



The Andover Purple Finches 4-H Club pushed up their sleeves and put on their gloves for some community service skate park clean-up at their April meeting. (L-r) Bryson Cate, Britta Johnson, Sophia Reynolds, Sasha Mackenzie, Alexis Cate (back), Rylee Sweeney, Gloriana Brown, Savannah Pease, Samantha Parkman, Keygan Sweeney, Alan Thompson, Jesse Wagner.

Photo and caption: Pam Brown

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Andover Road Agent Jon Champagne and his crew mounted a major gravel crushing operation at the Transfer Station last month, saving over half the cost of purchasing and hauling the gravel.

Photo: Charlie Darling

Road Agent Saves Taxpayers \$45,000 In Gravel Costs

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Road Agent Jon Champagne and his crew mounted a major crushing project at the Transfer Station last month that netted the Town about 4,000 yards of good-quality gravel for road maintenance and saved the Town about \$45,000 over the cost of purchasing and hauling gravel from a commercial pit.

The project began in late April when the crew prepared the site in the back of the Transfer Station for efficient access. In mid-May, they rented a stone crusher and went to work. A bulldozer and excavator fed material into the crusher, while loaders and dump trucks hauled the crushed gravel to the other side of the Transfer Station property for storage.

The cost of the project, including site preparation, came to \$37,686. Almost \$14,000 of it went to renting the crusher

itself from southern New Hampshire. The rest paid for local labor and equipment rental.

Jon estimates that had the Town bought the gravel at a local pit, the total cost – assuming \$10.65 per yard for the material and about \$130 per trip for over 300 truck trips from the pit to the storage area at the Transfer Station – would have been almost \$83,000 (or about \$62 on the tax bill of a \$200,000 home in Andover). Crushing the Town's own gravel on-site saved just over half of that.

The 4,000 yards of gravel now on hand is expected to last for about a year of road maintenance and projects – barring another 100-year flood, of course. Jon estimates that there's another three years' worth of gravel available at the Transfer Station. And when there's a need for rip-rap, that could come from the same source, too.

Dozens Turn Out For Town Clean-Up Week

By Pat Moyer

Andover Conservation Commission

Once again, we have been quite successful with the Andover Town Clean-Up Week. We hope everyone can see the spectacular difference that all the volunteers made in returning Andover from its winter mess to its Spring freshness. All the efforts of everyone to clean up after the wintertime paid off.

We want to thank all those special volunteers who participated and brought Andover back. Andover would never look so wonderful if we didn't have all the fabulous volunteers to clean it up.

Although many roads were not officially signed up for this year, you can see by the results that it's catching on,

and we town folks like having our piece of town nice and clean. That is quite evident as you drive along the many roads here in town. Take a leisurely drive around and you can see for yourself how beautiful our town looks.

A big "Thank you!" goes to Road Agent Jon Champagne's crew at J&B Landscaping for capturing those blue bags we received from New Hampshire the Beautiful. Many of our volunteers also helped by taking their blue bag pickings directly to the Transfer Station.

So again, a great big "Thank you!" to all who helped make Andover beautiful again. It's wonderful to see everyone take such pride in our town. Hope to see you next year.

Is There Interest In An Informal Energy Committee In Andover?

By Vicky Mishcon
For the Beacon

Is your house perfectly situated to collect solar energy? Do you think there are ways to cut energy costs at the town level? Would you like to "shrink" your lawn and take back your weekend? Do you wonder how many gallons of oil fly out of your house through your windows, attic, and chimney? Have you made changes in energy use on your

property that you would be willing to share with others? Do you have expertise in the field of sustainable energy?

Conversations about forming an energy committee in Andover have been bouncing around for at least a couple of years. Many towns around us have official Town energy committees, and others have informal groups of people who are interested in promoting alter-

See Energy on page 3



Two-year-old Matthew Charles (left) compares his fish with that of Carter Richey, 4. The boys were enjoying the Andover Fish & Game Club's annual Kids Fishing Derby at Highland Lake. For more AF&G news, see page 17.

Staff photo: Bob Bussey

SEND IDEAS FOR JULY'S RESTAURANT ROUND-UP!

The *Beacon* is planning a round-up of local restaurants and ice cream shops for the July issue, just in time to help you feed your summer house guests (or help them feed you).

If you own an area restaurant or have a favorite summer dining spot or snack place, please send just a sentence or two about what's served, where, and when to Mail@AndoverBeacon.com by June 15. Thanks!

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