

TOWN MEETING SPECIAL EDITION

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

This month, voters in Andover are called upon to make important decisions that will set our taxes and guide our town for the coming year. We'll elect over a dozen of our neighbors to positions in Town and School District governing bodies, and we'll close the books on 2009 with the annual Town Report.

This month's *Beacon* coverage of this very important season includes:

- A summary of the budgets we'll vote on at School District Meeting and Town Meeting, with an analysis of their impacts on our 2010 property tax bills – see "2010 Budgets Set For Annual Meetings" on page 1.
- A facsimile of the ballots for Town and School District positions – Page 6.
- Profiles of many of the local candidates for office – Page 6.
- Discussion of issues that will appear on the Town Warrant – Page 8.
- The Town Warrant we'll vote on at Town Meeting, annotated to make the official language easier to understand – Page 9.
- Discussion of issues that will appear on the School Warrant – Page 11.
- The School District Warrant we'll vote on at School District Meeting, annotated to make the official language easier to understand – Page 13.
- Reports on 2009 from many of the

organizations that serve our community, rounding out the annual "snapshot" of Andover that appears in the 2009 Town Report – Page 14.

Important Dates

Here are the dates you need to keep in mind in order to participate fully in this important time of year:

Saturday, February 27 – Supervisor of the Checklist available to correct the checklist, Town Hall, 11 to 11:30 AM.

Monday, March 1 – Andover School District Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7 PM.

Monday, March 1 – Andover Village District Annual Meeting, Andover Town Hall, 7 PM.

Tuesday, March 9 – Voting, AE/MS Gym, 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, March 9 – Andover Town Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7:30 PM.

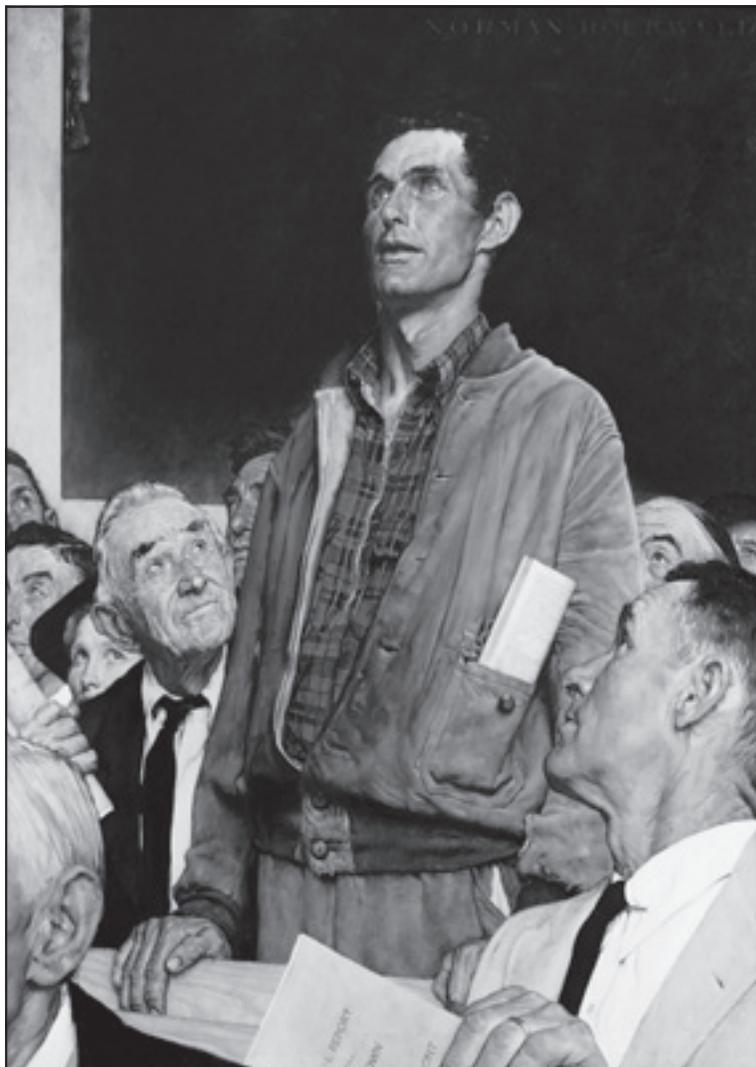
Wednesday, March 17 – Andover Fire District Annual Meeting, Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, March 16 – Public Hearing about purchasing a new fire truck for the East Andover Fire Precinct, East Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

Tuesday, April 13 – East Andover Fire Precinct Annual Meeting, East Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

For more info, contact the Town Office at 735-5332 or AndoverNH@tds.net.

TOWN MATTERS
The *Beacon* needs help with reporting about town news. 735-6099



Norman Rockwell's famous *Freedom of Speech* painting, reproduced in the *Picturing America* collection at AE/MS, reminds us of the importance of participating in our annual meetings this month.

Norman Rockwell (1894–1978), *Freedom of Speech*, The Saturday Evening Post, February 20, 1943. Oil on canvas, 45 3/4" x 35 1/2". The Norman Rockwell Art Collection Trust, from the permanent collection of the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts NRM.org © 1943 SEPS: Licensed by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, Ind. All rights reserved. CurtisPublishing.com.

Home Buyers Rush to Beat April 30 Deadline

You probably have heard about the \$8,000 tax credit for first time buyers – it is real. Anyone who does not own a home and buys one before April 30 is eligible for the \$8,000 tax credit. Receiving less attention is the program for current owners. Current homeowners buying a house between last November and April 30 who have used it as a principal residence five consecutive years can qualify for \$6,500 tax credit. Houses purchased for \$800,000 or less (which includes most homes in this area) are eligible for repeat buyers. Single buyers with incomes up to \$125,000 and married couples earning up to \$225,000 may receive the maximum tax credit.

The credit decreases for buyers who earn between \$125,000 and \$145,000 for single buyers and between \$225,000 and \$245,000 for home buyers filing jointly. The amount of the tax credit decreases as income approaches the maximum limit. Buyers earning more are not eligible for the credit.

A binding written contract to purchase has to be in effect by April 30; the buyer has until July 1 to close the sale. It is a major incentive for anyone who has thought about buying "someday." It will help many people turn "buy someday" into "buy today."

Good inventory of houses for sale, attractive prices, low mortgage interest rates, plus an income tax credit. It must be a good time to talk with your local Realtor.

Art Urie



HORSE BOARDING

Large Matted Stalls
Indoor + Outdoor Arena
Round Pen
Paddock Turnout
Pastures + Trails

FULL BOARD \$495 PER MONTH
DANBURY NH

CALL 768-3400

EMAIL: THREEJFARMS@THENLGROUP.COM