



Once again this year, the Andover Lions Club prepared the town Christmas tree for the Andover Service Club and the Girls Scouts to light on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Lion Jim Goody donated an evergreen from his property, Lion Howard George dug a deep hole by Main Street in front of the Town Hall, and Ken Guillemette of Guillemette Tree Service donated his time and equipment to "plant" the tree. Ken is pictured here driving the bucket while Howard guides the tree into the hole. Photo: Charlie Darling

Budget from page 1

Other departments within the Town budget also have slight increases:

Library: \$4,856 (raises for librarians, including increased hours due to a law requiring having a librarian present on Saturdays)

Recreation Department: \$6,030 (increase in mowing contract, ski program (ski pass and transportation), maintenance on the infield)

Forest Fire: \$900 (a grant has been awarded to the Town for protective clothing – the increase covers the Town portion)

If you don't know how the budget process goes, here is the general idea. The Board of Selectmen brings to the Budget Committee an operating budget for the next year. The Budget Committee meets with the Board of Selectmen and department heads to ask questions,

give ideas, and push for a level budget or no increase.

The Budget Committee then holds a public hearing in January. This public hearing is for the public to ask questions and air their concerns to the Budget Committee about next year's proposed budget.

The Budget Committee will then meet and make a budget that is presented to the Town Meeting in March. You can also see the differences in your Town Report, which shows the Selectmen's recommended budget and the Budget Committee's recommended budget.

When we all vote in March, we vote on the Budget Committee's recommended budget. If you would like to ask questions and air your concerns, go to the Budget Committee's Public Hearing on the Town budget on January 12 at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

Election Sends New Legislators To Concord

By Meg Heckman
Concord Monitor staff

Condensed from Nov. 5 Concord Monitor

A diverse bunch of new Republican lawmakers will join the New Hampshire House of Representatives next year. Their ranks include a self-described "computer geek," a part-time police officer, a third-generation well driller, and a former snowboard instructor who wants to ensure that redistricting is handled fairly.

Their ambitions are, in some ways, as different as their backgrounds. They all favor a smaller, cheaper state government, but many plan to support legislation tailored to their districts or to bring their professional expertise to the State House. Mark Lindsley, of Henniker, is a longtime police officer and would love to vet public safety bills. Dunbarton's J.R. Hoell is a mechanical engineer who spends a lot of time writing project specifications. He wants to put those skills to work crafting legislation...

The GOP will have about 300 of the 400 seats in the House next year. Newcomers say they campaigned hard and received support from their party leaders, but many were surprised by the force of the tide that swept them into office...

Seth Cohn of Canterbury

Canterbury's Seth Cohn ... is ready to hit the ground running. He's been a regular at legislative hearings for the last few years and says he was at the State House so much that people sometimes mistook him for a lawmaker. He describes himself as a "computer geek" and makes a living designing Web sites using free, open-source code. The state, he says, could save money by using a similar tactic for its computing needs.

"This is the new generation of how stuff gets built," he said. "Instead, the state goes and spends millions on something."

Cohn ran a high-profile campaign with jumbo signs, active Facebook and Twitter accounts, and a home answering machine message encouraging

callers to vote. He has a reputation for being a friendly guy. Even people holding Democratic signs on Election Day remarked on his pleasant personality.

He's the chairman of Canterbury's Recycling Committee, is an alternate on the town's planning board, volunteers at the transfer station's swap shop and participates in roadside clean up. Next year, he plans to sponsor a bill that would allow communities to offer property tax breaks to homeowners with small kitchen gardens.

Should the Legislature try to repeal same-sex marriage, Cohn would vote against it.

"I think people need to realize just because they voted Republican doesn't mean they endorsed the social conservative agenda," he said. "There are Republicans that agree with me. I'm not going to be alone."

Sean Cox of Andover

For Sean Cox, the biggest non-budgetary issue at the State House next year will be reapportioning the state's Congressional and legislative districts. The process, he says, needs to be "apolitical," and he thinks his background as a mechanical engineer will help him analyze the results of the 2010 Census and use the information to develop districts that are fair.

"I think we can get it done in a reasonable way," he said.

Cox lives in Andover and, until last winter, taught snowboarding at Ragged Mountain. These days, he spends most of his time caring for his two sons. He says his new constituents are independent; he doesn't want to burden them with too much legislation.

"As a rule, most folks in my neck of the woods just want to be left alone," he said. "I'm more likely to go and repeal laws than to create more laws for folks to deal with."

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