



Heide and Eric Johnson of Tucker Mountain Maple Co-op participated in the state-wide Maple Weekend on March 19 and 20 with an open house. The sugaring season is off to a good start, Eric said. The Co-op had made more syrup by Maple Weekend this year than it made all of last year. For more photos of Maple Weekend in Andover, see page 24. Photo: Charlie Darling

Fire Departments Move Forward With Merger Plans

By Rene Lefebvre and Chuck Ellis
Chiefs, EAFD and AFD

Should we combine the fire departments? There are several compelling reasons that make both of us say "Yes!"

First is the study commissioned by the selectmen. Without going into detail that is available in the 2010 Andover Town Report, the study recommends combining the departments in stages, while keeping both fire stations.

Second is that the entire membership of both departments feels it is best

Even with the fire departments merged, both fire stations will continue to operate.

to be one team. Third is that by combining training and operations we will be able to offer larger, better-skilled attack teams. And fourth, by having unified

See Merger on page 3

Andover Lions Club Sends Aid Direct To Japan

By Jim Danforth
Andover Lions Club

Lions International is already set up and helping the people of Japan with an initial mobilization gift of \$5 million (400 million yen). There are 31 Lions Clubs in the Sendai area alone, one of the hardest hit areas, so Lions are in position and ready to provide immediate and long-term assistance.

Working out of the Japan Lions Office in Tokyo, monies are already being spent and people helped. Unlike many aid organizations, 100% of all monies

donated are spent providing direct aid. Working with local leaders and Lions, we know that every dollar will be spent on needed items.

The Andover Lions Club has already voted to support this effort and will be making direct contact with a Lions Club in one of the affected areas in Japan. If you would like to help the people of Japan, please contact any Andover Lion and we will be glad to help. Lions International has just been named the #1 Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) by the *Financial Times*. 

Call An Andover Contractor For Your Spring Projects

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

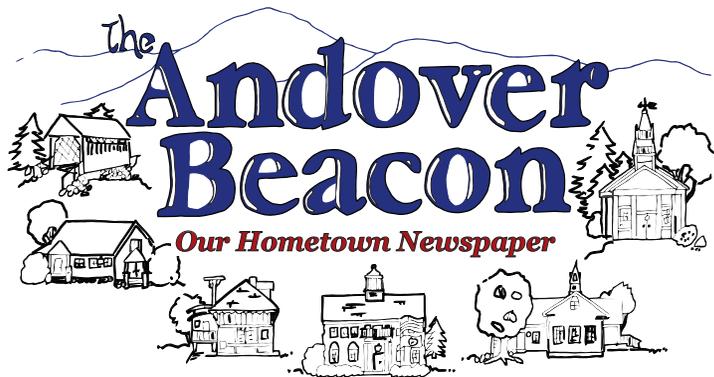
Our town is full of talented, hard-working tradesmen of all kinds. For anything from a spring clean-up for your yard to building a new house, there are local contractors and handymen to fill the bill.

In last month's *Beacon* we asked local contractors and handymen to con-

tact us so we could offer our readers a list for their consideration. Listed below are those who responded. *If you'd like to be included in next spring's list, watch for the reminder in the March 2012 Beacon.*

- **Stephen Barton and Sons Carpentry** does additions, decks, garages, remodeling, and new homes, as well as

See Contractors on page 28



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Town Meetings Pass Increased Budgets

By Ed Hiller
Andover Budget Committee
School Tax Rate

The Andover School District Meeting voted to approve the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$4.32 million for the 2011-12 school year. This is an increase of 1.6% over last year's appropriation of \$4.25 million.

Included in this budget is a new two-year contract with the teachers' union that holds salaries level for the year 2011-12, and provides normal step increases for the following year. Assuming that state and federal support for the school district this year

will remain the same as last year, the school tax rate is predicted to be approximately \$12.70 for this year. This is an increase of 9.2% over last year's rate of \$11.63. The present estimate of current-year expenditures suggests that little or no fund surplus will be available to reduce this tax rate.

Town Tax Rate

The Andover Town Meeting voted to approve the Budget Committee's recommended operating budget of \$1.27 million, up 7.4% over last year's appropriation of \$1.18 million. The meeting rejected the proposal to purchase a

See Budgets on page 3

WWW.NHMKIOSK.COM

Welcome to the New Hampshire Clerk Kiosk.

Enter Plate Number

Enter PIN



Town of Andover, NH
31 School Street
603-735-5332
tctc@townofandover.org

Andover residents can now renew their motor vehicle registrations online at the Web site shown above. The Plate Number and PIN appear on the renewal notice the Town Clerk mails to you. Once you receive that, you can use the Web site to pay for your renewal using Discover, Mastercard, or direct withdrawal from a checking account. Your registration and stickers will be mailed to you within a few days.

Andover Registration Renewal Now Available Online

By Marj Roy
Andover Town Clerk

Motor vehicle registration renewals can now be done online! It's easy and will save you time.

Step 1: Wait for your renewal letter(s) to arrive in the mail around the beginning of your birthday month.

Step 2: On your renewal letter(s) find the Plate Number and the Acct

Number for each of the vehicles whose registration you plan to renew. (If you receive a letter for a vehicle whose registration you don't plan to renew, just ignore it – no other action is required.)

Step 3: At least a week before your registration expires, go to NHMKiosk.com. Click the little "drop-down" arrow and then click "Andover."

See Renewal on page 3

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