



**GOT SNOW?** January was a tough month for grown-ups in Andover, but between snow days and Friday afternoons off for the Andover Recreation Committee's winter activities program, the kids at AE/MS made out great. Here, Kyleigh Fanny is all smiles as she waits for lessons to begin on a Friday afternoon at Ragged Mountain Resort. Photo: Jen Bent

## Study Committee Recommends: Make One Fire Department, Keep Two Fire Stations

By Jane Hubbard  
Chair, Fire Study Committee

At the 2010 Town Meeting, Warrant Article 16 was approved by voters. This article was submitted by petition to appoint a study committee to analyze the "present model of delivering services town wide" and to report to the Selectmen "whether it is desirable and practical to combine the Andover Fire Department and the East Andover Fire Department into one entity."

In April of 2010, the Selectmen appointed a committee to study the services and organizational structure of the Andover and East Andover Fire Departments. The Committee met three times from June to September of 2010 and submitted a final report to the Board of Selectmen on November 1.

At a regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting on November 15, the Board discussed the recommendations of the Committee. The Board decided to present the findings and recommendations of the Fire Study Committee at the 2011 Town Meeting. The following is a summary of the Committee's report and the concluding recommendation of the Committee.

### Precincts Versus Departments

When the committee discussed "combining," it first had to be determined if we were talking about precincts or departments, as these are two very different entities. Precincts are a kind of "mini town government" that hold annual meetings, elect officers, and approve budgets, appropriations, See Study on page 4

Please! Get A Round Tuit Today!

## BEACON STARTS 2011 FUNDRAISING

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon staff

It's that time of year again – time for Andover residents, each of whom receives the *Beacon* in their mailbox each month at no charge, to make a voluntary contribution to help keep the *Beacon* going.

The *Andover Beacon* is published by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a New Hampshire non-profit corporation. We rely on voluntary donations for about a third of the *Beacon's* annual operating expenses.

Other than a salary for me and commissions for our ad salespeople, the *Beacon* is produced entirely by volunteers. But it still takes a budget of over \$70,000 a year to bring the *Beacon* to

every mailbox in Andover every month at no charge.

About two-thirds of our budget is covered by the approximately 120 advertisers you see in the *Beacon* every month. That leaves about a third of our annual budget that has to come from somewhere other than ads. Some comes from out-of-town subscribers and gift subscriptions, but most of it has to come as voluntary donations from the residents of Andover.

Especially in tough times like these, it's vital that the *Beacon* has solid financial support from the community. Please "get a round tuit" right away and send in your envelope or the coupon on page 2 today!



The **Andover Beacon**  
Our Hometown Newspaper

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## Proposed Budgets Up 2.3% For 2011

By Ed Hiller  
Andover Budget Committee

Once again this year, the Budget Committee has been faced with the dilemma of balancing proposals for additional spending from various Andover governing bodies, with the difficulty that Andover taxpayers are facing in meeting increasing tax obligations in the presently difficult economic climate. We have participated in very useful and cooperative meetings with the various governmental groups. We worked together to establish guidelines for budget development. As a result, we present here our recommendations to the voters of Andover for their consideration at their annual meetings.

For the Andover School District, the Budget Committee recommends the budget as proposed by the Andover School Committee. This budget is for \$4.32 million, up \$66,449 (1.6%) over the appropriations voted for 2010.

For the Andover Town budget, the Committee recommends a net budget of \$1.29 million, up \$75,513 (6.2%) over the net appropriations voted for 2010.

The total net budget recommendations for all Andover governmental units (plus the estimated Merrimack County charge) add up to \$6.41 million, up 2.3% over the 2010 net appropriation of \$6.27 million.

The estimated tax rates for 2011, based on these recommended budgets and on conservative estimates of offsetting revenues, are \$17.45 for taxpayers in the Andover Fire District, and \$17.16 for taxpayers in the East Andover Fire Precinct. These rates are up about 2.6% over the rates for 2010.

### Andover School Budget

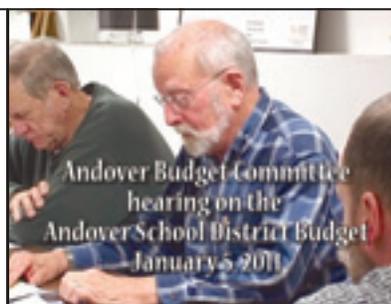
The recommended operating budget for the Andover School District for 2011 is \$4.32 million. This is \$66,449 (1.6%) higher than the appropriation voted last year of \$4.25 million.

A significant increase in spending in this budget over last year's appropriation is \$106,302 for Special Education tuition and transportation. This is not an estimate, but is based on identified special education needs. Other increases in this budget include increases in

See Budget on page 3

### Budget Hearing Videos Widely Available

Channel 8 has made the Andover Budget Committee's public hearings on the Town and School budgets available on the Town Web site (instructions in the Cable TV article on page 8) and on DVDs at the libraries.



## TRANSFER STATION WILL BE CHECKING STICKERS!

### Town of Andover press release

To ensure that the Andover Transfer Station is being used exclusively by Andover residents, there will be two Transfer Station sticker check days: Wednesday, February 16, and Saturday, February 19. Transfer Station attendants have been instructed to check that all users of the Transfer Station have a sticker.

If you do not have a sticker, be sure to get one at the Town Clerk's office before then. (See page 11 for hours.) Thank you for your cooperation.

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