



Dianne and Lee Murray at the going-away party Tommy Heath and their many other friends threw for them on August 25. Photo: Charlie Darling

## The Murrays Head South, But They Leave A Thought Behind

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon staff

After eight years living in Andover, Dianne and Lee Murray are heading to South Carolina for the warmer climate and a big drop in their taxes. Behind them: an Andover double-wide on a foundation, 19 acres of land (16 in Current Use), and about \$4,000 a year in property taxes. Ahead of them: a South Carolina brick three-bedroom house, three outbuildings, an acre of land, and \$857 a year in taxes.

The Murrays' enviable tax bill will

come in part from special tax breaks that South Carolina offers seniors, according to Dianne. She says they'll save \$650 off their tax bill thanks to a homestead exemption program, and the rest of their bill will be at a lower rate because they're seniors.

Lee knows a fair deal when he sees one, and he has a plan he thinks towns up north should consider.

"Take a senior living in an average home on two acres," Lee says. "That senior shouldn't have to pay the school portion of the property tax. They paid their share when their kids were in school! It's not fair that they should keep paying."

In Lee's plan, a senior living in a bigger-than-average property would pay the school portion of the property tax on the difference in value between their actual property and an average home. "I'm only saying fair," he reiterates.

As far as South Carolina's income tax and sales tax go, the Murrays aren't concerned about those. "We're on a fixed income," Dianne says, "so those taxes won't amount to a lot."

Lee plowed many of our roads in Andover in years past, so he and Dianne promise to think of us all when they hear about a Nor'easter headed our way this winter.

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## My Experience As A Beacon Intern

By Matthew McDonald  
Colby-Sawyer '12

The following is a journal entry from my first day working for the Beacon.

My work at *The Andover Beacon* began on May 5. Training began immediately that day. Charlie Darling, my site supervisor, began by discussing the list of possible projects, my interests, and what I should learn for my internship experience. Charlie drew a visual map of how the work flows at the *Beacon*. Articles come in through e-mail and are sorted by volunteers into certain folders on the main computer's hard drive. These articles and images are then edited and published in the next issue of the *Beacon*.

That same morning, Charlie (in his role as manager of Andover's community access cable TV station) had to drive over to the church in Wilmot to test the audio and to experiment with camera angles for a video shoot on May 8 for poet Donald Hall, who would be reading poetry. I traveled with Charlie to the church, and we tested the microphones and sound system in the church and wired the sound to feed directly into the camera. We corrected some issues, and I offered what I knew about video to Charlie.

Back at the office, I undertook my first article project about a retired US Marine and his son who his currently serving in the military.

I also made an informational sign for the Andover Food Pantry using Adobe InDesign. Charlie approved my design, and it was printed and displayed at the Food Pantry. This was my last project for the day.

The following is a journal entry from my last day of working. My tasks became more involved since the first day,

as you can see below.

My final week at *The Andover Beacon* was a very productive one. I laid out over 90 articles (many with photos) for the August issue. On Tuesday the process began. I worked thoroughly on this task for most of the shift. Article layout was the main task for Tuesday and Thursday; however, I also downloaded some videos to be aired on cable Channel 8.

Although my work at the *Beacon* is over now, a Rail Trail video project I started is now halfway through production. The project should be finished in a few weeks and ready to show to the Rail Trail organization and the public. I have also completed the titles and credits for the Donald Hall poetry video, which is almost ready to be distributed by the Wilmot Historical Society to the public.

Working at the *Beacon* was a wonderful experience. The people of Andover were very kind and made the work environment much easier to work in. Working in Andover opened up some opportunities working with other societies and citizens of the town on video projects. Although video is my main interest, the newspaper aspect also interests me, and even more so now.

I never realized how complicated the process is of sorting content that comes into the office, such as articles and photos. Charlie is the one man who oversees the entire project every month. I still don't know how he keeps up with all the work, but each issue of the *Beacon* manages to impress.

I express my thanks to Charlie and the *Beacon* volunteers for the wonderful experience of learning what goes into making a lengthy publication and for the knowledge I gained from the experience.

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