



The Pellerin's house on Meadowlark Lane was nearly completely destroyed in the fire that killed Roger and Mary. Photo: John Tully, Concord Monitor

The **Andover Beacon**
Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com February 2012 735-6099

Total Proposed Budgets For 2012 Nearly Flat

By Ed Hiller
For the Beacon

The Andover Budget Committee has finalized the budgets for 2012 to be recommended to the Andover School District Meeting on Monday, March 5, and to the Andover Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 13. The recommended appropriation for the Town budget, including warrant articles is \$1.399 million, down from the 2011 net appropriation by \$61,067. The recommended appropriation for the School District budget, including warrant articles, is \$4.351 million, up from the 2011 appropriation by \$33,448. The recommended appropria-

tions for the Fire Departments remain essentially identical to those of last year.

Assuming that the Merrimack County charge to Andover remains the same this year as last year, the total recommended budgets for 2012 will be \$6.514 million. This is a decrease of \$26,935 (-0.4%) from the total net appropriations voted in 2011 of \$6.541 million. However, there is some indication that the Merrimack County charge may increase significantly in 2012.

Andover Town Budget

The recommended 2012 budget for the Town, including warrant articles, is
See Budgets on page 3

Roger and Mary Pellerin Die in Tragic House Fire

By Laura McCrystal
Concord Monitor staff

From the January 21 Monitor

A house fire killed an elderly Andover couple and injured their son yesterday morning, according to fire officials.

bers of the community," said Gretchen Hildebrand, a second-grade teacher at Andover Elementary School, where Roger Pellerin worked as a custodian for many years.

When firefighters arrived at the scene of the fire about 2:30 AM yesterday, the home was fully involved in flames and Mary Pellerin was found dead outside the home, the state fire marshal's office said in a press release yesterday. Another man [Roger] was later found dead inside the home. A third victim [Roger and Mary's son, Bob] was running down the driveway to find help when the emergency responders arrived and was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries, said Deputy State Fire Marshal Robert Farley.

Mary Pellerin was 80, the fire marshal's office said. Friends said yesterday
See Fire on page 2

There will be a **memorial service** for Roger and Mary Pellerin at the Proctor Academy dining hall on Saturday, January 28 at 2 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The **Pellerin Fund** has been established at the Andover office of the Lake Sunapee Bank. Donations can be sent to PO Box 274, Andover 03216.

The couple, Roger and Mary Pellerin, were both retired employees of Proctor Academy and had lived on Meadowlark Lane for more than 40 years, friends said yesterday.

"They were very well-loved mem-

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 11) and on DVDs at the libraries.



Workshop To Help Reduce Home Energy Costs

By Larry Chase
Ad hoc Energy Efficiency Group

An evening workshop focusing on the basics of home energy costs and the values of home weatherization will be offered to local residents on Tuesday, February 21, in the Andover Town Hall meeting room. The two-hour session, open to the public at no cost, will begin at 7 PM.

Part of a statewide program called Button Up New Hampshire, the workshop is funded by the New Hampshire Department of Energy and Planning and administered by two New Hampshire environmental action groups, Clean Air - Cool Planet and the New England Carbon Challenge.

Workshop topics will include:

- Residential heat use and loss
- Benefits of simple do-it-yourself weatherization

- Value of a professional home energy audit
- Benefits of extensive professional energy retrofits
- Improvements in health and comfort that weatherization can bring
- Technical and financial resources available to make it happen

The presentation will be divided into two segments. The first will offer a general overview of energy-related problems. The second will focus on hands-on solutions to the problems identified. There will be a short break between the two segments.

The workshop will be led by home energy experts Bob Eldredge and Bob Tortorice. Eldredge is community manager at BetterBuildings New Hampshire, a federally funded program to
See Workshop on page 3

Please! Get A Round Tuit Today!

BEACON STARTS 2012 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.

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Fire from page 1

that the surviving victim was her son, Bob Pellerin.

It took firefighters several hours yesterday to remove the body of a man – who friends said was Roger Pellerin – from the second story of the home, Farley said. The delay was due to the home’s “very precarious structure,” he said. Officials secured the building with metal poles to prevent it from collapsing while they removed the body and began their investigation.

The fire marshal’s office is still investigating the cause of the fire, and Farley said there was no evidence it was set.

Although Roger and Mary Pellerin had been retired for about 20 years, they

remained well-known in the Andover community, said Chuck Will, director of communications at Proctor Academy. [See Chuck’s article honoring the Pellerins on page 39]

Will met Mary Pellerin when he began teaching at the Proctor Academy school in 1976. She had joined the school’s housekeeping staff in 1974 and in 1976 became a secretary in the offices of alumni affairs and development.

“She was a very motherly type and very loving,” Will said. “We were great pals.”

She retired in 1994, Will said. In recent years, he said, she suffered from health problems and didn’t leave her home often. But Will frequently saw Roger Pellerin in the center of town, joking with his neighbors and friends at

the town’s post office, transfer station, or Jake’s Market and Deli, all of which are “a stone’s throw” from the couple’s home, Will said.

“(Roger was) a very, very well-known person in the town, not because of anything other than being a real comic, very funny guy,” he said.

Mary Pellerin was quieter than her husband, Hildebrand said, but was “a wonderful person.”

“I found her to be a very intelligent woman who was in the background,” Hildebrand said. “She was very quiet and very reserved, didn’t go out much, didn’t want to be in the limelight.”

Mary Pellerin will be remembered at Proctor Academy for her work in the alumni affairs office, Will said. The of-

fice was new when she became its secretary in 1976, and for many years she was the primary contact through which graduates connected with the school. She was one of the first recipients of the school’s Nance Barrett Award for staff members, Will said.

“And that is just a reflection of how much she was loved by the staff and the administration of this school, and literally generations of alumni,” he said.

Remembering “Mr. P.”

Generations of Andover children also loved Roger Pellerin, who Will said was known as “Mr. P.”

Hildebrand said she began teaching at Andover Elementary School in 1977, and Roger Pellerin was already a custodian there. His son Bob was in her first class.

“(Roger) made me feel welcome right from the beginning,” she said. “I have to say we became really good buddies, and he was the warmest, kindest soul.”

Hildebrand also remembered him for his sense of humor. He had nicknames for everyone, she said, and always called her “the Madame,” even when he visited after his retirement in 1991.

“When you see him at the post office or at the store . . . (he’s) so warm and friendly, gives you a big hug,” Hildebrand said.

While Roger Pellerin was known as a jokester, Hildebrand said the most important thing in his life seemed to be working with children.

“I think the main thing is my memories of how he worked with children,” she said. “He just cared deeply about them and wanted things to be nice for them and wanted to make them feel helpful and cared about. He often got kids that were in trouble in class or something and he would just . . . have them tag along and work with them.”

That quality made him an important figure in the lives of people who grew up in Andover, Hildebrand said, and made yesterday’s fire especially difficult.

“I feel very deeply sad for the firefighters and the rescue people who, you know, tried to find them and deal with all of it because I think a fair number of them were his boys, and for whom he had been a really special person,” Hildebrand said. “So my heart breaks for them.”

The couple has two sons, Bob and Joe, who both graduated from Proctor Academy in 1988, Will said. He said Bob was present when the fire began, because he recently moved in with his parents.

Roger and Mary Pellerin also have three grandchildren, Hildebrand said, and their son Joe lives out of state.

Although Hildebrand said it has been many years since she first met the Pellerins as Bob’s parents in her first Andover class, she said their personalities never changed. Mary was “steadfast,” she said, and Roger was always positive and funny, even as he grew older.

“I could just rely on him to always be the same, always upbeat and just always concerned about the other guy,” she said.

Laura McCrystal can be reached at 369-3312 or LMcCrystal@CMonitor.com.

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2011

Budgets from page 1

\$1,399,524. The total appropriation for 2011 was \$1,477,591.

In 2011 there were pass-through items with their own funding (offsetting funds for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) of \$17,000, and use of capital reserve funds for property revaluation of \$13,440) that reduced the 2011 net appropriation to \$1,460,591. The proposed 2012 budget is less than this 2011 net appropriation by \$61,067 (-4.2%).

One area that is budgeted higher this year than in the previous year is EMS. The appropriation voted for this new service in 2011 was \$42,625. This was offset by a cash transfer of \$17,000 from closing the accounts on the previous Andover Rescue Squad, reducing the net appropriation to \$25,625.

The recommended EMS budget for 2012 is \$31,125, plus a warrant article for \$25,000 to be placed in a capital reserve fund for future ambulance purchase, for a total budget of \$56,125. This is an increase over the net 2011 appropriation by \$30,500.

However, significant revenues are expected to come in to offset this appropriation. In 2011, some \$16,000 of revenue was received, and it is to be expected that a similar or larger amount will be received in 2012.

Other areas that see increased budgets are Town Office (including salaries and benefits) up \$24,850, and Police up \$15,854. These increased costs are more than offset by a reduction in funds budgeted for Highway Department Special Projects by \$147,760.

Andover School Budget

The recommended 2012 budget for the Andover School District, including a warrant article for new flooring, is \$4,351,026. This is higher than the voted appropriation for 2011 of \$4,317,578 by \$33,448 (0.8%).

Increases in Special Education trans-

portation costs and an increase in health and retirement benefits, in addition to salary steps included in the second year of the teachers' contract, were offset by cost savings associated with reductions in student population. Andover's assessment for SAU costs was also reduced.

Andover Fire Departments

Proposed Net Budgets for 2012			
Department	2011 appropriated	2012 proposed	Change
School	\$4,317,578	\$4,351,026	\$33,448
Town	\$1,460,591	\$1,399,524	-\$61,067
Fire			
Andover	\$68,928	\$68,926	-\$2
E. Andover	\$53,507	\$54,193	\$686
County	\$639,961	\$639,961	\$0
TOTAL	\$6,540,565	\$6,407,027	\$141,156

Net budgets exclude pass-through items that don't impact this year's tax rate. Two common examples: the State reimbursing the Town for part of a road project, or the Town buying equipment with funds appropriated in prior years.

The 2012 budget recommendation for the Andover Fire District is \$68,926, and for the East Andover Fire precinct is \$54,193, for a total of \$123,119. The total appropriation for the two fire departments for 2011 was nearly the same at \$122,435.

Estimated Tax Rates

Tax rates get set near the end of the year, in November, when good estimates are available of the amounts of revenues that will be available to help fund the appropriations voted at the annual March meetings. No meaningful estimates can be made of these revenues this early in the year. But the tax impact of an increase or decrease in appropriations can be estimated.

The proposed reduction in spending in 2012 of \$26,935 could result in a reduction in the total Andover tax rate of approximately \$0.10 per thousand dollars of valuation, for a reduction by about \$20 on the tax bill for a property valued at \$200,000.

This does not necessarily mean that the tax rate will go down 10 cents. The changes in revenue available to offset taxes also will contribute toward a rise or drop in the rate when it is calculated in the fall. Nevertheless, the 10 cent decrease produced by the budget cuts will still be there either way it goes.

Run For Town Office In 2012!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

With Town Meeting coming up in March, it's time to think about who's going to fill all the positions in town government that keep the wheels turning smoothly.

The following is a run-down of what offices will be on the ballot in March and what the incumbents may be planning.

Town Officers

Moderator for two years – Edward C. Becker is the incumbent and does not intend to run this year.

Selectman for three years – Jacob B. Johnson is the incumbent and does not intend to run this year.

Town Clerk / Tax Collector for one year – This is to fill the vacancy created by Marj Roy resigning her Town Clerk / Tax Collector post to become Town Administrator. This position will appear again on next year's ballot to fill the position's normal three-year term. See the article on page 6 for details.

Road Agent for two years – Jon Champagne is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

Budget Committee for three years (two positions) – Sharon Darling and Carroll Gautreau are the incumbents. Sharon and Carroll do not intend to run this year.

Library Trustees for three years (two positions) – Diane Rice and Robin Boynton are the incumbents. Diane and Robin do not intend to run this year.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years – Janet Moore is the incumbent and does not intend to run this year.

Cemetery Trustees for three years

– Susan Schnare is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

Supervisors of the Checklist for six years – Arthur C. Urie is the incumbent.

Treasurer for two years – Shirley Currier is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

The Town paid positions up for election this year are:

- Selectman – \$1,500 / year
- Town Clerk / Tax Collector – hourly
- Treasurer – \$2,000 / year

School District Officers

School Board for three years (two positions) – Don Gould and Erik Anderson are the incumbents. Don intends to run this year while Erik does not.

Moderator for one year – There is no incumbent in this position

Clerk for one year – Christie Coll is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

Treasurer for one year – Shirley Currier is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

The School District paid positions up for election this year are:

- School Board – \$100 / year
- Moderator – \$60 / annual meeting
- Clerk – hourly
- Treasurer – \$1,000 / year

How To File

Filing to run for office is very easy. There is no longer a filing fee for any position.

The filing period for these positions is 10 days long. It begins on Wednesday, January 25, and ends on Friday, February 3. The filing form can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall during her normal business hours.

Workshop from page 1

help make homes and businesses in targeted New Hampshire cities more comfortable and less expensive to maintain through energy improvements.

Tortorice owns and operates Building Alternatives, Inc., a Franconia company that designs and builds "green" residences. He was named New Hampshire Home Builder of the Year in 2009.

Both are qualified home energy auditors who have worked together to lead Button Up workshops across the state.

The workshop has been arranged by Andover's ad hoc energy working group. For more information about the group or the program, call 735-5135.

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Joan Marie's Tanning & Hair Styling	33
New Horizons Hairstylists	40

SHOPS

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop	29
Jake's Market	45

BEACON MEMBERS WIN!

Each month the *Beacon* holds a random drawing among its Andover members to give away valuable prizes provided by area businesses. **Become a member** for a year, support the *Beacon*, and join the fun! This month's winners are:

31 Gifts - Helen Brothers	Zipper Pouch	Paul and Lynette Currier
Andover Pizza Chef	Large 2-Topping Pizza	Nicole Danforth
Blackwater Junction Rest.	Gift Certificate	Karin Forsberg
H'MMM - Helen Brothers	Fashion Accessory	Traci Fowler
Herbalife - Helen Brothers	Sample Set	Bob and Edna Peters
Jake's Market and Deli	Gift Certificate	Tom and Diane Matheny
Kearsarge Magazine	1-Year Subscription	Mario Ratzki
MacKenna's Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Joel and Tiffany Provost
Mary Kay - Laura Condon	Gift Certificate	Donna Baker-Hartwell
New Horizons Hairstylists	Hair Care Products	Art and Heather Makechnie

WINNERS! Call volunteer Margo Coolidge at 735-5418 to collect your prize.
Prizes not redeemable for cash.

BECOME A BEACON MEMBER!

Seasonal Gift Subscription	Local or Out of Town	Here's my donation of \$ _____ for (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Town (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Subscr. (\$25 min)
		Your Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____
		Other Name _____ Other Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____
Seasonal: which months are you at the "other" address? _____		

Donations (not including \$25 for each out-of-town or gift subscription) are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Andover Beacon • PO Box 149 • Andover NH 03216 • Thank you!



SEND A CHECK TODAY!



Mary Ofenloch, president of the Andover Service Club, helped sell hot lunches on Primary Day. Photo: Robert Ofenloch



Michelle Bengivengo, Joanna Sumner, and Marj Roy accepted voters' ballots on Primary Day. Photo: Robert Ofenloch

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

On January 10, Andover and the rest of New Hampshire voted in the first presidential primary of the 2012 election season. The first column of numbers are from Andover. The second is the statewide tally.

Get Ready To Vote In 2012!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Town Meeting Day is coming up on Tuesday, March 13, and with it comes your chance to elect Town and School District officers.

If you're not registered to vote, it's quick and easy. If you'll be out of town or homebound on voting day, casting an absentee vote is also easy. There's no excuse not to vote.

The information below is taken almost verbatim from the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Election Division Web site. The easiest way to get there is via the Voting In NH link at AndoverBeacon.com.

For more information about registering or voting, contact Marj Roy, our Town Clerk, at 735-5332.

Who Can Register

New Hampshire residents who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, and a United States Citizen, may register with the town or city clerk where they live up to 10 days before any election. You may also register on election day at the polling place. The Town Clerk's office can inform voters of what proof of qualification they should bring to register.

There is no minimum period of time you are required to have lived in the state before being allowed to register. You may register as soon as you move into your new community.

How To Register

Apply to your Town Clerk's office. You will be required to fill out a voter registration form and show proof of age, citizenship, and domicile.

Qualified individuals may also register to vote at the polling place on Election Day at all elections. You will be asked to show proof of age, citizenship, and domicile.

Absentee Registration

If you meet the state's voter requirements and are unable to register in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, military service, or because of temporary absence, you may register by

mail. Request an absentee voter registration affidavit and a standard voter registration form from your Town Clerk.

The absentee voter registration affidavit must be witnessed and then both the affidavit and the voter registration form are to be returned to your Town Clerk.

Absentee Ballots

Voting by mail with an absentee ballot is limited to a person who is unable to vote in person because of:

- a religious commitment, or
- a physical disability, or
- an employment commitment, or
- plans to be absent from the town where they are eligible to vote.

An absentee ballot is available 30 days prior to an election. Submit a request in writing to Marj Roy, Town Clerk, PO Box 61, Andover 03216. You must include your name, local address, mailing address (if different), and your signature.

Town clerks may accept completed absentee ballots submitted in person until 5 PM the day before an election or until 5 PM on election day if received through the mail.

Republican Candidates		
Story		42
Swift		18
Vestermark		3
Wuensche		15
Bachmann	1	347
Betzler		28
Brewer		15
Cain		160
Callahan		20
Cort		3
Crow		12
Davis Jr.		14
Drummond		42
Gingrich	58	23,174
Greenleaf		23
Hill		108
Huntsman	97	41,626
Johnson		181
Karger		485
Lawman		119
Linn		82
Martin		19
Meehan		53

Paul	132	56,485
Perry	6	1,761
Robinson		25
Roemer	4	942
Romney	128	97,295
Rubash		248
Santorum	35	23,312
TOTALS	461	246,657

Democratic Candidates		
Terry	2	442
Tyler		106
Wolfe Jr.		245
Cowan	4	945
Ely		287
Freis	3	400
Greene		213
Haywood	1	423
Jordan		155
Obama	124	49,480
O'Connor		266
O'Donnell Jr.		222
Richardson		264
Supreme		833
TOTALS	134	54,281



Your Rx for living well

If you think you may have a neurological problem, Dr. Lawrence Jenkyn at New London Hospital is here for you. With 34 years of experience, Dr. Jenkyn has treated a wide range of nervous system disorders, providing expert treatment and reassurance. A board-certified physician, he graduated from Dartmouth Medical School and completed his neurology internship and residency at the Dartmouth Affiliated Hospitals. He also served as Associate Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at Dartmouth Medical School.

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Andover TOWN BUDGET



**Town Meeting
March 13, 2012**

Selectmen's Recommended Budget for 2012

A Town budget information packet is now available at the Town Hall. It includes:

- the full budget proposed by the Board of Selectmen
- a summary of increases and decreases
- proposed amounts for warrant articles
- a comparison of budgets over the last 5 years
- a summary of Capital Reserve Funds

The packet will also be available at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 13.

An informed voter makes good choices.

Get Ready For 2012 Town Meeting Season

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Town Meeting season is upon us. Here are the dates you need to keep in mind in order to participate in the important decisions facing our town this year.

Friday, February 3 – Filing period for Andover Town and School District Officers ends at 5 PM.

Tuesday, February 7 – Last day to petition the Selectmen to include an article in the warrant for Town Meeting.

Saturday, March 3 – Supervisor of the Checklist available to correct the checklist, Town Hall, 11 to 11:30 AM

Monday, March 5 – Andover Vil-

lage District Annual Meeting, Andover Town Hall, 7 PM.

Monday, March 5 – Andover School District Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7 PM.

Tuesday, March 13 – Voting, AE/MS Gym, 11:30 AM to 7 PM.

Tuesday, March 13 – Andover Town Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7 PM.

Tuesday, March 20 – East Andover Fire Precinct Annual Meeting, East Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, March 21 – Andover Fire District Annual Meeting, Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

For more info, contact the Town Office at 735-5332 or AndoverNH@tds.net.

School District Meeting Info Packet

The 2012 Andover School District Meeting information packet will be available by Tuesday, February 14. It includes the proposed budget; a description of budget sections; historical background; and other information.

You can pick one up at:

- AE/MS
- the Town Hall
- either Post Office
- the Transfer Station
- Jake's Market
- Circle K

Please pick up a copy to read prior to the annual School District Meeting on Monday, March 5. An informed voter makes good choices.

ANDOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING



MARCH 5, 2012

Town Clerk To Appear On 2012 & 2013 Ballots

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Ordinarily, the position of Andover Town Clerk / Tax Collector would not appear on the ballot until March 2013. But because of other changes in Town Hall, Andover voters will be asked to vote on Town Clerk / Tax Collector candidates this year as well as next.

When Dana Hadley resigned as Town Administrator in October of last year, Town Clerk and Tax Collector Marj Roy stepped in as interim Town Administrator.

After review, the Board of Selectmen has officially offered the position of Town Administrator to Marj, effective March 14. State law requires that she leave her post as Town Clerk / Tax Collector in order to accept the appoint-

ment as Town Administrator, so this leaves unfilled the final year of her current three-year term.

Andover voters will fill that one-year vacancy during voting on Town Meeting Day, which is Tuesday, March 13. Voting takes place in the AE/MS gym from 11:30 AM to 7 PM. The Town Clerk / Tax Collector position will appear again on the 2013 ballot for its usual three-year term.

Anyone interested in running to fill the one-year vacancy must file to be on the March 13 ballot. The filing period begins on Wednesday, January 25 and ends on Friday, February 3. The filing form can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office during her normal business hours. There is no fee to file for any office.

Town Matters!

The Beacon needs volunteers to help with reporting about town news. 735-6099



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Saturday, February 25th

10am - 2pm

Route 103 Downtown Warner Village

FREE ACTIVITIES FREE PARKING

This annual event has something for kids and adults of all ages.

Scheduled activities include:

Indoor card & board games & lunch at the United Church of Warner; Teddy Bear Tea and Open House at the Maples at Warner, B & B; Chair Massage and healthy living options at Brookside; pickup hockey and open skating at the Rink at Riverside Park; story time at the Pillsbury Library and many other events.

Visit www.kearsargechamber.org for additional information & schedule of events.

Ad Hoc Energy Efficiency Group Finds Many Resources

By Larry Chase
Ad hoc Energy Efficiency Group

Several local folks got together last summer to talk about what we could do – as individuals, as organizations, as town government – to reduce our energy bills. The previous winter had been especially severe, gas prices had hovered around the \$4 per gallon mark before dropping somewhat, and troubles in the Middle East were continuing to cause worry about future oil supply. What could we do to keep fuel and electric bills from overwhelming us in the future?

A lot of things, it turns out. Indeed, northern New England appears to be a breeding ground for the development of programs and projects to help control energy costs. The local folks who started to look around last summer – we came to call ourselves the ad hoc energy efficiency group – found a whole lot of local resources.

For example:

- We found a state-run program that funds energy audits of municipal buildings across New Hampshire. Andover applied for, and received, a grant to cover the costs of auditing the building that houses the Town Offices and the Andover Public Library.

The audit, which identifies ways to lessen heat loss and improve energy efficiency, was conducted in December. Results should be available later this winter or by early spring. More: NHLocalEnergyAudits.com.

- Button Up New Hampshire, another state-run program, offers home-weatherization workshops around the state. Workshops are designed to show “how to undertake basic air sealing, insulation, and conservation measures to reduce fuel and electricity use that will save money and make homes more comfortable throughout the year.”

The two- to three-hour presentations by experienced home energy auditors, are open to the public at no cost. In Andover, a Button Up workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 21. (See the article on page 1.) Both this and the municipal-building audit program are funded by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. More: MyEnergyPlan.net/buttonup.

- New Hampshire Electric Co-op, Andover’s electricity supplier, is beginning to install “smart meters” at local homes and businesses. The new meters “will make it easy for you to see and track your electric usage by providing more detailed information about your unique consumption habits,” according to a brochure mailed to co-op members. Look for additional information in mailings and with bills, or call 800 698-2007.

- The Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI), based in Plymouth, has an “energy-raiser” project

that has installed nearly 170 passive solar hot-water systems in area homes since 2005. Similar to the “barn-raisers” in New Hampshire’s past, energy-raisers rely on local volunteers coming together in their spare time to do the installations. More: PlymouthEnergy.org.

- The Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG, pronounced “surge”), is a ten-year-old non-profit based in Thetford, Vermont. According to its Web site (SERG-info.org), it “helps Vermont and New Hampshire homeowners and towns use less energy, save money, and protect the environment through education, outreach, and community organizing.”

Among its projects and programs: home visitations, where trained volunteers discuss energy-saving steps with individual homeowners; “energy expos,” which bring together energy experts, vendors, government officials, and local residents for learning and discussion; and “movie nights,” featuring films on energy-related issues.

- The New Hampshire Residential Energy Performance Association, at REPA-NH.org, “is an organization made up of individual residential energy auditors and weatherization professionals providing energy efficiency services in New Hampshire.” Go to the “Consumer Guide” page for a listing of professional energy auditors or for a variety of other services.

- Lakes Region Community College, in Laconia, is offering a number of short-term energy-analyst and weatherization-installer training classes for local builders, through its Efficiency Training Programs. More: LRCC.edu/Energy/Training.

- Clean Air – Cool Planet, a voluntary organization based in Portsmouth, is hosting its fourth annual Local Energy Solutions Conference on Saturday, March 31, at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook. Aimed at members of local energy and conservation committees, municipal and school staff and board members, businesses, legislators, and community volunteers, the day-long event will include workshops, facility tours, dozens of energy-related exhibitors, networking opportunities, and “great food.” More: CleanAir-CoolPlanet.org/les2012.

That’s just a small sampling of what’s out there. The little band of Andover volunteers will be exploring these and other local resources in the coming months with the aim of bringing some of what we learn into our own community. If you’d like to join the exploration, or if you have experience in becoming more energy-efficient that you’d like to share, please contact Larry Chase at LBChase@aol.com or 735-5135.



Class 6 Roads: Public Benefit Or Burden?

By Arch Weathers
For the Beacon

The following article is the first of a two-part series to explain the purpose of a petitioned warrant article to appear on the 2012 Andover Town Warrant to formally discontinue a section of Class 6 road beyond the current end of Beech Hill Road.

Part 1 (below) provides essential background about our Class 6 roads. Part 2 will appear in the March issue of the Beacon and will address the warrant article, the reasons for discontinuance, and the opportunity for the residents of Andover to benefit from such an action, avoid unnecessary increases in road maintenance budgets, preserve a scenic corridor, and create a recreational asset.

Questions About Roads

Road questions are rarely a matter of importance to the average citizen. State and federal roads are well designed, safely maintained thoroughfares. At the municipal level, the safety of our passage is entrusted to skilled road crews using innovative methods that stretch our maintenance dollars without compromising safety. This is the surface, however, of a highly complex and confusing public asset discussion.

What is a highway? How are local roads created? Who owns the soil un-

derneath? What is a Class 6 road? Why do we need to know?

In *A Hard Road to Travel*, H. Bernard Waugh Esq. exposes the essential ingredients that provide the answers.

As Waugh points out in his opening chapter, the leading misconception by local officials is that roads are on town-owned land. Although this may be a possibility, it is a rare instance indeed. A road is simply a particular type of easement, “held in trust by the government for the use of the public.”

The rights of the public are limited to viatic use—a legal term that means “any use reasonably incidental to the purpose of traveling.” Less obvious but permitted uses under this definition include children playing in the streets (Dow v Latham, 1922 ruled children had the same right to roll hoops in the street), roadside car parking, and parades.

Because they are held in the public trust, a road easement cannot be dissolved by such ploys as adverse possession (squatters rights). Only a vote by the local legislative body can remove such an easement.

The peculiarities of a road easement, because of its public nature, have less to do with purpose than with paradox. Private easements clearly spell out the terms between landowners, and the

See Class 6 on page 9

Political ad paid for by Andover Democrats, 275 Elbow Pond Rd, 03216

ARE YOU ALARMED
by recent bills from the Republican supermajority in Concord to allow guns on college campuses and put warning signs on the state border?

ARE YOU WONDERING
what happened to the focus on jobs and middle class families?

THE ANDOVER DEMOCRATS
would love for you to join our efforts in electing a Common Sense Coalition next November.

Topics at our next meeting will include:

- Election Kick-off gathering in May
- Redistricting news for Andover's State House and Senate representation.

YOU ARE INVITED!

WHEN: Tuesday, February 14, at 7 PM

WHERE: The community room of the Andover Firehouse

Find us on Facebook: search for "Andover NH Democrats"

Letters To The Beacon

A Remarkable Woman

I am finally giving tribute to the woman who contributed so much to my life and to the lives of so many young people who grew up in Andover along with me.

With money scarce, with four children and not much else but a comfortable old house blessed with a big kitchen (big enough to accommodate a lot of kids, by no means limited to her own), she accomplished what cities pay large sums to achieve – a safe harbor for youngsters who need a center for play and the social skills they will need for a lifetime.

Etta Currier, second mother to so many of us, was a remarkable woman. You won't read about her in national newspapers, but she has undoubtedly her counterparts in small towns over the United States – she was a true heroine of this country's culture. As one of the lucky ones who played Kick the Can in her back yard on summer evenings, I say thanks.

Ann Shively Kalbach

Thankful In The New Year

Ah, the new year has arrived with promises of snow and icy temperatures, and town and school budget hearings are well under way. I've already noticed a "BUMP" sign on Route 4, and yes, frost heaves have appeared early due to temperature fluctuations. And lo, it is

With School District Meeting and Town Meeting both coming up in March, **please send a letter to the Beacon** expressing your thoughts on the budgets, the warrant articles, our local election, or other local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

the time of year to give thanks.

For Andover's new alternative energy group, whose acronym will be unveiled ASAP, I give thanks especially to Larry and Jeff, oh, and to Pecco the innkeeper, our movers and shakers of biomass and solar energy and NGOs, and to the streetlight crew, Susan and Vick, and to Andy and Steve, proponents and practitioners of conservation and alternative energy.

For the holiday gift exchange, I give thanks to all who participated, either by donating gifts or money (easily over \$120!), or by stocking and un-stocking the tables, especially my co-chair Robin Boynton, then Shirley Currier, Sandra Graves, Nan Kaplan, Kim Halquist, Pat Moyer, and Wendy Pinkham.

It's a great day to be in the school gym, with the holiday swap at one end and the wreath-making workshop at the other. If you ever wanted to see a local version of the movie *Elf*, catch Jane Slayton and her merry crew of kids and adults constructing decorative wreaths.

Merriest elf? Hands down, that award goes to Don Gould, who cheerfully helped break down and pack up

any good leftover items for the August flea market at the Potter Place depot.

Finally, thank you to the stalwart and impassioned Andover Democrats: Art, Bill, Dean, Robin, Steve, Mary, Susan, Mario, and Caroline, and the innkeeper again, and Les. Your collective spirit is unquenchable and inspiring; the cookies in December were outstanding, (danke sehr, Gisela) and we anticipate a May gathering of any interested people of like ilk who want to kick off the campaign to take back state government. The redistricting plan affords us only two representatives in the House. Think about getting involved!

And thank you in advance.

Janet Moore

History In The Woods

Armed with a little history and a walk down Hall Road, I can almost hear the stage coach's metal and wood rattling over the rough road. Horses clop in chorus while kids can be heard running to town to meet with the coach. The stage coach was exciting and brought mail and packages; news from the rest of the world. But, it only came once a week. Hall Road, the old stage coach road, connects Beech Hill Road's dead end and Route 4. It's more of a trail these days, which makes it all

the more awesome!

History on Beech Hill still exists, and some are yet to be discovered. Strewn throughout the forest are rock walls arranged in a small rectangle which looks like a border for a vegetable garden. Often you'll find the sunken area giving clue to a possible cellar hole. Perhaps you'll even find an old dug well near that cellar hole. Along Beech Hill Road is the cellar hole which supported the school serving the Beech Hill School District.

As most communities in this country grapple with land being gobbled up, we, too, must wrestle with this issue. Recent mutterings of development of Beech Hill swirl like a cold winter wind. Development would replace the still undiscovered, lost history of the people who inhabited Beech Hill. These people were hard-working folk who lived off the land and helped to build the Andover we know today.

Beech Hill was a bustling farming community with rich but rocky soil. Today, rock walls, cellar holes, and dug wells are portals and reminders of our history. Development threatens this historic portion of Andover. The tall hardwood trees tower over the old stage coach road flanked by a small stream. We can walk along those historic borders.

Todd Donovan

Correction

Adrian Bolte's name was misspelled in the last issue of the *Beacon* in an article about the ornaments for the New Hampshire Christmas tree in Washington DC.

We regret the error!

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The *Beacon* reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.



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Class 6 from page 7

easement carries with the land. The property of one is encumbered, while the other is not.

No such language exists in road easements, as the public right has no linkage to specific land parcels. Both “burden and benefit” coexist for landowners with road frontage, and municipalities are both praised and cursed: praised for allowing safe passage to one’s home, cursed for the dust cloud left behind!

How To Create A Road

Roads are created by four methods: layout, prescription, dedication and acceptance, and deeded ownership over land to which a municipality has title. The first two are legal acts while dedication, such as a subdivision road plat, and deeded ownership involve actual construction.

Most of Andover’s historic roads were created by the process of laying out. Each year the Board of Selectmen would gather to record this extraordinary task for posterity. The source records make interesting reading: “Beech Hill or Swett Rd: 2½ rods, beginning at a pine tree standing about 10 rods westerly of Horseshow pond by the side of the road that leads from Capt. Benj. Petten-gails to Benj. Sillas, thence S 4 degrees E 80 rods.” Notice that the roads were created over private land.

The prescriptive method, a process the Legislature abolished in 1968, is the most difficult to prove. One must demonstrate twenty years of uninterrupted passage by the public in a definite line of travel. Finally the claimant must prove adversity; the landowner never gave permission. If such permission had been given, the burden to prove that it was retracted prior to the commencement of the twenty year hitch must be documented.

The dedication and acceptance process is an express act by a holder of record showing intent to “permanently donate a particular strip of land to the public to be used as a highway.” Filed and recorded subdivision plats, approved by the Planning Board, constitute the most common method of dedication, but until there is a formal acceptance at Town Meeting, the road will not have legal status. Both dedication and acceptance are required.

The fourth method is a laying out of a road over land the town owns or has acquired by the process of taking.

Who Owns The Land?

Returning to the earlier question of ownership of the underlying land, we can begin to understand just how complex this easement truly is. In New Hampshire, because the creation process historically has involved privately owned land, the burden of proof falls on the municipality to produce clear evidence to the contrary.

Ownership of the underlying soil follows the center-of-the-road doctrine. Simply stated, fee simple to the underlying land is presumed to belong to the lot owner over whose land the easement

passes – to the centerline of the right-of-way (ROW). This of course assumes there is a different lot owner on the other side; otherwise the entire corridor reverts to the single owner. This presumption is so strong that deeds rarely mention the highway boundary as the lot boundary.

Road classification in New Hampshire is determined primarily by what authority (federal, state, or local) is responsible for their construction, reconstruction, and maintenance. Classes one through four deal with state roads.

Class 5 roads consist of all other local roads that a town has a duty to maintain. Maintenance is a key word, and many legal issues have been addressed by the highest courts based solely on evidence that either supports or refutes a municipality’s intent in this regard.

Of particular importance to rural communities are the abandoned, ancient by-ways that contribute to the sense of place that defines the New England intimacy. These are our Class 6 roads. They are “existing public ways which are either discontinued subject-to-gates-and-bars or are roads that have not been maintained by the town in suitable condition for travel for a period of at least five successive years.”

Closing A Road

There are four methods by which roads attain this status: lapse (not maintained for a period of five years), discontinuance subject-to-gates-and-bars, layout-subject-to-gates-and-bars, and state discontinuance of a Class 1 or Class 2 highway.

What is important to understand and is often overlooked is that these roads are public highways in every sense and public passage is guaranteed; however, the road can no longer be approved for zoning purposes because it no longer has the status of a publicly approved street. For instance, a building permit cannot be issued for a lot on a Class 6 road because it does not meet the frontage requirements as set forth in the local zoning ordinances.

Lapse means just that: no maintenance or repair by the town for a period of five years. Most of our Class 6 roads came by their status in this manner as a decline in usage led to neglect. It is the lack of maintenance, not the lack of

travel, that creates the status.

The second method, discontinuance subject-to-gates-and-bars, is a historic description that refers to a practice by a landowner of placing a gate across the road (remember, it’s his land ... or hers) to keep livestock in. The gate must be kept unlocked and not interfere with the safe and convenient passage by the public.

This type of discontinuance, unlike the first, arises from legislation. Although the Board of Selectmen may sponsor it, this discontinuance requires a vote at Town Meeting. The wording of the article must have the phrase “subject-to-gates-and-bars” so as not to be misconstrued with a complete or formal discontinuance.

In 1932, over 10 miles of road in Andover were voted discontinued subject-to-gates-and-bars at Town Meeting.

Towns enjoy freedom from liability for any damages sustained by the public in using Class 6 roads, and it is important that signs warning of the approach of the unmaintained section be posted well ahead of the change.

The third and fourth methods of closing a road are seldom used and address very specific issues.

It cannot be underscored enough that suitability for travel does not affect a Class 6 road’s status, nor any other for that matter. Many towns have mistakenly correlated a road’s viability as a travel way with its status, only to

find that what they had designated as a Class 5 road and for which building permits were issued was in fact a Class 6 road.

What is even worse is to allow minimal maintenance on a portion of a Class 6 road. An example of this would be to continue plowing beyond the terminus of a Class 5 road for a period of five years. Such an action could automatically change the status of the plowed portion to Class 5. The town now has one more road to maintain!

Life After Closure

As a public asset, Class 6 roads that are no longer passable except by pedal power or less can still provide useful corridors for connecting trail systems for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other activities which define the character of a rural community.

However, just because a road is abandoned doesn’t mean that the town has the authority to close it. Landowners with frontage on Class 6 roads have a vested right of access and could seek damages by the act of a taking if this were their sole means of access.

When circumstances arise that argue for the complete discontinuance of a road, such an act requires placing an article on the Town Warrant. As you have probably surmised by now, there is a steady erosion of the public right of access as the road classification increases. In fact, one can continue the classi-

See Class 6 on page 10

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Good Neighbor Award
 NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Class 6 from page 9

fication to limit passage to foot traffic only. This is in the form of Class A and Class B trails.

Because this status is still subject to reversal, one should consider very carefully the intent of a formal closure. If the municipality or an individual (this takes a petitioned article) has valid reasons as to why it is in the public interest to seek complete discontinuance, then the wording on the article should specify that this is a complete or absolute discontinuance – not to be confused with our old friend “subject-to-gates-and-bars.”

What then is the effect of a complete discontinuance? The measure dissolves the public easement, the town relinquishes all rights, and the land reverts to private ownership following the center-of-the-road doctrine. This is of course a presumption, but given that the courts side with the landowners unless substantial evidence by the town proves differently, it’s a moot point. A quit-claim deed would remedy the dispute if it’s agreeable to all parties.

Legal Remedies

There are numerous legal cases that address the complexities associated with Class 6 road issues. Perhaps the most insidious have to do with private driveway connections and development.

RSA 674:41 allows a town to prohibit building along Class 6 highways.

The owner may appeal by requesting an exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Furthermore, in applying for the exception the landowner may assume responsibility for upgrading the surface.

RSA 236:9 requires approval from the Board of Selectmen or the Road Agent before any changes, grading, culverting, etc. can be done. Additionally the Board of Selectmen may require a bond and can regulate the extent of the work.

The fact that a Class 6 road can be privately maintained does not, however, change its status. Nor does the condition of its surface. As more demand is placed on this connector to be a primary access, the road surface would undoubtedly be improved to Class 5 standards. The town is now faced with a Class 5 road condition that it cannot maintain.

When considered in a manner that not only preserves the public right of access but also encourages appropriate use, Class 6 roads can become treasures as valuable as the historic landscape they continue to serve. Andover and other towns with equally remarkable topographies are facing continued demands on its system of roads that growth creates. By following the example of the Northern Rail Trail as an ingenious application of resources that promotes creative usage, one would hope that the same can be applied to our Class 6 roads.



My class and I are sending our enthusiastic thanks to you for the exciting new Andover Yankee Trader (AYT) feature. Through the AYT I was able to purchase the weather station from Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hiller for my elementary school, and we are thrilled with this addition to our science equipment. In this picture, my second and third grade class watch our custodian install the weather station at our school. Keep up the good work! Love our Beacon!

Photo and caption: Cheryl Blessing

Andover's Yankee Trader

Free Computer Desk: Size is 70 x 38 x 22 inches, four shelves, slide-out keyboard drawer, in excellent condition. If interested, call 735-5681 or e-mail sdarling@tds.net.

Food Processor: Used, mid-sized Kitchen Aid, runs very well, has grating and slicing blade as well as regular blade. \$15, 735-5690

Ink Cartridges: Many new color and black ink cartridges left over from HP and Canon printers that the Beacon has retired. Inquire at Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com for a list of models these cartridges fit.

Laptop Case: Nearly-new case for laptop computer, files, office supplies. Includes shoulder strap. \$5. CDarling@tds.net or 735-6099.

Bathtub Reader: White wire and chrome mount for book, soap, drink, you name it – to put all at reach while you loll in the tub, fits across all sized tubs, \$25. 735-5690.

Microwave: Low wattage, but works very well. Good for popping popcorn or warming leftovers. Free! Suzy@Andoverbeacon.com or 735-5309.

Ladies Power Recliner: Microfiber with stain protection treatment, soft shade of sage. Purchased at Jordan's Furniture, used only three months. Original price \$650, asking \$350. 526-8037.



Pool Table: Regulation size, slate top, free to whoever can remove it from the Lion's Den. Needs work. Comes apart for removal. [Jim Danforth, DanforthConsulting@comcast.net](mailto:JimDanforth@comcast.net).

Swivel Barrel Chair: Upholstered swivel barrel chair. Oatmeal color, excellent condition. \$75. SSchnare@comcast.net or 735-5389.



Sony PlayStation: Original game system from the late 90s, excellent condition. Includes two controllers, three memory cards, necessary cables, and 30 games with booklets and cases intact. Also can play music CDs. \$175. 735-4101 or Robert@andoverbeacon.com.

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If you have stuff that's "too good to throw away," let Andover's Yankee Trader (AYT) help you find it a new home. AYT is for individuals or businesses to give away (or sell) stuff they no longer need (not stuff they bought to re-sell). Up to 30 words is free for Andover residents and Beacon subscribers; \$5 for others. Add a photo for \$5. If you'd like to show your appreciation when AYT works for you, an extra (tax deductible) donation would be appreciated!

To be included in next month's AYT, get your 30 words and optional photo to the Beacon by the 15th. Ads@AndoverBeacon.com • PO Box 149, Andover 03216 • 735-6099

Town Budget Reduced; Town Services Move Forward

By Vicky Mishcon
Andover Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen will be presenting a budget for 2012 showing a 3.3 % decrease from last year's total appropriation. Our goal has been twofold:

1) Keep operating expenses at a minimum while maintaining essential services to the Town, and

2) Move forward on the long-term goals of each Town department.

An information packet with the complete budget recommended by the Selectmen and a summary of areas of increase and decrease is available at the Town Office and will be available at Town Meeting. The most significant areas of increase include:

- 2.5% increase in wages (\$15,407.50)
- increase in benefits (\$18,254)
- Highway Department increases in summer labor, summer equipment rental, bridge maintenance, and the purchase of safety equipment (\$22,000)

There are also increases in general assistance, benefits, and election / registration costs due to four elections this year. The total amount of increase to the budget is \$103,779.50.

The most significant areas of decrease come from the Emergency Medical Services Department, specifically from supplies and Medtronic at a \$17,000 decrease and from the Highway Department Special Projects line at a decrease of \$64,150. The total amount of decrease to the budget is \$94,857.00.

The total change to the operating budget is an increase of \$8,922.50, or slightly less than 1%.

We are asking for a new Capital Reserve Fund for ambulance replacement with an initial appropriation of \$25,000. At the same time, we are limiting the amount requested for Highway Department Special Projects to \$50,000 in a Capital Reserve Fund. This will allow us to raise money over two years for a new road project, keeping the budget relatively stable.

In summary, the Selectmen's recommendations are as follows:

Operating Budget: \$1,280,972 (an increase of \$8,922.50 from 2011).

Warrant Articles: \$148,550 (a decrease of \$56,610 from 2011).

Total Recommended Appropriations: \$1,429,522 (a decrease of \$48,069 from 2011).

The total budget recommended by the Selectmen, including warrant articles, comes in 3.3 % lower than the 2011 budget. At the same time, we are able to offer competitive salary and wage rates, prepare for Single Stream Recycling, purchase much-needed safety equipment for the Highway Department, improve road and bridge maintenance, and begin saving for ambulance replacement.

Budget Committee Recommendations

The Budget Committee will be presenting their budget at Town Meeting with further decreases totaling \$30,380. Their cuts, over and above those made by the Board of Selectmen, include the following areas:

- \$300 off police utilities
- \$2,000 off forest fire labor
- \$2,000 off highway summer labor
- \$10,000 off winter equipment rental (snow plowing)
- \$2,000 off highway safety equipment
- \$3,000 off construction debris
- \$3,080 off the Recreation Department
- \$3,000 off tax anticipation
- \$5,000 off the Highway and Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.

Both budget recommendations will appear in the Town Report, which will be available in late February. It is the Budget Committee's recommendations, not the Selectmen's recommendations, that are moved, debated, and voted on at Town Meeting.

A summary of the Selectmen's recommendations is available in a packet at the Town Office. It will also be available at Town Meeting.

We hope you will take the time to review these budget recommendations, and we look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting.

Andover Cable TV

By Charlie Darling
Andover Cable TV Channel 8

Sadly, the Town Web site that Roger Godwin and many others worked so hard on has disappeared from the Web. As a stop-gap measure, there's a single Web page for the Town now at a new address: Andover.NH.us. The page reproduces just two of the many, many features that were available on the old site. It contains a link that lets you pay your property taxes online, and a link to each Channel 8 video that's available online.

Channel 8 continues to keep its recent locally-produced programs – Board of Selectmen and School Board meetings, Budget Committee public hearings, candidate roundtables, school concerts, public events, lectures, and the like – available on the Internet. Even Channel 8's Community Bulletin Board is available on the Web.

Besides reaching all the Web-capable households and other sites around town, this also allows people to watch a particular Board of Selectmen meeting, for example, when they want to watch it, rather than at the specific days and hours that it happens to play on Channel 8. Or they may choose to watch it from their office in Concord; on their iPhone in Boston; or from their winter

home in Florida.

Now that the Town's Web address has changed, here are the new instructions for how to watch an Andover video on the Web:

Go to the Town's temporary Web page at Andover.NH.us. Scroll down to see all the local videos that are available. Click any one of them to view it instantly.

Volunteers Needed!

Andover's cable TV station is run almost entirely by volunteers. With all the new capabilities we've added over the past year or two, we definitely could use some more help.

If you could help out for even just an hour a week, that would make a big difference. We can teach you to do whatever it is you might enjoy, from videotaping to video editing to programming to updating the Bulletin Board to maintaining the program calendar to posting videos on the Web to keeping all the hardware and software working. Whatever interests you is what we'll help you do!

Please call me at 735-6099 for more information, or stop by – we're in the basement of the Town Hall, right next to the Andover Food Pantry and the office of *The Andover Beacon*.

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For \$25 you can have the *Beacon* mailed to any US address.

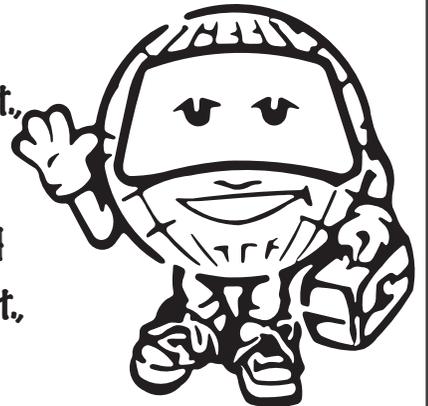
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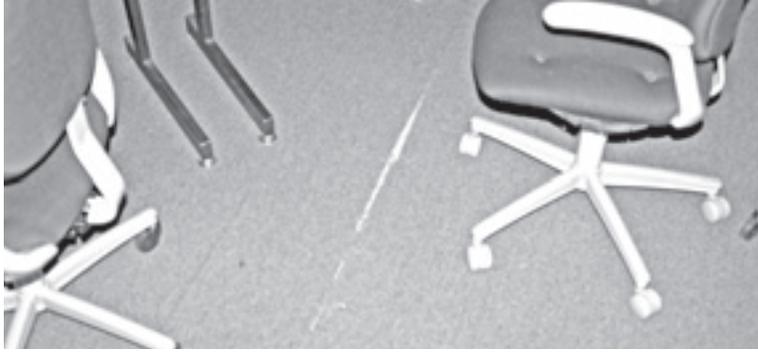
PowerPoint Volunteer Needed

If you know Microsoft PowerPoint or would like to learn it, please volunteer to help update the Channel 8 Bulletin Board once a week.

For details, contact Charlie Darling at 735-6099 or Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com

Watch CHANNEL 8 on the WEB

You can now watch video of Andover meetings and events at **Andover.NH.us**

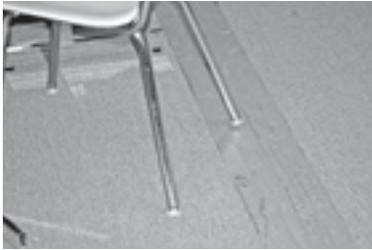


The 20-year-old carpets in the Middle School wing start to fail when ripples develop. In this photo, a ripple has turned into a rip. Photos: Charlie Darling

Warrant Article Seeks Replacement of Worn and Torn Carpets in Middle School

By Don Gould
Andover School Board

When the middle school wing was added to the Andover Elementary/Middle School 20 years ago, the concrete floors of seven of the eight rooms were covered with carpeting to suppress noise for optimum learning environment and to minimize maintenance costs necessitated by waxing and care of alternative floor coverings. One room, the science room, has tile flooring, which is more appropriate for that use.



In this photo, a rip has been slathered with duct tape.

These carpets have served a gen-

eration of students and have become rippled, worn through, taped together, and patched with duct tape. See accompanying photos and/or visit the classrooms. This condition poses a tripping hazard, exposes the concrete base, and requires constant attention and maintenance.

It is for these reasons that the Andover School Board is proposing a warrant article at the 2012 School District Meeting to provide \$15,690 for replacement of carpeting in the six classrooms of the middle school wing most needing this immediate action.

Moderator Sought For School District Meeting

Andover School Board press release

For many years, Andover has elected an Andover School District moderator based on a write-in vote. Last year Ed Becker was elected by the write-in vote. While Ed has agreed to serve at this year's School District Meeting, Ed has also shared that he is not interested in continuing to serve in future years.

The Andover School Board is looking for candidates to run for the position of school district moderator. Most years, the moderator has just one task, and that is to moderate the School Dis-

trict Meeting in March. Whoever is elected in March of 2012 would serve as moderator at the 2013 School District Meeting.

This is an important position and key to an efficient and effective School District Meeting. There is an opportunity for the moderator to attend training and to learn the rules and procedures.

Prospective candidates are welcome to talk with School Board members or administrators. For information about filing to run for school board moderator, see the article on page 3.

East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

We never grow weary of saying, "Thank you." Your fire departments are truly grateful for the positive support given to us by the community we serve.

The poinsettia and Christmas tree sales were a great example of the support we enjoy. People started picking out trees and flowers at 7:30 AM and did not stop until we were sold out. By noon, all deliveries were made, and we were on our way home.

The end of December was a very difficult time for homeowners and firefighters. Home fires in New England cost the lives of several occupants and fire fighters. As firefighters we are trained to protect ourselves, but in the end the job can have great risk. With better training and equipment the risk may be reduced in the future. We hope so.

The homeowner has a wonderful tool for fire protection: the smoke detector. They are cheap, reliable, and easy to use. Many fatal fires today have no working smoke detectors in the home. The sad fact is, that is not news, and I am sure you grow weary of my constant

badgering. If by annoying someone we save a life, well, I'm good with that. If cost is a concern, call us. We will provide them.

Burning Out Light Bulbs

Do you burn out a lot of light bulbs in your home? You replace the bulb, and in only a short time, maybe several weeks, it is burned out again? This could be signaling a potential fire hazard.

The terminals in your electrical system may be loose, causing the voltage to fluctuate. Under certain conditions, the voltage will go higher and cause light bulbs to burn out faster than normal. The cost of the bulb is worth the price of what a burn-out may be telling you. You may have an electrical condition in your home that needs attention.

What can the homeowner do to correct this concern? The best answer: Call a licensed electrician. An untrained homeowner in an electrical panel is an ambulance call waiting to happen. The electrician will tighten the connections in your power panel and look for potential trouble spots.

It is time to enjoy the best winter has to offer. Have a great time and be safe.

Fire Officials Urge Homeowners To Be Alert To Fire Hazards

NH Department of Safety
press release

The recent tragedy in Andover, plus one in Connecticut with the loss of three children and two adults to fire on Christmas Day, remind us of how vulnerable we are in a fire. State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan and New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs President Corey Landry recommend being alert to fire hazards in your home.

Be sure that combustible materials are kept at least 36 inches away from all heating devices. When cleaning out ashes from a fireplace or woodstove, place the ashes in a covered metal container that is set outside on dirt or concrete that is at least 36 inches away from buildings or combustible materials. Never set a bucket of ashes on a deck!

Wood stoves, coal stoves, and kerosene space heaters are the leading cause of fire in New Hampshire. The use of these supplemental heating devices also increases the risk of dangerous accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home if not properly installed or maintained.

It is critical that every home has at least one smoke detector on each floor level and a carbon monoxide alarm. The best protection for your family is smoke detectors in combination with automatic residential fire sprinklers. You also need to know what to do when the alarm sounds. Every family should develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

For more information, contact your local fire department or the State Fire Marshal's office.

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TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Board

November 8, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes

Members present: Eric Johnson, Chair; Jon Warzocha, Vice-Chair; Jacob Johnson, *ex-officio*; Nancy Teach; Pat Moyer; Paul Currier; Wood Sutton, alternate. Don Gould joined the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Also present for duration of appropriate items: Colin Brown; Larry Ballin; John Ferris; Gregor Mackechnie; Arch Weathers.

Announcements / Correspondence: Notice of a public hearing in Danbury on November 22, 2011 regarding Ragged Mountain Pacific to extend the deadline by three years to April 2015.

Wetlands / non-site-specific permit for Town of Andover for property on Morrill Hill Road.

Notice from Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) regarding plans to re-route a bridge at Dyers Crossing Road. The FNRT are requesting a letter from the Planning Board indicating that the rail trail is beneficial to Andover.

Eric will forward all public correspondence from the Master Plan public hearings to Board members to review for their November 22, 2011 work session.

Eric stated he had corresponded with town attorney Rob Upton regarding the letter received from Kim White pertaining to the school bus terminal. Mr. Upton indicated that the RSA states there is a 30-day timeframe for Planning Board appeals.

Eric stated he had spent time reviewing the Fenvale area on the town map.

Public Hearing: Minor subdivision for Howard Jelleme, with Colin Brown of Central Land Surveying as agent, for property on Emery Road

The proposal is to divide a 12-acre parcel into two lots, the first being 6.68 acres and the second being 5.39 acres. Brown stated the pins have been set. The public present were in full support of the proposal.

There being no further discussion,

the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the application.

Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Proctor Academy – discussion on upcoming projects.

Ballin and Ferris presented a conceptual site plan for a new dorm on North Street which would replace the current dorm – Parsonage. This dorm has not been approved by Proctor as of this time. This would be a 16-bed dorm with two faculty apartments.

Access to the dorm would be from behind MLS. The existing driveway would be brought up to current specifications, and parking would be in the rear of the dorm.

Ballin stated there is a concern with the setback for the new building, and they would like to keep a parallel line rather than setting it back. Warzocha commented that he feels the building should be set back, and landscaping could be used to retain the parallel. Ballin responded that there could be drainage issues if the building is set back.

It was asked what the plans are for the Lawrence Street buildings, and the response was that Proctor would like to improve faculty housing. Cangiano House is currently faculty housing, and Thoreau House could be turned into a two-apartment faculty building.

Warzocha and Currier both stated that Proctor would need to request setback waivers and would also need a variance from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Ballin and Ferris also discussed a second issue, that being the football field. They stated that parents have requested a turf field. This has not been cited, it is strictly conceptual at this time. Having a turf field might alleviate drainage issues the current field has, and it would also make the field available.

See Planning on page 14

Office Hours & Meetings

OFFICE HOURS

Town Office: Mon-Fri 8:30-1

Town Clerk & Tax Collector:

Mon & Wed, 9-2

Tue & Thu, 1:30-6:30

Last Saturday of month, 9-11

Building Inspector: Tues, 6-7

Andover Library:

Mon, 6:30-8:30

Wed, 9-12 & 6:30-8:30

Thu, 12:30-4:30 • Sat, 10-12

Bachelor Library:

Tues, 9-12:30 & 6:30-8:30

Thu, 6:30-8:30 • Fri, 1:30-5

Transfer Station:

Wed, 7-6 (7-5 during winter)

Sat, 7-5

Swap Event (May-Oct):

2nd Sat (rain date: 3rd Sat)

Transfer Station, 8-2

MEETINGS

At the Town Hall unless otherwise noted

Board of Selectmen:

1st & 3rd Mon, 7

Planning Board: 2nd & 4th Tue, 7

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

3rd Tue, 7

Conservation: 2nd Wed, 7:30

Recycling: 2nd Thu, 1

Recreation: 2nd Thu, 7, AE/MS

Library Trustees: 3rd Thu, 7:30

Andover Library or

Bachelor Library

Fourth of July: 1st Wed (Feb-Jun),

Andover Fire Station, 7

Andover Fire Dept: 1st Mon, Business, 7; 3rd Mon, Training, 7

Explorer Scout Post 321: 2nd Wed,

7, East Andover Fire Station

East Andover Fire Dept:

2nd Wed, 7:30

Andover EMS: 2nd Tue, 7

East Andover Fire Station

School Board: 1st Tue, 6:30,

AE/MS

Town Offices Closed Feb 20

For more information, call the Town Office at 735-5332.

Mark Your Calendar!

FEBRUARY

- 1: Fourth of July Comm, Andover Fire Station, 7
- 6: Board of Selectmen, 7
- 6: Andover Fire Depts Bus Mtg, 7
- 7: Building Inspector, 6-7
- 7: School Board, 6:30
- 8: Conservation Commission, 7:30
- 9: Recycling Committee, 1
- 9: Recreation Committee, AE/MS, 7
- 14: Building Inspector, 6-7
- 14: Planning Board, 7
- 14: Andover EMS, East Andover Fire Station, 7
- 16: Library Trustees, 7:30
- 20: Town Office, Town Clerk CLOSED
- 20: Andover Fire Depts Training, 7
- 21: Building Inspector, 6-7

- 21: Board of Selectmen, 7
- 21: Zoning Board, 7
- 28: Building Inspector, 6-7
- 28: Planning Board, 7

MARCH

- 5: SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING, 7
- 5: Board of Selectmen, 7
- 5: Andover Fire Depts Bus Mtg, 7
- 6: Building Inspector, 6-7
- 6: School Board, 6:30
- 7: Fourth of July Comm, Andover Fire Station, 7
- 8: Recycling Committee, 1
- 8: Recreation Committee, AE/MS, 7
- 13: VOTING, 11:30 AM - 7 PM
- 13: TOWN MEETING, 7
- 14: Conservation Commission, 7:30

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TOWN of ANDOVER

TOWN MEETING

March 13, 7 PM

Voting 11:30 AM to 7 PM

Andover Elementary/Middle School

PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332

Planning from page 13

able to the community.

It was asked if there would be lights and a track, and the response was possibly lights; however, no track is planned.

Non-Binding Consultation: Arch Weathers – discussion regarding Ridge-line Ordinance Warrant Article

Weathers stated that based on the Master Plan public hearings, he is volunteering to draft a warrant article for a ridgeline protection ordinance. Eric Johnson explained the procedure for warrant articles, including two public hearings and a ballot vote at Town Meeting. It needs to be determined which views are of particular concern to the residents to save.

Upcoming Master Plan Work Session

Eric will forward all public comments from the Master Plan hearings to the Board for review. Board members need to think about the possibility of removing the specified commercial and light industrial zones and allow it in all zones via Special Exception. Currier and Warzocha also feel this needs to be applied to the home occupation.

Eric would prefer specific zones for commercial and light industrial rather than anything anywhere. Gould feels the Special Exception needs to be tightened up and more iron-clad.

The Board will have a Master Plan work session on November 22, 2011.

November 22, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes

Members present: Eric Johnson, Chair; Jacob Johnson, *ex-officio*; Nancy Teach; Paul Currier; Don Gould.

Master Plan Work Session

Correspondence and minutes from the public hearings need to be attached to the appendices along with the Board's responses.

December 13, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes

Members present: Eric Johnson, Chair; Jacob Johnson, *ex-officio*; Don Gould; Nancy Teach; Pat Moyer; Paul Currier; Wood Sutton, alternate appointed to Jon Warzocha's position.

Also present for duration of appropriate item: Brian Crockett; John Braley; Larry Ballin; John Ferris; Bill Flynn

Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Two boundary line adjustments and a minor subdivision for Brian Crockett, Allied Surveying, agent for J. Dale McLeod, John and Jennifer Braley, and Mark Thompson Excavation. Properties are on Monticello Drive and Morrill Hill Road.

Jacob Johnson recused. Letters authorizing Brian Crockett to represent them were received from J. Dale McLeod, John and Jennifer Braley, and Mark Thompson. The Board reviewed the application for completeness and the following written requests for waivers were granted:

- Topographic Map – Contour lines replaced with spot elevation.
- Soils – All Hinckley sand to deep depths. No wetlands.
- Sewerage Disposal
- Surface Water – No wetlands, no drainage systems, sandy soils.
- Preservation of Feature – Not applicable.
- Construction Plans – No construction at this time.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of deeming the application complete.

Public Hearing: Two boundary line adjustments and a minor subdivision as described above.

Jacob Johnson recused. There being no comment from the public, the Board voted unanimously in favor of accepting the application.

Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Site Plan Review for Proctor Academy for a new 16 student / 2 faculty apartment dormitory on North Street.

Eric Johnson and Jacob Johnson recused due to their affiliation with Proctor.

Plans were presented for the proposed razing of an existing building and the construction of a new 16-student, 2-faculty apartment dorm on North Street. The entire living space will be 9,700 square feet, and the actual footprint will be 6,400 square feet.

Parking will be in the rear of the building and will be for MLS, the woodsman building, and the new dorm and will be based on the current curb cut. The width will be widened to 18'.

All entrances to faculty apartments will be in the rear of the building. Fencing will be introduced and will screen what may be considered objectionable views. The handicap access will be from the side of the building.

Some of the trees along North Street will be removed and replaced. Some of the percolation tests have been done; however, not all of the results have been received. A new drainage pipe is proposed for the site along with the relocation of a utility pole.

It was asked if any of the present surface on North Street will be altered with the project. *No*.

Currier spoke briefly regarding the

possibility of a section of North Street becoming Proctor's, and Proctor representatives responded that could be considered.

The Board will review the application for completeness on January 24 and a public hearing is scheduled for 7:30 PM on January 24.

Recycling Committee

December 8, 2011

Condensed from draft minutes

Attending: Ken Tripp, Reggie Roy, Sandra Graves, Debra Guinard

Christmas Swap: A successful swap was held at AE/MS. \$153 was earned and given to the Town for distribution to those in need. Online swapping will have to be delayed until the Town's Web site is back in business.

The lack of a Web site for Andover prompted Ken to review Web sites of neighboring towns with similar populations. Following are some comments gleaned from the Web site or a visit. Populations are as of July 2009.

- Andover: Population 2,210
- Bradford: Population 1,526. Mandatory recycling ordinance. Ordinance and fine schedule on Web site.
- Canterbury: Population 2,279. Transfer Station fee schedule on Web site. Single stream recycling. Pay as you throw.
- Danbury: Population 1,138.
- Salisbury: Population 1,268. No electricity. They have a Solid Waste Committee as opposed to a Recycling Committee. Fee schedule on Web site.
- Sanbornton: Population 2,876. Single stream recycling. Pay as you throw, in which they recently switched from bags to stickers. Web site contains minutes from all Town committees for entire year.
- Sutton: Population 1,844. Swapping on Web site. Genealogy inquiries encouraged.
- Wilmot: Population 1,345. Only about 60% of residents use Transfer Station.

Hazardous Waste: No booklets yet. No disposal of oil-based paints stored at See Recycling on page 15



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SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

March 5, 7 PM

Andover Elementary/Middle School
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**Filing Period for
Andover Town &
School District Officers**

Jan 25 to Feb 3

**File at Town Clerk's office
Mon & Wed, 9 - 2
Tue & Thur, 1:30 - 6:30**

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Recycling from page 14

Transfer Station.

School Recycle Club: Katelynn of NRRA has contacted Jane Slayton. They are trying to schedule an evaluation visit.

New Hampshire The Beautiful, Inc.: This organization is funded by the New Hampshire Grocers Association. They do not want a bottle bill.

They provide free signs. We have not yet decided what signs we want. We need to get the latest catalog in case there are some new choices.

They also provide grant money for recycling equipment. We should try to get some of this grant money whenever we purchase new equipment.

Got Books: The Blackwater Junction Restaurant did not want a trailer. Sandra Graves, who also serves as a Library Trustee, will discuss the issue at their next meeting.

Vegetable Oil: We now have a container for recycling this commodity. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage. The Town will get paid. Maybe we can get a sign from New Hampshire the Beautiful.

Electronics: The Town has decided to rent a trailer. This solves the problem of illegally stored electronics. It could be a short payback to buy a trailer instead of renting one.

Our electronics are recycled by URT through NRRA. We have paid considerably less this year because of grant money provided by Samsung. In fact, the Town just got a rebate check for \$625 from NRRA because of this grant money. Given the choice, buy Samsung.

Tires: The Town will now recycle its tires through NRRA. This will save 25 cents per tire. The vendor will be the same. It will make accounting much easier, because tires will now appear on NRRA's monthly report.

The tire stack at the back of the Transfer Station has not been recycled. Storing tires on the ground could result in a fine.

Glass: Dumpster Depot rents us a trailer. When the container is full, the glass is hauled to New London for grinding. The Town pays a fee to New

London through NRRA. The rental fee and the hauling fee are billed directly to the town. This makes accounting difficult, and it is handled differently from paper recycling, where hauling fees and rental fees go through NRRA.

Paper: Dumpster Depot is the current vendor for paper. Trailer rental fee increased from \$25 to \$35. Transportation fee increased from \$215 to \$225.

Freon: Training not yet scheduled.
Transfer Station Rules and Fee Schedule: Not revised yet.

Accounting: *The Andover Beacon* team has developed a spreadsheet for calculating recycling savings. This will eliminate calculation errors and reduce labor. If we could computerize Transfer Station fees collected and separate them by category, this would greatly reduce labor and error. Charlie Darling can help us find the computer.

Conservation Commission

November 9, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes
Present: Tina Cotton, Larry Chase, Sandra Graves, Jerry Hersey, Nan Kaplan, Patricia Moyer, and guest Arch Weathers.

Treasurers Report: Tina expressed concern of how to best handle the Conservation Commission fund monies to gain the best interest rate.

Arch Weathers: Arch expressed his concerns about the Bell excavation going on adjacent to the Fenvale development and the impact on Andover's rural character.

Arch met with the Planning Board the previous evening and asked about the procedures on how to write a view ordinance. Arch presented to members the Town of Newbury's ordinances for reference, along with some photographs of their ridgeline and steep slope development. Arch does not believe Andover folks want what happened to Newbury to happen to Andover.

Arch volunteered his time to work on the zoning ordinance and expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. Members agreed to move forward on having Arch become a member. Jerry will write a letter and let Marj Roy know so

Arch can meet with the Board of Selectmen.

Members were encouraged to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 21, 2011 in support of Arch's proposal.

Correspondence: Department of Environmental Services' approval letter for Jim Emerson's restoration plan. Wetlands Bureau's approval with conditions on the Morrill Hill Road bridge.
Old Business

Nan attended the Land Trust Alliance Conference and really enjoyed it. The Land Trust Alliance accredits land trusts.

Larry reported that the ad hoc energy commission is still planning on having an energy fair in the spring. Larry went to the energy conference recently in Thetford, Vermont where the fair was focused on vendors such as bankers on how to get grants and money for the energy products.

Nan expressed a concern that there is only a short window of opportunity within the next week or so to get a tree planted for the Tree City designation.

New Business

Larry suggested that we should inquire if the Planning Board responded to Tina White's letter of concern. Members agreed that one of the boards should respond to her letter. If the Planning Board has not responded, then members agreed the Conservation Commission should do so. Pat will check with the Planning Board.

Pat suggested that the Barclin Easement folks might be helpful for Arch and his neighbors to contact to gain information about how to do a conservation easement in his neighborhood. Pat will contact the Clines and Arch so they can communicate.

December 14, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes
Present: Larry Chase, Tina Cotton, Sandra Graves, Jerry Hersey, Nan Kaplan, Patricia Moyer

Correspondence: Department of Environmental Services' two letters to Mr. and Mrs. Bell for the notification of the timber cut.

Department of Transportation's wetlands application for Mitchell Brook at Routes 4 and 11 for standard dredge and fill.

Old Business

Larry wanted to know if there was any further information about when the timber cut project will begin on the 124 acres at the Kearsarge Wild Life Management Area. Larry will call a representative of DRED.

Larry wanted to know if the Planning Board addressed Tina White's issues and concerns with the Master Plan. Larry wanted to know what the Planning Board plans on doing about residents' input letters. Pat will follow up with the Planning Board.

Tree Planting: Nan reported that the tree planting at Lakeside Cemetery went well.




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School Board

November 1, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes

Board members present: Erik Anderson, Kent Armstrong, Katie Keyser, Don Gould, Charlie McCrave

Administrators present: Mike Martin, Chris Barry, Robin Heins, Kathleen Boucher, Jane Slayton, Julie Gaudette

Good News: Didn't have to cancel school due to this past snowstorm!

Old Business

Electronic Communication: Mike Martin shared information about meeting attendance, video-taping meetings, as well as quorums and being present physically. Charlie McCrave brought up that the device used for electronic communication should be able to be heard by public present as well as by the video camera. Don Gould stated that the Board directs administration to draft a policy that allows electronic communication.

Transportation Request and Update: Katie commented on the transportation tour to review bus routes. Beech Hill Road is not safe, coming down the hill is the bigger issue. Tucker Mountain Road is very narrow and has deep culverts, Elbow Pond Road has a bridge limit. Flaghole Road has a challenging turn-around at the Franklin border.

Plan is to form a committee in March which will make recommendations to the board in May. First Student's opinions will be pursued.

It was recommended that the district reach out to First Student now so that the process is not beginning in March.

Other Business

Superintendent's Report: Legislative update on No Child Left Behind. Catastrophic aid and building aid for schools is possibly going to be revamped. Dr. Martin will keep the Board posted.

November 8, 2011

Work Session

Condensed from approved minutes

Board Members Present: Don Gould, Katie Keyser, Kent Armstrong, Charlie McCrave

Administrators Present: Mike Martin, Chris Barry, Kathleen Boucher, Robin Heins, Jane Slayton, Julie Gaudette

Robin Heins reviewed the draft budget. Healthcare cost increases will be made available to districts later this week. Topics of discussion were retirement, special education, and the district healthcare contribution.

There was brief discussion about replacing the carpeting in the middle school wing, a world language teacher, and securing the main entrance to the school. Other maintenance issues discussed were exterior painting, rotten sills, and the shed behind the school.

Kent provided the Board with a brief update on the first meeting with the teacher representatives for the contract grievance language.

Board discussed the Farley request for transportation. The Board voted unanimously to direct the superintendent to write a letter stating bus service has been deemed unsafe until further consideration.

December 6, 2011

Condensed from approved minutes

Board members present: Don Gould, Charlie McCrave, Erik Anderson, Katie Keyser.

Administrators Present: Mike Martin, Robin Heins, Kathleen Boucher, Jane Slayton, Julie Gaudette

Board Chairperson's Report: Don shared that he attended the Proctor Academy/Town of Andover Liason Committee meeting. He shared that crossing Route 11 is a safety concern for Proctor. A lengthy list of activities was shared that involves interactions between Proctor and AE/MS.

Good News: Penn Alert is up and running.

Old Business

Town Budget Committee: Charlie shared a summary of the presentation to the Town Budget Committee.

Indoor Air Quality Checklist: New requirement by law to provide the checklist to the Board.

Technology Equipment: Mike has tested the speaker and thinks it will work for communication while a member is not present. Charlie would like to wait and test it at a meeting.

New Business

Health Insurance Rates: School-Care has set Andover's rates for 2012-2013 at 6.2%.

Andover Town Report: Request to move some information that is included in the annual Andover Town Report to the March issue of the *Beacon*. Honor Roll and attendance can be moved to the *Beacon*. Class size is important to keep in the Town Report.

Board members voiced agreement and reiterated the importance of keeping the list of graduates of AE/MS and of high schools in the Town Report.

Draft 2012-2013 School Calendar: Jane shared ideas generated from staff and families. Discussion about a half day on November 1 and a half day after Grandparent Thanksgiving.

Proctor Liason Committee

November 28, 2011

Condensed from draft minutes

In attendance: Andover committee members Bill Bardsley, Budget Committee; John Cotton, moderator; Don Gould, School Board; Vicky Mishcon, Board of Selectmen.

Proctor Delegation: Alex Estin; Mike Henriques, Head of School; Peter Southworth, recording secretary

Proctor Report

Mike reviewed some of the housing adjustments to accommodate off-campus programs and current needs. Proctor made summer renovations on the Elbow Pond building to allow nine students to live there in the fall term. The Mountain Classroom winter group is living at the Bluewater Farm for two weeks in December.

Pedestrian traffic across Main Street and on Lawrence Street continues to be a concern, and Proctor had looked into a crosswalk by Carr Field but needed a paved shoulder to proceed.

Mike noted that the campus master plan is investigating how to better define the campus (fences, landscaping, etc.) with "gateway enhancements."

The hockey rink construction of six new locker rooms will be complete in the beginning of January and will be a three-season facility. This benefits the Kearsarge Hockey program as well. Mike noted that Andover Fire Department Chief Chuck Ellis has been a huge help advising Proctor how to manage and improve the safety features (occupancy, gas monitors, etc.) of the rink.

Mike and Chief Laramie of the Andover Police Department are aware that the communication between the police department and Proctor isn't as strong as it has been. Mike will contact the chief for a meeting.

John noted that the Town Report will need to be written soon, and the group expressed appreciation for Chuck's work on doing this so skillfully again.

A new dormitory for 16 students with two faculty apartments is planned on North Street just west of the football field. This will allow Proctor to take the

See LIASON on page 17

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Walter Walker, Skip Powers, and Harold Crane all made up for an Andover High School play. Photo: Walter Walker

Reminiscence

The Great Christmas Tree Caper

By Walter Walker
For the Beacon

Why I was not in on this I can't remember. Maybe I was out with a bad cold, but more likely I took the day off to go deer hunting.

Anyway, back in '47 or '48, George "Coach" Corson appointed some of the Andover High School upper class boys to get a Christmas tree. Skip Powers and Harold Crane's memories are a little different, and it is possible that the reason for this is they went on both junior and senior years for a tree.

(Remember, this was in "the good old days" when a tree could be put in the entrance hallway and decorated with a few handmade ornaments, topped off with a star on top, and mixed in the branches would be some fun-type gifts to fellow students and staff, and no one would send a letter to the School Board complaining about the religious items on Town property!)

Memories fade, and I may be wrong, but this is what I remember as Harold first told me this story years ago. He says I am wrong, and he may be right.

It seems that Harold and Skip walked a short distance down Route 4 until they came to a promising spot and asked the owner if maybe he might have a tree out back that they could have for the high school. He asked them how they would like the top of the tree out front near the highway. It seems it was blocking the early sun, and guests had complained about it.

All parties agreed. A chainsaw was provided, and the large fir came down with no real damage to the top. Off went the boys with their prized Christmas tree.

When they showed it to Coach Corson, the first thing he said was, "Whose lawn did you steal that from?" It was not until he made a phone call and got the story from the owner that he allowed the tree to be brought inside and decorated.

We three were in a school play in our senior year with fake beards and real cigars, and someone called us The Three Musketeers. So from the Musketeers, all still alive, we hope all of you had a nice Christmas.

Historical Society Announces 2012 Plans

By Pat Cutter
Andover Historical Society

2011 was a successful year for the Andover Historical Society. The Old Time Fair in August raised sufficient funds to keep us solvent for another year. We were able to complete the first of our capital projects voted in 2011, the painting and repair of the Potter Place railroad station. Brad Hartwell and Frank Baker did an outstanding job, and the change to maroon and tan, B&M colors, was well received.

Attendance at the museum has increased due to the popularity of the rail trail, and the parking lot was full during summer weekends. Winter should be a quiet time for us, but that is when all the ground work for another year is accomplished.

Our 2012 calendar, *Mills and Manufacturers*, was a success thanks to all of the generous sponsors who made it possible. Another calendar is in the

works for 2013, the theme of which will be Farms and Barns. That will also be the subject of the annual display in the station.

Our second capital project is painting the freight car, and we plan for that to happen in 2012.

The third is the refurbishment of the Lull house, and plans will be formulated so that can be started in 2013. Our plan is to use the house for archival storage and office/research space. It will mean that our archives will be in a heated and humidity-controlled environment. The scope of the work needed requires that we have grants to assist in the financing, and they will be sought in 2012.

The Old Time Fair will be on Sunday, August 5 this year. Please think of us when you are doing your spring cleaning, as we are accepting donations to our flea market and auction.

Liaison from page 16

students out of Thoreau House on Lawrence Street. Plans for Thoreau House are unclear at this time.

John kindly asked about the outcome of the Proctor (victorious) – Holderness football game.

Mike discussed the recent interest in an artificial turf athletic field that would include lights. The location for this would be on the north side of campus to minimize the impact on vehicle traffic, neighbors, etc.

Andover/Proctor Liaison Committee

Vicky noted that the Andover Town Administrator has left and Marj Roy is currently the interim Town Administrator. We discussed the demand on the Andover Food Pantry and the increasing economic pressures on Andover families. Proctor is promoting the needs of the Food Pantry as well as local community service needs in a variety of fundraisers.

Andover School Board Report

Don identified some of the interactions and programs that Proctor and AE/MS share. These include:

- Proctor project period student volunteers at AE/MS
- SHARE Day offerings by Proctor faculty and staff
- Coordinated PA-AE/MS teacher educational conferences
- Mural and shed painting at AE/MS
- Painting the Main Street crosswalks
- AE/MS coaches attending an athletic speaker at Proctor

- Proctor teachers and students running math work shops
 - Help officiating soccer games
 - The first AE/MS 7/8th grade vs. Proctor reserves team soccer match
 - Making Carr Field available for an AE/MS soccer tournament
 - Proctor Nordic ski team offering an afternoon Learn to Ski program to AE/MS students.
- John noted that it is time to shift the moderator position back to Proctor. Alex Estin was nominated, accepted the nomination with aplomb, and received full support of the group.
- Next meeting: 7:30 PM on Monday, April 9, at the Blackwater Community Coffee House.

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**Join The Free Celebration
At Blackwater Ski Area!**

By Chuck Will
Proctor Academy

Proctor invites you to join the sixth annual celebration of the Blackwater Ski Area on Saturday, February 4, from 5 to 9 PM. Bring skis, snowboards, and friends for an evening of snow sports and fun under the (new!) lights.

A sumptuous dinner will be served in Yarrow's Lodge, and fires will be blazing inside and out. Conditions should be excellent due to improved snow-making and acquisition of a new Prinoth BR 350 grooming machine!

Take a right at the sign off of Lawrence Street. This celebration is offered to the community at no cost!

ANDOVER FISH & GAME CLUB

By Gordon Ordway
Andover Fish and Game Club

Well, one year over and a new one starting. We hope everyone had a good holiday season with friends and family.

We recently held our after-the-holiday Holiday Party. We had our social hour, a pot-luck supper, our deer pool awards, and the Yankee swap. A good time was had by all!

We are getting prepared for our annual kids winter fishing derby – hopefully the weather will cooperate this year. Watch for the flyers around town.

We had some good results in our annual deer pool with 18 entries. Here are the results:

- Steve Kelley, 12 points, 214 lbs.
- Jeff Currier, 11 points, 214 lbs.
- Steve Clorite, 8 points, 208 lbs.
- Mike French, 8 points, 190 lbs.
- Brandon Rowe, 9 points, 176.5 lbs.
- Gordy Ordway, 8 points, 170 lbs.
- John Carrigan, 9 points, 167 lbs.
- Kenneth Lapage, 8 points, 165 lbs.
- Tim Barton, 6 points, 163 lbs.
- Mike Moses, 8 points, 162 lbs.
- Kevin Rowe, 8 points, 152.5 lbs.

Average weight: 165 lbs., Kenneth Lapage.

Thanks to Frank Szilagyi for organizing the deer pool. We would like to say a big "Thank you" to Bob Weeks at the Danbury Trading Post for supplying the prizes! Bob helps us a lot, including donating all the bait for the kids fishing

derby, so stop up to the trading post and give him some business. He has a lot of hunting and fishing supplies and a great archery selection.

Fishing Derbies

By Rich Gross
Andover Fish and Game Club

The Andover Fish and Game Club is sponsoring its 28th annual Willis Nowell Memorial Kids Ice Fishing Derby at Eagle Pond in Wilmot, off of Route 4. The derby is for kids 15 and under. Registration starts at 9 AM, and the derby runs from 9:30 AM to 12 PM.

The derby will be held on Saturday, February 25, with a bad weather date of Sunday, February 26. Tackle and bait will be provided. There will be plenty of free food and drink, along with lucky prizes, ribbons, and trophies that will be awarded.

Please join us for a great time for the kids and family. If you have any questions, call 735-5311.

The Club is also sponsoring the Al Chadwick Memorial Ice Fishing Derby for children and adults. The derby is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, and is open to anyone. The derby is held on Kezar Lake in North Sutton. You can start fishing at first light, and it ends at 1 PM.

Please register at the bob house with the red flag on it as soon as you get there. Cost is \$10 each, with prizes awarded in each category of fish. Hope to see you there.



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Ski and Board
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Heading into the water at Highland Lake is Jared Henry, a visitor from Rhode Island who stayed with us over New Years weekend, and our son, Keith Blinn. The New Years Day cold plunge is a traditional event for Jared. This was a first for Keith, and he admits it was a tad chilly!

Photo and caption: Donna Blinn

SRKG Offers Winter Hikes

SRKG press release

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway (SRKG) Coalition's winter hikes continue in February and March. All hikes are free to the public. For SRKG information visit SRKG.com.

Please call the volunteer hike leader at least the night before to learn starting location and time. Be prepared for winter conditions with clothing layers, food, and water. Snowshoes are the presumed mode of transport.

January Hikes

Saturday, January 28. Lunch on an island in Morgan Pond in Springfield. Three miles. Call before Thursday, January 26 if interested. Moderate. Susan and Michael Chiarella, 763-4661 or SChiarella@myfairpoint.net.

February Hikes

Saturday, February 4. Snowshoe over winter trails in Wilmot's Patterson Road area. Refreshments afterward. 3 miles. Moderate. Brian Faughnan, 526-7838.

Saturday, February 11. Exploring Tucker Mountain in East Andover. A walk in the woods. We'll be joined by Frank Baker, a resident of East Andover who will help us to recognize signs of

animal presence. Moderate. Lee Carvalho, 735-5719 or LeeCarvalho6@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 18. Looking for wildlife while walking from Route 4A to Wilmot Center on SRKG Trail 7 and climbing over Bog Mountain's ledges to Wilmot Center. 4.6 miles. Moderate. Nick Baer, 526-8233.

March Hikes

Saturday, March 3. Journey along Sunapee Ridge to Lucia's Lookout via Andrew Brook Trail to frozen Lake Solitude in Mount Sunapee and Pillsbury State Parks. 10 miles. Difficult. Gerry Gold, 526-2857.

Wednesday, March 7, Thursday the 8th, or Friday the 9th. Moonlight Snowshoe Hike to ridge-top skyline vista. Sponsored by SRKG Coalition, Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Trust, and the New London Conservation Commission. Hike date will be selected for best moonlight conditions. Two miles, two hours. Moderate. Not for novice snowshoers. Dave Cook, 526-4570.

Greenway Trail Guides are available at local book stores. The SRKG Coalition is a ten-town all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

Andover Naturally

Acorn Crop Falls Short This Year

By Lee Carvalho
Beacon staff

My mother, Polly Mansell, was the first to mention it back in early October. Returning from her daily walk along the rail trail in Andover village, she remarked, "There aren't very many acorns this year." Since then several Beacon readers have e-mailed with similar observations. What's up?

Acorns are one form of mast, the name given to the edible fruit of woody plants. Hard mast includes acorns and beechnuts, while soft mast is composed of fruits from various plants including grape, blackberry, viburnum, sumac, winterberry, and blueberry.

In our forests, acorns from red and white oak trees are probably the most important form of mast. As a food source for blue jays, squirrels, deer, turkeys, chickadees, nuthatches, grackles, chipmunks, mice, and black bears – among others – they supply protein, carbohydrates, fats, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, and niacin.

In the fall we expect to feel and hear the crunch of acorns underfoot as we walk along country roads, or in our yards, or on forest trails, so we notice when it's missing. Yet acorn fluctuation is normal; in one year oaks may produce a bumper crop, and then the following year hardly any.

A theory for this variation is the predator satiation hypothesis. During bumper years, the forest floor is covered with seeds so thoroughly that the animals cannot eat them all, so some will root and grow.

If every year had such bountiful production, the animals that depend on them would increase in number sufficiently to consume all the acorns. The predator satiation hypothesis suggests that in off years, the trees lower production to keep the predator populations from growing too large to survive.

Another factor in acorn production is weather variability. It takes an oak 18 months to grow an acorn, so some ex-

perts point to the rainy spring of 2010 as the culprit. Wet weather may have reduced the wind-driven transfer of pollen from one tree to another.

Beth McGuinn, Land Protection Specialist at Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, points out that while acorn production was low, the fall of 2011 was a phenomenal season for other food sources; beech, hop hornbeam, winterberry, and holly all produced abundantly. She wonders if these plants fruited so well in response to a high stress year.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Officer Heidi Murphy of Andover observes that while acorn production was spotty due to micro-region variability,



An injured bobcat turned up in the Glorioso's backyard. The three-year-old male had a broken back due to being struck by a car and had to be euthanized. Photo: Maria Glorioso

beechnuts were more plentiful than in recent years. "Because of our good mast production, not many hunters were successful early on using baits. Bear in particular would not come to a bait pile as readily due to the high amount of natural foods available." Similarly, you may have noticed that songbirds have been eschewing our feeders in favor of the bountiful soft mast in the forests and fields.

Bobcat In Potter Place

In early January, Paul and Maria Glorioso discovered an injured bobcat in their yard in Potter Place. Patrick Tate from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department came to investigate and determined that the magnificent animal was a male of approximately three years age. The bobcat had been struck by a car about five days earlier. See Naturally on page 21

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Andover Outing Club

By Tim Norris
Andover Outing Club

Andover Outing Club's (AOC) annual Ski Jumping Tournament was held on January 8 at the Blackwater Ski Area. Jumpers aged eight to 20 from four states took part. Four ski clubs and seven high schools were represented.

Local kids did a great job. In the age nine and under 10-meter class, AOC's Jazlyn Perkins led the way with a long jump of five meters. Katie Bent (AOC) was close behind in second. Evan Nichols (Ford Sayre) was third, and Galen Whitman (AOC) was fourth.

In the age 10 and 11 class, AOC's Alice Crow was first with a long jump of 5.5 meters, and new AOCer Sarah Bean was second. Proctor's Sylvia Graf did a great job in only her second day jumping.

In the 18-meter high school class, Proctor's Sage Morison was third with an 11-meter ride, AOC's Bea Crow was half a point behind in fourth, and Proctor's Jen Elms was fifth.

In the K18 12 to 13 age group, Concord's Tyler Dow was first with a long jump of 18 meters, and Cooper McCrillis was second.

In the featured 38-meter competition, Lake Placid's Landon Livreri was first in the 12 to 13 age group with a stylish jump of 30 meters. AOC's AJ King was fourth.

For the 14 to 15 year olds, AOC's

(and Brady's) Warren Bartlett finished first with a long jump of 30 meters, and Proctor's Jake Hubbard was close behind in second.

The high school class was won by AOC's (and Merrimack Valley's) Matt Doyle with a beautiful ride of 35 meters. Ben Chafee (Proctor) came in third, and Concord's Cooper Richardson was fifth.

The women's standard was set by Lake Placid's Gabby Armstrong with a long jump of 26.5 meters. Concord's co-captain, Julia Finch, was third.

Former Kennett jumper Parker Haynes, now at Keene State, had the longest jump of the day of 37 meters – not far off the hill record.

The tournament, surrounded by brown woods and fields, was made possible by the prodigious efforts of Garry George and his crew who worked all night every cold night to get our area into shape. The Lake Placid coach referred to it as "an island of snow in New Hampshire."

Garry does a beautiful job taking care of our landing hills and outruns, but the inruns, the ramps leading to the takeoff, are up to the jumpers. Two weeks before this meet, there were 35 kids from Concord, Hopkinton, and Sunapee who joined Proctor and AOC kids and parents to work the hills into shape.



The AE/MS second grade helped plant two red oaks at Lakeside Cemetery. Photos: Larry Chase

Conservation Commission Plants Red Oaks At Lakeside Cemetery

ACC press release

On December 8, two red oaks were planted by Jon Champagne's staff on the edge of the Lakeside Cemetery in East Andover. The Cemetery Trustees had agreed to a plan drawn up by Susan Schnare for a row of red oaks on the outer edge of the newly acquired land given by the state when Route 11 was recently deviated from its former location.

In attendance was the second grade from AE/MS, who planted wish lists at the base of the trees. Also present were Mary Reynolds, State Forester, as well as Pat Cutter, Cemetery Trustee, and Tina Cotton, Jerry Hersey, Larry Chase, and Nan Kaplan, members of the Andover Conservation Commission (ACC).

Andover has been a Tree City USA

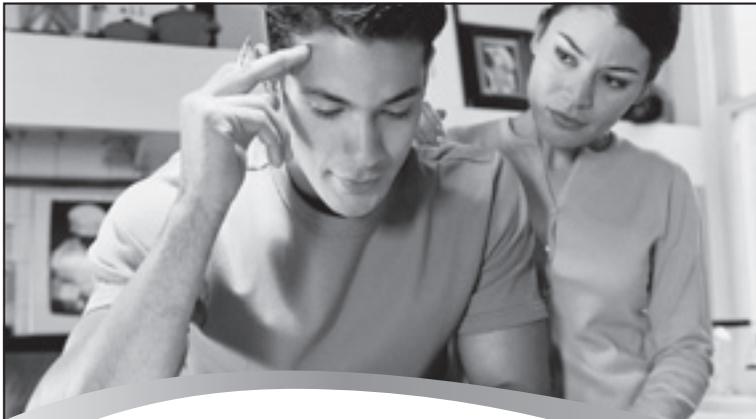
for the last two years and is hoping to qualify for a third year. This is a national awards program that recognizes cities and towns that have committed to quality tree care.

This program in Andover was begun



Jon Champagne's crew helped, too.

by the ACC under Mary Anne Broshek and has been continued by Nan Kaplan, a member of the ACC.



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Franklin Outing Club Celebrates 50 Years With Winter Carnival

FOC press release

The Franklin Outing Club (FOC) operates the Veterans Memorial Ski Area (VMSA) on Flaghole Road in Franklin, allowing affordable skiing for area families, free skating, and free snowmobile and cross-country skiing trails.

VMSA is maintained by the volunteer efforts of 85 area families. They groom trails, sell food in the concession stand, maintain the lodge, maintain the lifts, and serve as ski patrol or ski instructors.

The FOC supplements the cost of the ski area operations with its Winter Carnival. Celebrate FOC's 50th anniversary this year with three weekends of fun, followed by the Webster Lake Fishing Derby. Registrations for events (except the fishing derby) will be one hour prior to the event time listed below. All events (except the fishing derby) require a Winter Carnival Button, except for the fishing derby.

Saturday, January 28

From 8 AM to 1 PM, attend the Indoor Community Benefit Yard Sales. At the Franklin Recreation Center, 124 Memorial Street, Franklin, the sale will benefit The Odell Park Centennial Project.

At the Franklin Middle School (FMS), 200 Sanborn Street, Franklin, the sale will benefit the FMS eighth grade Washington DC trip. At Franklin

High School (FHS), 115 Central Street, Franklin, the sale will benefit the FHS Chem-Free After Prom Committee.

Also on the 28th, the Snow Sculpture and Snowman Contest begins. Entry forms are available at VMSA and the Franklin Parks and Recreation Department.

Sunday, January 29

1 PM, VMSA: Historical Fashion Show

1:30 PM, VMSA: Bed Races

2 PM, VMSA: Obstacle Races

Saturday, February 4

5:30 PM, FHS: Casserole Supper, \$4

6:30 PM, FHS: Bonfire

7:30 PM, FHS: Fireworks

Sunday, February 5

1:30 PM, VMSA: Cardboard Races

2:30 PM, VMSA: Broom Hockey

3 PM, VMSA: Judging of Snow Sculptures and Snowmen

Saturday, February 11

5 PM, VMSA: Night Skiing and Bonfire. \$4 public, \$2 FOC members

Sunday, February 12

8:30 to 10 AM, VMSA: Pancake Breakfast. \$5 adult, \$2 12 years and under

Sat and Sun, Feb 18 and 19

6 AM to 3 PM Saturday: pre-register for the Webster Lake Fishing Derby at Newfound Sales, 2 Hill Road, Franklin

All weekend: Webster Lake Fishing Derby
More: FranklinSkiArea.com.

ASLPT Celebrates 25 Years Of Land Preservation With Events

ASLPT press releases

On December 1 the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) held its annual Holiday Party at Bluewater Farm in Andover. This year, however, they had more to celebrate than just the holidays, as they honored their original founders from 1987.

With the simple vision of preserving the rural character of a town and the inspiration drawn from the generosity of an elderly man, ASLPT was established. In 1985, 94-year-old Ausbon Sargent spent his life's savings to purchase the three-acre parcel of land from Colby-Sawyer College that he gifted to the Town of New London to forever be used as the Town Common. In 1987 New London's new land trust was named in honor of the man whose gesture epitomized the mission of the land trust.

Twenty-five successful years have passed, and ASLPT has now completed 119 conservation projects in 12 towns, encompassing 9,581 total acres. Several successful projects that have been completed in Andover are the Hersey Farms, the Gross Easement, and the Cline and Barclin Easement.

To commemorate these years and the work of so many, ASLPT is planning a number of special events through the year. Here are some of our events through June of 2012. For more specific details, visit AusbonSargent.org.

- Webb Woods Tour, February 4
- Cline Snowshoe Hike in Andover, February 25
- Moonlight Madness Snowshoe Hike in Elkins, March 7, 8, or 9
- New London Hospital Art Show, partnering with ASLPT, May 15 through September 15
- Spring Ledge Farm Tour, June 10

• Happy Birthday, Ausbon, June 11 Webb Woods Tour

Join licensed foresters Van and Tyler Webb on a tour of a timber harvest in process on the V-Oz conservation easement property on Saturday, February 4 (weather date: February 11) from 1 to 3 PM.

Van describes the event as "a robust walking tour." It is recommended that participants wear clothing appropriate for spending two hours in the winter woods (including warm socks, boots, gloves, and hat).

Please let us know you plan to attend by contacting Nancy Smith at 526-6555 or ASLPTnancy@tds.net.

Cline Snowshoe Hike

Join Beth McGuinn and easement landowners Don and Lorraine Cline for a tour of their 33-acre conservation easement in Andover on Saturday, February 25, from 1 to 3 PM.

Weather permitting, we will navigate the groomed cross country ski/snowshoe trails they maintain on their property to see and discuss their trail system, wildlife habitat, and maple sugaring operation and to learn how they, with the help of their neighbors, turned a potential six-lot subdivision into a conservation easement.

If the weather does not provide snow, we will hike the trails. Please wear warm layers of outdoor clothing, and bring snowshoes or cross country skis if there is snow cover. Refreshments will be provided.

Parking is limited – a central parking area is being arranged with transportation for you and your gear. Please RSVP to Nancy Smith at 526-6555 or ASLPTnancy@tds.net and we will send along detailed parking information.



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Report Wild Turkey Sightings To NHF&G

NHF&G press release

If you see a flock of wild turkeys in New Hampshire this winter, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHF&G) would like to hear about it.

For the fourth consecutive year, citizens are being asked to report sightings of turkey flocks seen from January 1 through March 31 by filling out a simple electronic survey form posted on the Fish and Game Web site at WildNH.com/TurkeySurvey. Please do not report multiple sightings of the same flock.

Turkeys are easy to see this time of year because they gather in large, highly visible flocks. Knowledge of the status of wintering turkeys is particularly important in New Hampshire because of the challenges of severe winter weather and limited natural food supplies.

New Hampshire now has an estimated 45,000 wild turkeys. Their presence here is a true wildlife restoration success story. Wild turkeys had disappeared from New Hampshire by the mid-1800s because of overhunting and habitat loss from extensive land clearing. Their successful recovery in the state began with a reintroduction of 25 turkeys by NHF&G in 1975.

The Winter Flock Survey bolsters NHF&G's understanding of the abundance and distribution of turkeys dur-

ing New Hampshire's challenging winter months. The survey asks participants to report the number of turkeys in the flock; the location where they were seen; the type of habitat the birds were observed in; and what the turkeys were feeding on, such as acorns, beechnuts, seed at birdfeeders, or corn silage.

The survey is designed to fill gaps in Fish and Game's existing winter flock data collection efforts. "For parts of the state, especially eastern and northern New Hampshire, we could benefit by additional sighting reports," said Ted Walski, Turkey Project Leader at Fish and Game. "This reporting system will allow the public to contribute important information to our understanding of winter turkey status in an inexpensive, efficient, and hopefully enjoyable way."

Last winter, people responding to the survey reported 1,500 flocks totaling over 27,000 turkeys, and encompassing all areas of the state. Last year's winter flock survey results are summarized at WildNH.com/TurkeySurvey.

Turkey research in New Hampshire is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Program, supported by the purchase of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing supplies, and motorboat fuel.



The Good Old Plow: Tom Curren, Fred Ogmundson and Don Towle.

Photo: Lindy Heim

The Good Old Plow Performs At WCA Barn

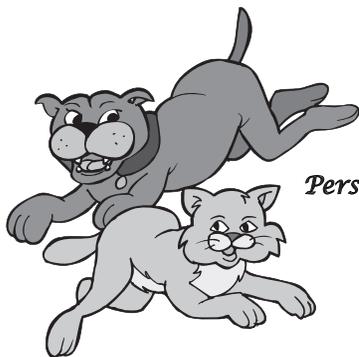
By Lindy Heim

Wilmot Historical Society

At 2 PM on Sunday, February 12, the Wilmot Historical Society (WHS) will present a not-to-be-missed musical program by The Good Old Plow at the Wilmot Community Association's red barn on Village Road next to the Wilmot Post Office in Wilmot Flat. Fred Ogmundson of Wilmot, Tom Curren of South Danbury, and Don Towle of Alexandria make up the group that has been singing together since 1986. The program, using the music of the times, depicts the rise and fall of the New Hampshire hill farm.

The sometimes serious, sometimes humorous renditions underscore the boom and bust of sheep farming in New Hampshire, where most of the early citizens were indeed farmers. As the tradition petered out, citizens had to feed themselves by bartering for food raised or grown further from home. A renewed interest in eating locally makes this program very timely. Refreshments will be served following the performance.

This WHS program is being offered at no charge and is open to all. For more information, contact Marc at 927-4596 or MarcSDavis@tds.net.



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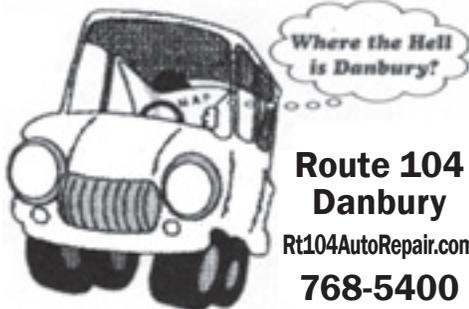
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Wood holds a Masters Degree in Nursing from the University of New Hampshire and a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

She has worked in the Lakes and Three Rivers Regions since 1996.

To schedule an appointment, please call the Andover Family Practice at (603) 735-4363.

Here for you



Andover Knitting Club

By Holly Gagne
Andover Knitting Club

The Andover Knitting Club would like to thank all who donated mittens



The Andover Knitting Club "decorated" the Mitten Tree at AE/MS with donated mittens and hats.

Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

and hats to the Mitten Tree in the AE/MS lobby. The tree is decorated with a wonderful assortment of both hand-made and lovingly-chosen knitted and fleece articles. Once again, the students will be kept warm on bitter cold days this winter.

The Knitting Club continues to grow with a range in ages from elementary to high school. Some of the knitters are learning to felt their projects, while others are learning more complicated stitches.

Please consider joining our group. Come to learn how to knit or to motivate yourself to knit that project you have up on a shelf. We'd also love to have you join us if you would like to help assist a beginning knitter.

We meet on Mondays from 2:45 to 3:45 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. We are open to students in third grade and up as well as members of the community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Holly Gagne at the school.



The Andover Service Club enjoyed a festive holiday luncheon at the Lake Sunapee Country Club. Photos: Charlie Darling

Andover Service Club

By Joyce Egge
Andover Service Club

The holiday season was off to a splendid start for the Andover Service Club members as 41 ladies enjoyed an afternoon of delicious food, professional-level entertainment, and merriment on December 14. Everyone wore their Christmas finest with colors of red, green, and gold.

The luncheon was held at the Lake Sunapee Country Club, and the food was first rate. President Mary Ofenloch did a fantastic job of organizing this year's event. She gave each member a handmade Christmas ornament made

from pine cones. She also organized a delightful musical program with three fine soloists: herself, Margo Coolidge, and Nancy Tripp, and piano accompaniments from Mary's grandson, Bobby, and Judy Evans.

There were lively conversations, sing-alongs, and good cheer all around. Poinsettia plants were given to honorary members to include those members residing in nursing homes.

January Meeting

Our January meeting was held on January 11, presided over by President Mary Ofenloch who opened the meeting

See ASC on page 25



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Darryl Furtkamp Exhibits At New England College

NEC press release

The Gallery at New England College presents exhibits featuring work by members of the New England College faculty through Friday, March 2. The Main Gallery will feature the art work of faculty from the Studio Art program showcasing works ranging from traditional to contemporary media, including a selection of monotype prints and fictional narrative paintings combining mixed media and oil on panel by Assistant Professor of Art and Gallery Director Darryl Furtkamp of Andover.

The public is invited to the opening reception on Thursday, February 9, from 4 to 6 PM.

Admission to The Gallery is free. Gallery hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 AM to 6 PM and Fridays from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Weekends are by appointment.

The Gallery is located on Main Street in Henniker, adjacent to the college's Administration Building. For



One of Darryl Furtkamp's works.

more information, call 428-2329 or visit www.NEC.edu. Click Academics, then click New England College Art Gallery.



ASC from page 24

with a New Year's poem. There were 18 members present and one guest.

The Thrift Shop has finally been automated with a new computer system to

gesting furniture and household goods would be especially appreciated.

Our guest night is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, and will be held this year at the Highland Lake Grange Hall in East Andover.



Mary Ofenloch sang at the luncheon, accompanied by her grandson, Robert Ofenloch.

track our inventory and sales. We are in the process of working out the bugs and getting though the learning curve but are excited about the possibilities and ease of bookkeeping this program will allow. Our racks are full and our monthly sales have been good.

Our scholarship deadline will be May 1. Applications will be in the Thrift Shop soon.

We served a delicious lunch of a variety of soups, chilis, breads, and baked goods at the Andover primary voting day. Over \$245 was realized in profits. A big "Thank you!" goes out to Bubba's Restaurant and to Greg Hamel at Blackwater Junction Restaurant for their donations.

We will again be serving lunch with the same fine fare at Town Meeting voting on Tuesday, March 13. Mark your calendars to have lunch with us that day.

We baked 54 cakes during the fall for Proctor students and will be baking many more over the next few months.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to two of our members, Edna Peters and Julie Mayo. One of our members told us of the needs of a family in Wilmot, sug-

The January meeting ended at 11 AM followed by a scrumptious lunch. Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday, February 8, at the Masonic Hall in Potter Place, with our annual fun-filled and often lively auction. As always, we welcome new members.

Thrift Shop
By Nancy Tripp and Gisela Darling

We have some exciting news to pass along. As of the beginning of January, our long-awaited computer system is in place.

For our customers who consign
See ASC on page 28



Copyright © 2010 Sue Anne Bottomley

Sue Anne's drawing of the Potter Place train station.

Sue Anne Bottomley Draws Every New Hampshire City

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Sue Anne Bottomley of New London is on a mission: to draw every town in the state. With 106 towns down (including Andover) and 153 to go, she hopes to complete the project within two years.

A native of Concord, Sue Anne received her BA in Fine Art and French from the University of New Hampshire in 1968. From 1970 to 2005 she

designed and printed limited edition fine art prints, etchings, woodcuts, and relief prints in her studio in Maryland while teaching printmaking workshops throughout Virginia and Maryland.

In 2008, Sue Anne moved to New London, and in 2009 she began her monthly visual arts blog at SueAnneBottomley.com.

As a special treat for *Beacon* readers, See Bottomley on page 26

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Bottomley from page 25

Sue Anne consented by be interviewed by ... herself!

What is your art background? I studied Fine Art at the University of New Hampshire, with a BA in 1968. In 1974 I bought a huge motorized press and used this to print limited edition etchings and woodcuts in my Maryland studio. When we as a family moved to England for three years, the press came with us.

When I tired of etching zinc plates with nitric acid, relief prints appealed to me more. Stenocut is a relief printmaking method that I invented and developed.

After a ten-year detour into hooked rugs, I have returned to my roots ... drawing and painting. My husband is the printmaker now! He digitally reproduces my drawings onto notecards and larger prints too, which we sell at the Market on the Green in New London and other local art, craft, and farm markets, including the Old Time Fair in August at Potter Place.

What is your DRAW-New Hampshire project? After putting drawings of local and faraway scenes onto my blog for a couple of years, I decided last year to draw every town in New Hampshire, put them all online, and present them in a book.

How did you get the idea of a book? I haven't seen any other book similar to this, and I think it would be enjoyed. And I love the way drawings can tell a story.

What have you drawn in Andover?

I have drawn the Potter Place railroad station, and, on the Proctor campus, the Old Carriage House with the ski hills in the background, and Maxwell Savage Hall.

Often I find myself doing research on the background of what I have drawn. The details of the life of Richard Potter, for example, are amazing.

Do you draw other places? I draw wherever I am. So the images on my monthly blog are of Boston, Maine, Maryland, as well as Canada and beyond. I don't leave home without pencil and paper!

How do you decide what to sketch for your DRAW-New Hampshire project? I tend to head for the center of the town. Looking for places where people may gather, I try to sense the story in the town green, the library, or sometimes a general store or school.

Then I walk around and look at this place from many angles. I always draw on site, not from a photograph. The experience is richer, and the resulting art is more lively.

What materials do you use? White paper, and usually a pencil. BIC mechanical pencils are my favorites, as they are always sharp. Sometimes I will start right in with a black pen line. In my studio, colored pencils and watercolor washes are the final steps.

How long does it take? It varies a lot based on the complexity of the scene. Are we including thinking time, too? Driving time? Seriously, a couple of hours per drawing.

What's the strangest situation you've encountered while drawing? I'm generally pretty inconspicuous, but once, when drawing on my little pad in a city, somebody thought I was a meter maid writing out a ticket!

Another time I was gazing at a roof line, without my art supplies in hand, and a kind person told me to sit right down on the curb, and she would call me an ambulance.

That last one illustrates the benefits of drawing on site ... it causes you to slow down, stop, look, and see your surroundings.

Is there any subject that you don't care to draw or don't plan to include in the book? Despite the fact that they are indeed a place for people to gather, I am not including any graveyards in the book.

More: SueAnneBottomly.com. 



Gloriana Brown, Cope Makechnie, Jacqui Morris, Annika Johnson, and Youth Chorus Director Sue Berlenbach. Photos: Pam Brown

Andover Youth Sing With The Concord Chorale

By Pam Brown
For the Beacon

Andover was well-represented this year in the Concord Chorale's Christmas concert, *Exhultavit*. Directed by Kristofer Johnson, choral and vocal music director at Proctor Academy, the Chorale was joined by a 30-member youth chorus that included Andover's own Annika Johnson, Cope Makechnie, Gloriana Brown, and Jacqui Morris.

The girls began practices in Andover in October, then attended weekly rehearsals in Concord during November and December. The Chorale, along with a 26-piece orchestra, performed at St. John the Evangelist Church in Concord on December 10 and 11.

Recently the Andover Youth Chorus members answered a brief questionnaire about their *Exhultavit* experience, and their responses capture the essence of their adventure.

Verbs defining preparation: Practice, sing, have fun, work, never give up.



Gloriana Brown and Director Kristofer Johnson.

Adjectives describing Chorale experience: Enlightening, exhilarating, not an everyday experience, awe-inspiring, incredible, intriguing.

How you felt while performing: Happy, proud, hopeful, excited, tentative, alive in the moment, confident, wow!

Something you loved about the experience: Singing with the orchestra, experiencing it all with friends, feeling proud of my accomplishment.

Something learned or improved, or a difficulty overcome: Blending with other personalities and voices, hearing and remembering harmony parts, improving vocal range and pitch.

Someone who made an impression on you: Chorale Director Kris Johnson – patient with everyone; Youth Chorale Director Sue Berlenbach – convinced 30 girls to stop talking and sing the music; everyone involved, because they were so passionate and involved and welcoming. 

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GOT NEWS?
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Mark Your Calendar

ANDOVER

ON-GOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous

Sundays, 10 to 11:15 AM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place

Andover Knitting Club

Mondays, 2:45 to 3:45 PM, AE/MS
Bring your knitting projects or come and learn how to knit. Article: page 24.

Andover Wyldlife

Mondays, 6 to 7:15 PM
Highland Lake Grange Hall
Middle school Christian youth group

Zumba Fitness

Mondays and Thursdays,
6:30 to 7:30 PM, AE/MS Gym
Zumba is a Latin-inspired dance fitness class. First class free, \$5 per class after that.

MVHS Younglife

Tuesdays, 2:45 to 4 PM
MVHS Cafeteria
High school Christian youth group

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Andover Snowmobile Club Italian Buffet

Sat, Jan 28, 5 to 6:30 PM, AE/MS
Spaghetti, meatballs, hot Italian sausage, meatless sauce, lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, homemade desserts. 50/50 drawing, multi-item raffle.

Kearsarge Masonic Lodge

Thu, Feb 2, 7:30 PM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Meal information: 735-6412

Filing Period for Town Elections Ends

Fri, Feb 3, 5 PM, Town Office
File to be a candidate in the March elections! Article: page 3.

Ski and Board Under The Lights

Sat, Feb 4, 5 to 9 PM
Blackwater Ski Area
Enjoy great snow and terrain under the lights. Ad: page 18.

Open Gym for Girls Softball

Sun, Feb 5, 5 to 7 PM, AE/MS
Girls, ages 8 and up: practice, learn new skills, or just give softball a try. Article: page 41.

Andover Service Club

Wed, Feb 8, 10 AM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
In-house auction among the members.

Community Supper

Sat, Feb 11, 5:30 to 6:30 PM
Highland Lake Grange Hall
Homemade food provided by the Andover Congregational Church. Donation. Article: page 28.

Explore Tucker Mountain

Sat, Feb 11
Lee Carvalho and Frank Baker lead

an SRKG hike. Article: page 19.

AE/MS PTO

Mon, Feb 13, 6:30 PM, AE/MS
Article: page 43.

Andover Lions Club

Mon, Feb 13, 6:30 PM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Dinner at 6 PM, meeting at 7 PM.

Andover Snowmobile Club

Mon, Feb 13, 7 PM, AE/MS

Andover Democrats

Tue, Feb 14, 7 PM, Andover Fire House
Questions, concerns: Janet Moore, 735-4018. Ad: page 7.

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Wed, Feb 15, 7 PM, Andover Fire House

Open Gym for Girls Softball

Sun, Feb 19, 5 to 7 PM, AE/MS
Girls, ages 8 and up: practice, learn new skills, or just give softball a try. Article: page 41.

NHCHF

Mon, Feb 20, noon
27 Evans Road, Wilmot
Program: Magical Three. Article: page 28.

Town Offices CLOSED

Mon, Feb 20
Closed for President's Day

Weatherization Workshop

Tue, Feb 21, 7 to 9 PM, Town Hall
Basics of home energy costs and weatherization. Article: page 1.

AE/MS Parent Breakfast

Thu, Feb 23, 7 AM, AE/MS
Enjoy breakfast with your child. Ad: page 27.

Willis Nowell Memorial Kids' Ice Fishing Derby

Sat, Feb 25, 9 AM to noon
Eagle Pond, Wilmot
Kids 15 and under. Bad weather date February 26. Article: page 18.

Snowshoe/Ski Tour

Sat, Feb 25, 1 to 3 PM
The Cline easements, Shaw Hill
Article: page 22.

Spaghetti Supper

Sat, Feb 25, 5 to 7 PM
Immaculate Conception Church, Potter Place
Adults \$6; 6-12 \$3; 5 and under free. Ad: page 32.

Andover Lions Club

Mon, Feb 27, 6 PM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Dinner, 6 PM. Meeting, 7 PM.

Andover Fish and Game Club

Mon, Feb 27, 7:30 PM
Clubhouse, East Andover
Article: page 18.

ChocolateFest

Sat, Mar 3, noon to 2 PM

Colby-Sawyer College

Sample chocolate treats and vote for your favorite. \$10 admission. Ad: page 31.

School District Meeting

Mon, Mar 5, 7 PM, AE/MS
Ad: page 14.

Town Meeting

Tue, Mar 13, 7 PM, AE/MS
Voting 11:30 AM to 7 PM. The Andover Service Club will offer lunch. Ad: page 13.

ELSEWHERE

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Franklin Winter Carnival

Sat, Jan 28
Indoor yard sales around Franklin. Article: page 22.

Franklin Winter Carnival

Sun, Jan 29, Veterans Memorial Ski Area, Franklin
Fashion show and races. Article: page 22.

Al Chadwick Memorial Ice Fishing Derby

Sat, Feb 4, Dawn to 1 PM
Kezar Lake, North Sutton
Start at first light. \$10 fee. Article: page 18.

Danbury Grange Winter Market

Sat, Feb 4, 9 AM to 1 PM
Danbury Grange Hall
Market opens with breakfast. Lunch available from 10:30 AM. Article: page 31.

Franklin Winter Carnival

Sat, Feb 4, Franklin High School
Casserole supper, bonfire, fireworks. Article: page 22.

Comedy Night

Sat, Feb 4, 7:15 PM, Outing Club
Indoor Center, New London
Adult Humor. Ages 18+.

Franklin Winter Carnival

Sun, Feb 5, Veterans Memorial Ski Area, Franklin
Races, games, judging of snow sculptures. Article: page 22.

Franklin Winter Carnival

Sat, Feb 11, Veterans Memorial Ski Area, Franklin
Night skiing and bonfire. Article: page 22.

"The Good Old Plow" Performs

Sun, Feb 12, 2 PM, Wilmot Community Association Red Barn
The program, using the music of the times, depicts the rise and fall of the New Hampshire hill farm. Article: page 23.

Franklin Winter Carnival

Sun, Feb 12, Veterans Memorial Ski Area, Franklin
Pancake breakfast, ski races. Article:

page 22.

Webster Lake Fishing Derby

Sat and Sun, Feb 18 and 19
Webster Lake, Franklin
Article: page 22.

MVHS Parent Advisory Group

Tue, Feb 21, 7 PM, MVHS

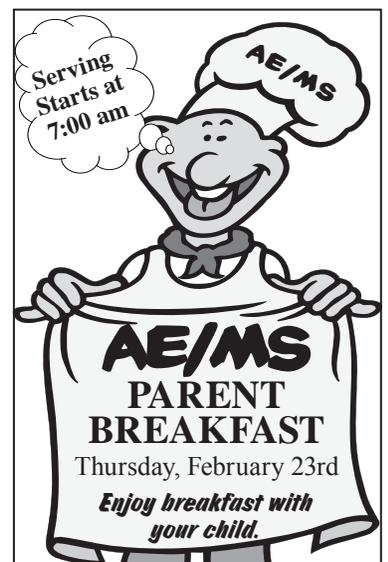
Cabin Fever Reliever

Sat, Feb 25, 10 AM to 2 PM
Downtown Warner
Music, free activities, raffles, food, fun. Ad: page 6. 

Photographer Volunteer Wanted

The Beacon needs a volunteer to take photos at events around Andover. We can supply camera and training if needed!

For more info, call Charlie at 735-6099.



Spaghetti Supper !!
Immaculate Conception Church
Andover, N.H.
February 25th
5:00-7:00
All You Can Eat!
Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread
Dessert & Beverage!
Adults \$6.00
Children 6-12 \$3.00
5 and under Free!






Donovan Freeman, Margo Coolidge, and Mary Lloyd-Evans, behind Margot Swift and Dr. Robert Swift, were three of the performers at Pemigewasset Choral Society's winter concert during the Swifts' second-to-last performance as pianist and conductor. Photo: Robert Ofenloch

ASC from page 25

clothing with us, this will mean more accuracy and consistency. Our consignor inventory will be entered into the system and will be easier to keep track of. Also, the month-ending accounting process for consignor items will be done by the computer.

Uniform and clearly readable tags will be on all consignor items. For our volunteers, this new system will eventually save time since the process is less labor-intensive. We hope by streamlin-

ing the process, we can encourage more members to participate in keeping the Thrift Shop as a viable business.

We would like to thank all of our customers who have supported us throughout the years, especially the consignors for the trust they have placed in us. For more than 15 years we have served the community by offering a place for people to bring their clothing to be donated or resold. In turn, by making clean, affordable clothing available to the public, we have provided scholarships to local students and supported countless organizations in Andover and the larger community. We look forward to many more years of mutual support.

As you choose where to shop and where to bring your consignments, please keep in mind that we all benefit by working together for our community.

Red Clothing Sale

During the month of February we will have our annual Red Clothing Sale. Any clothing item in a shade of red with a colored tag attached will be 50% off.

The Thrift Shop is staffed by volunteers, and we are always looking forward to your visit.

Our hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Wednesday, 3 to 5 PM (during the summer, 3 to 7 PM); and Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM.

Andover Congregational Church Plans Community Suppers

By Judy Evans
Andover Congregational Church

A community supper will be held in the Highland Lake Grange Hall on Saturday, February 11 sponsored by the Andover Congregational Church. The meal will consist of a variety of meats, homemade side dishes, rolls, pies and other desserts.

The meal will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 PM followed by entertainment. The Living Stones will share their mu-

sic and also provide a sing-a-long with songs relevant to Valentine's Day.

This is the beginning of community meals being planned on a regular basis, so watch for future dates. Everyone is invited. There is no specific charge and you can eat all you want! Donations will go to the Deacons Fund to help the needy in the church family and also the community.

For more information, call Judy at 735-5331 or Elizabeth at 744-5494.

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family

By Judy Perreault
NHCHF Halcyon Seekers

Our last program for 2011 was The Underground Railroad. This was a term for escape routes for slaves from the south to freedom in the north and Canada. The movement started in the 1790s and continued until 1870 when the 13th, 14th, and 15th constitutional amendments were passed. These amendments freed the slaves and gave them citizenship and voting rights.

Isaac Hopper was considered the "Father of the Underground Railroad" when he began helping fugitive slaves. Escaping slaves had the help of fellow slaves, Quakers, and many influential people of both races.

Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave, returned many times to the south to lead other slaves to freedom. William Garrison's Pennsylvania paper carried many anti-slavery articles. The American Anti-Slavery Society was established in 1833 and fueled the growing sentiment against the keeping of slaves.

There were many routes to freedom, and you could travel by land, boat, or rail. Many of the code words used in the escapes were railroad terms such as conductor, stations, stationmaster, cars, cargo etc. Most of the time, the slaves walked hundreds of miles in bad weather and over rough terrain.

The favored destination for many was Canada, as they knew they could not be returned to the US and their masters. There is a beautiful monument in Windsor, Canada honoring the Under-

ground Railroad.

One of the most interesting stories was about Ona Judges Staines, a slave belonging to George Washington. She escaped from the Philadelphia Executive Mansion toward the end of Washington's second term (1796) to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She was located and an attempt was made to have her returned, but John Whipple, Collector of Customs, advised the president that her return would promote demonstrations in his city as public opinion was running high against slavery.

Ona married and lived in Portsmouth for a couple of years, but when another attempt to return her was made, she moved to Greenland, New Hampshire. She outlived her husband and three children and died a pauper, but she was never sorry to have escaped to freedom.

There is some speculation that Andover may have had some "safe houses" for escaping slaves, as the Railroad passed through here on its way to Canada.

Holiday Activities

The Halcyon Seekers decorated over 1,000 bags of all sizes for the AE/MS Holiday Shoppe, and we provided helpers to select and bag students' purchases. The children put a lot of thought into the purchases for their families.

We ended the year with a Christmas lunch with a selection of appetizers and desserts. We are looking forward to our 2012 schedule and continuing our education and friendships. If you would like to join us, call 735-5493.

**TIME TO APPLY
 for Andover Service Club
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 entering or continuing
**College or Professional/
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Worship and Sunday School – 9:30 AM
Tuesdays, Growth and Discovery – 6 PM in the Grange Hall
Other Bible studies, women's groups, prayer; please call for details.

"Knowing Christ and Making Him Known"

Through the Reading Glasses

Andover Libraries

By Janet Moore

Andover Libraries trustee

Attention: Barbara Woolley's Memoir Writing Workshop met on January 12 and will meet again the second Thursdays of February, March, and April at the Andover Library at 7 PM. I have copies of the book we're using as a guide, or you can pick one up at the Andover Public Library before then. Remember: Thursdays, February 9, March 8, and April 12. See ya!

I awoke this morning to falling snow, which in an ordinary winter isn't at all unusual, but this winter (disregarding the Halloween and Thanksgiving snowstorms of autumn) has been filled with the hot air of campaigning and, therefore, little snow. While clearing the driveway of snowplow detritus and trying to locate today's *Concord Monitor*, (those blue bags are like beacons) I let the dog out to go play with the neighbor kids.

Within minutes she had them tossing branches from the fallen limb pile for her to chase and skid and slide and ultimately chomp on. Immediately, the former English teacher brain ratcheted into overdrive, and I fell into thinking about all those good dog stories.

Wilson Rawl's *Where the Red Fern Grows* never failed to capture the attention of my middle school students, admittedly mostly boys at the time. Old Dan, Little Ann, and Billy make a formidable team, chasing coons in the Ozarks, but it's Billy's long-awaited connection with them, through two years of working and saving, that makes the story so poignant and finally heart-wrenching.

Turn that on its edge and you have *Rascal*, a book about the boy who kept a raccoon as a pet, for heaven's sake, while his faithful St. Bernard folded the clawed outlaw neatly into the family.

Talk about outlaw: *Bunnica* takes the cake, and the vegetables, for younger readers, as the vampire bunny provides a challenge for Chester, the cat, and the canine narrator, Harold.

Don't forget Kate DiCamillo's *Because of Winn-Dixie*, the dog named

after a supermarket, where India Opal discovered him causing a terrible disturbance and brought him home – of course.

So many more dog stories, I can hardly begin to list them, but I'll try. For the kids in the house there's *Barry the Brave St. Bernard*, *Balto*, *Henry*, and *Mudge*, the latter being the dog, a giant mastiff turned playmate for Henry who lives outside town.

Marie Killilea published a beautiful picture book called simply *Newf*, and yes, we have a cat finally. Never, ever having been a cat lover, I find myself happily encumbered with my daughter's cat, Ernie, a prime mouse and lap-sitter; so, it's okay to talk about cats now. *Newf* rescues the cat and keeps it warm through the long and snowy winter.

It seems to me there's another *Newf* book about Lewis and Clark's expedition dog, Seaman; it's a chapter book for middle grades.

James Herriot deals with Siegfried's merry band of dogs in the vet practice, and in another practice, it's the new vet, Barry, who adapts grudgingly to Arthur Guinness, a giant of a Lab, and a beer drinker at that. But a rescued cat mellows out the gruff older vet. That's in the *Irish Country Doctor* series, and Herriot, always worth a re-read, is the star of the *All Creatures Great and Small* series.

Good grief, one cannot forget *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, for in this tragic novel it is the dogs who triumph over human greed.

In Alexander McCall Smith's *The Dog Who Came in from the Cold*, a spirited Pimlico Terrier tells his side of counterespionage with the Russians. Finishing with the two who have always made me laugh the hardest, I give you Charlie Brown's dog, Snoopy, and Peter Mayle's *A Dog's Life*, a hilarious account of life in a farmhouse in Provence in renovation.

No one tells a better tale than a dog, and perhaps the world would be a better place if we followed the advice on my co-worker's desk – Wag More, Bark Less.

Andover Public Library New Acquisitions

The Drop, Michael Connelly
Back to Work, Bill Clinton
Killer Summer, Ridley Pearson
Ella's Wish Book #2, Jerry S. Eicher
Bun Bun Button, Patricia Polacco
Leviathan #2, Scott Westerfeld
Behemoth #3, Scott Westerfeld
Nightwoods, Charles Frazier
The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag, Alan Bradley
A Red Herring without Mustard, Alan Bradley
I Am Half-Sick of Shadows, Alan Bradley
The Son of Neptune, Rick Riordan
Explosive Eighteen, Janet Evanovich
Inheritance, Christopher Paolini
Only Time will Tell, Jeffrey Archer
11/22/63, Stephen King
Tintin and the Seven Crystal Balls, Herge
Devil's Gate, Clive Cussler
Forgotten Affairs of Youth, Alexander McCall Smith
Lion Among Men, Gregory Maguire
Amazing Spider Man, Marvel
The Brutal Telling, Louise Penny
Iron House, John Hart
Ranger Apprentice Book #7, John Flanagan
Rangers Apprentice Book #8, John Flanagan

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever, Jeff Kinney
Ella Finds Love Again, Jerry S. Eicher
Color of Rain, Michael and Gina Spehn
Next to Love, Ellen Feldman
Red Mist, Patricia Cornwell
The Wedding Quilt, Jennifer Chiaverini
Locked On, Tom Clancy
The Thirteen Hallows, Michael Scott
Micro, Michael Crichton
The Scottish Prisoner, Diana Gabaldon
The Thief, Megan Whalen Turner
The Queen of Attolia, Megan Whalen Turner
A Very Babymouse Christmas, Jennifer and Matthew Holm
A Christmas Tree for Pyn, Olivier Dunrea
Stars, Mary Lynn Ray
Christmas Wedding, James Patterson
Dream Big, Little Pig!, Kristi Yamaguchi
My Name is not Isabella, Jennifer Fosberry
Matthew's Dream, Leo Lionni
A Jar of Dreams, Yoshiko Uchida
Private #1 Suspect, James Patterson
In a Nutshell, Janet Evanovich and Dorien Kelly
A Devil is Waiting, Jack Higgins

Bachelder Library New Acquisitions

Devil's Gate, Clive Cussler
Kitchen House, Kathleen Grissom
Knockdown, Sarah Graves
Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse, Eric Charlo
Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides
Secret Kept, Tatiana DeRosnay
Tiger's Wife, Tea Obrecht
Wheat Belly, William Davis, MD
Scottish Prisoner, Diana Gabaldon
Love You More, Lisa Gardner
Robert Parker's Killing the Blues, Michael Brandman
Believing the Lie, Elizabeth George
Back To Work, Bill Clinton
Private #1 Suspect, James Patterson
Heaven is for Real, Todd Burpo
Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, Helen Simonson
Everything On It, Shel Silverstein

The Devil is Waiting, Jack Higgins
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Foer
Come In and Cover Me, Gin Phillips
Gun Games, Faye Kellerman
Love in a Nutshell, Janet Evanovich
77 Shadow Street, Dean Koontz
Gideon's Corpse, Preston & Douglas Frank
Folly Beach, Dorothea Benton Frank
Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature, Joyce Sidman
The Art of Fielding, Chad Harbach
Downtown Abbey, Julian Fellowes
The Sense of an Ending, Julian Barnes
The Dovekeepers, Alice Hoffman
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot
The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Brian Selznick
Family Man, Elinor Lipman

Blackwater Grange #152

By Bernice Nowell
 Blackwater Grange

Blackwater Grange #152 met on December 8 at 1 PM with Clayton Nowell presiding. There were 12 members present. It was announced that David Hopper passed away in early November.

- The club voted on donations for the year:
- Andover Emergency Medical Service
 - Wilmot Rescue Squad
 - Council on Aging
 - Fourth of July Committee
 - *The Andover Beacon*

- New Hampshire State Granger newspaper
 - New Hampshire Education Loan Fund
 - Andover Food Pantry
 - Wilmot Food Pantry
 - Franklin Food Pantry
 - Andover Fire Department
 - East Andover Fire Department
 - Wilmot Fire Department
- The Blackwater Grange wishes everyone a healthy winter. See you in April!



Vic and Ella Phelps of Andover enjoy a hot lunch at the January 7 winter market. The Phelps are staunch supporters of the Grange. Photo: Mary Fanelli

Danbury Grange Winter Market Rings In The New Year

Danbury Grange press release

On January 7, Danbury's Blazing Star Grange #71 held its third winter market of the season and the first one for the new year. The markets take place on the first Saturday of each month through April.

Attracting residents from several nearby towns, a steady stream of customers filed into the 100-year-old grange hall between 9 AM and 1 PM and left with "arms full and purses empty," according to a few very satisfied patrons. Many partook of the hot breakfast and lunch that is served every month.

"We always get rave reviews on the breakfast special made with sausage, fresh eggs, and real butter," said early-bird Grange member Tricia Taylor, who starts each market day at 7 AM by perking coffee for grateful vendors and customers alike.

New Space, New Vendors

This year the market has expanded to fill two floors of the building, and several new vendors have come on board including Hazzard Acres Farms, pork; Haunting Whisper Vineyards, wine; Sally's Choice, jewelry; and Ann Bowes, natural hot and cold packs.

Regular vendors include Cutting Farm, Huntoon Farm, Autumn Harvest Farm, and Monminy's Farm selling a wide selection of winter vegetables, apples, maple syrup, honey products, jams and relishes, meats, baked goods,

and eggs. There is also a wide selection of wool products, jewelry, gifts, soaps, Corian cutting boards, homemade dog biscuits, stained glass, and other hand-crafted items being offered by Newfound Wool Works, New England Soap Works, Marjorie Gorman, The Purple Ant, Neil Kenney, Beggar's Choice, and Kewl Glass Works.

Celebrating its fifth season, the indoor winter market grew out of a need to supplement summer markets at a time when gardens are bare and local products might be difficult to find. Several vendors are also members of the Wilmot Farmers' Market and have attracted many Wilmot, New London, and Andover patrons to Danbury on the first Saturday of each winter month.

Every market, Newfound Wool Works sponsors a door prize of a pair of beautiful lined mittens. You do not have to be present to win. Names are drawn at noon. February's mittens will have a Valentine theme.

The next market is Saturday, February 4. For more information, call Donna Sprague at 768-5579 or visit DanburyGrange.org.

Organized in 1875, Danbury's Blazing Star Grange has provided a vital service to the community by providing a program of social and educational events for many generations. They meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 PM.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Haley Peters

Congratulations to Haley Peters, who received all As and A-minuses for her first term as a freshman at Marlboro College.

Haley attended Proctor Academy and graduated as a member of the Honor Society. She is a freshman at Marlboro College in Marlboro, Vermont. Haley is studying literature and creative writing.

Marlboro College is known for its emphasis on clear student writing. This semester Haley earned an A in Introduction to Sociology, an A- in The Nineteenth-Century English Novel, an A- in Woman Writing Madness, and an A- in Tell It Slant.

Haley's favorite elements of Marlboro College are its engaging academics and its sense of community, which reminds her of her hometown of Andover.

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Attendees sample with sweet gusto all the chocolate treats and then vote for their favorite.

Tickets: \$10 each
 kids 5 and under free

For more info: 877.526.6575
 chamberinfo@tds.net
 www.lakesunapeehh.org

Co-sponsored by Colby-Sawyer College and the Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce

Lake Sunapee Region
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

State Representative Sean Cox Dies Unexpectedly

By Karen Langley
Concord Monitor staff

From the December 12 *Monitor*
State Representative Sean Cox of Andover died at home on Friday, according to his wife.

Cox, 40, was a stay-at-home father serving his first term in the House of Representatives. His wife, Lori Cox, said yesterday she was still waiting to learn the cause of death from the medical examiner.

Cox worked as a computer engineer before caring fulltime for his sons,

who are eight and ten. He previously had taught snowboarding at Ragged Mountain. In an interview after his election last November, Cox, a Republican, said he was interested in the reapportionment of the state congressional and legislative districts. Lori Cox said her husband enjoyed serving as a lawmaker.

"He thoroughly enjoyed being a legislator," she said. "He loved meeting with constituents, even if he vehemently disagreed with them."

She said he also enjoyed meeting the groups of schoolchildren who visit the State House.

Cox was a member of the House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee. In addition to Andover, he represented Boscawen, Canterbury, Loudon, Northfield, and Salisbury.

In a statement, House Majority Leader D.J. Bettencourt said that Cox's constituents have lost an outstanding advocate.

"Like all who worked with and came to know him, I admired and respected his intelligence, dedication, and sincerity," Bettencourt said. "I will miss him as a friend who was always quick to offer advice and words of encouragement."

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If you've ever wondered how good the spaghetti is at Immaculate Conception Church's annual Spaghetti Supper, this photo from 2007 of John Bates (grandson of Bill and Loretta Bates) should answer your question. Or you can find out for yourself on Saturday, February 25, from 5 to 7 PM at Immaculate Conception Church in Potter Place. It's all homemade and all you can eat spaghetti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Adults, \$6; children 6 to 12, \$3; kids five and under, free. Photo: Bob Bussey



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PARENTS: HOW ARE THE KIDS?

Parents, please help the *Beacon* keep alive the connection between your grown kids and the community they grew up in! Send news of how they're doing in school, in their career, engagements, marriages, babies, promotions, etc. Everyone in town takes great pride in seeing how "our" kids turn out – please help us keep them up to date. Send news and pictures to Articles@AndoverBeacon.com.

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DEAN'S LIST: Shawna Barton

Shawna Barton has made the Dean's List at Colby-Sawyer College. She is a freshman majoring in Psychology. Shawna is in the Honors Program, and she is a note-taker for the Academic Development Center. She works 20-30 hours a week and is involved in the Beta program at the Andover Congregational Church.

Shawna just finished a blanket drive with others in the Honors Program. They donated the blankets to Community Action in Concord and to David's House in Lebanon. She is working with AE/MS to orchestrate a can drive after the holidays for the Andover Food Pantry.

DEAN'S LIST: Keene State

Henry Bendel and David Sell of Andover were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Keene State College.

GRADUATED: Buckman Brownell

Buckman Brownell earned a bachelor's degree in management with entrepreneurship emphasis from Clemson University in South Carolina on December 22.

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Scott Ross RN, and Julie Mayo were on hand on December 30 when Lake Sunapee Region VNA honored Donald Mayo, US Air Force veteran, for his service to our country. Don passed away on January 14.

Photos: Catherine Raymond

VNA's "We Honor Veterans" Program Recognizes Donald Mayo

LSRVNA press release

On December 30, the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice (LSRVNA) honored Andover resident Donald Mayo through its We Honor Veterans program. Don, who served in the US Air Force, passed away on January 14. His obituary appears on page 37.

We Honor Veterans

Working in collaboration with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and local Veterans Affairs, LSRVNA is training staff in order to increase the knowledge and skills needed to provide meaningful care to area veterans and their families.

Identifying patients who are veterans, being compassionate listeners, reviewing military histories, offering veteran-to-veteran support and companionship, and acknowledging the physical and emotional trauma that may be experienced as a result of military service are ways to enhance care for veterans. Every patient has an important life story, and America's veterans are no exception.

Additionally, LSRVNA is one of only two home care agencies in New Hampshire to have achieved Partner Level I status in the We Honor Veterans program, requirements of which include:

- Providing veteran-centric education for staff and volunteers
- Identifying patients with military experience
- Conducting veteran-specific presentations for administration, clinical staff, and volunteers
- Reviewing the Military History Checklist and Guide with staff and volunteers
- Integrating the Military History Checklist process into the referral

- Identifying designated Hospice and Palliative Care contact persons at the closest VA medical center
- "By recognizing the unique needs that veterans may be facing during



During the We Honor Veterans presentation, Donald Mayo shared some cherished memorabilia from his years of military service.

chronic or life-limiting illness, we not only honor their service but are also able to accompany and guide service men and women and their families to a better quality of life," says Betsy Wotton, RN and Hospice Program Director.



BORN

Caden Kenny Nelson

George and Jodi Nelson are proud to announce the birth of their new baby boy. Caden Kenny Nelson arrived on November 3 at 9:14 AM at Concord Hospital: The Family Place. Caden weighed eight pounds, one ounce and measured 21 inches.

Caden was welcomed home by his big brother Caleb. Proud grandparents include Wayne and Margaret Dukette of Andover and Wayne and Judith Nelson of Northfield.



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OBITUARIES

HENRY DOUGLAS PALMER, 75, of Sutton died December 1, 2011 at the Concord Hospital. He was born in New London on August 18, 1936, the son of Perley B. and Elizabeth G. (Barrett) Palmer.

Doug was a lifelong resident of Sutton. Doug had worked many jobs over the years including plumbing and heating for Sam MacCreighton and Clayton Miller, highway maintenance for the State of New Hampshire and the Town of Sutton, and mechanic for New London Texaco, as well as Blackwater Junction. Other jobs included mechanic for the Country Club of New Hampshire, and he was also a custodian for Kearsarge Regional Elementary School in New London.

Doug was the owner of Maple Leaf Golf Course from 1984 to 1993. Doug served in the US Army from 1955-1957 and was a member of the American Legion Post #40. He was a 50+ year member of the Sutton Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the New Hampshire Moose Lodge #1236, and a member of the Andover Fish and Game Club.

Hunting and fishing were enjoyable

hobbies for him, and he was a lifetime member of the North American Hunting Club and a sustaining member of the NRA. He was also a member of the Muster Field Farm Museum. In his younger days he enjoyed snowmobiling and golfing. More recently Doug enjoyed doing puzzles, going to youth hockey games, and visiting with family and friends.

His wife of 47 years, Helen M. (Tower) Palmer, died in 2006, and he was also predeceased by a stepdaughter, Susan Cunningham. Members of his family surviving include his daughter and her husband, Carol and Clay Young of Wentworth, his daughter and her partner, Amy Palmer and Wendy Isidoro of North Sutton, his stepdaughter and her husband, Betty Jo and Jim Posey of Gladstone, Missouri; five grandchildren, Andrea, Ben, Jamie, Lance, and Sonya; eight great-grandchildren; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to Kearsarge Youth Hockey Association, PO Box 1771, New London 03257 or to the Sutton Volunteer Fire

Department, PO Box 179, North Sutton 03260, or to the Andover Fish and Game Club, PO Box 253, Andover 03216.

JULIA PHILIPSON, 61, of Lawrence Street, died on December 7, 2011 at Mountain Ridge Health Care Center in Franklin with her loving family and friends surrounding her. She was born in Waukegan, Illinois on July 21, 1950 and graduated from Parsons School of Design.

Julia worked for over 30 years as pastry chef at Peter Christian's Restaurant in New London and most recently at The Constant Quilter in Andover. She was a business partner in Ruby and Petunia, a stained glass business, a partner in Piecing Harmony, a quilting pattern design company, and a partner in Moose Country Gourmet, a special foods company.



A published author, Julia wrote two recipe books with Shirley Edes: *Peter Christian's Recipes* (1983) and *Peter Christian's Favorites* (1987). For several years she wrote a Rural Living column called *Hollyhocks and Hummingbirds* for a weekly newspaper.

Julia was a member of the Wilmot Baptist Church while holding close ties to the members of the Andover Congregational Church. Julia's faith in God was a driving force in her life. She loved her faith and held fast to its principles, even throughout her illness. She often said to those who asked how she was doing, "God knows what he's doing - God's in control." She was a loving wife and mother and was most proud of her son, Jesse.

She was predeceased by her father,

LeRoy Owen. Members of her family surviving include her husband of 20 years, James Connell of Andover; her son, Jesse Daniel Connell of Andover; her mother, Edith (Grant) Owen of Aurora, Ohio; a sister, Laura Owen Yoder; her brothers, Tim, Tom, and Grant Owen; nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Friends called at the Chadwick Funeral Home in New London on December 10. A memorial service was held on December 11 at the Wilmot Baptist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Norris Cotton Cancer Center, One Medical Center Drive, Lebanon 03756 or to the Wilmot Baptist Church, PO Box 101, Wilmot 03287.

SEAN C. COX, 40, of Old College Road, died unexpectedly on December 9, 2011 at his home. He was born in Washington, DC on August 4, 1971. He graduated from Rocky Hill School, East Greenwich, Rhode Island, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and New York University. He also received an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts from Atlantic Culinary Academy, a division of McIntosh College, Dover, New Hampshire.

Sean was a computer engineer, a member of the adjunct faculty at River Valley Community College, a certified level 1 snowboard instructor at Ragged Mountain, a State Representative for Merrimack #6 and most recently, a stay-at-home dad. A trained chef, Sean worked for La Meridiana Restaurant, Rockwell's, and Protectworth Catering.



Sean lived in Greenwich, Connecticut before moving to Andover in 1999. He was a communicant of Our Lady of

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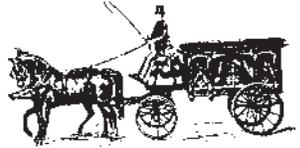

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Sean was predeceased by his father, John J. Cox. Members of his family surviving include his wife of 17 years, Lori (Lai) Cox of Andover; two sons, Aiden F. and Kieran J. Cox, both of Andover; his mother, Marianne Hyer of Santa Cruz, California; his brother, Daniel O. (Junko) Cox of Tokyo; his stepmother, Susan Neidig of Issaquah, Washington; a half-brother, James Patrick Cox of Issaquah, Washington; a half-sister, Kathryn (Ivan) Kavuma of Kampala, Uganda; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Friends called at the Chadwick Funeral Home in New London on December 14. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on December 17 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in New London. Memorial contributions may be made to Rocky Hill School, 530 Ives Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818 (memo line should read Sean Cox '88 Scholarships) or gifts may be made online at www.RockyHill.org/SeanCox.

WILLIAM "BILL" S. STACEY JR., 67, a longtime resident of Franklin, died on December 20, 2011, at Concord Hospital, following a lengthy period of failing health.

He was born May 21, 1944, in Waltham, Massachusetts, son of the late William S. Sr. and Irene (Hopkins) Stacey. Bill spent his youth in Andover and was a graduate of Andover High School, Class of 1962. He moved to Franklin from Andover and lived there for more than 48 years.



He completed further education at Canaan College of Advanced Science, Wentworth Institute in Boston and Manchester Tech. He was an accomplished tool and die maker and machinist. Bill served in the US Navy.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by an infant daughter, Heather Stacey.

His family includes his daughter, Jennifer Stacey, and son, William S. Stacey III, and their families; a sister, Irene Kimball and husband, Larry, of Wolfboro; brothers, Rufus J. Stacey and wife, Sandra, of Schenectady, New York, and Stuart Stacey and wife, Shannon, of Tilton; and nieces and nephews.

Bill was particularly close to his nephews Braedon and Liam Stacey and spent countless hours sharing his hobbies with them, as well as teaching them science and math. Other nieces and nephews include Joseph and Lorinda Stacey and Mark Kimball and Michelle Kimball Clarke.

Bill had many and varied interests throughout his life, including a passion for mathematics and science, obtaining his pilot's license, assembling and flying radio-controlled airplanes, collecting and sharing a love of model trains, operating and exploring all aspects of ham radio, and a love of Corvettes and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

According to his wishes, calling hours were not held. A memorial service was held on December 27 at the William F. Smart Sr. Memorial Home in Tilton. Spring burial will be held at the family lot at Lake View Cemetery in East Andover.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Meals on Wheels or the Visiting Nurse Association.

MARGE SHELDON, lifetime resident of East Andover and widow of Chester

Sheldon, died peacefully on December 25, 2011, at the Clough Extended Care Facility in New London.

Marge was born in Tamworth, New Hampshire, daughter of Joseph LaMontagne and Lenore (Arting) LaMontagne. She was raised by her father, Joseph, and stepmother, Dorothy (Marshall) LaMontagne.



She married Chester Sheldon in December 1953 and became a homemaker and mother of one daughter.

Marge was a faithful member of the Andover Congregational Church. She was a Sunday school teacher for many years as well as the Sunday School Director. Marge was the flower coordinator for many years for the Sunday services. She was a member of the Andover Service Club. Marge was an avid gardener and was known for her lovely flower gardens. She was a devoted grandmother.

Marge is survived by her loving daughter, Susan (Sheldon) Emerson and three granddaughters, Megan Wright and her husband Justin, Jamie Emerson, and Lindsay Emerson. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Marge was predeceased by her husband, Chester Sheldon, and her sister,

Eunice Tenney.

The funeral service was held on January 7 at the Andover Congregational Church. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Andover EMS, PO Box 61, Andover 03216.

To sign an online guestbook, visit ChadwickFuneralService.com.

JOHN T. DUKETTE, 85, of Plains Road, died on December 28, 2011 at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born in Sutton on April 4, 1926, the son of Patrick Joseph and Alma Harriet (Cameron) Dukette. He was a general contractor and retired in 1975 because of a disability. He lived in Andover for most of his life, spending the last 17+ years with his daughter Marlene and her family. Previously he had lived in Hoosick Falls, New York.



Mr. Dukette served in the US Army during World War II as a Platoon Sergeant and was a member of the American Legion Post #200 of Concord.

His wife, Madeline F. (Clarke) Dukette, died in 1994. He is survived by three sons, Wayne, Dale, and Ricky

See Obituaries on page 36

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Obituaries from page 35

Dukette, all of Andover; three daughters, Brenda French of Andover, Darlene Betit of Whitingham, Vermont, and Marlene Dukette of Andover; 17 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Friends called at the Chadwick Funeral Home in New London on December 31. A service followed. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery in Penacook with military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Hampshire Heart Association, 2 Wall Street, Manchester 03101 or to Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 724 Main Street, New London 03257 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis Tennessee 38105.

MARILYN TAYLOR, 69, died on January 3, 2012, after battling a long illness. She was born on November 17, 1942. She worked as an LNA for the Clough Center in New London. She loved to care for those in need. She also enjoyed spending her free time fishing.

She was predeceased by her husband, Walter Taylor; her daughter, Cindy Taylor; her son, Bill Taylor; her sister, Francis Wheeler; and her brother, Sonny Braley. She is survived by her sisters, Lucille Gaudet of Franklin and Marie Barton of Zephyrhills, Florida.; her daughter-in-law, Susan Taylor of Concord; her grandson, Tom Taylor and his wife Kate of Andover; her granddaughter, Melinda Bosworth and her husband Kevin of Andover; her grand-



son, Billy Taylor of Concord; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on January 9 at Andover Congregational Church in Andover. Reception and burial were announced at the service. There were no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Andover Congregational Church, PO Box 211, East Andover 03231.

ARDELL A. (HOLLENBECK) PHELPS, 92, of Danbury, died January 5, 2012 at the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen. She was born in Concord on December 10, 1919, the daughter of Arthur Edward and Verna Ardell (Underhill) Hollenbeck. She had resided in Danbury since 1934.

In 1971, she moved to Hobe Sound, Florida and in 1978 went to Alva, Florida, but always came back to Danbury once a year until moving back permanently in 1994.

Mrs. Phelps had been a Stanley Dealer for years. She made many quilts and taught sewing. She was a 4-H member and a member of the Christian Outreach Group at the United Church of Danbury. She was a member of the Advent Church (now the Danbury Christian Church) and a Sunday school teacher.

Her husband of 64 years, Lloyd A. Phelps, died in 2001. She was also predeceased by three brothers: Eddie Arthur, Charles Harold, and John Hollenbeck. Members of her family surviving include two daughters, Betty Cook of Danbury and Edwina Grove of Buxton, Georgia; three sons, David Phelps of Alva, Florida, Andrew Phelps of Danbury, and Eddie Phelps of Danbury and South Carolina; three sisters, Julia Beals of Newington, New Hampshire, Verna Phelps of Danbury, and Violet McKay of South Berwick, Maine; 17 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; nieces,

nephews and cousins.

Friends called at the Chadwick Funeral Home in New London on January 13. A funeral service was held on January 14 at the Danbury Christian Advent Church with Pastor Craig Merritt officiating. Burial will be in Eastern Cemetery in Danbury.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Danbury Fire EMS, P.O. Box 149, Danbury 03230.

BRIAN J. PRESCOTT, VMD, 56, of Elkins passed away on January 7, 2012, at his home surrounded by family after a 13-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born December 20, 1955, the son of Gerald C. and Hattie I. (Lull) Prescott.

Brian was born in New London and lived his entire life in Elkins. He graduated from Kearsarge Regional High School in 1973 and received a BS degree from University of New Hampshire in 1977. He earned a VMD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981.



Brian owned and operated Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital in Elkins for 30 years. Active in New London town affairs, Brian had been a Selectman and had served on the Budget Committee and the Zoning Board. He had been a member of the Lions Club, the New London Boys Club, and the New London Service Organization. He was a member of the Elkins Chapel Society and had served on the Scytheville Sesquicentennial Committee.

He was on the Board of Veterinary Examiners for the State of New Hampshire, had been chairman of the Board of Veterinary Ethics for the State of New

Hampshire, and was an AVMA Delegate to the State of New Hampshire.

An accomplished golfer, Brian was a member and five-time Club Champion at Lake Sunapee Country Club. He was the 2001 New Hampshire Mid-Amateur Champion and served on the Tournament Committee of the New Hampshire Golf Association.

Brian is survived by his wife of 12 years, Tracy (Vincelette) Prescott of Elkins; four children, Ashleigh Jones and her husband, Chandler Jones of Gilford, Jed Prescott of Boston, and Carly and Caitlin Prescott of Elkins; two grandsons, Sebastian and Landon Jones; two sisters, Diane Magnet of New London and Sharon Barrett of Georges Mills; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A celebration of Brian's life was held on January 15 at Lake Sunapee Country Club in New London. Burial will be in Elkins Cemetery at a later date. To leave condolences for the family, visit the online guestbook at ChadwickFuneralService.com.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Let No Woman Be Overlooked Fund, which provides mammograms for underprivileged women at the New London Hospital, Attn: Jeff McDaniel, 273 County Road, New London 03257.

CARL PHILIP WESLEY went to be with the Lord on January 13, 2012 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

He leaves his wife Bonnie of Andover, children Robin Wesley of Atlanta, Georgia, and Samuel Wesley of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. Also mourning him are his brother and sisters: Charles Wesley and wife Mary of Norwood, Massachusetts, Inez Lussier of Lunenburg, Massachusetts, and Sandra Koenig with husband Steve of Holden, Massachusetts. He also leaves three grandchildren, Callie, Ori, and Harding

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and several nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Philip and Hilda Wesley, and his son Philip.

Carl most recently was driving trucks and had been a first-class machinist for many years in Houston, Texas. Carl and Bonnie had moved to Houston in 1978 and returned to New England 10 years ago.

Carl was an avid auto racing fan, having traveled all over North America to attend both Formula One and NASCAR races, including the Indianapolis 500.

He was a dear friend and a wonderful husband, father, and brother.

A memorial service was held on January 21 at the Andover Congregational Church in East Andover. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the church.

NANCY C. (WILSON) DONOVAN, 77, of Nashua died on January 14, 2012 at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. She was born on May 13, 1934 in Chelsea, Massachusetts, daughter of the late Charles H. and Alice C. (Obrish) Wilson.

Nancy was the widow of Robert F. Donovan, who died August 24, 2008 and whom she married on December 27, 1953. She was a graduate of Chelsea High School, class of 1952.

Nancy worked as a proof operator in the banking industry, retiring in February 2002 from Covered Bridge in Nashua and Amherst where she had worked part-time. At one time, she also worked for the former Nashua Trust for 18, then for Fleet Bank in Nashua and Primary Bank. She was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Church and her hobbies included knitting and crocheting.

Survivors include grandchildren Michael Donovan and Savanna Donovan, both of Andover.

Visiting hours were held at the Davis Funeral Home in Nashua. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on January 19 at Immaculate Conception Church in Nashua. Burial followed at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett, Massachusetts. An online guest-book is available at DavisFuneralHomeNH.com.

DONALD R. MAYO, 76, of Maple Street, died on January 14, 2012 at

his home surrounded by family after a 15-month valiant, courageous battle with brain cancer. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on September 24, 1935, the son of Ralph and Eleanor (Nurse) Mayo. He graduated from North High School in Worcester in 1953 and from the University of Massachusetts in 1957.

Mr. Mayo served in the US Air Force for 20 years. He retired in 1955 after 30 years of service with American Airlines as an airline pilot.

Mr. Mayo taught ROTC at Holy Cross College. He lived in Amherst before moving to East Andover 36 years ago. He and his wife have owned a seasonal home in Brewster, Massachusetts, for 26 years. He is a member and former trustee and deacon of the Andover Congregational Church. He is a member of the Grey Eagles.

Traveling to 103 countries, Mr. Mayo is a vexologist and has been able to collect flags from each country he visited. A talented artist, he also enjoyed working in his garden and mowing his lawn. An avid mountain climber, Mr. Mayo is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, having climbed all the 4,000-footers in New England.

Members of his family surviving include his wife of 42 years, Julie (Palmer) Mayo of East Andover; four sons, Doug and his wife, Kathy, and their sons Quinlan and Griffin of New Seabury, Massachusetts, Erik and his wife, Marci, and their daughters Taylor, Ashley, and Avery of Northboro, Massachusetts, Craig of Sunapee, and Scott of Midland Odessa, Texas; a daughter and her husband, Sheryl and Daniel Berry of San Antonio, Texas; nine grandchildren; a sister, Marilyn Street of West Grove, Pennsylvania; a sister-in-law, Natalie Palmer Stafford and her husband, Norm, and their son, Daniel, of Worthington, Massachusetts; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service was held on Jan-

uary 20 at 11 AM at the Andover Congregational Church with the Reverend John Wagner, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Proctor Cemetery, Andover, in the spring.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Andover Congregational Church, PO Box 210, East Andover 03231. To sign an online guestbook, please visit ChadwickFuneralService.com.

FRASER S. MACNAUGHTON, 89, of Andover, passed from this life on January 15, 2012 following a long illness. He was born in Westville, Nova Scotia, son of Mildred (Haslam) MacNaughton and Simon Fraser MacNaughton. He became a U.S. Citizen in 1939.

Fraser and his wife, Kathleen, met in London, England during World War II.

Fraser served his country and the allied forces proudly as a Corporal in the US Army from 1942 through 1950. He was the recipient of the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, and European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon. After his service, the couple first settled in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, later making their home in East Hartford, Connecticut, where they raised their four daughters.

Fraser was employed as a machinist at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for over 30 years. In 1975 the couple moved to enjoy midlife together in Las Vegas, finally retiring to Andover in 1991. Fraser was a devoted husband and father and an avid Red Sox fan.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Kathleen (Ward) MacNaughton, who died in 2010; his beloved daughter,

Linda Gulino, in 2005; and his brother, Edwin MacNaughton, in 2011.

He is survived by daughter Jeanette Gluck and her husband, Jonathan, of Margate, Florida; daughter Cathy MacNaughton of Franklin, and her son, Michael Chandler, and grandson, Bradley Chandler; daughter Lisa MacNaughton of Epsom, and her children, Clinton Kachnowski and Deanna MacNaughton; and daughter Linda's children, Joseph Gulino, Jr. and Jason Gulino, and grandson Stefano Lopiccolo. He is also survived by his brothers, Gordon and Richard MacNaughton.

A funeral service was held on January 21 at the William F. Smart Sr. Memorial Home in Tilton. Those wishing may make memorial contributions in Fraser's name to the Franklin VNA and Hospice, 75 Chestnut Street, Franklin 03235.

DOROTHY E. HERSEY, 88, of East Andover, died at Mountain Ridge Health Care Center in Franklin on January 18, 2012.

She was born in Alexandria on March 30, 1923, the daughter of Charles and Carrie (Wilson) Flanders. Mrs. Hersey was raised in Alexandria and was a resident of East Andover since 1945.

She was a wonderful baker and made elaborate birthdays for her family and friends. Mrs. Hersey also enjoyed cooking, sewing, and taking pictures of her family and other sites and events.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Raymond Guy Hersey of
See Obituaries on page 38



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Obituaries from page 37

East Andover; two children, Charlotte A. Pellerin of Bedford and Lucille K. Twombly of Concord; three grandchildren, Russell Hersey, Jr., Eric Pellerin, and Katrina Schilling; a great grandchild, Ave Marie Hersey; her sister, Mildred Piper of Franklin; and nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her son, Russell Hersey, Sr. in 2000, a daughter, Darlene B. Hersey in 2011, and siblings Anne Remick, Elmer Flanders, Ada McAllister, and Elwin Flanders.

Visiting hours were held on January 20 at Thibault-Neun Funeral Home in Franklin with a funeral service following. Spring burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery, East Andover.

Donations may be made to the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, 71 Pleasant St, New London 03257.

JANET CANHAM WILLIAMS, 91, of New London, passed away peacefully and comfortably at New London Hospital on January 21, 2012.

Janet was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on May 3, 1920, the daughter of



Charles P. and Beulah (Joraleman) Canham. Her family moved to West Hartford, Connecticut, where she graduated high school in 1938. Janet's high school years were filled with sports, studies, and music. She was an avid basketball and softball player, but still found time to play first trumpet in the

high school band. When attending summer camp during her high school years, it was her trumpet that awakened the campers each morning and the last sounds they heard at the end of day.

Following high school, Janet continued her studies at Colby Junior College in New London. She earned her associate's degree in 1940. After graduation she entered the work force as an executive secretary until the fall of 1945.

On September 1, 1945, she married the love of her life, John E. Williams Jr. John had just returned from the war, and they settled down in Natick, Massachusetts, for a brief period. They quickly took advantage of Federal Housing Funds available to veterans and built a house on MacArthur Road in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Shortly thereafter, they started their family with arrival of sons Dave (1946) and Bob (1947).

In addition to raising two infant boys, Janet also began her career as a volunteer and a community doer. She had an active hand in establishing and running the Stork Exchange in downtown Wellesley, she sang first alto in the St. Andrews Church choir, and she always found time to be the consummate hostess when John showed up at the end of the day with an out-of-town fellow businessman.

When number three son Jack (1952) arrived, it was time to move and expand. Janet and John moved their family to Hopkinton, Massachusetts, where they lived for the next 26 years.

Her days in Hopkinton were filled with the usual volunteer roles, but mostly she found herself attending high school sporting events. Janet earned varsity letters from The Rivers School for eight years of perfect attendance at all of Bob and Jack's games. Janet and John also travelled to Tilton almost every weekend to attend son David's sporting events. Her sense of commu-



In December, Andover resident Jean-Marie Beauchemin (right), Hannaford Store Manager, presented Bethani Bernasconi of Windham High School with a \$3,000 grant check from Hannaford. Bethani is the 2012 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year and will enjoy a year of developmental opportunities and speaking events to raise awareness about education also courtesy of Hannaford.

nity business continued, as she had an active hand in establishing and running the Thrift Shop in Hopkinton.

Janet was an avid tennis player, enjoyed her daily walks, and in the 1970s she and John became members of the Appalachian Mountain Club's 4,000 Foot Club, peaking all 40+ 4,000-foot mountains in New Hampshire and Vermont.

In 1983, with their family grown and out of the house, Janet and John moved to Ragged Mountain Fish and Game Club in Andover to begin a well-earned retirement. After John's sudden death in the fall of 1983, Janet lived the next 30 years of her life volunteering for many local organizations, was an active member of the First Baptist Church, established and oversaw the running of the Andover Service Club's Thrift Shop, and beamed whenever she had an opportunity to share a story about her

seven wonderful grandchildren.

Janet was predeceased by her parents, Charles and Beulah; a brother, Charles Pratt; a sister, Helen Louise; and her husband, John. She is survived by her three sons and their spouses, David and Lee of Elmhurst, Illinois, Bob and Robin of Wilmot Flat, and Jack and Marcia of Andover; seven grandchildren, David, Stephanie, Kyle, Jennifer, Chelsea, Bobby, and Molly.

There will be a memorial service at the First Baptist Church of New London on Saturday, January 28 at 11 AM. There will be a reception for all to attend at 1 PM at the Lake Sunapee Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donations be made to the Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association Hospice, PO Box 2209, New London 03257, or to the charity of your choice.

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Mary and Roger Pellerin at Proctor in the early 1990s.



Jodi Sleeper, owner of American Cottage, enjoys a respite in the showroom of her new location in Gilford. The store, in a building which formerly housed a Volkswagen dealership, is a milestone in Jodi's 20-plus year career as a rug designer. Photo: Adam Drapcho, *Laconia Daily Sun*

Honoring the Pellerins

This is Chuck Will's column on the Proctor Academy Web site on January 20, the morning when Roger and Mary Pellerin died.

To Honor and Reflect
By Chuck Will
Proctor Academy

Today's [Web column] features the usual array of photos of students working, playing, being teenagers, etc. That's what I do here, and it's altogether fitting to continue that practice today, despite our sadness. Students from Andover are aware of what happened early this morning, but most students and newer faculty cannot know how tough it was –

"Do they pay you to do that job?!" and, "Why aren't you in the office, doing somethin' productive?" I loved them, and the people of Andover loved them.

[Pictured above] are Mary and Roger twenty years ago, when they worked together at Proctor. Notice the smiles.

Roger and Mary were not in good physical shape in recent years, yet the horror of death by conflagration is very upsetting. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob and Joe Pellerin, both Proctor Academy Class of 1988.

Perhaps the best I can do in this circumstance is to draw our attention to the good people – many of them from Andover – who make Proctor run from behind the scenes, for that is what Pellerins did.

Depending on your counting measurement, we have approximately 85 teachers. But this school could not function without 100 additional heroes who maintain campus safety all night long, or those who rise at 4 AM to prepare classrooms and hallways. Then there are the folks who staff the Health

Center 24 hours a day.

Then there's Buildings and Grounds, a team that serves a physical plant comprised of 50-something structures, acres of fields, and – oh, yes – the finest privately-operated ski area in existence.

Today, in response to the tragedy of Mary's and Roger's deaths, I was interviewed by newspaper and television crews from Concord and Boston. I was moved by how emotionally moved they were ... through interaction with the people of Andover. This is a special community.

One reporter revealed that several Pizza Chef waitstaff burst into tears at the mention of the Pellerins' names. We are fortunate to live in a town that has a center in which we really know one another.

And so, we will go on with our work. But let us dedicate our work to good causes and good people. Mary and Roger Pellerin were unassuming, good people. They made Proctor a better place, and they made the world a better place, and we miss them.

There will be a **memorial service** for Roger and Mary Pellerin at the Proctor Academy dining hall on Saturday, January 28 at 2 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Pellerin Fund has been established at the Andover office of the Lake Sunapee Bank. Donations can be sent to PO Box 274, Andover 03216.

at dawn – to learn that Roger and Mary Pellerin had perished in a house fire just down the street from school. [See the article on page 1.]

In 1976, Mary moved from the [Proctor Academy] Housekeeping staff to become the first secretary for a nascent Alumni and Development Office. In this role, she was the primary contact for countless graduates who had had little contact with Proctor for decades. She was hugely successful: loving in a motherly manner, funny, smart, bawdy, and altogether lovable.

In 1992, she became secretary to the Office of Multicultural Education, when Proctor became the first school in the nation to complete a multicultural assessment, and she retired in 1994.

Roger served Proctor in many positions ... most recently in Housekeeping, where he maintained an outrageously funny, falsely-cantankerous role with all of us. In recent years, Mary was rarely seen due to physical issues, but Roger was often assailing people from Jake's Market, or at the Transfer Station, chiding me – for example – with,

American Cottage Moves Into Expanded Quarters

By Adam Drapcho
Laconia Daily Sun

From the January 3 Sun

"This is the culmination of 21 years in business for me," said Jodi Sleeper, owner of American Cottage, as she begins a tour of her new facility. She and husband Kevin moved the home furnishing store down Route 11, from its prior location, next to the Wine'Ing Butcher, to the building which most recently housed Lakes Region Volkswagen.

The Sleepers opened their new store

on December 20, after 12 weeks of moving and sub-floor-to-ceiling renovation to make the building at 9 Gilford East Drive suitable for its new use. The store sells some antiques and many new items, much of which, especially the rugs, were designed by Jodi. American Cottage had been at its previous location for two years but the story of the business goes back more than two decades.

About 22 years ago, New Hampshire natives and young couple Jodi and Kevin opened their business. See Jodi on page 40



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NEW FLORAL AND GARDEN SHOP OPENS IN SALISBURY

Fireweed Floral press release

The Fireweed Floral and Garden Shop is pleased to announce that we've opened our doors after many months of preparation. Fireweed Floral is a family owned and operated small business located at 70 Bay Road in Salisbury, just a couple of miles from downtown Andover.

The shop is owned and managed by Celena Nixon, a native of Salisbury. She returned to Salisbury five years ago after living in Alaska for almost 10 years. While there as a military wife, she used the time to obtain her Master Gardener certification from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and to enjoy the extra-long summer days to grow beautiful flowers and a wonderful vegetable garden.

Fireweed Floral has something for just about everyone. Celena makes beautiful flower arrangements for any occasion like birthdays, anniversaries, or sympathy, just to name a few. She

can wrap your fresh flowers or arrange them in a vase, basket, or box.

We also carry many New Hampshire-made local products such as handcrafted pottery, maple syrup, homemade pancake mixes, watercolor paintings, handcrafted soaps, and much more.

Our hours of operation are Monday through Wednesday, 10 AM to 6 PM, closed Thursdays, Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday, 9 AM to 12:30 PM. We are closed on Sundays.

We will make deliveries to Salisbury, Andover, Boscawen, Webster, and Franklin. There is a \$5 delivery fee for these areas. We may be able to deliver outside those areas, but there may be additional delivery fees. Please call and check.

Please stop in and check out all Fireweed Floral has to offer. We'd love to see you! If you can't make it in, you can call us at 648-2678, and please check out our Web site at FireweedFloral.com.



Spring Ledge Farm Keeps Farm Market Open All Winter

Spring Ledge Farm press release

Spring Ledge Farm, at 37 Main Street in New London, is open on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings all winter for its Farm Market.

Offering our own farm-grown spinach, micro salad mix, kales, greens, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cabbage and carrots, grown here in our over-wintering cold frames, The Farm Market is a great source for local produce all winter. As the daylight lengthens, more products are available, including early pansies and flowering plants for a little glimpse of the future.

Spring Ledge is also your source for local and fresh artisan breads from The Good Loaf and Red Hen Bakery. We carry pies from Red Barn Farm and Home Hill Inn, as well as McNamara Dairy milk in glass bottles. McNamara Dairy is a family farm in Plainfield.

Find your pasture-raised beef at Spring Ledge as well, with Star Lake beef Scottish Highlanders. Star Lake is an active and beautiful farm in Springfield. Also from Springfield is Cutting Farm honey,

which is available at the farm stand. Local fresh eggs are available at Spring Ledge from various sources, including their own hens, who overwinter in the tomato greenhouse, eating seeds and bugs and depositing good stuff to provide for the next year's tomato crop.

While Spring Ledge Farm is busy with sowing seeds for the spring and summer, we do open on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. New items for the winter market include Vermont Coffee Company coffee and bacon from Vermont Smoke and Cure, featuring no added preservatives. Both are delicious parts of your comfort food meals.

Spring Ledge is offering its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program during these winter months. Sign up and receive a 5% return on your Farm Share dollar. The program works a little differently than the traditional CSA. Farm Share dollars are used to buy store credit, which can be used for any item at the farm, no matter the time of year.

More: SpringLedgeFarm.com.



Tigers and Pandas from Imagination Inn enjoyed a field trip to one of our favorite neighbors, Pizza Chef. The children made their own pizza, visited the back station, explored the coolers, watched the dough being made, and saw the huge oven. Children had a chance to make their own dough and were busy creating while they waited for their pizza to cook. Missy Bentley was fantastic with the children, and they loved their behind-the-scenes tour. Thank you, Pizza Chef! Photo and caption: Doreen Perreault

Jodi from page 39

in were both working for his construction company. "I was his 'Girl Friday,'" said Sleeper. She painted recently-built homes and did whatever was needed to help out at her husband-to-be's growing business. However, the job wasn't suiting her skills and talents. With a degree in botany and a minor in art history, she had imagined that she might provide illustrations for biology books. Then, Kevin noticed a classified ad placed by a company looking for a rug designer.

Jodi got the job, designing for Claire Murray. It was an exciting time for her. An untrained designer, she found herself flying to China to oversee production and setting up new stores stateside. Her talents were noticed by the Bob Timberlake Collection, which lured her away and where she eventually became the art director and chief designer. When her mother fell ill in the mid-90s, though, the Jaffrey native left work to return home.

That was when Sleeper first went to work for herself, creating designs and licensing to companies such as L.L. Bean, Orvis and her previous employer. After a few years, and with encouragement from Kevin, she started her own company, hiring rug-making experts in Nepal, India and China to produce her designs and wholesaling them to other retailers. In 2008, she started a tiny retail store in Andover, where the Sleepers live, and in 2010 they moved the store to Gilford.

Now, at its third location, American Cottage's showroom covers 5,000-square-feet and room to grow that

nearly three times over. While working for prestigious companies, Sleeper had to contend with weekly meetings and having her designs subject to review by committee. Now, master of her own domain, she delights in using the store to surprise visitors with her "no rules" philosophy, which she utilizes when she's designing as well as when she's merchandising.

"I want people to think we've lost it on some level," she joked. The company exists to market her rugs, of which the store has about 6,000 in stock, but the store is also filled with furnishings so that the rugs may be displayed in a home-like context. Those furnishings, some of which are also her designs, are also for sale. Those which she did not design must meet her standards of craftsmanship, thoughtfulness and creativity.

Sleeper's rugs, made from wool and hand-made in Asia, reflect Sleeper's interest in natural shapes and colors as well as designs and color combinations from eras past. She's not afraid to display a \$4,000 sofa on a \$900 rug, nor was she too timid to design a rug inspired by the language of the U.S. Constitution.

Sometime soon, the Sleepers will host an open house to formally show off their new location. Many customers have already found the place, though, and their early success so far has made them happy to be where they are. "I haven't stopped smiling," said Jodi. She is reminded of the sensation she had when closing her eyes after her first week as a designer. "I am as excited now as I was that week."

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Our traditional Santa stopped by for a visit at the Preschool. Here, he visits with the Preschool One class (front to back): Ollie Grotnes, Logan Welch, Jordan Monaghan, Zach Dudek, Carsyn Perkins, Asa Gilman, Carmen Bates, Elizabeth Janvrin, Emma Raymond, Ryleigh Perry, Liam Murphy, and Al Dudek.
Photo and caption: Elizabeth Janvrin

East Andover Village Preschool

By Elizabeth Janvrin
Director, EAVP

What a wonderful and busy month December was at East Andover Village Preschool! We were eagerly preparing for our Winter Wonderland Show that was held on December 14, along with using our senses to explore many different aspects of this holiday season.

While following a recipe and using our senses of sight, touch, and smell, we made some delicious-smelling cinnamon play dough and gingerbread men. Our fine motor skills were strengthened as we used number and letter stamps with our play dough, candy canes to make reindeer, frosting to decorate our gingerbread men, and stringing bells onto a pipe cleaner for our very own jingle bell rings.

One aspect of the holidays that we had many discussions around was the varied light displays. We explored making our own displays as we used the different colored bulbs in a Lite Brite. Another exciting aspect of the holidays that made its way into the classroom was ornaments, from painting with them to making our own with paint on the inside and exploring them in one of our sensory tables with tinsel and jingle bells. It was quite the experiment to see if some of them would bounce!

Thank you to everyone who joined us

at the Winter Wonderland Show on December 14! We were very eager to share our three songs and play with all of you. This is an event that we look forward to hosting and performing every year.

Thank you to our traditional Santa for assisting in making our Pajama/Polar Express Day a very special one. It was great to have a visit from Santa and receive our very own bell from his sleigh.

January

January and the year 2012 will continue to bring with it many more explorations and fun activities at East Andover Village Preschool. This month, the children have been making their own maps and going on "treasure hunts." With this enthusiasm and excitement, we have begun to explore how to be a pirate, making treasure maps, and all about pirate ships. We used tie dye to decorate our own pirate bandanas, which many of us have worn proudly.

Our dramatic play area has transformed with a pirate ship, eye patches, telescopes, and materials to make our own treasure maps. Many of us have used this area to role-play our thoughts and ideas about pirates while also engaging with each other. This exciting topic has brought many different science experiments such as sink or float and how many blocks would sink our ship.

See EAVP on page 42

Andover Girls Softball Plans Skills Workshops

Andover Girls Softball press release

Andover Girls Softball (AGS) will hold an "open gym" at AE/MS for girls ages eight and up who would like to brush up on their softball skills. Learn to pitch, do some throwing and batting, or even come if you're not sure if you would like to play and would just like to try. Join us at AE/MS from 5 to 7 PM

on Sundays, February 5 and 19.

We will also be doing another softball clinic on the second weekend of March in the Proctor gym. It will be open to all girls, not just Andover.

AGS will be having a board meeting soon. If you are interested in helping, we still have a few positions to fill.

More: TMelissa68@yahoo.com.



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Jon Beard: Proctor's New Chinese Teacher

By Daniel Sangmin Yeom
Proctor journalism class

"I can see myself working here for a good chunk of time. I feel right at home and am privileged to work here."

Jon Beard, the newest addition to Proctor Academy's World Language Department and Gannett House, is enthusiastic and positive about his start in Andover. An easy-going guy with boundless energy and passion, Jon invited me to his dormitory apartment on the third floor of Gannett House. I immediately noticed two posters: a WWE poster of sweaty, muscley men and a pink poster of two white horses. (Unicorns are his favorite animal.)

Even though Jon is new to Proctor Academy, he is not a stranger to the area, having grown up in Rye, New Hampshire. "I had a pretty fun childhood," noted Jon. "I went to a really small school and enjoyed that."

In high school, Jon started his love affair with foreign languages. Having already studied French and German before high school, Jon picked up Spanish, which he mastered during his time spent traveling in Latin countries. "My Spanish is quite rusty," said Jon with a grin, "and frankly, I just don't love it as much as Chinese."

An avid traveler, Jon has lived in many exotic places. His first trip abroad to England in seventh grade motivated him to travel. Jon sat back on his couch, reminiscing over his year abroad, and recounted his international explorations.

"My first year of college, I ended up going to Spain. Then I came back from Spain, went to school a little bit more, and I went to Mexico for a little while." Jon rubbed a hand in his curly hair and tried to remember the correct order of travels. "Then, I got the travel bug. I took advantage of travel opportunities like study abroad programs, and I ended up going to China. Right after I graduated, I went to Peru to get my Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certification. Then I went to Taiwan, where I lived for a couple years, and then to Belgium with a girl I met in Taiwan. Then we broke up, and I traveled back to the United States!" As he recounted the years, his smile never wavered.

Jon's teaching career took off in Taiwan. "I started teaching in Taiwan back in 2006. I taught many different subjects to a lot of different ages. I taught

English, French, Math, Science. You name it, I taught it. That's where I realized that I want to teach."

When he returned to the United States after globetrotting, he took a job offer at Thetford Academy, teaching English and a course called Perspectives, discussing touchy subjects like gay rights and global warming. He also claims to have "taught students how to tame wild unicorns and other mythical creatures by using simple, everyday objects such as ladles." With this admission, Jon chuckled.

So, why does the unicorn tamer teach at Proctor Academy? "I really, really love teaching," explained Jon. His passion for teaching stems from his love of working with people. Jon wishes to help students not only with their Chinese, but also with their development as adults: finding their own sense of self-confidence. "I like to express myself creatively in ways that encourage people to find their own voice," asserts Jon.

Jon now teaches three classes in the World Language Department: Mandarin 1, Mandarin 3, and Spanish 1. He also coaches JV2 Boys Soccer and plans on coaching Intermediate Snowboarding. "Coaching JV2 Soccer is the most fun in the world! These kids are just obviously having a blast, having a great time, and it's infectious. They get me laughing. I already can tell it's going to be a good season."

Although the transition to Proctor's way of life has been overwhelming at first ("I'm still just trying to figure out the schedule here, make sure I'm in the classes on time!"), he is comfortable and happy in his apartment.

Fellow teacher and dorm parent Tom Morgan was all praise when asked about Jon: "I would say Jon is a sensitive and goofy character, fun to have around, and a great conversationalist." An eager teacher and a scholar himself, Jon and his beard are clearly valuable additions to the Proctor community.

His final words to Proctor Academy? "Tell Drew Donaldson to bring snacks to our next student advisory gathering." Perhaps thinking of the poster behind him, he adds, "Oh, tell them that I have like an awesome six-pack. No, like a nine-pack, of muscle."

Dan Yeom is a senior who loves to play soccer. He plans to study journalism in college.

EAVP from page 41

We will be continuing our weekly letters and sharing our items that go with each for all of our friends in our classroom to see. With the recent arrival of snow, we will be bringing it into our classroom, coloring it on the playground, and engaging in snowman-building activities.

February

In February we will engage in varied letter, rhyming, counting, and measuring activities, along with many chances to manipulate and observe the world around us.

February 6 will begin our Parent Appreciation Week, which will culminate on Friday, February 10 in a Mother-Son/Father-Daughter Dance.



Kelsey Lorden, Savanna Donovan, Maria Daneault, and Sophie Laroche stand behind some of their beautiful poinsettias as they also display the kissing balls, center pieces, and wreaths being offered for sale to the public over the holiday season at the Winnisquam Regional High School's Agricultural Center in Tilton.

Photo: Donna Rhodes, Winnisquam Echo

Savanna Donovan Participates In Winnisquam Agricultural Program

By Donna Rhodes
Winnisquam Echo staff

Condensed from the December 8 Echo

Industrious students of the Winnisquam Regional High School Agricultural program have set up a holiday shop of their own, where they have been growing poinsettias and creating their own specialized wreaths, kissing balls and two-candle table centerpieces.

"It really gets to be a lot of fun out here working when Sophie (Laroche) starts singing Christmas songs while we work," laughed junior Maria Daneault of Sanbornton. It's serious business for the group, though, as they are busy fulfilling the many orders pouring into the center each day for their holiday ornaments and wreaths.

In one corner of the greenhouse work area, Savanna Donovan [of Andover] and Kelsey Lorden were busy creating kissing balls from Styrofoam, which is heavily festooned with plenty of greenery and ornaments. Welch said the two were real perfectionists and worked hard to produce a professional product for their customers.

"The hardest part is making sure you keep it full and don't leave any gaps," said Donovan as she meticulously added more balsam to her latest piece.

"I'm making a barn wreath right now for a special order, and only half way around it, I've already used over 40 clusters," she said as she wrapped wire to secure yet another bundle of greens to the 30-inch frame.

Besides the greenery, the students began planning for their annual holiday sales as early as last July, when they started more than 250 plugs to grow their own poinsettia plants. Under instructor Janet Rosequist, the six students in the Plant Science Class paired up to tend to the three varieties of plants.

As Christmas nears they have been rapidly selling their beautiful selections of red, pink, and the always popular, variegated Jingle Bells poinsettias. As the five girls in the class worked their magic on the greens last week, Tyler

Davis, the lone male in this year's class, was busy tending to the potted plants. "I'm making sure they're all watered properly, dead leaves are pruned, and they're all presented well for people who stop in to buy a plant. Presentation is really important," Davis said.

Most of the senior students in the class have plans to continue their education in horticulture or forestry, in one form or another. Heimlich, whose father owns Landscapes, Inc. in Belmont, plans on one day becoming a landscape architect while Davis, of Franklin is leaning more towards forestry.

Regardless of future plans though, all of the students said they've gained a lot of knowledge through both the class and their holiday business. Daneault said she really appreciated the hands on experience in working with plants and Laroche agreed. "It's nice to have a class that isn't so structured toward lectures, but where you're working and learning at the same time," she said.

The Winnisquam Ag Center serves students from seven local schools [including Merrimack Valley High School, which Savanna attends] and works each year to serve surrounding communities.

You can reach Donna Rhodes at DRhodes@SalmonPress.com.

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AE/MS Parent-Teacher Organization

By Carmen Bates
AE/MS PTO

We began the year with a rest, as December was such a full and busy month for us. We received our Square One art and heard that everyone really loved this new company. It was a great fundraiser for us. Thank you to all the staff who helped create the art and to the families who ordered.

Our PTO Polar Express movie night was a huge success. Thank you to Mel Gotthardt for making the bells; to all the parents who baked cookies; and to Michelle Newton for picking up the chocolate milk.

Our popcorn/fruit Fridays are a big hit, and it would not be possible without Cate August, Jeanny Preston, and many other volunteers.

We had amazing pictures taken at Grandparents Thanksgiving by Alicia Labelle, and anyone who would like a copy can have one. Thank you so much, Alicia, for jumping in and capturing this important day.

Sportswear has been delivered, and thank you to Amy Fecteau for taking care of this.

The Eagle Store will be opened monthly. Thank you to Mel for stocking it with great items and to Megan Sweeney for helping run it.

We had a great time at the Bluewater Farm Christmas party and are happy to be included in this tradition with them.

Thank you to all who provided baked goods for the event.

Many, many wreaths were decorated by many volunteers ... thank you for sharing the job with us.

The Holiday Shoppe was a huge hit in the gym, and I still can't believe all the items that were there. Thank you to all the parents and staff who gave, bought, and helped pull off this day for the children and their families.

Thank you to all parents who help with the winter program. Anyone is always welcome to come help on Friday with popcorn/fruit. Here is the upcoming schedule: January 27, fruit; February 3, popcorn; February 10, popcorn; February 17, popcorn; and February 24, fruit. Let me know if you would like to buy some fruit or can come in one morning to help out.

Coffee Duty

We are looking for someone to take charge of the coffee ordering for the staff. We have a Keurig machine in the lounge for the staff and visitors and need someone to place an order for the staff once a month. Also, it would be nice to have someone be sure the machine is clean and tidy.

We will be making snow cones for the students on Beach Day in February and will need ice and volunteers. Next meeting: Monday, February 13, at 6:30 PM at AE/MS. Questions: Carmen-Bates@comcast.net.

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Front: Matt Braley, Jared Duquette, Kevin Barry, Brandon Wood, Austin Marceau. Back: Coach Jim Tucker, Riley Anderson, Ryan Barton, Hunter Bonk, Max Barrett, Assistant Coach Josh Bond
Photos: Bill Egge



Front: Katelyn Barton, Mackenzie Donovan, Chelsea Thompson. Back: Coach Jim Tucker, Alyssa Smith, Kaitlyn French, Emma Davis, Assistant Coach Josh Bond.
Photo: Bill Egge

Andover Lions Club First Annual Basketball Tournament

Andover Lions Club press release

The Andover Lions Club held its first annual Christmas basketball tournament at Proctor Academy on December 27 and 28 with a large crowd in attendance. The results of the tournament are as follows:

December 27

- Franklin girls 36, Andover 7
- Kearsarge girls 32, Bristol 6
- Pittsfield boys 42, Franklin 33
- Andover boys 37, Kearsarge 15

December 28

- Andover girls 28, Bristol 13
- Franklin boys 31, Kearsarge 23

Championship games

- Franklin girls 31, Kearsarge 23
- Pittsfield boys 42, Andover 33

Outstanding Performances

Winners of the Lions Award for outstanding performances during the tournament were Annie Sheehy, Kearsarge girls; Katelyn Barton,



Bill Leber awarded the Most Valuable Player award to AE/MS eighth grader Riley Anderson.

Andover girls; Zoe Kaplan, Franklin girls, Abby Robison, Bristol girls; Riley Anderson, Andover boys; Xen-thios Cyr, Pittsfield boys; Kenny Torres, Franklin boys; Cy Courser, Kearsarge boys.

AE/MS Basketball

By Jim Tucker

AE/MS Basketball Coach

The basketball season is well underway at Andover Elementary/Middle School. The boys and girls teams have begun the season showing lots of enthusiasm and enjoyment in the games. Along with hustle and heart, the teams have taken to the court with Eagle Pride.

The teams have already played a hometown tournament sponsored by the Andover Lions Club (see article, left). The boys have also played four games of the schedule with a record of two wins and two losses. With each game, the team improves its skills and teamwork.

The team is anchored by a strong eighth grade core made up of Riley Anderson, Max Barrett, Ryan Barton, Brandon Jackson, and Austin Marceau. The team is rounded off by a solid crew of seventh graders including Brandon Babbitt, Hunter Bonk, Matt Braley,

Kevin Berry, Jared Duquette, and Brandon Wood.

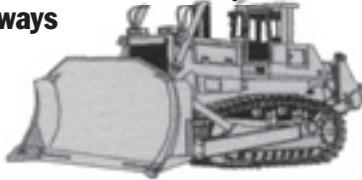
The girl's team has played three games with a record of zero wins and three losses. The team consists of five eighth grade girls: Emma Davis, Alyssa Smith, Mackenzie Donovan, Colby Benoit, and Elizabeth Labrie. The team has three seventh graders: Chelsea Thompson, Kaitlyn French, and Logan Farley. This year one sixth grader has joined the team. Katelyn Barton is playing up a level and was named the MVP for the Andover team during the Lions Club tournament.

Each team has had a slow start to its season but has been working hard and is improving its skill level with each game. As the season progresses, each team has seemed to "gel" more and come together as a unit. The rest of the season will be full of some very exciting games.

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AE/MS second grade students were thrilled to be invited to be part of the tree planting in Lakeview Cemetery on December 8. (Article on page 20.) The students were experienced tree planters, as they had participated in a similar event the year before.

Each student took a turn reading aloud their good wishes for the tree. The wish papers were then buried in the fresh soil surrounding the tree. Proclamations were delivered, readings were shared, and then the best part – home baked cookies and cider!

Now when students travel past the cemetery, they look with pride at the young oak tree.

Below: Tyler French lends a hand.

Photo and caption: Gretchen Hildebrand



AE/MS Honor Roll

2011/2012 - First Trimester

Grade 5 • High Honors

- Britta Johnson
- Jack Newton
- Savannah Pease
- Myles Powers
- Sofia Weber

Grade 5 • Honors

- Matthew Bent
- Alexis Cate
- Hayden Buswell
- Teigan Friedrich
- Jared Frost
- Aidan Kellogg
- Jason Lewis
- Nelson Makechnie
- Sam Parkman
- DJ Rankins
- David Reynolds
- Matthew Reynolds
- Keygan Sweeney
- Kathryn Thompson

Grade 6 • Honors

- Betsy Abrahamson
- Scout Armstrong
- Katelyn Barton
- Emily Bates
- Tyler Bosse
- Aiden Cox
- John Maynard
- Chloe Methven
- Collin O'Donnell
- Koby Perreault
- Tiffany Poulin

- Finn Weber
- Luke Weber

Grade 7 • High Honors

- Annika Johnson
- Reilly Walsh

Grade 7 • Honors

- Kevin Barry
- Noah Berry
- Hunter Bonk
- Curtis Chamberlin
- Logan Farley
- Deklan Friedrich
- Maya Haynes
- Carl Hubbard
- Cope Makechnie
- Jacqui Morris

Grade 8 • High Honors

- Riley Anderson
- Max Barrett
- Logan Marcus
- Ben Yusko

Grade 8 • Honors

- Adrian Bolte
- Will Cox
- Emma Davis
- Keith Davis
- Brandon Jackson
- Nick Keniston
- Elizabeth Labrie
- Austin Marceau
- Alyssa Smith
- Josiah Wagner

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In the article last month about AE/MS students creating ornaments for the New Hampshire state Christmas tree in Washington DC, we hoped someone would be in DC over the holidays and send a photo of "our" tree. Jeff Goodrich made our wish come true - thanks, Jeff! Here's his photo of the New Hampshire tree, complete with ornaments from AE/MS.

Photo: Jeff Goodrich



Expert elves Shirley Currier, Anne Hewitt, and Wanda Smith make sure no one can peek until Christmas!
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

AE/MS Holds Annual Holiday Shoppe

By Christine Frost
AE/MS School Nurse

and Family organization contributed handmade, festive bags for the gifts and

AE/MS held its annual Holiday Shoppe on December 9. The Shoppe was filled with new and gently used gifts donated by community members, parents, and staff. This is a festive tradition at AE/MS, and it's a great way for students to purchase gifts for family members and get into the holiday spirit.



Myles Powers with his family gifts.

Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

The proceeds go right back to the school to support student activities. A special thanks to the volunteers who worked in the Holiday Shoppe by helping children select and wrap their gifts. The women of the New Hampshire Circle of Home

volunteered their time as well. It truly is a community effort and gets bigger and better every year!

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AE/MS Holiday Concerts Set Festive Note For The Season

By Paul Hubert
AE/MS Band Director

The Andover community was treated to two musical evenings this past December; the elementary/fifth grade Holiday Concert on December 8 and the AE/MS Holiday Band and Chorus Concert on December 15.

The elementary evening started off with the kindergarten and their rousing versions of *Funga Alafia*, a Ghanaian greeting song, and the revised American party song, the *Winter Pokey*. The program continued with the first grade's *Have You Ever Seen a Reindeer?* and the medley of *Hanukkah/My Dreidel*; the second grade's *All The Penguins* and *We Are Santa's Elves*; the third grade's *Canoe Song/Land of the Silver Birch*, a Canadian medley, and *Hot Chocolate*, performed on recorders; and the fourth grade's *Chumbara* and *Silver Bells*, a holiday favorite.

Finally the fifth grade entertained with *Cumberland Gap* and the traditional *12 Days of Christmas*. The house

was packed, and everyone left with a little bit of holiday spirit.

The AE/MS Holiday Band and Chorus Concert on December 15 began in the usual way with the flourish of the Middle School Band and their spirited playing of *The Star Spangled Banner*.

The performance continued with a trumpet duet by Kobe Perreault and Scout Armstrong of *Hedwig's Theme* by John Williams, followed by the fifth grade band playing the following numbers: *El Toro*, *Soli Jam (Brass Soli)*, *Solo Rock (Woodwind Solo)*, *Hymn Song*, *Woodchopper's Ball*, and *Two for the Show*.

Next up was a flute solo by Betsy Abrahamson on *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and a clarinet duet featuring Annika Johnson and Jacqui Morris on *We Three Kings*.

The AE/MS Middle School Chorus sang *In The Bleak Mid-Winter*, *The Ocean is Wide*, *I Sat Down With the Duchess*, and *Siyahamba* from South
See Concerts on page 47

AE/MS from page 48

February will be a busy month at AE/MS. Most importantly, we have the Parent Breakfast on Thursday, February 23. This is an annual favorite event that brings many parents into the building. Parents are able to enjoy a delicious breakfast with their child. Parents are invited to linger after breakfast and explore classrooms.

Parent Breakfast is during SPIRIT Week at AE/MS. The Student Council organizes SPIRIT Week and gives each day a theme. The favorite day of the week is always Friday – Beach Day! No matter how frigid the outdoor temperature may be, it is tropical in the gym! Students and staff all are caught up in the excitement as they dress for each themed day.

The date for eighth grade graduation has not been confirmed. Tentatively, we are looking at Thursday, June 14, but as we get a bit further through the winter months, we will confirm the date. I know it is an important evening, and family members like to plan ahead.

While we prepare to send the eighth grade students off, we also are preparing to welcome the next kindergarten class. If your child will be five years old before September 30, 2012, please contact us to receive information regarding kindergarten. We have an Information Gathering Day in the spring, and we want to have you on the mailing list. Preliminary estimates show there will be a very large class for next year.

“Snow” days – we’ve had four thus far: August 29 (hurricane), September 26 (bus vandalism), January 12 and 13 (actual snow and ice!). Maybe that will be it for the year.

Fourth grade students who participated in the Ski New Hampshire pro-

gram have received their passbooks to ski free in New Hampshire. This is a great opportunity for our students.

Free and reduced school lunch applications can be completed at any time during the school year. Those with seasonal jobs who have a decrease in income in the winter should definitely consider applying or reapplying. Information shared is confidential. Please contact Ms. Slayton for an application or more information.

The Andover School District meeting is on Monday, March 5 at 7 PM in the AE/MS gymnasium. It is at this meeting that the school budget for the 2012-2013 school year is voted upon.

An addition to the school budget is a part time world language teacher. Our secondary students who attend Merrimack Valley High School are now the only students entering without world language experience.

The position would be equivalent to one day per week. Ideally, all of our students should learn another language, but the addition of this position will at least allow us to offer French or Spanish to the intermediate and upper grades.

Currently, we do have a parent volunteer who teaches French to both second grade classes once a week. In addition, Gisela Darling continues to offer German instruction one day per week as she has for 22 years.

AE/MS basketball season is in full swing. Try to catch a home game if you can. Our teams (and fans) really enjoyed playing in the first annual Andover Lions Club tournament over vacation.

Our AE/MS band has been offered the opportunity to play *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful* (both of which we excel at) at a New Hampshire Fisher Cats game this spring.

Middle School Band with *Starsplitter Fanfare*, *Power Rock*, Paul Hubert’s *Cathedral Forest*, and *Feliz Navidad* by Jose Feliciano.

The Middle School Band was in fine form, and their performance reflected the years of training and work that they’ve put in on their instruments. Looking forward to the spring concerts, we wonder what they’ll sound like then. We are hoping to see you all there.



Participating students in the AE/MS Geography Bee. Front: Hannah French, Curtis Chamberlin, Myles Powers, Betsy Abrahamson. Back: Noah Newton, Max Barrett, Riley Anderson, and Kevin Barry. Photo: Chris Connor

AE/MS Students Compete In National Geographic Geography Bee

By Jim Tucker
AE/MS Social Studies Teacher

Geography took center stage for ten topographical wizards at Andover Elementary/Middle School in January. The title of AE/MS Geography Bee Champion is a much coveted position.

The competition began with every student in grades five through eight competing for a spot in the second round of the Geography Bee. The highly challenging questions ranged from national geography to world geography.

Hannah French, Myles Powers, Noah Newton, Betsy Abrahamson, Kevin Barry, Curtis Chamberlin, Riley Anderson, and Max Barrett were the finalists who held on to the end with a supportive audience made up of their fellow classmates cheering them on.

The students put forth a fabulous effort, and the competition was full of entertainment. In the end, eighth grader Max Barrett pulled through to win the final round and to be named Andover Elementary/Middle School’s 2012 Geography Bee Champion.

The next step for Max is to submit

a written test to be scored and advance him to the state level. The AE/MS faculty and students wish Max “Good luck!”

Keep studying those geography facts and get ready for the 2012-13 fun-filled competition!

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Concerts from page 46

Africa.

Cope Makechnie treated us all to a bass clarinet solo, the *Theme from Schindler’s List* by John Williams, and a quartet of eighth graders – Max Barrett, Austin Marceau, Will Cox, and Logan Marcus – cranked up Lennon and McCartney’s *When I’m Sixty-Four*.

Closing the evening was the AE/MS

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Front: Noah Berry, Luke Weber, Noah Newton, Britta Johnson, Nelson Makechnie, Savannah Pease, Alexis Cate. Middle: Will Cox, Annika Johnson, Logan Farley, Cope Makechnie, Curtis Chamberlin, Ronan Walsh. Back: Jacqui Morris, Carl Hubbard, Kaitlyn French, Hunter Bonk, Riley Anderson, Max Barrett, Matt Braley, Jessica Lewis. Photo: Gail Parenteau



Madame Ali Colby teaches French to second graders on Friday mornings. Here, Anastasia Marriner (far right) is playing a guessing game in French. Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

AE/MS Spelling Bee

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

On January 11, 21 AE/MS students in grades five through eight participated in the school-level 2012 Scripps Spelling Bee. This year's bee was full of challenging words such as laborious and stratosphere.

Our AE/MS 2012 Spelling Bee Champion is fifth grader Nelson Makechnie. His winning championship round word was sphinx. This year's runner up was another fifth grader – Savannah Pease. Third place was held by Logan Farley.

The two finalists went through nine rounds before we were able to declare a winner. Savannah will participate at the next level if Nelson is unable to

do so.

Nelson will now participate in a regional bee in Plymouth in March. Good luck! We C-O-N-G-R-A-T-U-L-A-T-E you.



Spelling Bee Champion Nelson Makechnie and runner-up Savannah Pease. Pretty amazing, as they are fifth grade students in a fifth through eighth grade spelling bee!

Photo: Jane Slayton

AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS Principal

January is typically a quiet month at AE/MS, as we move beyond the holidays and settle back into academic routines. Teachers utilize the long stretch of weeks before February vacation for projects and long-term assignments.

Bee season is over for another year at AE/MS. The Spelling Bee and Geography Bee winners now await their next competition. Max Barrett, an eighth grade student, won the Geography Bee at the school level and is waiting for the results of a written examination he was given. Students who score in the top 100 advance to the state level of the Bee.

Nelson Makechnie, a fifth grade student, was named champion at the school level for the Spelling Bee. Nelson now advances to the regional competition in March, and the winner there will go to the state level of competition.

Good luck to Max and Nelson!

Congratulations also go to Savannah Pease, a fifth grade student who was runner-up in the Spelling Bee.

Children in Andover are very fortunate to have so many opportunities available to them for winter recreation. Due to the generosity of the town, all students have the affordable option to ski or snowboard at Ragged Mountain Resort or ice skate at Proctor Academy's Teddy Maloney Rink.

We appreciate the collaborative effort of the Andover Recreation Committee, First Student Transportation Company,

and Proctor Academy as they work together each winter to make this possible for the children.

We are also grateful for the generous donations of winter equipment. Our collection of skates is impressive, although we are running low on child-sized hockey skates. Of course, without the parent and community volunteers, none of this could happen. We have parents who regularly ski and skate with the children and transport all the necessary equipment.

Students also have the opportunity to cross-country ski on Monday afternoons over at the Blackwater Ski Area. Lessons, fun, and games are provided by the Proctor Academy Nordic team. Students are picked up at school and transported to the ski area. There are 15 to 20 skiers taking advantage of this opportunity. Although snow continues to be sparse in our area, Garry George and crew work their snow-making magic, so winter sports are uninterrupted for Andover.

Ice skating under the lights at the town basketball court has been popular this year. It is unusual to not see skaters in the evening enjoying the ice. What a treat for us to have this on school grounds and under the lights!

If you have not checked out the AE/MS Web site lately at Andover.K12.nh.us, please do. Chris Connor, our technology person, has loaded the site with lots of news and information.

See AE/MS on page 47



"Plumb, level, and square" are three of the many new words that Savanna Donovan is learning as she builds a chicken coop for her senior project at MVHS. Craig Perreault helped her finish up the framing one day in January. Photo and caption: Tatjana Donovan