



Morris St. Jacques (l) and George Neville, both from Webster, "meet up" after George won the garden tractor race at the third annual Bluewater Farm Mud Festival on April 25. This year's festival, held at Bluewater Lodge on Bradley Lake, featured mechanical bull rides as well as a muddy tug-of-war, a barbecue, and lots of fabulous food. Staff photo: Bob Bussey

The Andover Beacon

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Selectmen Work To Cut Town Budget By 5%

By Jake Johnson
Andover Board of Selectmen

Our first meeting of the new Select Board was on April 5. We had a long agenda which kept us working late into the evening.

The biggest item on the agenda was meeting with the Town department heads. As you know or have heard, Town Meeting voted to reduce the operating budget for the town by 5% or \$63,000. The Board asked department heads to find possible savings from their individual budgets.

One idea was to have each department shave 5% off their budget. For example, Town Office Expenses has an overall budget of \$187,826. So 5% of that is \$9,391.

What the Board is trying to do is not drop a program or cancel a project or reduce services from one department alone. It would be too easy to just cut the \$63,000 out of the highway department project line. No harm, no foul. But

if I recall, the motion to lower the budget also asked that the selectmen take a better look at the budget. So that is what we are working to do.

Our meeting with department heads helps make everyone involved in the town budget aware of the issues throughout the budget. We can all take a step back and look again at these budgets and how we do business. I will tell you that I'm extremely excited with the ideas and possible solutions that the department heads brought to us. This town has really great people running these departments!

When looking at the different budgets, most of the savings look to be coming from hard goods. By that I mean: not purchasing new uniforms (\$500 savings), postponing the purchase of a new copier (\$6,000 savings), reducing winter sand stockpile (\$15,000 savings), conserving cruiser fuel (\$1,000 savings), reconfiguring the Chase Hill

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ANDOVER TOWN CLEAN-UP WEEK

May 1-8, 2010

By Patricia Moyer,
Andover Conservation Commission

The snow has melted, and the new beautiful green grass is sprouting. It is now that time of year again when we find ourselves cleaning up all the remnants blown around in our own yards.

Our roadsides also need some help. The Andover Conservation Commission is working with Town Administrator Dana Hadley on a street-by-street litter clean-up week in honor of Earth Day and in conjunction with New Hampshire the Beautiful. Everyone can be a part of this community-wide clean-up. We all know what the roadsides look like after the snow is gone, so get a group together or go

solo. The event will kick off on Saturday, May 1, at 9 AM at the Andover Town Hall. Blue bags will be supplied by New Hampshire the Beautiful. A street sign-up sheet will be there also. The clean-up will continue at your convenience throughout the week.

If you prefer to sign up early for a particular street, please contact Dana at 735-5332. Dana will keep track of who is where, so we can hit as many streets as possible. Tallies will be submitted of what was collected so that we can receive gifts of daffodils or trees. Last year we received over 800 daffodil bulbs that were planted in Andover.

See Clean-Up on page 3

Cable Channel 8 Programs Are Now On The Web

By Charlie Darling
Andover Cable TV Channel 8

After much hard work and a few setbacks, many locally-produced videos that air on Comcast Cable Channel 8, our community access cable channel, are also available for viewing in the Town Web site.

While the cable TV cable runs by most houses in Andover, Channel 8 is only available in about half the homes in Andover. The rest of the homes have chosen satellite or some other alternative to cable, and Channel 8 is only available via cable.

In order to serve the whole community, not just the half that has chosen cable, the Andover Cable TV Advisory Committee has been working for well over a year to get Channel 8's locally-

produced programs – School Board meetings, public hearings, school concerts, public events, lectures, and even Our Community Bulletin Board –

Andover Programs On The Web

- Visit AndoverNH.us.com
- Click the "Town Info" link
- In the "Other" column, click the "Videos" link
- Click the video you want to watch

available on the Internet. That won't get us into every home in Andover, but it will make our local programs available in most homes plus in the libraries, the Town Hall, and the school.

By making locally-produced programs available on the Internet, that won't get us into every home in Andover, but it will make our local programs available in most homes plus in the libraries, the Town Hall, and the school.

See Channel 8 on page 3



Work on replacing the Potter Place bridge moved ahead rapidly last month. (Pictured: the last of the old bridge's steel beams came down early in April.) Jeff Bates, project manager, says there have been no big surprises so far, and he expects Route 11 to be open again by August 1.

As this issue went to press, crews were breaking up ledge in order to pour a foundation for the box culvert that will carry the Northern Rail Trail under Route 11. Installation of the box culvert is planned for mid-June.

Photo: Bill Matulevich

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