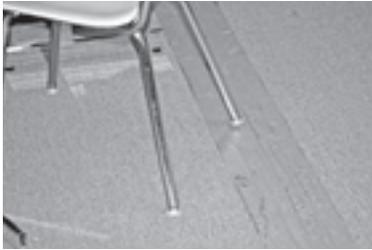


The 20-year-old carpets in the Middle School wing start to fail when ripples develop. In this photo, a ripple has turned into a rip. Photos: Charlie Darling

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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