exterior walls, and re-arranging interior ones.

1999: Puts in first family vegetable garden. Purchases and raises first hog for family meat.

2000: Raises two hogs for butchering.

2001: Builds shed, acquires first horse (a weanling Suffolk gelding named Woodrow) and a heifer. Raises three hogs for butchering.

2002: Raises four hogs for butchering.

2002: Plants first garlic crop; yield is 400 heads (soon to approach 1,000; most to be sold to seed-garlic market).

2003: Borrows a well-broke horse to work two-year-old Woodrow with.

2004: Purchases a Suffolk mare named Misty to pair with Woodrow; finally owns a team.

2005: Enters first maple-sugaring venture with Eric Johnson and Tucker Mountain Maple Co-op: 100 taps, 100 quarts of syrup.

2005: With the generous help of friends and neighbors, builds 34' by 40' barn to house stock, hay, and equipment.

2005: In June, Misty has a foal, Virgil. Buys first sow, who farrows (has a litter of piglets) in the fall. Raises litter over the winter.

2006: Sells pork "by the piece" for the first time.

2006: In July, Misty has second foal, Dante; buys first boar.

2006: Begins an ongoing process of clearing trails through woods on property to permit sleigh rides in winter.

2006: Builds sleigh body for bobsled. Gives his family a Christmas ride to inaugurate sleigh rides at Ragged View Farm.

2007: Creates Web site at Ragged-ViewFarm.com.

Mark's journey hasn't been without its potholes, however, he admits. There was the disappointment of the barren heifer, for example (she ended up in the meat freezer); the loss of a horse from an injury; a crop failure here and there; the difficulties of garlic marketing; and more.

On the whole, though, he says he's fairly satisfied with the path he's been traveling for the past decade: the progress he's made, the mistakes he's learned from, the new skills he's continually acquiring, the network of local expertise and support he's tapped into.

Why Knock Yourself Out?

Why farming – especially since both Mark and his wife have professional skills? (He's trained in computer science and architectural drafting; his wife, Lea Ayers LaFave, is a public health planner.)

He's thought a lot about that question, and his reasons are many and varied.

At the top of the list is the sentimental reason: the fond memories of childhood visits to his grandparents' dairy farm in West Swanzey and a teenage stint as a hired hand on another dairy farm in Gilford.

Then there are a couple of economic factors: first, the immediate opportunity to put food on the table and help pay off the mortgage; and second, the longer-range opportunity to demonstrate the practicality of growing food locally, should the need arise because of rising transportation costs or disruptions to food-supply lines.

Then there's the conservation value he sees in keeping the land in agriculture – saving it from over-development, maintaining New Hampshire's rural look and feel, and farming in ways that minimize environmental impact.

There's conservation of another kind involved as well: the conservation of a disappearing way of life, that of the self-reliant New Hampshire hill-farmer, living free and making do on a piece of family-owned land.



One of the traditional methods Mark Cowdrey uses at Ragged View Farm is Suffolk horsepower. Photos: Larry Chase

Then there are a couple of health-related reasons. First: "If you grow it yourself, you know where your food came from, and you can trust its wholesomeness." Also: The physical requirements of farming are bound to keep a person in better shape than a desk job.

Finally, and perhaps underlying all his other reasons for farming, there's the mental engagement involved. Look at a farmer out in his field, Mark says, and it may appear that he's just sitting on a tractor driving around in circles.

"Unless you've done it, though," he continues, "you don't realize the amount of constant reading, learning, planning,

prioritizing, scheduling, bookkeeping, calculating, marketing, on and on, that that guy had to go through before he climbed on his tractor. If you want to farm smart instead of hard, this business is every bit as much an intellectual challenge as a physical one."

Looking Ahead

Besides putting food on the table and wood in the stove, Mark says, some of his ventures are providing positive cash flow. In addition to the sleigh rides, the garlic crop, and the maple syrup, Ragged View's product lines now include bacon and other pork products

See Ragged View on page 29

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	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold;">Out of Town</td> <td> Your Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____ </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-weight: bold;">Seasonal</td> <td> Other Name _____ Other Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____ </td> </tr> </table>	Out of Town	Your Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____	Seasonal
Out of Town	Your Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____			
Seasonal	Other Name _____ Other Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____			
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Hersey Farm Phase 2 Still \$15,000 Short Of Goal

By Beth McGuinn
Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

The setting of the Annie Ballin painting Myra Mayman describes is the quintessential New England farm scene. The historic value of these farm fields has been recognized by their listing on the National Historic Register, and now we have the rare opportunity to ensure that the fields in the painting remain part of the Andover community in perpetuity.

Working farms are rare these days, but Andover is fortunate to retain a few farms. Pressures from development and poor soils for agriculture have claimed much of our farming heritage. But at the Hersey Farm, the soils have been rated as "Prime" for agricultural production, and the landowner is willing to place a conservation easement on the property to ensure that he and future owners will not develop the land.

The Town has recognized the importance of conserving the Hersey farms through a series of planning documents. Andover's 1988 community survey identified the Hersey Farm as an important area for conservation. The 1992 Master Plan contained a goal of encouraging continued use of lands for agriculture. The current draft of the new Master Plan lists the view of the

Hersey Farm from Route 11 as an essential feature that should not be "despoiled by disruptive or inappropriate intrusions."

The conservation of the Hersey Farm would fulfill four of the 10 guiding principles in the draft Master Plan:

- Protecting and preserving a working landscape of farms and forests
- Preserving viewscapes along Andover's major highways
- Conserving natural resources, including farm and forest lands, water resources, and wildlife habitat
- Preserving Andover's historical places and assets

We are very close to the fundraising goal that will allow us to purchase a conservation easement on this 55 acre farm, thanks to a generous donation of value from the landowner; funds from the Andover Conservation Commission; a grant from the US Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranchland Protection program; and donations from residents of Andover and surrounding towns.

Just \$15,000 more will bring us to the \$165,000 it will take to ensure that these fields continue to be available for agricultural uses in the future and will not be available for subdivision and development.

Now is a great time to make a year-



Jerry Hersey relies on the hay from his cousin Roger's fields to feed his cattle through the winter.
Photo: Beth McGuinn

end tax deductible contribution towards the conservation of the Hersey Farm. To do so, please send a check to ASLPT (memo: Hersey Farm), PO Box 2040,

New London 03257. If you prefer to make a donation by credit card, call Nancy at ASLPT at 526-6555.

Reflections On Protecting A Farm

By Myra Mayman
For the Beacon

There's a watercolor painting by Annie Ballin hanging in our bedroom. It depicts the Roger Hersey Farm on a gentle gray and snowy day. It's the view to the left as you drive from Franklin to Andover, open fields and a house and outbuildings with red doors. You can see them because of the open fields all around them. The fields are the functional heart of the farm.

Why is this scene important enough to preserve? It's a piece of Andover history and a part of Andover's present beauty.

I'm currently reading Jenny White's *The Sultan's Seal*. The main character, a detective in 19th century Turkey, has inherited a set of amber beads from his father and his grandfather before him. When he fingers them as his father and grandfather had, he "feels part of a mortal chain that settles him in his own time and place. It explains nothing, but it imparts a sense of peace." That's why we like to connect to the past; it makes us feel not adrift.

This painting expresses why conserving our rural landscape is important. Besides giving us beautiful scenes to look at in our daily travels along Route 11, it gives us a feeling of continuity with what and who have gone before us. It gives us something to live up to.

This is my personal take on land conservation and spiritual values. However, the world doesn't exist to fulfill my aesthetic inclinations or taste, which includes a huge value on open space and undeveloped land. The value of land preservation for the town of Andover is more practical.

Often people assume that the more land in a town is developed, the more tax income the town will receive. And that's true. However, the increased tax income doesn't cover the cost of increased services required by new residents: additional demands on the school and town services such as fire and police protection and road maintenance.

Leaving land undeveloped benefits the town financially. In the very long term, those open fields ground our children and grandchildren.



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Ragged View from page 25

and a horse-drawn logging device. And in the future, he hopes to do more horse logging, including small jobs for others, and add other vegetables and grass-fed beef to the product line.

And what about major frustrations? The answer has nothing to do with the business of farming, but rather with a common reaction of non-farmers, or would-be farmers, to what he's been up to for a decade: "I guess my biggest gripe is the idea many people have that since total self-sufficiency may be impossible to attain in small-scale farming, it's silly or unimportant to try to take any steps toward that goal.

"To my mind," he continues, "that attitude is really counter-productive. There's so much to be gained from the journey – economically, ecologically, socially, physically, mentally, maybe even spiritually – that each step along the way, however small, can be an important one. Whether you eventually grow all your own food or not ultimately seems irrelevant."

About Mark and Lea

After 15 years of marriage, Mark and Lea returned to their native New Hampshire, coming to Andover in January, 1999, after selling their home of ten years in Northampton, Massachusetts. Mark joined Sheerr & White Residential Architecture, in New London, as an architectural draftsman. (He recently left the firm.) Lea was a nurse educator at Colby-Sawyer College for nearly ten years before joining Community Health Institute in Bow, as a public health planner, in 2008.

Today, in addition to keeping his nose to the grindstone, Mark offers tours of Ragged View to groups of students who want to learn about farming. He also welcomes inquiries from local residents who are serious about small-scale farming. Contact him at 735-4010 or Mark@RaggedViewFarm.com, or visit RaggedViewFarm.com.



Members of IOOF's Heidelberg Lodge present Meg Ames of LSRVNA with a \$1,000 check for the Kearsarge Community Christmas Project. (L-r) John Kierman, Charlie Hafner, Bob Wright, Berk Hunter, Bob Lull, Lloyd Littlefield, Don Ferraro, Meg Ames, Bob MacMichael, Arch Weathers, and John MacKenna.

Odd Fellows Support Kearsarge Community Christmas Project

From LSRVNA & Hospice

New London's Heidelberg Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) made its annual donation to the Kearsarge Community Christmas Project on December 3. A generous \$1,000 was presented to Meg Ames, Volunteer Coordinator at Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice.

The project, coordinated by the VNA, is a collaboration between local individuals, businesses, and churches that matches area families in need with donors who contribute gift items on each family's Wish List.

"Gifts of cash such as this are very important because they allow our vol-

unteer shoppers to purchase requested items that may not have been donated. The combination of financial and in-kind support made it possible to help every family on our list this year," said Meg.

The IOOF is an independent fraternal organization with guiding principles of friendship, love, and truth. Its Heidelberg Lodge in New London has been helping the community with its exceptional generosity for more than 40 years. Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice is deeply grateful to be a beneficiary of their kindness which, in turn, brings joy to many families during the holidays.

ANDOVER'S BIGGEST LOSER

By Jen Braley
For the Beacon

After taking the summer off, Andover's Biggest Loser started up again in September. With about 45 members, we had great results and lost almost 400 pounds in ten weeks!

Meetings are held every Tuesday at AE/MS. We begin by weighing everyone in, figuring out who the Biggest Loser for the week is, having various raffles, and then listening to a nutritional talk by Audrey Pellegrino, The Practical Nutritionist.

Our next session began on Tuesday, December 1. The cost to join is \$10, and it costs \$5 a week for the remaining 10 weeks. All money is given back to the members through raffles and prizes for the highest percentages of weight loss. The overall Biggest Loser at the end of the ten weeks wins \$350!

Donations To Food Pantry

Biggest Loser is also doing its part

in helping out our community. In October, we donated over 500 items to the Andover Food Pantry located at the Andover Town Hall. In November, we put Thanksgiving food baskets together for 10 Andover families. This holiday season is going to be a real struggle for a lot of families, and we are hoping to help out at Christmas with gifts.

If you would like to join Biggest Loser, you don't have to wait until we start up again. Come join any time! Weigh-ins are from 4:30 to 6 PM with the nutritional talk immediately following. As many of our members will tell you, Audrey provides us with lots of helpful weight loss information.

If you have any questions about joining, feel free to call me at 735-5097 or e-mail me at braleyjen@tds.net.



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Kenneth Reid
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Original oil painting of the Hersey Farms by Sally Ladd Cole represented by The Banks Gallery at www.thebanksgallery.com

Hersey Family Farm – Phase 2

We're almost there! Together, "we" have the opportunity to add 55 acres to the already conserved 268 acres of the Hersey Family Farm on both sides of Route 11 in East Andover.

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust received a grant by the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (one of only 5 offered in the state) to help purchase a conservation easement on Roger Hersey's 55 acres of fields and woodlands. The Andover Conservation Commission has committed funds to the same purpose. The estimated cost of the project is \$165,000. With a generous reduction in price from Roger Hersey, and private donations already in hand, an additional **\$15,000** needs to be raised to complete the funding to purchase the conservation easement.

For details: AusbonSargent.org/news or AndoverNH.us.com

To donate: Call the Ausbon Sargent offices at 526-6555 or email aslpt@tds.net

Checks may be made payable to: ASLPT- Hersey Family Farm and mailed to: PO Box 2040, New London, NH 03257

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Christmas in New London Thursday, December 10th – Sunday, December 13th

Schedule of Events!

Friday, December 11th

Santa arrives at the Town Gazebo on a Fire Truck at 6 pm

Tree lighting at the Town Gazebo at 6:15 pm

'Twas the night before Christmas reading by Bud Dick at the Gazebo

Christmas Caroling

Hot cocoa and Christmas Treats at Lake Sunapee Bank, Main Street

Shop Night! 3 - 7 pm at many retail businesses

Parent's Night Out at Colby Sawyer College Hogan Center Mom and Dad get to enjoy a night out to shop or dine while the kids enjoy a bouncy house, open gym & movies 5 - 8 pm, \$20 per child (Open to Children who are potty trained through 5th grade).

Saturday, December 12th

Santa Photos at the Outing Club Indoor Center from 11 am-1 pm Flash Photo will be providing your Santa pictures for FREE!

Christmas Art & Crafts and Open Gym at the Outing Club Indoor Center Parents can enjoy an afternoon off to shop or go to lunch while your kids are having fun! 10 am-2 pm, \$12 per child (Open to Children who are potty trained and older.)

Story Hour with Tomie dePaola at 10 am, Morgan Hill Bookstore

Sunday, December 13th

Stories and Carols at the Town Hall, 4 pm, Listen to stories by Storyteller Simon Brooks, sing carols. Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and cider. Presented by the New London Area Center for the Arts.

New London Hospital will be providing their bus for us to help you travel around town during this weekend!

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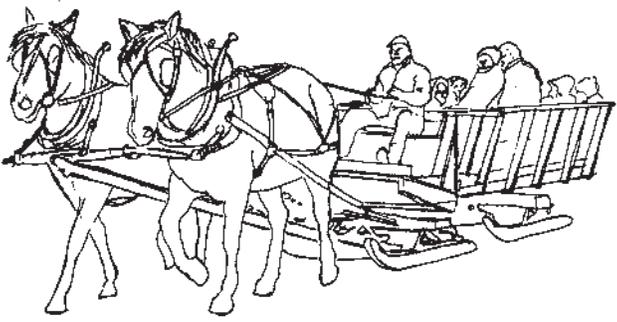
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Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

October 21

Present: Bob Ward, Alex Bernhard, Craig Heim, Lindy Heim, Tom Frantz, Steve Darling, Myra Mayman, Pecco Beaufays, Charles Martin, Peter Southworth, and guests Steve Robinson (Danbury), Lee Carvalho (Andover), and Larry Chase (Andover).

Tribute to Peter Crowell: Charles mentioned Peter's family is interested in continuing support of the rail trail. Charles talked to the state about dedicating a section of the trail to Peter, and they suggested putting trail maintenance in his name.

Proposal from Charles: Moved to dedicate the maintenance of the section of trail that Peter built, from Switch Road to Chance Pond Road by Webster Lake in Franklin. Seconded and discussed, then the motion was tabled.

In addition, Myra suggested a memorial bike ride, and other projects such as a bench on the side of the trail were considered. Myra volunteered to talk further with DRED about what is allowable on the trail, as well as Peter's family, and we will continue consideration and discussion of how to commemorate Peter's major contributions.

Correspondence: One letter came about access to the rail trail, another looking for more trail information, and a third letter expressed confusion about how to donate money on line and if that included membership. Steve will follow

up with changes on the Web site.

Old Business

Grants Update: Craig provided a list of the foundations, trusts, and banks that he has made requests from. He reported that we received \$5,000 from the Brown Foundation and \$1,000 from the Weiss Family Foundation.

Technology Report: The site has not been updated due to a problem with the server. Charles will move the site maintenance work into Steve's name.

TE Grant Planning: No new information to report. Charles and Alex met with Tom Jamison, the TE representative, trying to resolve the issue of Peter Crowell's equipment in trail building. We don't know if we'll get a soft match on the grader and will proceed in a conservative fashion in regard to raising matching funds.

RTP 2009 and 2010: Charles raised the question about making a request for another RTP for another mile or two toward West Franklin at the same time we are building trail toward Danbury. There was discussion to pursue the planning for a RTP application 2010 to go approximately to the old depot in West Franklin. Alex will take over soliciting Franklin support.

Lindy reported on the very successful Franklin ribbon cutting, and her efforts were vigorously applauded.

Maintenance: Larry Chase shared handouts on Common Maintenance

Tasks that he found in a document titled Rail-Trail Maintenance and Operation. Larry customized the maintenance needs into three sections for lay volunteers, for experienced or credentialed volunteers/paid professionals, and the final section was for tasks needing supervision and/or permitting. We will provide Larry with our suggestions and then bring Trails Bureau into the process as soon as possible.

Cutting brush between Potter Place and Lawrence Street: Proctor volunteers cut weeds and trimmed tree limbs for about 200 yards behind Carr Field.

Milepost moving and painting: Two mileposts have been returned to their original locations.

New Business

Moved, seconded, and passed: To buy a table at the Danbury Grange indoor market for the season of November through April, once per month, for \$15 per show. Lindy and Myra will work on staffing.

Gold leaf railroad spikes: Larry shared a railroad spike he had gilded. Alex moved to spend \$170 to gild ten railroad spikes for future gifts. Seconded and passed.

Pecco noted that through the summer, the Highland Lake Inn Rail Trail Welcome Center was very busy every weekend, with an average of 10 to 20 trail riders.

November 18

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Bob Ward, Alex Bernhard,

Craig Heim, Steve Darling, Myra Mayman, Charles Martin, Peter Southworth, and guest Mike Loomis.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at Andover Fire House. *Note: No December meeting*

Old Business

Grants: Discussion of Home Depot grant (December 15 deadline). Suggestions were to apply for the gift certificate/grant to purchase paint for the mile markers, tools to clear and maintain trail, materials for another kiosk, and to buy trail maintenance equipment. A two-stage appeal would ask for a smaller grant before capitalizing on the urban Franklin landscape for a larger request at a later time. Support was expressed for Craig to pursue a smaller grant for mile marker paint in the first stage.

LL Bean won't have any grant money available until next April, when Craig will follow up.

Technology Report: Steve noted the ability to make alterations to the Web site is again possible after having server issues.

TE Project Planning: VHB will submit the plans to DOT for approval to finish the Preliminary Design phase and move to the Final Design phase. Plans are to put bids out in March (bridges and gravel combined in one bid).

Alex noted the final amount to raise for the TE project is \$10,891.74. Alex moved to designate 100 % of the current and future contributions in mem-

See FNRT on page 35

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FREE SNOWSHOEING AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Winter Trails, a one-day event at winter sports locations around the country, celebrates its 15th year on January 9, 2010. Winter Trails offers children and adults new to snow sports a chance to try snowshoeing and/or cross country skiing at no charge for the use of equipment and trails. For more details about this nationwide event, visit WinterTrails.org.

Four New Hampshire locations are holding Winter Trails events this year:

Bretton Woods Nordic Center in Bretton Woods will offer a free trail pass and rentals to first-time Nordic skiers and snowshoers on January 9 from 1 to 4 PM. There will also be a free introductory cross-country clinic available on a first come, first serve basis. Visit MountWashingtonResort.com for details.

Great Glenn Trails Outdoor Center in Gorham will offer a free trail

pass and rentals to first-time Nordic skiers and snowshoers on January 9 from 12:30 to 4 PM. There will also be a free ½ hour cross-country clinic available on a first come, first serve basis. Visit GreatGlennTrails.com for details.

King Pine Ski Area in East Madison has a variety of free activities planned on January 9 for children and adults new to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing:

- Demonstrations: 1 PM
- Snowshoe clinic: 1:30 PM
- Cross-country skiing clinic: 1:45 PM
- Snowshoe tour: 2 PM
- Cross-country skiing tour: 2:15 PM

Visit KingPine.com for details.

White Mountain Exploration at Tenny Mountain in Plymouth will offer guided snowshoe tours on January 9 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Visit TenneyMtn.com for details.



Three kayakers negotiate the rapids under the railroad trestle in Franklin on New Year's Day 2009.

WHITewater KAYAKERS CELEBRATE FIRST DAY FRANKLIN

Imagine seeing a group of kayakers splashing and slicing through snow- and ice-filled Class IV whitewater rapids on New Year's Day!

On Friday, January 1, 2010, you can celebrate First Day Franklin from 11 AM to 2 PM on Central Street in Franklin by watching the Merrimack Valley Paddlers and Friends of the Winnepesaukee River paddle down the Winnepesaukee River in Tilton, Northfield, and Franklin. Prime viewing is available from the Winnepesaukee River Trail and Trestle View Park, both on Central Street in Franklin, and from the bridge at Cross Mill Road on the Franklin/Northfield town line.

Paddlers will take to the water between 11 AM and 1 PM with novice and intermediate boaters paddling the upper Winnepesaukee from Route 140 to the train station in Northfield. Advanced boaters will paddle the lower Winnepesaukee from Cross Mill Road in Northfield to downtown Franklin, taking out at Trestle View Park.

Spectators are encouraged to attend, with the best viewing being at Trestle View Park. The park will feature a heated tent with coffee, cocoa, and chili provided by Choose Franklin and the Franklin Rotary Club. Spectators can walk, snowshoe, or ski on the Winnepesaukee River

trail to watch paddlers coming down the Class III and IV rapids.

Paddlers will gather at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Franklin, which will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM for socializing and for the Merrimack Valley Paddlers annual dinner. The public is welcome to this event.

Choose Franklin is the main sponsor of First Day Franklin and is seeking co-sponsors for the event. Last year Franklin Savings Bank provided hot refreshments and breakfast for the tent set-up crew provided by Peabody Home and the Merrimack County Department of Corrections; the Franklin Democratic Committee delivered the hot food for the warming tent; and Steele Hill Resort and the Peabody Home brought the hot drinks. Snow Mowers chipped in to clear snow, and the Franklin Fire Department, Wilderness Trailer Sales, and Scott Stanley Electric provided the heat for the event tent.

For more information about this event, to volunteer to help with the tent or refreshments, to be a sponsoring partner, or to be involved in any way, contact Delaney Carrier of Franklin Storage Company at 934-2789, Miami Shufelt of Proforma Piper Printing at 934-5055, or Sarah Stanley of Franklin Savings Bank at 934-8343.

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Northern Rail Trail: Potter Place To Danbury, 8.3 Miles

This report updates you on the progress we have made on the re-surfacing of the Northern Rail Trail between Potter Place in Andover and the Town Garage in Danbury, a distance of about eight miles.

Bridges: VHB, the engineers designing this project, have completed their preliminary plans for the bridge railing design on the six bridges that need railings. All of these bridges are in Danbury. VHB anticipates submitting these designs shortly to New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) for their approval. Copies have been submitted to both the Trails Bureau and the Andover Snowmobile Club for their comments.

Contractual Documentation: We had hoped to divide this work into two projects, one for the bridges and one for the application of stone dust. After meeting with DOT and New Hampshire representatives of the Federal Highway Administration, we were encouraged to include both the bridges and the application of stone dust under one contract, and we agreed to do so.

Right Of Way Approval: We have applied to DOT's Bureau of Rail and Transit, the owners of the

abandoned Northern Line Rail Line, for permission to perform the Transportation Enhancement (TE) project on that rail line and have been given an informal approval. Larry Keniston, who handles bicycle and pedestrian matters within that Bureau, has kindly undertaken to work with Tom Jameson to turn this into the needed formal approval.

Raising TE Match Funds: We have raised approximately \$58,000 of the approximately \$69,000 required, thanks to funds raised from our members and foundation grants that have been obtained through the efforts of board member Craig Heim.

Current Issues: We will be working with the Town of Andover to obtain Town Meeting approval in March '10 for the expenditures of funds we have been awarded to cover the cost of the bridge work.

We are also working with Tom Jameson to obtain approval of a soft match for the Town of Andover's Administrator's time spent on this project on our behalf.

VHB is working on bid documents which should be available for our review in December before submission to DOT for its approval.

FNRT from page 33

ory of Peter Crowell for the TE project. Seconded and passed.

Craig's projections of future fund raising estimated we would be about \$6,000 short of meeting our TE match obligation.

Crowell Memorial Proposal: There was a consensus to celebrate the late Peter Crowell by having a ride on the Rail Trail the first Saturday of October every year. (Peter's birthday was October 1.) It is hoped that the Crowell family will participate and lead the ride. Myra will take the proposal to them.

RTP 2010: Charles will prepare a grant proposal for Recreational Trails Program 2010, due late January. If awarded, this would take the finished trail another two miles southeast - from Webster Lake in Franklin to West Franklin, near Depot Street. We will need someone else to make the project happen - checking bridges, contacting suppliers, getting equipment and labor there.

Top award amount will be \$25,000. Need to find someone to go to December 10 RTP briefing. Voted: to authorize Charles Martin as Project Manager to apply for 2010 Recreational Trails Program grant.

Action Items

Maintenance: Larry Chase has agreed to take forward a maintenance plan to Jennifer at Trails Bureau, and she has agreed to work with him.

New Hampshire Rail Trails Alliance annual meeting: Charles report-

ed that 31 people from rail trail groups across the state attended. There was discussion of the concept of a Granite State Rail Trail, 110 miles from Lebanon to Salem. The hope is that the statewide groups working together will have political clout to make this happen.

New Business

Mike Loomis of Caring Community Network of Twin Rivers is extending funds from the Healthy Eating Active Living grant to the Andover Elementary/Middle School. AE/MS Principal Jane Slayton has enlisted the history, science, and physical education teachers to develop curricula in history and science on the Rail Trail, to get kids outdoors and active. The programs will explore the history and the plant and animal species of the Rail Trail.

He also reported that Franklin has received federal stimulus funds to revitalize downtown by making it safer and more aesthetically pleasing. Included in the plans is a safe biking corridor between the Winnie and Northern Rail Trails. Mike hopes that in three years there will be money for signage to Rail Trail.

Mike was asked to consider nominating a Franklin person for our board of directors.

Alex reported on the Valley Road drainage problem. At the request of the Selectmen, it is being reviewed with our and the Town's contractors.

Voted: to skip the December meeting. Next meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2010.

Granite State Rail Trail Plans To Run Through Andover

From New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance

The New Hampshire Rail Trail Alliance held its annual meeting on November 14 in Concord. The theme was "Making Connections." The Alliance consists of citizen action groups and local officials involved with constructing and maintaining rail trails in New Hampshire.

Twenty-one rail trail organizations, represented by 30 rail trail enthusiasts, attended the meeting, along with representatives from the New Hampshire Bureau of Rail and Transit and Bureau of Trails. The meeting focused on presentations from rail trail organizations on trail status and plans, centering on the key relationships between the trail groups and state agencies who represent users, owners, and key stakeholders of the many miles of trails.

Charles Martin, a member of the

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail and the author of the *New Hampshire Rail Trails* guide, stated, "We need to make three types of connections: Connect town trail segments to form longer trails; connect trail groups so we can help each other; and connect citizens groups with town and state officials."

Granite State Rail Trail

This meeting announced the concept of an ambitious project to create the Granite State Rail Trail from Lebanon to the Massachusetts border in Salem. Dick Lemieux, head of the Concord Bicycle Committee, described the overall concept for this 107-mile trail.

Dick stated, "This vision will result in a trail that will bring a tremendous recreational and economic benefit to the state and compete with some of the most popular trails in the country."

He was followed by eight rail trail orga-

See GSRT on page 38



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Our first annual Thanksgiving Day dinner at Andover Bible Church went very well. An outstanding turkey dinner with all the fixings was enjoyed by all who attended. We fed 29 people (nine of whom were guests), and we delivered 18 meals. It was a worthwhile effort; an enjoyable time of food and fellowship.

Many, many thanks to all who contributed turkeys, money donations, cooked dishes, and their time. You all helped make this first venture a success!

Photo and caption: Pat Frost



Chrissy Gargulinski and three-month-old Kendra McGowan tend to one of the tables at the Andover Congregational Church's annual Christmas Fair. Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Andover Congregational Church

On Christmas Eve, the Andover Congregational Church is holding a food drive to collect canned goods and other non-perishable items for the New Hampshire Food Bank. The fundraiser is being held in conjunction with the church's annual Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM. The food drive will begin at the opening of doors at 6:30 PM and end with the service at 8 PM.

Reverend John Wagner, pastor of the Andover Congregational Church, hopes that the community will join together to make the food drive a success.

The event, he said, is "an opportunity to help out needy people in our community." He believes that Christmas is a fitting time of year to reach out to those in need, "considering the emphasis on love and giving that makes the Christmas season so special."

The evening will commemorate the holiday's spiritual underpinnings with the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of carols, readings, and a message from the pastor. A collection area for dropping off food items will be located in the foyer of the church.

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Reverend William E. Nelson, Minister
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ANDOVER BIBLE CHURCH

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th
7 PM

Fellowship and light refreshments follow

Andover Bible Church
46 Main Street

HAPPY 90th
BIRTHDAY, MOM!

Love, Judy and Ron



December 20 at 6 PM

Christmas Caroling

By Judy Evans

Andover Congregational Church

Do you have memories of Christmas caroling when you were younger? Would you young people who are reading this like to have the opportunity to brighten peoples' lives at Christmas time?

My recollection of the earliest times I went caroling was when two hay trucks were filled with people of all ages – no matter what the weather was – and we went from door to door caroling. No, we didn't stay in the truck to sing; we got out at each house, and slowly walked together to each doorway.

It seemed like we visited any house that had lights on, not just the shut-ins or elderly. I'll never forget the smiles on wrinkled faces, and I remember feeling a sense of happiness when I saw a tired, old farmer put his arm around his wife's shoulder. It seemed like it was a very special time in their busy lives.

Before we sang each song, one of my older cousins with a deep, gentle voice would call out the page numbers of our seemingly very official little book of carols. "Page 23" was spoken in my ear by the quiet little voice of a child. We always ended – at each home – with *Silent Night*. Always *Silent Night*.

We were often invited into homes and treated to hot cocoa and home-

made goodies. After all, our friends and neighbors were expecting us. It was Christmas time.

We knew one lady would have popcorn balls; another, sugar cookies; and others would have their traditional sweets waiting for us. Oh yes, we continued to ride in the backs of those hay trucks, and when I was old enough I got to play the organ at the little chapel where we had a special service following the caroling, and more carols were sung as we were joined by many townspeople.

I remember so well the year that our daughter had been born on December 3rd. She sat in my lap as I played the organ, slowly, gently falling asleep.

You are invited by those of us at Andover Congregational Church to go caroling on Sunday, December 20. We will meet at the church parking lot at 6 PM.

No, we won't be riding in the backs of hay trucks, but there will be plenty of mini-vans and SUVs to transport us from house to house as we bring cheer to the shut-ins and elderly. We will be accompanied by guitars and perhaps a fiddle, also!

Do join us as we visit the homes of those who are expecting us, just as folks did long ago. After all, it is Christmas time.

ANDOVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On the hill, beside the road in East Andover

All members, ministers

John J. Wagner, Pastor • 735-5160

Christmas Sunday, December 20 - Service at 9:30 AM with special music. Childcare provided.

Christmas caroling Sunday evening, December 20 - Meet at the church at 6 PM.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service beginning at 7 PM.

Come as you are! All are welcome!

LRGHealthcare To Raise \$140 Million For Hospital Projects

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced a commitment to insure a mortgage loan to LRGHealthcare to complete a 3,200 square foot internal expansion and 2,200 square foot renovation of emergency services at Franklin Regional Hospital (FRH); a 97,000 square foot addition at the Lakes Region General Hospital (LRGH) campus; and the construction of a satellite facility to replace the Belknap Family Health facility in Meredith.

The FRH project will include a new triage area and expanded trauma and examination space.

“Three years ago, taking into account the current and future healthcare needs of our community, we launched a master facilities planning process,” says LRGHealthcare President and CEO Tom Clairmont. “Through that process, all of these projects were identified as necessary. We were hoping to be able to first begin work on the LRGH addition, but thanks to the favorable rates secured through the HUD program, we are now able to move forward with all three of these needed projects. In addition, we can refinance existing debt at a favorable rate, which will provide long-term savings and stability to our community.

“These projects are vital to our ability to meet the healthcare needs of our community both today and into the future. These projects will position us to meet the growing critical and intensive care needs of our growing senior population; enhance our emergency services

at FRH; meet evolving infection control and privacy standards by offering single room patient care throughout our LRGH facility; improve our infrastructure to support healthcare technology and the emergency capabilities our community needs during times of crisis; and provide greater, more convenient access to primary and specialty care, as well as other outpatient services in the Meredith community.”

The Federal Housing Authority’s Section 242 Hospital Mortgage Insurance Program does not loan money directly to hospitals. Instead, it insures the mortgage loans, which enables hospitals to obtain lower cost financing. By securing loans through this program, it is estimated that LRGHealthcare will save \$27 million over the life of the loan.

Bond Sale

To finance the projects, LRGHealthcare is borrowing funds through the sale of tax-exempt fixed rate revenue bonds in the approximate amount of \$140 million.

The bonds are issued on behalf of LRGHealthcare by the New Hampshire Health and Education Facilities Authority. The bonds have a minimum bond order amount of \$5,000 and are being sold only through brokers at Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, and Wells Fargo Securities. The Preliminary Official Statement on the LRGHealthcare Web site at www.lrg.org has information about security for the bonds, their sources of payment, bondholders’ risks, and other details.

Franklin Savings Bank To Provide Medication Cards

By LRGHealthcare

When we receive medical care, it’s important to let our caregivers know all of the medications we are taking. Our safety depends upon it. But it can be difficult to keep track of multiple prescriptions, and when you factor in over-the-counter medications, herbal products, and vitamins, it can be virtually impossible.

Medication cards are one of the easiest ways to make sure those caring for us have an accurate picture of all the medications we are taking. While some of us visit the doctor or hospital more often than others, none of us ever know when we might need medical care. By carrying this card in your

wallet and keeping it up-to-date each time you add or remove a medication, you can be sure your medication record travels with you and is available to anyone who cares for you.

LRGHealthcare and ServiceLink are working together to raise awareness and increase use of these cards in our community. Franklin Savings Bank has generously donated the funds to print the cards, and they are free to anyone in the community.

Medication cards are available at your provider’s office, ServiceLink, Lakes Region General Hospital, or Franklin Regional Hospital. Keep yourself safe by stopping by to pick one up today!



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References Proudly Furnished Upon Request

LRGHealthcare VetLink Program Assists All Veterans and Families

On Veterans Day, November 11, our nation took the time to honor and thank our men and women who have served, or are serving, in the military. On Veterans Day each year, we pause to remember the bravery they have shown and the sacrifices they have made so that we may live in freedom.

Veterans Day is important, but honoring our veterans and showing them we care about the sacrifices they have made on our behalf should not be reserved for a single day.

LRGHealthcare’s mission is to make quality healthcare available, affordable, and accessible to all, regardless of ability to pay. Our HealthLink program serves as our community’s “front door” to healthcare, providing our friends and neighbors with the resources they need to secure access to healthcare. Our VetLink program provides that same “front door” to healthcare for the veterans in our community.

VetLink assists all veterans and families of veterans with their questions and concerns about their healthcare. The Veterans Administration (VA) system is complicated, and VetLink can help veterans navigate the system to access the benefits and services that they need and deserve.

In seven years of operation, VetLink has helped more than 1,000 veterans ac-

cess the care they need through the VA system. The program has also helped veterans access well over \$1 million in compensation to which they were entitled for injuries or illnesses incurred during their service to our country.

Those who serve our country risk their own health and safety to protect our liberty. Our country’s promise to them is that, through the VA system, they will be cared for upon their return. Through the VetLink program, LRGHealthcare is helping veterans navigate the VA system to access the care and benefits to which they are entitled. And we are working to show veterans through our commitment to them that we honor the sacrifices they were willing to make for each and every one of us – not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

All veterans who have earned an honorable discharge are eligible for the VetLink program. If you are a veteran or a family member of a veteran and would like more information, please call Bob Jones at 524-3211, ext. 6568.

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GSRT from page 35

nization leaders who described various sections of this trail. Alex Bernhard of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail and Cindy Heath of Lebanon Parks and Recreation described the 60-mile Northern Rail Trail with 35 miles already completed, several of them in Andover.

The last section, using the Londonderry, Derry, Windham, and Salem rail trails along the abandoned Manchester and Lawrence Railroad right of way, is being worked by four town-specific trail groups.

Mark Samsel described the recent completion of a paved 3.5-mile section of the Windham Rail Trail and the planned renovation of the Windham Depot and Freight buildings. He also mentioned recent completion of about a mile of trail south of downtown Derry by the Derry Rail Trail Alliance and the anticipated completion of two additional miles in Derry that will connect to Windham. Mark said, "With the Derry connection and the Windham Depot projects completed, you will see a tremendous transformation of the trail and community."

In between these northern and southern sections, there are some routing issues and considerable work required to connect Concord with Manchester. Much of this may follow scenic stretches of the Merrimack River, perhaps alongside the active rail corridor.

Greg Backos described the status in

Manchester, a major hub of the state's rail trails with north/south, east/west, and urban trail connections providing bicycle transportation and walking options. "Developing trails in the city brings budget and engineering challenges; however, the benefits are huge," Greg said.

Winnepesaukee Trail

Another major trail concept presented at the meeting is the Winnepesaukee Trail from Franklin through Belmont, Laconia, and Meredith, going through the scenic Hobo Railroad route along the Winnepesaukee River and Lake Winnepesaukee using a rail-with-trail approach that puts the trail alongside an active rail line.

Rick Silverberg described lessons learned from his trail development effort starting in Franklin, including negotiation of easements and special-use agreements required prior to construction. Diane Hanley then added an update on the WOW Trail (Winnepesaukee, Opechee, Winnisquam) plans and construction. She encountered major issues with rail-with-trail and has been actively supporting the SB 203 bill to limit railroad operator liability.

As part of the "Making Connections" theme, the Bureau of Rail and Transit in the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Bureau of Trails in the Department of Resources and Economic Development participated in the event.

Kit Morgan, head of the Bureau of Rail and Transit, is responsible for management of both active railroad corridors in the state and 300 miles of abandoned state-owned railroad rights of way. Kit stressed DOT's need to partner with local towns and citizens' groups in order to make progress during a challenging budget period. He also offered advice for rail-with-trail efforts which are needed for the Winnepesaukee Trail, the Northern Rail Trail to White River Junction, Vermont, and the Concord-Manchester link.

For more information, contact Charles Martin, NH Rail Trails Alliance Steering Committee, at 526-7387.

.....
THE 15TH!!!!

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Dee Ganley works with her very attentive dogs.

Dee Ganley Has "Gone To The Dogs"

By Stephanie Skenyon
 Beacon staff

Dee Ganley's life has gone to the dogs, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

Her book, *Changing People Changing Dogs*, hit the shelves in its present form in 2008, and the techniques Dee recommends to readers exemplify her philosophy of successful dog training. Dee's book has been recognized as runner-up for Best Professional Dog Behavior Book of 2008, and in it, she shares how dogs and their behavior can be better understood by the people who love and care for them.

Dee has always loved animals. Grooming dogs and cats led her into the field of behavioral training specifically for dogs, and she disagrees with more traditional forms of discipline that rely solely on punishments for bad behavior.

Dee's experiences have taught her how to interpret what a dog's behavior means, and as a result, she advocates for a combination of positive reinforcement and teaching a dog to make good behavioral choices. Many times, dog behavior is too quickly punished, but once a dog owner understands why a dog acts a certain way, that behavior can be more easily corrected.

Dee often welcomes dogs into her home to be fostered, finding them good

matches in loving homes who will continue their education when she feels they are ready. One such resident is a border collie named Jax, who she adopted last year. He was 10 months of age at the time. Dee is working on teaching him when and where to use his natural herding instincts and teaching him self-control behaviors in lieu of chasing kids, bicycles, and cars. She will be keeping him.

Dee believes that the key to success is a combination of patience and a willingness to invest the time necessary to work with the animals. There are always tears when a fostered canine friend goes to a new home, but Dee is happy to unite these special cases with equally special people.

With a schedule of consultations and workshops throughout the US and abroad and other books in the works, Dee is as busy as ever. There is no question that Dee finds her work extremely rewarding, and she never forgets a furry face.

HONORED Lisa Braley

Lisa Braley achieved top honors in the Excellent Beginnings Program for her sales accomplishments and professionalism in her first 15 weeks with the Lia Sophia fashion jewelry company.

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OBITUARIES

EDWARD J. CASSIDY, 93, a long time summer resident of East Andover and a former Danbury resident, died Sunday, October 18, in La Mirada, California.

Ed was born December 31, 1915 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a graduate of Bentley College and worked for Commercial Union Insurance in Boston before and after his service in the army until his retirement in 1975.

Ed was a proud World War II veteran. He served in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre in New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon as a technician in the 1061st quartermaster company.

Ed loved building and boats. He built his family's summer cottage on Highland Lake after the war as well as his home in Lexington. He also built a retirement home in Danbury at the age of 60, and, while in his seventies, helped his sons build their homes.

His love of boats began early in life, building his first boat at the age of 12. He shared this passion with his sons and grandchildren throughout his life. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

He was predeceased in 1993 by his wife of 52 years, Nancy Catherine (Kay) Miller.

Ed leaves his wife of 14 years, Ena Carter of La Mirada, California, as well as four sons – Bruce of Watertown, Massachusetts; Jeffrey of Wayland, Massachusetts; Gary of East Andover; and Alan of Boscawen. He also leaves five grandchildren – Jamie Cassidy of Bradford, Massachusetts; Patrick Cassidy of Alexandria; Alicia Cassidy of Brooklyn, New York; Rachel Cassidy of Brighton, Massachusetts; Benjamin Cassidy of Sunapee, and extended family in New Hampshire and California. He is also survived by his sister, Edith Jacquith of Charlottesville, Virginia.

Visiting hours were held on Saturday, November 7, at Chadwick Funeral Home in New London and were followed by a celebration of his life at the home of Alan and Janet Cassidy in Boscawen. A private burial was held at Proctor Cemetery in Andover.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Highland Lake Protective Association, c/o Beth Lind, PO Box 252, East Andover 03231.

NORMAN STILES HARRIS, 70, passed away Tuesday, November 24, 2009 in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Born December 14, 1938, in Con-

cord, to the late Carl Harris and Hazel Barnes Harris, he was a member of both the Concord Police Department and fire department. He also worked for the state of New Hampshire Pollution Control Board. As a captain with the Corps of Engineers, he helped maintain the shipping lanes around Hampton Roads for more than 20 years.

Mr. Harris attended Green Acres Presbyterian and St. Marks United Methodist churches in Portsmouth, Virginia, where he sang in the choirs. He enjoyed playing the organ and was an avid boater.

He was predeceased by his wife, Edna M. Harris, in 2007.

Norman is survived by his loving family, including his two sons, Bradley Harris of Boscawen and Gregory Harris of Northwood; daughter, Amy Harris of Louisville, Kentucky; stepdaughters Cheri Ashburn and husband, Norman, and Patricia Matera-Demers and husband, Lance, all of Andover; two sisters, Thayne Shaddox of Guntersville, Alabama, and Linda Jobses and husband, Gary, of Northborough, Massachusetts; his brother, Howard Harris and wife, Karen, of Merrimack; and six grandchildren, Magen, Erica, Tyler, Miranda, Danyelle, and Connor Harris.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 4416 Expressway Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452.

DAVID A. NEWTON, 66, died November 27, 2009, at home.

He was born August 7, 1943, in Portsmouth, to Lee and Mildred (Meek) Newton.

He was a veteran of the US Army. He was a mason for many years and created many fireplaces. He owned and operated Newton's Auto in East Andover.

He was a quick-witted man and always ready to help others. He enjoyed racing at Canaan and country music.

He loved his family and got great enjoyment from his grandchildren.

Family includes his wife of 41 years, Virginia M. (Corliss) Newton; three sons, Brendan Newton of East Andover, Darby Newton of Newbury, and Daniel Newton of East Andover; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on December 1 at Andover Congregational Church.

Donations may be made to the East Andover Fire Department.



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We are reminded, especially at this time of year, how thankful we are for family and friends. We live in a wonderful community and feel privileged to help so many families at a critical time in their lives. We are also thankful to the groups and organizations who invite us to come and have a conversation with their members about preplanning and funeral service.

Charlie and Marion have met with church groups, Rotary, COA, Retired Nurses, and other folks who gather together for a common interest. If you would like us to come to a meeting or gathering please give us a call.

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KearsargeConnects Bridges Gap Between Local Business And Local Lives

By Samantha Cleveland
KearsargeConnects

Whether you've heard the recent buzz already or you're just now hearing it for the first time, KearsargeConnects has landed in your community. Better still, you are in its community, and it is packed with resources this area has not seen until this time.

Whether you've ever looked for local work or had a job to fill, looked to buy something or looked to sell something, looked for what's happening around town or wanted to tell others about what's happening around town, looked for skilled trade services (say a plumber, an electrician, a stone mason, someone to plow your driveway, etc.) or wanted to tell others about your skilled trade services... if you've ever looked for local artists or musicians or wanted to introduce your music or art, looked for volunteers or wanted to volunteer... if you've ever wanted to share a ride, post or find a resume, find or rent a property, find or expose a resource, business or general community-related issue... then KearsargeConnects might be the resource for you.

KearsargeConnects, having just launched its budding potential at KearsargeConnects.com, was designed to be a comprehensive online community resource, intertwining the local business community with the local non-business community, bringing both aspects of our local economy together in one space. Although in its very early stage of development and in search of local visionaries to help paint its canvas, its mission is to strengthen our communities' economic health by keeping income and resources pumping through our economic veins.

To creator Samantha Cleveland of North Sutton, that means increasing the awareness and exposure of the people, businesses, services, jobs, resources, talent, and events this region has to offer.

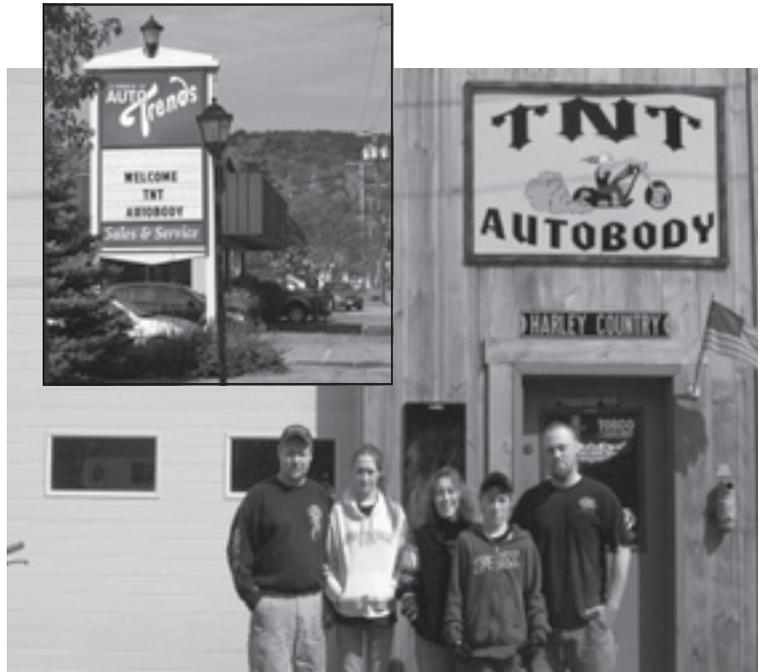
KearsargeConnects serves as a centralized springboard for community connection, co-mingling the necessary

ingredients for any economy to thrive. Hosting as many resources for the non-business community members as it does for the business community, such as free local skilled trade listings for the self-employed, free local artists and musicians listings, free event postings, a local job board, a local resume bank, links to community resources, and a free community bulletin board for posting and finding items for sale or rent, volunteer opportunities, carpooling opportunities, items wanted, general community-related discussion and more, the site is designed to offer something for everyone.

Local businesses who become Business Members benefit from the ebb-and-flow of traffic with listings in the Local Business Directory, advertising on the site, unlimited job posting abilities on the Local Job Board, unlimited for-sale and for-rent postings on the Community Bulletin Board, access to the Local Resume Bank, as well as increased online exposure with Twitter "tweets" by KearsargeConnex about site activity.

"It's not a take-away from any other resource out there. In fact, I encourage people and businesses to establish and maintain as many networking opportunities as they can for ultimate exposure. It's just different in that it's a catch-all for resources and exposure for everyone in our communities. It's kind of like blending Craigslist with Career Builder or Monster, the local Chamber, and non-profit sites all in one," says Samantha. "All it needs now is action – more businesses and individuals to help the garden grow."

KearsargeConnects supports New Hampshire towns in the Kearsarge through Sunapee areas including Andover, Bradford, Claremont, Croydon, Danbury, Elkins, Georges Mills, Goshen, Grafton, Grantham, Henniker, Lempster, Newbury, New London, Newport, Salisbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Unity, Warner, Webster, and Wilmot. Visit KearsargeConnects.com and get connected!



The TNT Auto Body team poses in front of the Andover garage. (L-r) Tom, Jesika, Desirea, Tyler, and Travis Heath. Inset: TNT's new location in Bristol.

TNT AUTOBODY

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

TNT Auto Body of Andover, family owned and operated, has been in business for seven years. Tom Heath is now proud to announce that the company has expanded to a second location at 215 Lake Street in Bristol. This new body shop is located at the rear of the Auto Trends facility (formerly Fuller Ford.) The original location at 8 Stewart Street in Andover is still open, too.

Tom cautions that insurance companies will often "steer" their clients to a certain facility for repairs. That is illegal, he says, and can be more expensive and time-consuming for customers.

"TNT Auto Body is right here in our community. We do insurance collision work. We are taking on new customers and offer free estimates for all your auto body needs, from the smallest ding to the biggest accident – we repair it all. We guarantee and stand behind all our work and are fully licensed. We handle all glasswork at both of our locations."

The Andover facility can handle any size vehicle, from mountain bike to dump truck. And it has! "Snowmobiles, dump trucks, school buses, passenger cars, boats, we do it all," says Tom. "I

well remember the septic/sewer truck we repaired. Whew!"

He also remembers fondly the flying saucer amusement ride he worked on. "The passenger carriages were in the yard, waiting to be individually serviced. When the school bus drove by that afternoon there were little faces in every window, awestruck. They all thought there was a carnival in town."

While TNT can handle any scratch 'n' dent or custom painting job, one of its specialties is chrome, applied by a three-step spray on process. There is a vibrant spectrum of colors that can be applied to virtually any substrate. From baby shoes to motorcycles, if you want it shiny, TNT can do it.

Tom is particularly proud of a set of deer antlers he was commissioned to finish in gold. His work has been featured in the national trade magazines *Hot Bike – Readers' Showcase* and *Fender Bender – Collision Art*.

Tom and his wife Desirea, daughter Jesika, and son Tyler are happy to live in Andover. Tom is very active with the Andover Snowmobile Club, and Desirea coaches softball at AE/MS.

You can reach TNT at 744-8448 (Bristol), 735-4360 (Andover), or TNTAutoBody@tds.net.

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Andover Five Alive Program

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The EAVP preschoolers enjoyed a trip to the East Andover Fire Station in honor of Fire Safety Month. In this photo, Steve Fecteau talks to the children about fire safety.

East Andover Village Preschool

By Doreen Perreault

East Andover Village Preschool

The halls are indeed decked, the tree is lit, and visions of sugarplums are dancing in our heads. The bulletin boards are decorated in stockings and reindeer, and thoughts of a white Christmas linger in our heads.

December is a month of holiday cheer and holiday happenings. Our classrooms are buzzing with excitement. Handmade ornaments decorate our tree, and glittering paper ornaments hang from the walls. It 'tis the season at EAVP.

Our Preschool I children (our youngest group of three year olds) will be decorating gingerbread people, painting with candy canes, and creating a few holiday surprises for our families at home. We will be jingle bell painting, singing, and dancing through the month.

Preschool II children will be building their own gingerbread houses using some sweet treats like gumdrops, candy canes, and gingerbread people. We will be singing about the holiday and, with any luck, we'll be dashing through the snow by month's end.

Our request for St. Nick to visit will hopefully be answered on the 21st and 22nd of the month. With any luck he will have the chance to sneak away from the North Pole for a quick visit to our classrooms. We will end the month by reading *The Polar Express* and enjoying a snack of cookies and milk.

Jack Frost will welcome us into January. We hope to have a good old-fashioned winter, with lots of fluffy white snow. (Notice how I didn't say anything

about ice or snow days?)

It's always exciting to add fresh snow to our indoor water table area – a few drops of food coloring, a few shovels, and a fun-filled morning begins.

During January we will be graphing the weather outdoors and talking more about the changes in the seasons. We will be dressing our weather bear in winter boots, mittens, a hat, and a very warm jacket.

The children will be learning more about winter animals and how they live. We'll be talking about penguins, polar bears, and other winter creatures. We will be lacing our paper-made skates, "sewing" matching mittens, and creating our own snowman. January will be a fun-filled winter month.

As we end 2009 and welcome 2010, we enter our 31st year up on the hill in East Andover. We continue to be thankful to the Andover Congregational Church for allowing us to rent the wonderful space we call home. We look forward to 2010, serving our families and friends in Andover and the many surrounding towns.

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year will begin in January ... yikes! Where does the time go?

If you haven't gotten your registration packet by the end of the month, then please be sure to give us a call at 735-5101. If you are interested in enrolling your child, part time or full time, and haven't called yet, please do so. Space is limited.

From our family to yours, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best New Year!

Andover After School Program Hires New Director

By Bonny Morris
AASP/AFAP Board

We are delighted to announce Michelle Bengivengo as the new Program Director of the Andover Afterschool and Five Alive Programs (AASP/AFAP) at the AE/MS Annex (the building formerly known as the Hamp House). You may know Michelle, as she and her husband Chris are the proprietors of the New England House Bed and Breakfast that recently moved from Main Street to Boston Hill Road.

Michelle joins Amanda Vaine, Suzanne Carmack, Heather Dupont, and Deborah Parkman in caring for the children at the Andover Afterschool and Five Alive Programs.

Michelle grew up in East Andover and attended AE/MS and MVHS. She moved back to Andover in 2006 after spending many years in Florida teaching children and adults.

Michelle has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education from the Maryland Institute College of Art. In addition to innkeeping since returning to Andover, she has been teaching yoga to children at the Proctor Preschool and to adults at the Bachelder Library in East Andover. Many children recognize Michelle from story time at the Andover Library, where she was a tireless volunteer for her moth-

er and town librarian, Priscilla Poulin.

Amanda teaches the morning Five Alive session and teams up with Michelle when both groups of kindergarteners are together during the lunch period. Suzanne, who substituted last year, works for the Kearsarge School District and now joins us each day at the afterschool program, instructing the older children upstairs. Heather and Deb join Michelle caring for the younger children downstairs in the wonderful Annex home.

We want to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our parents, to AE/MS, and to the community for its outpouring of support during the transition and search process. Thank you so much!

Wish List

As the holidays approach, please think of us! We could use:

- Carpets for upstairs rooms
- New or slightly used games and toys
- Cash donations for new flooring
- Healthy snacks and drinks (unwrapped)
- Mittens, hats, scarves

Or you can stop by and pick up an item from our giving tree. Please call 735-6566 if you can help, or e-mail Michelle at AndoverKids@gmail.com.

You can follow us on Facebook where we are Andover Afterschool/Andover Five Alive Programs.

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SANTA CLAUS COMES TO BLUEWATER FARM DECEMBER 13

By Deb Brower

Bluewater Farm and Lodge

How did the holidays get so close ... so fast?

The part that we like the best is the kids' excitement when they see Santa and the yummy treats!

We will have both again this year

up at the Lodge at Bluewater Farm, on Sunday, December 13, from 3 to 5 PM. The Andover Elementary/Middle School PTO will be having a bake sale ... yum!

Jackie and I – the Christmas elves – will be taking pictures so you can save the smiles. We can't wait to see you!

YOUNG LIFE & WYDLIFE

By Beth Frost

Younglife/Wydlife

Our Andover Younglife/Wydlife program is off to a great start this year. The middle school group meets on Monday nights from 6 to 7:15 PM at the Andover Bible Church at 46 Main Street in Andover. We have games, a light meal, and a message. We have been averaging between 18 and 20 kids each week.

The high school group meets at MVHS on Tuesdays after school in the school cafeteria from 2:30 to 4:15 PM. They have games, food, a message, and discussion. Attendance averages between 25 to 35 teens, with lots of group participation.

November 13 was our second monthly club night. This is a night of fun and games followed by a brief talk. It is mostly for the middle school kids, but high school kids are also welcome. (They are great helpers.) This month's

meeting was a night of games, races, and an obstacle course. A great time was had by all, even the parents who stayed to help and watch.

These meetings and club nights are open to *all!* You don't need to be a "member" or "belong" to attend. Anyone is welcome.

The middle school winter camp will be the weekend of January 8 through 10, 2010. Any child who would like to attend should contact Cathy Ellis at 735-5025 as soon as possible, as spots are limited.

We are always in need of paper goods (plates, napkins, cups) if anyone feels the urge to donate.

A special thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and friends who so graciously prepare meals, make desserts, donate drinks and chips, and give their time to help with our meetings. We love you and appreciate you all!

Boy Scouts Troop 489

By Kathy Bennett and Chris Buswell
Pack 489

Boy Scout and Cub Scout Pack 489 collected 452 items of food on Saturday, November 14, for the local food pantry in Andover as part of our annual "Scouting For Food" drive. We're grateful for so many generous donations, and it was rewarding to see the boys filling up the shelves.

Thank you!
The Andover Food Pantry is in the basement of the Andover Town Hall and is open whenever the Town Hall is open. There is no need to sign up, and there are no forms to fill out – if you need food, just come and take what you need. If you can donate non-perishable staple



Cyrus King (r), his brother Wayne, and his dad Jeffrey all helped stock the Andover Food Pantry in the basement of the Town Hall as part of "Scouting for Food."
Photo: Tina Cotton

items, please drop them off at the Pantry whenever the Town Hall is open. Don't forget that many people have dietary restrictions and need low sugar, low fat, low sodium, low cholesterol, etc. choices.

Cub Scouts Pack 489

By Betsy Buswell
Cub Scout Pack 489

October was a fun month for Pack 489. We welcomed new scouts into our pack this fall. They are all working hard to achieve the first rank in cub scouts, which is the Bobcat Trail. This first step in Cub Scouts helps new scouts of all ages learn the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout Motto. This helps to teach a new member some of the core values upon which scouting has been built.

Saturday, October 31, Cub Scout Pack 489 and Boy Scout Troop 489 joined together in our first Halloween pumpkin display on the Village Green in Andover. Many of our scouts and their families gathered together the previous Wednesday evening to carve close to 60 pumpkins! The boys carved everything from scary faces, to witches. We even had a vomiting Frankenstein. (Obviously, he ate too much candy after trick-or-treating.)

We would all like to say a big thank-you to Black Forest Nursery of Boscawen, Spring Ledge Farm of New London, and our Pack 489 families for all of the donated pumpkins. Without them we would not have been able to have such a wonderful display.

Scouting For Food

This November we had our big Scouting for Food drive for the Andover Food Pantry. We had a wonderful outpouring of support. All of the donated food was sorely needed. We will do our best to closely monitor the need for food donations in the future and possibly host some extra food drives during the "dry seasons."

One of our next goals for the month of December is sending our support to our military troops overseas. We hope to possibly "adopt" a soldier or two and send letters and care packages to our troops overseas.

I have heard many soldiers say how much the letters, pictures, and small gifts sent to them from home can mean, knowing they are not forgotten. What a wonderful way for our boys to learn to help, not just with money that their parents might donate to a cause, but with pictures that they drew and letters that they wrote.

As we enter into the holiday season, we will think of our families, our neighbors, and, let's face it ... vacation. Let us also remember the many people who might be alone this year.

Have a wonderful holiday, Andover, and a very happy New Year.

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Blue Storm Winter Sports

Indoor Soccer

Blue Storm Sports will be offering indoor soccer beginning the middle of January for 12 weeks. All games are held at Fieldhouse Sports in Bow. There are six teams ranging from ages eight to 16.

Anyone with questions or interested in joining a team, please e-mail BlueStormSports@yahoo.com.

Indoor Lacrosse

Blue Storm Sports will be offering an eight-week indoor lacrosse program on Saturdays beginning February 6. This program will be held at the Concord Sports Center. There will be three leagues:

Beginners, 5 to 6 PM

U-11, 6 to 7 PM

U-13, 7 to 8 PM

The cost is \$100/player, and each league is open to the first 20 players to sign up. Beginner league equipment furnished for program only. U-11 and

U-13 players must provide their own full gear.

Signups will be held at the Concord Sports Center on January 4, 6, 13, 14, and 16 from 5 to 7 PM each day. All inquiries please contact Al Rattee at RatteeAjrsr@yahoo.com.

Outdoor Spring Lacrosse

Signups for spring lacrosse divisions U-11 and U-13 will be held at the Concord Sports Center on January 25 and 27 from 5 to 7 PM; on January 30 from 11 AM to 2 PM; and on February 6 from 2 to 5 PM. The cost is \$100/player, and each division is open to the first 20 players to sign up.

Full gear will be available for the U-11 division at a rental fee of \$25 for the season, and other gear will be available for purchase. Please bring to sign-ups recent proof of physical (since April 2009). All inquiries please contact Al Rattee at RatteeAjrsr@yahoo.com.

KEARSARGE YOUTH HOCKEY

By Joe Stearns

Kearsarge Youth Hockey Coach

The 2009-2010 Kearsarge Girls U14/12 team faced off against the Junior Monarchs Pee wee House team at Proctor Academy on November 7 in their first scrimmage of the season, winning 2-1.

The ladies are in a rebuilding year, with only two returning players from last year. They played well against the Monarchs, who came to town with superior numbers.

Kearsarge managed to score early with center Fallon Adair hitting the back of the net. Later in the game, Fallon again hit pay dirt on a great second effort attempt after gathering her own rebound and lifting it over the prone Monarch net minder.

The Schechter sisters, Samantha and Stephanie, each had great opportunities to score, only to be foiled by last-minute dives by Monarch defensive players.

Kearsarge's defensive core, lead by Kelsie Dalton and Maddie Folcik, kept the Monarchs at bay throughout the

game. Morgan Sebor and Lucas Windsor did a super job at back checking and regaining the puck.

Sarah Beattie was strong in front of the Kearsarge net and let in only one goal, a laser beam shot from the top of the face-off circle that found the upper right corner of her net.



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Andover Academy of Self Defense

By Heidi Terwilliger

Andover Academy of Self Defense

Three students at Andover Academy of Self Defense have tested and advanced in rank.

James Clough tested on June 17 and Ethan Reed tested on November 7. Both boys advanced to Yellow Belt in the Little Tigers class.

Cody Muzzey also tested on October 14 and received the rank of Orange Belt.

Nathan French also attended the Alliance Tournament on November 15 at Londonderry High School. He took first place in weapons and open hand katas and competed in sparring..



(L-r) James Clough, Nathan French, Ethan Reed. Photo: Heidi Terwilliger

Andover Academy of Self Defense

Come check out a **FREE** class!



Little Tigers (from age 4)	Mon/Wed 5:30 - 6:00 PM
Tigers (beginners)	Mon/Wed 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Dragons (advanced)	Tue/Thu 6:00 - 7:00 PM
All Kids	Saturday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Adults	Mon/Wed 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM 7:00 - 8:00 PM

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Freshman Cam Wood (r) had a goal and an assist to lead his team to a 2-1 victory over New Hampton School at the Tilton School Powderkeg. Cam is pictured with Coach Daniel Garvey. Photo: Karen Frink

Cam Wood Named MVP Of Tilton School JV B Soccer Team

By Coach Daniel Garvey
Tilton Boys Junior Varsity B Soccer

The Tilton School Rams junior varsity B soccer team was a very young team this year. We returned one player from last year, and the entire team was comprised of freshmen and sophomores. Captains for the year were Hunter Julius, Cameron Wood of Andover, and Dimitri Kaye.

With a young team, the key goals this year were skill building and teamwork. We had a very mixed level of experience: some students had played a few years of organized soccer while others were playing an organized sport for the first time in their lives!

Our 3-10 record does not do our team justice. We frequently played teams at the junior varsity A or varsity level throughout the year. The Rams split their two games with Proctor, defeated

Dublin, and defeated New Hampton to close out the season.

That last victory was a fitting end to the season. The first game of the year, the Rams lost to New Hampton 6-0. On the final day of the season, the Rams beat New Hampton 2-1. Those "bookends" underscore the vast improvement the Rams made over the course of the season. Frankly, the boys bought into a team mentality, and that mentality prevailed at the end of the year.

Team awards went to Edison Kim (most improved) and Cam Wood (most valuable). Besides being one of the team captains, Cam led the Rams in scoring throughout the season. However, he won the MVP award for his fantastic and consistent effort on the pitch.

The Rams' outlook for next fall looks great, especially with a slew of returning players. Go Rams!

Kris Freeman Fourth In World Cup Skiing

By Concord Monitor staff and wire

From the November 30 Concord Monitor

Kuusamo, Finland – Andover's Kris Freeman finished a career-best fourth yesterday in the men's 15-kilometer classic style skiing World Cup race, and in the process posted the best non-sprint finish for a US skier in a World Cup race in more than 26 years.

The last American to finish on the podium in a non-sprint race was Tim Caldwell, who placed second in a 15K in Anchorage, Alaska, in March of 1983.

"I did ski what I thought was my best race ever today," said Freeman, who was only 32nd after five kilometers. "... Overall it was really what I had hoped to do today, except that I would have liked to have been 10 seconds faster and have won."

Norway's Petter Northug, the World Cup runner-up last season, won the race. The 23-year-old started slowly and was in 12th place after five kilometers. He moved up to third by 10 kilometers and managed to cross the line just ahead of Russia's Maxim Vylegzhanin to win in 35 minutes, 22.2 seconds. Vylegzhanin, the leader at five and 10 kilometers, finished in 35:23.4 and fellow Russian Alexander Legkov was third in 35:30.1. Freeman crossed in 35:32.3.

According to US Coach Pete Vordenberg, Freeman's finish was something they had been working on throughout his summer training.

"He finished really strong, which has been a huge focus for us to have them finish the last 5K strong," Vordenberg said. "Regardless of his place, just the fact that he finished so strong, I would have been really happy with it."

While Freeman was pleased with his showing, he feels he can improve before the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February.

"Everything is about the Olympics this year, and certainly I take a lot of confidence from this," he said. "I haven't done a ton of hard intervals yet, so hopefully there is more fitness to be gained."

Vordenberg agrees that there is still an opportunity to enhance Freeman's fitness and make him podium-ready.

"We haven't put on a lot of extra hard training to get those last couple seconds he needs to win, but we'll definitely be doing that for the Olympics," Vordenberg said. "But, he's in a really good place fitness-wise. We've been working on having him finish these races stronger. He used to start pretty strong and fade. So we worked on him pacing it better and being stronger toward the end of the race."

Blackwater Ski Area

Blackwater Ski Area has 2009/2010 season ski passes available. The cost of the pass is \$75 per family and includes the use of ski jumping, cross country skiing, and alpine skiing. Snow making is slated to begin on Thursday, December 3, but is dependent upon the weather.

For those interested in competition, Blackwater Ski Team has an alpine racing team coached by Garry George which includes all coaching, as well as a ski camp. Equipment is not available. For more information, contact Garry at 735-5684.

Ski jumping is also available. The Andover Outing Club Ski Jump program is open to children ages six through 13. Andover kids seem to be pretty good at it. Folks of all ages are welcome. We have several masters jumpers for instance. Kids will enjoy the sport more

after a year of alpine skiing.

The cost for the program is \$165, which includes equipment and instruction. Andover residents are always welcome to come and give ski jumping a try. For more information, contact Tim Norris at 735-5369.

AE/MS students in grades one through eight interested in cross-country skiing are invited to join the AOC and Proctor Nordic Ski Team for the Winter Fun program, consisting of cross-country lessons and fun and games on skis. The program will run on Thursday afternoons beginning in January. The program cost is \$25 for under 14 and \$40 for 14 and older, which includes New England Nordic Ski Association membership. Equipment is free, but limited. For more information, contact Peter Southworth at Peter_Southworth@proctornet.com or 344-4874.



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Town Ski And Snowboard Program

The town ski and snowboard program, which is held Friday afternoons in January, will be starting at the beginning of 2010. If you have not signed up your child, please do so now. Contact Ellie George at 735-5590 to sign up or

for more information.

Ice Skating

When it gets cold enough, the town will also have an ice skating rink on the basketball court at Village Park next to the Town Hall. This is instead of the ice rink that is usually constructed at Blackwater Park each year. The rink will be open evenings until 9 PM for public skating.

THE 15TH!!!!

Please have everything to the Beacon by the 15th of each month!

National Art Honors Society At MVHS Inducts Curtis Blodgett

By Becca Lance
Beacon staff

On Thursday, December 3, MVHS senior Curtis Blodgett from Andover was inducted into the National Art Honors Society (NAHS) at Merrimack Valley High School. NAHS is an extra-curricular club that offers students an opportunity to exhibit their artwork in the school and community. Any sophomore, junior, or senior who maintains a B average in a semester-long art class is eligible for NAHS.

The art faculty recommends students based on leadership, character, and their love for art. The application process entails a paper on why the student believes they should be accepted into this society and the submission of a piece of original art work that they believe is worthy of being accepted. This club is advised by Robin Denham and Erin Fitzgerald, who review the applications.

Curtis is currently taking Portfolio art class with Ms. Fitzgerald. His favorite art medium, and the one he thinks



Curtis Blodgett and the painted picture of a snowboarder that he submitted with his application to the National Art Honors Society.

Photo: Becca Lance

he's best at, is scratch board, because it is very different from other mediums. Although he is not sure what he will be majoring in next year in college, he enjoys art very much.



Orographic lifting leads to adiabatic cooling, which puts Mount Kearsarge's head in a cloud on a sunny day.
Photo by: Eric Viandier

Andover Science Nuggets

By Eric Viandier
Proctor Science Teacher

You may have noticed on a cloud-free sunny day that one lonely cloud hovers over Mount Kearsarge. Ragged Mountain seldom offers such meteorological events, primarily because it is just not quite as high (2,250 feet for Ragged versus 2,937 feet for Kearsarge, roughly).

The cloud forms when the winds force the warmer humid air from the valley to ascend the slopes of Kearsarge, a process called orographic lifting. As the air rises, it meets less and less atmospheric pressure and expands. As it expands, it cools by adiabatic cooling. This is the same physical property you experience, for example, from a very cold spray escaping a pressurized can or the cold air from the valve while deflating a tire.

As the air cools, it eventually can

reach its dew point, the temperature at which it is saturated with water vapor. If the air continues to rise and cools below its dew point, then condensation occurs: the water vapor, a gas, condenses into fine liquid water droplets in suspension in the air. Fog is forming, and the mountain top is in the cloud.

In the larger realm of orographic lifting, the rate of cooling of the air ascending and expanding is 1 degree Celsius per 100 meters of elevation change.

For example, Andover is at roughly 600 feet above sea level, and Kearsarge culminates at 2,937 feet. If the temperature in Andover is 59 degrees with a dew point of 50 degrees and that air is rising over Kearsarge, a cloud could form on Kearsarge at an altitude of about 2,300 feet, leaving the top 600+ feet in the fog.

The result? A sunny hike with no view at the top!

MVHS Fall Sports Wrap-up

By Kevin O'Brien
MVHS Athletics Administrator

The fall athletic season has come to a close. Overall, the fall was very productive. Many of our teams and individuals athletes reached goals that were set in the beginning of the 2009 season.

Golf

The team missed the tournament by one position. The players and coach were real pleased with our overall improvement.

Field Hockey

After winning the State Championship last season and graduating 11 seniors, the team was able to bypass the "re-building" process and establish their own identity. They finished the season with a 12-5-1 record and lost to Hanover in the semi-finals. Elizabeth Stearns and Emily Laro both played on the varsity team, and Edie Corey, India Thompson, Chantel Caron, and Ashleigh Fife played on the junior varsity.

Girls Soccer

The team started the season with a new coach (Kyle Reed, math teacher at MVHS), and as the players became familiar with the coach and new system they became more productive on the field. The team finished one position out of making the playoffs, but did win the most games the program has won in the past three seasons.

Boys Soccer

The boys program finished the season with a 12-5-1 record and lost in the quarter-finals to #1-ranked Hanover 2-0.

The boys and girls varsity and junior varsity soccer teams were only issued a total of one yellow card and no red

cards. This is quite an accomplishment! It is not unusual for schools to have as many as 20 or more cards among their four teams.

Merrimack Valley High School served as a host site for the NHIAA Soccer Tournament for the seventh consecutive year.

On the junior varsity team this year were Brendan Coll, Adam Ellis, and Shrief Elmasry.

Football

The football team finished the season with a 4-5 record and an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament as we entered the last game of the season. The team did lose the last game to Hanover 14-7 and did not make the playoffs.

Playing on the varsity team were Henry Bendel, Jesse Coffey, and Nick Shaw. Dylan Howe played JV.

Boys and Girls Cross Country

The boys and girls cross country teams had another strong season, with the girls team finishing Class I State Runner Up to Hanover High School. Our team qualified for the Meet of Champions held November 7 at Nashua High School. Greg Hewitt ran on the boys team.

Spirit

The Spirit team competed in two competitions: Bow High, and the Capitol Area Invitationals. The team placed second in both competitions and competed on November 8 at the state meet in Manchester at SNHU.

DONATE!
The *Beacon* relies on voluntary donations for a substantial part of its budget.



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AE/MS Parent-Teacher Organization

By Carmen Bates
AE/MS PTO

A Parent Teacher Organization meeting was held on November 9 in the school library.

Kat Darling, a local farmer, came to present an idea of growing a garden in the courtyard of the school yard. This is in the early stages of planning, and she is simply feeling out the support for this project. It would be her hope to have the kids and staff use the garden in all areas of learning, from the preparing and harvesting to the study of insects and care of the land. The vegetables could be used in school lunches.

We support her and will help any way we can. Parent feedback of this idea has been very good.

Karen Holman took pictures at the Grandparents Thanksgiving of the kids with their grandparents again this year. The pictures came out great! Thank you, Karen, and if you would like a digital copy of your picture, e-mail me with the child's name. The pictures will be on display the whole month of December in the school.

Popcorn Friday response has been great. PTO members make popcorn and deliver it to the classrooms for a snack every Friday. This is for all classes, including afternoon kindergarten.

You can purchase popcorn for your child for the entire year and save the trouble of forgetting to send in a quarter each week. Simply send in \$6 in an envelope marked "Popcorn."

We have purchased our own machine, and it will be a good investment. It is also *blue!* We will be able to use the machine for many other functions at the school. We need parents to help every Friday at 7:30 AM with popcorn. Thank you to Becky, Mel, Michelle, Amy, and Liz for helping with this.

The Holiday Shoppe for our children will be on Friday, December 11. This is when our children can shop for their immediate family members. Any items that you would like to donate to this can be dropped off at the school. Any parents that want to help the day of the sale should let me know.

Wreaths were decorated in the gym on the morning of Saturday, December 5, starting as early as 8 AM and continuing until done. We had music, coffee, and good food, and people did a little shopping, as the Andover Recycling Committee's Swap Shop was holding its sale that day also in the gym. We get a lot of wreaths, and we needed lots of help to decorate them and make

the town look festive! Thank you to everyone who came and helped.

The Bluewater Farm is having a Christmas party on Sunday, December 13, from 3 to 5 PM, and the PTO will be having a bake sale there. We need lots of baked goodies! This will be the kick off fundraiser to raise money for a new curtain for the AE/MS gym/lunch room.

The current curtain is very old and *badly* in need of cleaning. The age of the curtain, its condition, and the price of cleaning weighed against the cost of a new one has been discussed, and for now we will focus on raising money. Take a look up close at it the next time you are in the school, and you will see how dirty it is. Please stop by and purchase some baked goods at the Bluewater Farm Christmas party!

Veterans Day at AE/MS was a great turn out! Thank you to all of the parents who baked and to Jake's for donating coffee to our veterans.

Original Artwork orders are sent in and will arrive before Christmas break. If you missed ordering, you can still do so, it just won't be here in time for Christmas. The artwork was amazing this year!

The coffee machine is being enjoyed in the staff lounge.

Continue to collect ink cartridges, box tops, and Hannaford dollars. They all add up and give the school money!

We have two beautiful new additions to the library murals. One was done by a local artist, Tom Barber. You can check out this Web site to learn more about him: ArtPolonaise.com/Thomas%20Barber.htm The painting he did is based on the series by Percy Jackson called *The Lighting Thief*.

The second painting was done by a parent, Deana Crucitti, and it is of the much-loved children's book, *The Kissing Hand*. We are lucky to have them share their incredible talent: Thank you! We still have a few more murals being painted and have a couple of blank ones if anyone is interested in painting one.

The Eagle Store is getting a great response from the kids this year, and thanks to Mel is being stocked with awesome items. Staff members will get a coupon on their birthday to pick one item from The Eagle Store. The kids earn wings and then can spend them at The Eagle Store.

You can contact me with any questions or to let me know how you would like to help out: Carmen Bates, CarmenBates@comcast.net, 344-9855.

MVHS Student Of The Month Nominees

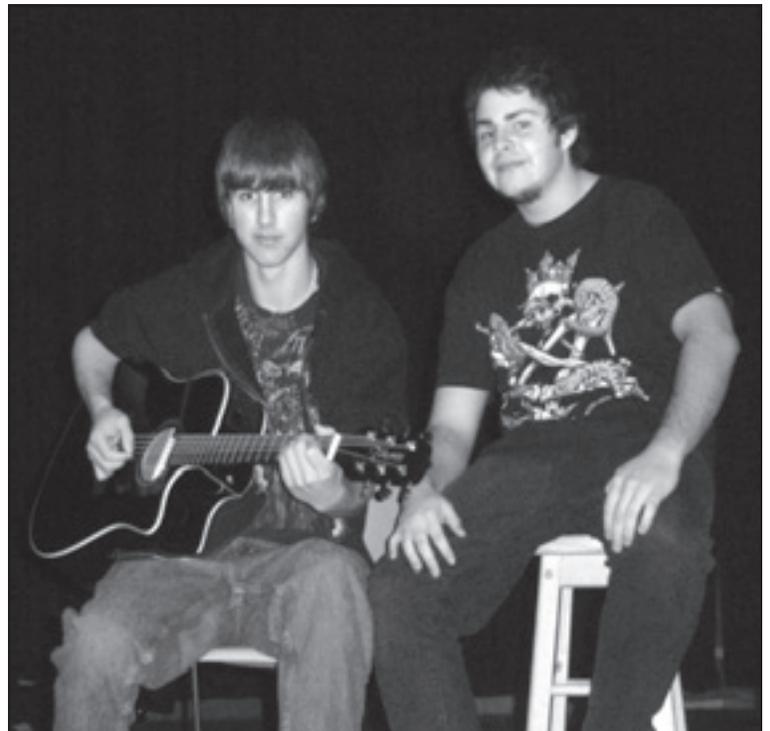
The following Andover students were nominated by the faculty and staff of MVHS as Student of the Month for October:

- Jason Ashburn
- Katie Keller
- Marissa Laro
- Norbu Dickinson
- Greg Hewitt
- Dylan Howe

• Josh Wagner
The following were nominated as Student of the Month for November:

- Norbu Dickinson
- Kristi Perreault
- Emily Laro
- Chantal Caron

Nominated students must exhibit good character, leadership, service, and scholarship.



Merrimack Valley High School held its annual talent show on November 5 in the school auditorium. Among the many acts was sophomore Jesse Coffey (l) from Andover. He performed with another MVHS student, senior Cory Arsenault from Webster.

Jesse played the guitar and they both sang two songs: *Rooster* by Alice in Chains and *Wonderwall* by Oasis. This duo took second place, and Jesse says that they were "humble to be on the stage with so many talented people. It was an amazing show." Photo and caption: Becca Lance

MVHS Honor Roll

2009/2010 - First Term • Andover Students

2010 • High Honors

- Tenzin Dickinson
- Gregory Hewitt

2010 • Honors

- Curtis Blodgett
- Joshua Bond
- Amy Lamos
- Timothy McDaniel
- Stephanie Nelson
- Elizabeth Rego
- Elizabeth Stearns
- Joshua Wagner
- Cory Wiley

2011 • High Honors

- Shawna Barton
- Brianna Keniston
- Rebecca Lance

2011 • Honors

- Henry Bendel
- Norbu Dickinson
- Jacob Frost
- Emily Laro

2012 • Honors

- Danielle Adams
- Chantal Caron
- Jesse Coffey
- Brendan Coll
- Michael Donovan
- Ashleigh Fife
- Matthew Michael
- Joseph Rego

2013 • High Honors

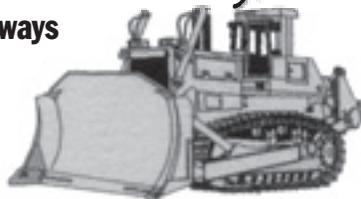
- Jason Ashburn
- Alexis King
- Mariah Lansdown-Howard
- Kristi Perreault

2013 • Honors

- Charles Barry
- Ethan Barton
- Stephanie Croteau
- Jenna Davis
- Timothy Grover
- Dylan Howe
- Marissa Laro

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Jared (I) and Erin Frost, their grandparents, Tim and Pat Frost; and Deb Converse (seated) enjoyed Grandparents Thanksgiving together at AE/MS.

Photo: Karen Holman

Pearl Harbor and 9/11: Two Days America Stood Still

By Maddie Trefethen
AE/MS Grade 8

On December 7, 1941, the Pearl Harbor military base was bombed by Japanese aircrafts and submarines. Then 60 years later on September 11, 2001, the Al-Qaeda terrorist group hijacked American airplanes and struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Both of these days our country stood still, very devastated and shocked by these tragic events that will never be forgotten.

December 7, 1941 was the first time in a while that a major event such as a bombing had happened on American soil. It was this December Sunday morning at 7:55 AM that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii with their aircrafts and submarines. No one was expecting anything like this to happen, and then out of nowhere the attack came, killing more than 2,300 people. This was what started World War II, all because the United States was willing to fight back.

September 11, 2001 was the second time in 60 years that a major attack from another country happened on American soil. It was at 8:45 AM that the north tower of the World Trade Center got hit by an American airplane that was hijacked by terrorists from Iraq. It was Osama Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda terrorist group who were responsible. Then about 20 minutes later at 9:05 AM, the south tower was struck.

Later the Pentagon was also hit. A total of over 3,000 people were killed, more than in the Pearl Harbor bombing. This was a total shock to all Americans, and then the war in Iraq had begun.

These two very important days are connected in a few unique ways. To start with, both of these days were surprise attacks that happened in American territory, and in both attacks, airplanes played a major role. These two events also caused wars to start. Pearl Harbor started World War II, and 9/11 started the war in Iraq. Over 2,000 people were killed in each attack brought on by two foreign countries. On both of these days Americans watched in horror at what was happening to our country; it was like the world instantly stopped.

America should never forget these two days, not ever. The reason for this is because on these two fatal, tragic days many innocent lives were lost, and our country was forever changed. Everyone stopped everything they were doing to tune into these events. We should never forget the lives and loved ones that were lost, those who died for our country. They are all very important, whether they died or survived, because they served our country on those days. Hopefully, no one will ever forget these two days. The people who were there definitely won't forget these world-stopping days, and the rest of our country shouldn't either.

The Dates We Will Never Forget

By Samuel Barrett
AE/MS Grade 8

The attack on Pearl Harbor and 9/11 are similar to each other and both affected our country. Both incidents took our country by surprise and made us stronger and more determined. We will remember these dates forever in our United States history.

December 7, 1941 and September 11, 2001 are similar in many ways. First, both events made our country unite and work together to help each other. These incidents united our country like nothing else could. These two incidents united our people and that is why we won the war and continue to do well stopping terrorist organizations in the Middle East. We all supported the war efforts and helped each other get through the hard times.

Also, the American people responded very quickly to these tragic events. They didn't wait around for someone else to take command of helping the hurt men and women. They took the initiative and helped the hurt ones themselves.

Last, both of these dates made the United States people stronger, more determined, and more resolved. The Japanese and al-Qaeda thought that it would only hurt us. It did hurt us a lot, but in the end it made us stronger and

more determined. These groups should be afraid of us because now we're very dangerous. Pearl Harbor and 9/11 are very similar dates.

We will never forget Pearl Harbor and 9/11. We will not forget them because so many innocent American people died tragically on these two dates. More people died on 9/11 than at Pearl Harbor or on D-Day in World War II. Also, this was the first time something tragic like these events really happened in United States history. No time before Pearl Harbor had our enemy snuck up on us and bombed, killed, and destroyed most of our battleships and people in the area. Before 9/11, no terrorist organization captured United States commercial aircraft and purposely crashed into one of our more important buildings and killed many people. We will not forget the dates December 7, 1941 and September 11, 2001.

The events of Pearl Harbor and 9/11 are very similar to each other in different ways. The American people will never forget these events because they were so tragic and quick. One minute the World Trade Center was there; the next minute it was gone, and made into rubble. These two events, Pearl Harbor and 9/11, are among the most important events in our United States history.

Thanksgiving Thoughts

By Mr. Wiley's third grade class

I am thankful for Guitar Hero Five. I always play on free play. It is fun and fantastic!

– Myles Powers

I'm thankful for my family. They always support me. I want them to have a great Thanksgiving. And I love them.

– Savannah Pease

I am thankful for my food. Food is part of my life. My favorite foods are cookies, candy, water, pizza, garlic bread, and butter.

– Alexis Cate

I am thankful for Christmas. My parents buy me gifts. I go to my Grammy's house for Christmas. I also go to my neighbor's house for gifts, too.

– Kathryn Thompson

I am thankful for my mom. I am thankful for my mom because she is sweet.

– Samantha Parkman

I am thankful for wrestling. I was able to go two times. When I went the first time I got to go with my cousins. I got to see my favorite wrestlers. When I went my second time I got to go with my sisters. I got a t-shirt and a mask. I hope I will be able to go again.

– Donald Rankins

I am thankful for spending my Halloween at my uncle's. I got lots of candy. My candy basket was almost full. I had a cool skeleton costume and my mask was green. The rest of my costume was black. I was the Grim Reaper.

– Dylan Jewell

I am thankful for my grandparents for coming. While they are here I can do more fun things than usual. Also, sometimes they bring surprises. Sometimes they take me to a museum. I like it when my grandparents come.

– David Reynolds

I am thankful for my dog Jack. He is so cute. He likes to play ball. He does

not like to go after sticks. Jack is not mean and is a good dog. He likes to see chickens. He is very smart. He is the greatest dog in the world.

– Jesse Wagner

I am thankful for Christmas. Santa comes and we leave cookies and milk. We get to buy stuff for other people. We always have our whole family come, and everybody in the family gets presents. It's fun watching other people open their presents.

– Chase Davis

I am thankful that at my grandmother's house I can put my toys anywhere I want. My grandmother's house is really cool.

– Kyle Keyser

I am thankful for my Meme and Pepe coming to Thanksgiving.

– Kimberly Dumont

I am thankful for our neighbor's horses. One day my neighbor's horse was loose. I saw the horse over by Emo's house. I went over to the horse. Jack went "Woof, woof;" and the horse ran all the way to the barn. I opened the fence, and the horse went into the gate. I closed the gate, and the next day I told Emo and Melanie that I got the horse back in the pasture. She thanked me for putting the horse in the pasture. She was so happy!

– Jared Frost

I am thankful for my family and friends. They give me love. Sometimes they make my dreams come true. Once, on my seventh birthday, I heard, "Go get in the car." I asked why. They said we were going to pick up one of my friends. My mom and I got in the car, and my mom drove up the hill. My mom knew I wanted to ride a horse. We did not go to my friend's house. We went to the farm to go horseback riding. It was fun.

– Hannah French

ODD JOBS WANTED!

Two Andover boys (ages 14 and 16) are looking for odd jobs at homes in the Andover area. Willing to stack wood, mow lawns, clean up yards, walk dogs, etc.

735-5206



The cast of *To the Dungeon with You!*, which was written and performed by AE/MS grade two: Back (l-r): Hannah Asbury, spider; Victoria Braley, black cat; Tempest Pryzbyla, skeleton; Garrett Munson, Candy Corn; Riley Keezer, Haunted Tree; Chase Keyser, Haunted Gravestone; Ethan Davis, Banana Bob; Brianna Tilton, Witch Narrator; Madalyn Goodwin, Ghost; Cyrus King, Scary Dude; Shaelyn Hanlon, Bat; Vienna Marcus, Scary Fairy. Front: Susan Morrall, Vampire; William Furtkamp, Snake; Caleb Chevarie, Headless Guy; Ronan Walsh, Football Player; Hunter Hawks, Knight; Braydon Kraft, Gorilla; Madisyn Brayshaw, Zombie.

Photo by: Gretchen Hildebrand

AE/MS Second Grade Halloween Play

By Jessica Lewis
AE/MS Grade 4

In October, the second graders from Ms. Hildebrand's classroom and Mr. Jensen's classroom performed an entertaining Halloween play for the enjoyment of families and younger students. This Halloween play was very comical.

All the second grade students had great costumes! Headless Horseman and Haunted Tree were both particularly well crafted.

The second grade students created the whole play themselves. They imagined the characters and wrote the script to include everyone in a well-put-together story. They practiced their skit and built their own props. It took them almost a month because they could only use part of every day to work on it.

The narrator, Brianna Tilton, was a very good reader. All the second grade students were talented actors. Thank you, second graders!

AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

The colder weather has arrived. The school building has been buttoned up warm for winter. Storm windows are down, storm doors are closed, and new weather stripping is framing many doorways. Touch-up painting is being done to the exterior of the building to hold us until spring. The sidewalk has been completed and looks wonderful, but more importantly, will provide a safe passage for our students and community.

November, always an incredibly busy month at Andover Elementary/Middle School, didn't disappoint. We hosted two big events: Veterans Day and Grandparents Thanksgiving. Personally, I think both were better than ever this year because of the newly painted gym. The gym is so much brighter and appears larger with the natural light and light-colored floor.

Eagles Basketball

Seventh and eighth grade basketball teams have gotten an early start to the season. Coach Tucker ran open gym practices before the Thanksgiving break. Our basketball teams are very happy to be playing on the new gym floor. What a difference! Coaches Jim Tucker and Chris Cloutier are looking forward to a great season with the Andover Eagles.

Holiday Concerts

We are doing something a little different with the holiday concert this year. We are having two concerts! The first holiday program on December 10, was for students in kindergarten through fifth grade to perform with their classes. The second holiday program, on Thursday, December 17, is more of an instrumental evening for the three bands.

It has been difficult to combine it all in one evening. The second concert will give us an opportunity to showcase our talented musicians (all 60 of them). There will still be some band music during the first concert, but not to the extent there has been in the past.

The students are already singing and playing in preparation. As part of the rehearsal schedule to prepare for the concert, our bands will perform at Merrimack County Nursing Home.

All are invited to come and enjoy both winter concerts! It's always fun to see the kindergarten students (all 34 of them) take the stage for their first time!

The Holiday Shoppe will be held on Friday, December 11. This is the much-anticipated shopping day for all students. It gives the students an opportunity to

surprise their family members with gifts they pick out all by themselves. Due to the generosity of the community and PTO we are able to have a bountiful Holiday Shoppe every December.

Holiday wreath decorating took place in the gym on December 5. Wreath orders were received from community members and local businesses. After the orders were filled, another 20 wreaths were decorated and delivered to all the Town buildings. This has become a fun tradition and a great way to start the season.

Congratulations to seventh grade student Austin Hawks! Austin is the AE/MS geography champion for the second year in a row and will now proceed to the next phase of the National Geographic Geography Bee by taking a written examination. Good luck, Austin, and congratulations to all the finalists!

Friday Winter Sports

The Town of Andover is once again generously making the ski program available and affordable to Andover families. The first ski day is Friday, January 8. Students have the opportunity to alpine ski or snowboard at Ragged Mountain.

Any questions regarding this program should be directed to Ellie and Howard George. Participating students will be dismissed early on Friday afternoons to participate in the Town program.

Those students who do not ski on Friday afternoons will have the opportunity to skate at the Proctor Academy rink. We appreciate Proctor Academy staff for making this possible once again. Skaters will return to school in time for dismissal. Skating will also start on Friday, January 8. Students must have skates and helmets. We do have some skates available at school.

We will also make snowshoeing available as an activity on Friday afternoons.

Congratulations to the large number of Andover students who were named to the Honor Roll at MVHS for the first marking period! (See the list on page 46.)

Grades closed for the first trimester at AE/MS on December 4, and report cards will be sent home on or before December 18. Fall parent/teacher conferences have been held, but a conference may always be requested at any time during the school year.

Student Leadership Team

The Andover Student Leadership Team is working on the Long Range Plan for AE/MS. The students will provide input, ideas, and suggestions be-

See News on page 49

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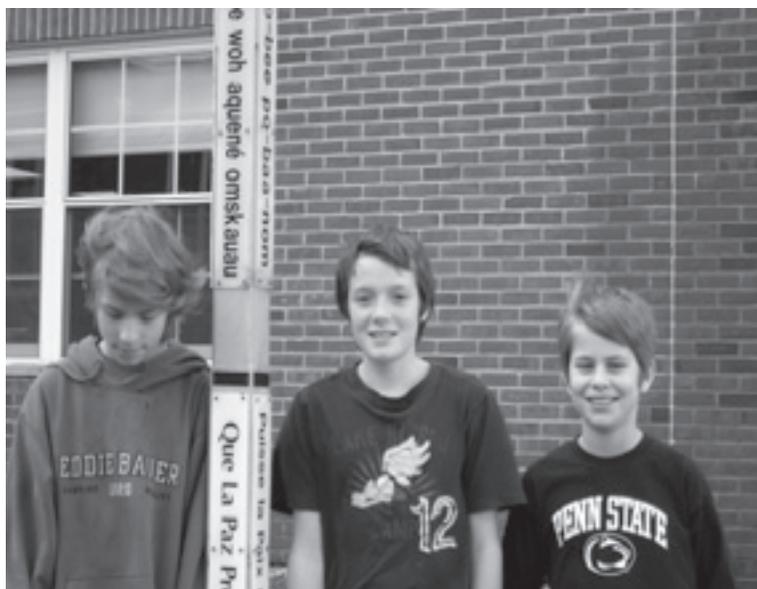
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AE/MS finalists in the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest were Josiah Wagner, winner; Keith Davis, first runner-up; and Max Barrett, second runner-up. Photo: Jane Slayton

AE/MS Peace Poster Finalists

By Bill Leber
Andover Lions Club

Josiah Wagner, a sixth grade student at Andover Elementary/Middle School, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Andover Lions Club.

Josiah's poster was among more than 375,000 entries submitted worldwide in the 22nd annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

Josiah is the 12-year-old son of Reverend John and Amy Wagner of Depot Street in Andover.

The poster was selected by a committee of judges for its

originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the contest theme, "The Power of Peace." The judging was held on November 13, 2009 at the school.

Eula Epperly, Andover Lions Club President, said she was impressed by the expression and creativity of the students at Andover Elementary/Middle School. "It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."

Josiah's poster will advance to face stiff competition through the district, multiple district, and international rounds of competition if he is to be declared the international grand prize winner. One grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners will be selected.

The grand prize includes a cash award of \$2,500 plus a trip for the winner and two family members to New York City for the awards cer-

emony at Lions Day with the United Nations. The 23 merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of \$500.

"Our club is cheering for Josiah as his poster advances in the competition, and we hope that his vision will ultimately be shared with others around the world," Epperly said.

Selected as the first runner-up was Keith Davis, and the second runner-up was Max Barrett. A total of 20 sixth graders participated in the contest.

Locally, Josiah and the other student participants were honored for

their participation by the Andover Lions Club on December 10 at the Andover Elementary/Middle School Winter Concert.

The Andover Lions Club greatly appreciates the

cooperation of AE/MS Principal Jane Slayton and the staff of AE/MS for their assistance in making this an interesting and exciting program for the youngsters of our community. Some day we hope to have the Grand Prize winner.



Josiah Wagner's poster won the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest.

38 AE/MS Students Test With High Abilities

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

Thirty-eight AE/MS students in grades four through eight were identified as being eligible to participate in the 2009-2010 Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Program through John Hopkins University. The purpose of the program is to identify, assess, and recognize high academic abilities. In order to be considered, a student must score in the 95% percentile or higher or have state test results categorized at the highest level of performance in mathematics and/or verbal reasoning.

Qualified students can consider it an honor and leave it at that, or they can take the next step and register with the Center for Talented Youth for further testing.

Students in grades four through six are offered the SCAT test, and students in grades seven and eight are offered the College Board SAT and the ACT. The tests are given as above-grade-level tests to better assess the mathematical and verbal reasoning abilities of highly able students. CTY then offers a variety of services and opportunities for students after they test. Participation is a family decision.

News from page 48

fore it goes back to the Andover School Board for final action.

The students have divided into five groups, each focusing on one of the five goals. Eventually, each group will have an action project that will make an impact on each of the goals. When the students come to the Andover School Board, they will not only provide input on the next step for the goals but also be able to show what they have accomplished for each goal.

I am constantly impressed with the students' work ethic and the seriousness of purpose they bring to the plan-

ning process. They are really putting a lot of thought into making AE/MS the best it can be.

Soon you will see an outdoor skating rink on school grounds. The basketball court will be transformed into a skating rink, and the lights will be on in the evening for families to enjoy.

I can't help but reflect on all that our school community has to be thankful for as I write this on the day before Thanksgiving. I am thankful to be part of such a caring, supportive, and generous school community with excellent, dedicated, and caring professionals. I appreciate the town of Andover and all it does for our children.



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Veterans from page 51

press our thanks to these brave men and women is running out. Bud recently had the honor of escorting a World War II hero to Washington DC and shared this emotional experience with the audience. The Andover Student Council hopes to have a fundraiser during the school year and donate all funds to Honor Flight New England.

Eighth grade essay contest winners were announced. Samuel Barrett and Maddie Trefethen were awarded books and hats for their winning essays. The topic was "Pearl Harbor Day and September 11 – What do they have in common and what do they mean to our country?" This essay exercise has become a tradition sponsored by Bill Leber.

American Legion Post 40 opened and closed the celebration by posting and retiring the colors. The Andover Middle School Band played several patriotic tunes to the delight of the crowd.

Following the celebration, many veterans stayed behind and enjoyed refreshments and welcomed the opportunity to visit with each other. Andover veteran Sheldon Rich brought in his extensive collection of military memorabilia to display, even though he was not able to attend. Charlie Darling captured on film the annual photo of Andover veterans in attendance (see page 2).

Students and staff members are already brainstorming ideas for next years' celebration. This is definitely one of the most important events at Andover Elementary/Middle School each year.

Bees from page 52

Finalists move on to the school level of the Bee.

The assembled group is quiet and tense. Nervous laughter can be heard at times. The students are asked to spell words in order, and our pronouncer and judges follow the same rules as those at the national level. After sometimes many, many rounds, a finalist and runner-up emerge from the group. AE/MS has some very good spellers which often makes for a long contest!

The official list of spelling words is given to the students after the classroom rounds. The list contains 1,150

words divided into sections by language of origin. The division by language of origin enables students to learn several important rules, tips, and guidelines for spelling words in English – the most challenging language of all for spellers.

This year AE/MS kicked off the Spelling Bee by showing *Akeelah and the Bee* to grades four through eight. The showing was Tuesday afternoon before the Thanksgiving break. Do like *Akeelah* – spell and jump rope!

The AE/MS spelling bee will then take place in mid-December.

Flu Peaks And Passes This Fall At AE/MS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

At one point in mid-November, AE/MS had over 30% of its students absent due to flu-like illnesses. Fortunately, as we neared the Thanksgiving break attendance numbers steadily increased until we had a minimal number of students still at home with flu-like symptoms.

For several weeks, New Hampshire has been among the states where the Center for Disease Control has reported widespread influenza-like illness. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is tracking school absences around the state. It is clear that the flu is in our communities, that it is spreading, and that more people will probably be affected before it peaks.

Most cases of flu-like illnesses are now due to the H1N1 virus. We don't know whether the usual "seasonal" flu will arrive later in the fall and winter.

Mrs. Hill, our school nurse, continues to be in close touch with DHHS regarding appropriate policies for prevention and management of illness in our schools. We continue to stress the importance of personal hygiene, including frequent hand-washing, coughing into your sleeve, not sharing food or eating utensils, etc.

It is important for children and staff who are sick to stay home from school, as well as from special events such as dances, birthday parties, family events, and other public gatherings. Children should stay home unless seeking medical care until they have no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Sick students were not penalized for staying home. Students have ample opportunity to make up missed work. Parents have been very good about contacting the school to let us know about the status of their child's health and to

report whether they have flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, body aches, and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea).

We continue to encourage all students and staff to get both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines, if possible. This is especially important for children with chronic illnesses such as asthma and other underlying health conditions, as well as for pregnant women.

Unfortunately, vaccine supplies all over the country are limited due to manufacturing delays. We understand that many families have been frustrated

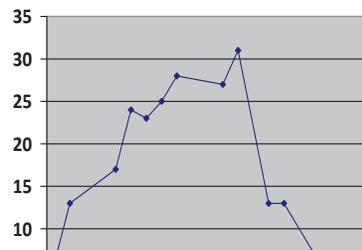
by their inability to obtain vaccines for their children after being told how important it is. Vaccine availability changes on a daily basis. Please contact your healthcare provider's office to find out if your child can be immunized there.

There will be a vaccination clinic at AE/MS in early January for students. Vaccinations will be free to AE/MS students. Mrs. Hill hopes to schedule the vaccination clinic for after school or on a Saturday to make it more convenient for families.

Mrs. Hill deserves special recognition from all of us at AE/MS as she has nursed us through the flu battle. Mrs. Hill's care and nurturing has certainly been put to the test this fall. Not only is she vigilant and prepared for those in the building, she is communicating and following up with those who are ill and at home. Of course, Mrs. Hill continues to be an informative and helpful resource for school families.

The New Hampshire DHHS has set up a special flu hot-line – just dial 2-1-1 between 8 AM and 5 PM to talk to someone. There is also a lot of reliable information on the CDC Web site at CDC.gov/H1N1Flu and on the DHHS Web site at www.DHHS.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm.

AEMS ATTENDANCE 10/29 – 11/1



Percent of AE/MS students absent due to flu, Oct. 29 through Nov. 18.

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The Andover One Wheelers form a straight line during the Concord Holiday Parade. Leader Robyn Boisvert and her sister Lauren led the parade in their last unicycle activity at AE/MS. Unseasonably warm weather made the event much warmer and more enjoyable than last year's parade.

Photo: Alan Hanscom

Math Night from page 52

day Math table featuring "Number Top It" and everybody's favorite, "Factor Captor." There were estimation activities and bingo.

Throughout the evening Mrs. Keezer could be heard announcing prize winners and upcoming activities. Parents had a chance to spend time with

an Everyday Math consultant who has been working with our teachers. Mrs. Jennifer Quinn worked with kindergarten through second grade families and then with third through fifth grade families discussing homework, expectations, and the process and structures of Everyday Math.

Math Night was a great experience for parents and students.



A member of Dave Marceau's crew spreads steaming asphalt as he puts the finishing touches on the new sidewalk that runs from Main Street, past the skateboard park, the basketball court (which is soon to be a skating rink), and the AE/MS Annex, to AE/MS.

Photo: Charlie Darling



Navy Commander Charlie Giles was keynote speaker at AE/MS' Veterans Day ceremonies. Riley Anderson posed with Commander Giles after demonstrating the latest in fighter pilot gear.

Staff photo: Bob Bussey

Veterans Day Celebration at AE/MS

By Jane Slayton
Principal, AE/MS

On November 4, students at Andover Elementary/Middle School showed their appreciation to veterans for their service at an all-school assembly. Students in all grades honored the Andover veterans with songs, poems, music, and recitations.

The third grade students had compiled a record of the number of servicemen who served and died in all of America's wars. Kyle Smart and Maddie Trefethen, eighth grade students, shared a Powerpoint tribute to the Liberty Bell and the history behind it. First grade students listed all the freedoms they enjoy today because of veterans.

All enjoyed listening to Alyson Mullett sing the national anthem. This was followed by *Taps* played by Kaitlyn Ashburn, Haley Adams, Erin Frost, Maddie Trefethen, and Mr. Hubert. Second grade students sang all the verses to *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. The walls were decorated with patriotic messages of gratitude for our veterans.

Charlie Giles, a naval commander from New London, delivered the keynote address. He impressed the young and old with his enthusiasm and spirit. He encouraged the students to follow their dreams and work hard to achieve what they set for goals.

He knew when he was young that he wanted to fly planes, and he became a fighter pilot in the Navy. He had his share of obstacles along the way, but he succeeded.

He also reminded students to respect their teachers, their school, their fami-

lies, and their country. Students were particularly amused when Officer Giles dressed up sixth grade student Riley Anderson in a jet fighter pilot uniform and carried him around the gym.

Another local military officer, Bud Dick, told the audience about Honor Flight New England. Honor Flight New England is a non-profit organization



Winners of the Veterans Day essay contest were Maddie Trefethen (l) and Sam Barrett.

that honors America's veterans for all of their sacrifices. Through donations, veterans are transported to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials *at no cost to the veteran*. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Now, with over 1,000 World War II veterans dying each day, the time to ex- See Veterans on page 50

Happy Holidays!

From
AE/MS



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Happy Holidays!

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Winners in the AE/MS Geography Bee: (back, l-r) Josiah Wagner, Austin Hawks, Jacob Hubbard, Tucker Peters, Thaddeus Bicknell; (front) Joel Beauman, Cope Makechnie, Nicholas Stiles, Betsy Abrahamson, Koby Perreault
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand



Math Night at AE/MS, October 27: Madison Colby, 5, thinks hard about the number of erasers in the bottle at the estimation table, while her sister, three-year-old Chloe, has already decided on a number. Their mother, Alicia, offers advice.
Staff photo: Bob Bussey

AE/MS MATH NIGHT

By Shania Nichols and Chelsea Thompson
AE/MS 5th Grade

On October 27, lots of laughter and excitement overflowed from the AE/MS gymnasium as children and adults played math games together. There were opportunities to win prizes and challenge friends.

Teachers from AE/MS and Proctor Academy ran different math stations. Students could draw geometric shapes on laptops or create mathe-

matical objects from gum drops and tooth picks.

Daring students could challenge Mr. Murphy to a chess match. Mr. Murphy played 16 students at once on 16 different chess boards. He didn't even get dizzy spinning around from board to board.

Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Wiley ran a mini-catapult station where students could be seen launching mini-sponges. Chelsea Thompson ran an Every-

See Math Night on page 51

Spelling & Geography Bees

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

Bee season is quickly approaching for fourth through eighth grade students at Andover Elementary / Middle School.

At AE/MS, the National Geographic Bee took place at the end of November in social studies classes. Thousands of schools across the United States and in the five US territories, as well as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools around the world participate. The 2010 Bee is sponsored by Google.

The winner of the school-level National Geographic Bee advances to the next level of competition, a written examination to determine the state competitors. All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and

its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national competition on May 25 and 26, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Do you wonder how you would fare at the Geography Bee? Try to answer the sample questions below.

Spelling Bee

Bee Season doesn't end with geography. It is then time for the same grade level students to test their spelling skills. We have participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee for many years. I am sure there are many community members who attended AE/MS who have spelling bee memories to share.

The Spelling Bee starts with a written examination in the fourth through eighth grade classrooms. Finalists are then named when scores are tallied.

See Bees on page 50



On November 19, MVHS students Shawna Barton (missing from photo), Henry Bendel (l), and Becca Lance (r) from Andover were inducted into the Peter J. Murphy Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). In order to be considered, students must be in their junior or senior year and exhibit strong character, scholar, service, and leadership skills. Shown in the picture are three senior members of NHS from Andover (l-r): Tenzin Dickinson, secretary; Gregory Hewitt, treasurer; and Elizabeth Stearns. The chapter advisor at MVHS is Mrs. Carissa Corrow.
Photo: Brenda Lance



Jessica George, daughter of Garry and Lynn George, spent the fall term at Proctor's program in Tamarindo, Costa Rica. Jessica is pictured observing a mammoth leatherback turtle which had laid hundreds of eggs in a pit on the beach.