

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 at Andover.NH.us and on DVDs at the libraries.



Pick Up Your Andover Town Report!

The *Andover Town Report 2011* is now available. **Town Reports will not be mailed this year** (except by special request to 735-5332), so visit Andover.NH.us to read it online, or pick one up at any of these locations:

- the Town Hall
- the town libraries
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- the Transfer Station
- AE/MS



The Andover Beacon

Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com March 2012 735-6099

2012 Budgets Set For Annual Meetings

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

Budgets for 2012 for the Andover School District, the Town, and the Fire Departments have been finalized by the Budget Committee and will be presented to voters at the annual meetings. The finalized budgets are the same as discussed in detail in the front-page article in the February issue of the Beacon. (Every issue of the Beacon ever published can be read online at AndoverBeacon.com.)

The net 2012 Town budget, including warrant articles, is down by about \$61,000 from last year's comparable figure. The net School Budget is up from last year by about \$33,500. The bottom line is an overall reduction of about half a percent, or \$27,000.

2012 Tax Rate

Will this translate into a flat or even slightly lower property tax rate for Andover at the end of the year? This early in the game, it's impossible to say because of at least two major un-

knowns:

• **Revenue.** The Selectmen, the Budget Committee, and Town Meeting together have quite a bit of control over "the budget," but "the budget" is primarily about expenses. None of us have much control at all over the other half of the equation, which are the revenues that the Town receives.

Turn to page 28 of the Andover Town Report 2011 (see page 1 for information on how to get yours) and you'll see that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars the Town takes in every year to reduce property taxes. At this time of year, no one can say for sure what that total will be.

• **Merrimack County.** On page 76 of the Town Report, you'll see that 13% of our property taxes go to running Merrimack County. But unlike the Town and School District expenses, we don't get to decide how much we spend on county expenses. Instead, the county tells us how much we owe, and they

See Budgets on page 3

Andover Marine Invited To Dine At The White House

By Maddie Hanna
Concord Monitor staff

From the February 20 Monitor
When Captain Steve McNeil got a call asking if he'd like to have dinner at the White House, his answer came immediately.

"I was like, 'Yeah, of course,'" said McNeil, a Marine who grew up in Andover. "This is one of the reasons you decide to serve."

He didn't get his hopes up, however. The Marine who called – a gunnery

sergeant who had served with McNeil in Iraq and Afghanistan – said a lottery would help pick the guests at the dinner, a tribute to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He made McNeil no promises. So when a letter last week made it official, "I was speechless," McNeil, who is stationed at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, said in a phone interview Friday.

"To go to your mailbox and open See McNeil on page 2



Every year at this time, the *Beacon* has to raise money from the community for its coming year's operations. Please don't forget to send a donation in the Round Tuit envelope that came in the February issue. Thank you!

Photo: Charlie Darling

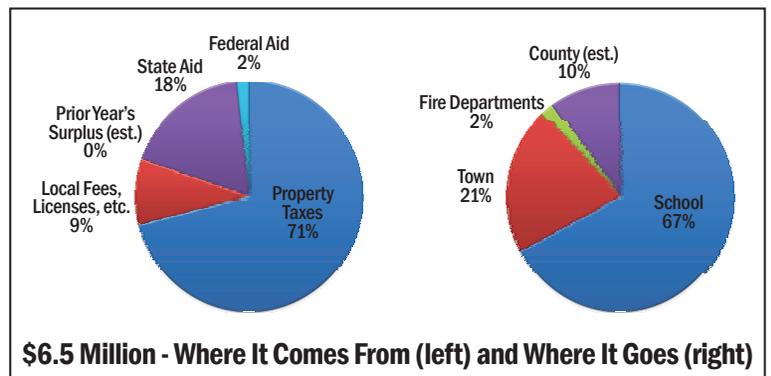
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To the 116 Andover residents who have sent checks this year to support the *Beacon* in 2012: Thank you! Every check, no matter how large or small, is a big help and an important sign that the community values the *Beacon*.

Over 1,100 Andover households receive every issue of the *Beacon* at no charge throughout the year. If you're one of the households that haven't made a voluntary donation yet, please use the form on page 4 and "get a round tuit" right away. Thanks!



CELEBRATE OUR ANDOVER VOLUNTEERS!

April will be National Volunteer Month, and we'd like to have a full page of photos of Andover volunteers in the April issue of the *Beacon* as a small way of saying, "Thank you for all you do!"

If you're a member of an Andover organization that benefits from the work of volunteers, please make an effort to snap a few photos this month (or dig up some old ones) and e-mail them to Articles@AndoverBeacon.com by March 15.

Call Charlie at 735-6099 if you have questions or need help.

Thanks!

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McNeil from page 1

up something that the address is the White House is crazy," he said.

McNeil, who is 34, will be one of 50 Marines attending the February 29 dinner, which will be attended by men and women from all ranks and branches of the military who served in Iraq.

The guests will represent every state, and McNeil believes he's the only Marine from New Hampshire. He gets to bring one guest, and it will be his girlfriend, Maribel Lebaron, who McNeil said "jumped up and down" when he told her.

But beyond that, he's been given few details, he said.

"I know when and where I need to be, but after that, I'm probably going to just focus on standing around and looking good," he said.

A former competitive ski jumper, McNeil got his start at Proctor Academy, went to Northern Michigan University to ski, and continued to compete after he graduated.

He had dreams of going to the Olympics but decided to join the Marines in 2004.

"The thing I enjoyed was the lifestyle and the challenge," McNeil said. "It really appealed to me and probably appealed to me even more so that my parents were like, 'Oh, my God.'"

Worrying his parents wasn't his primary motivator, although McNeil's

decision surprised people who knew him. To him, though, the transition made sense.

The Marines want outgoing people "that are a little ballsy," he said. "That's the crowd we draw upon, and I fit right into that category."

He deployed to Iraq in 2007 as the battalion adjutant for an infantry battalion, in charge of managing payroll, processing awards, and providing interpreters.

But his weightiest responsibility was casualty reporting. The battalion was involved in firefights at times almost daily, McNeil said, and he wrote reports when a Marine was wounded or killed in action.

"That was something that even if

it only took five to 10 minutes of your day, was the most important five to 10 minutes of your day," he said.

Although McNeil wasn't in a combat role, he lost a Marine directly under his charge. Lance Corporal Juan Garcia-Schill, who volunteered to help move supplies to another unit, was killed by an improvised explosive device, McNeil said.

"You talk about life-changing things," McNeil said. When he came back from Iraq, his contract was set to expire, and he thought about letting it. But he extended it to go to Afghanistan the next year with the same group of Marines "to make sure I saw it through," he said.

The deployment was for eight months, but it was heavy with combat. About 20 members of the battalion were killed, and McNeil was again responsible for reporting the casualties.

To deal with the work, McNeil drew upon advice he got from his battalion sergeant major in Iraq. "He said to me, 'Hey sir, you know, a lot of this is going to suck,'" McNeil said. "But in my mind, I've got boxes. I put things where they need to be, I take them out when I need to, and then I put them back."

While at war, "you have to kind of spatially stow that away and get back to that later," McNeil said.

McNeil's mother, Kathy McNeil-Ordway of Andover, said it was difficult for her when her son joined the Marines. "You can only put yourself in harm's way so many times before you worry something will happen," she said.

But despite her worries, "I'm very, very proud of him," McNeil-Ordway said.

And she's thrilled about her son's invitation to the White House, which he e-mailed her about last week.

"I called him right up, and said, 'Oh, my God, what an honor,'" she said. "I do think it was pretty special."

Maddie Hanna can be reached at 369-3321 or MHanna@cmonitor.com.

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Budgets from page 1

don't tell us until close to the end of the year. So there's another big number (almost \$650,000 last year) that's up in the air at this point.

And when we do hear this year, the news may not be good. The County

TAX DELINQUENCIES

As of December 31, 2009, the Andover Tax Collector reported \$500,113 in unpaid property taxes owed to the town. As of December 31, 2010 the figure was \$385,007, down 23% from a year earlier. As of December 31, 2011 the figure was \$507,972, up 32% from a year earlier.

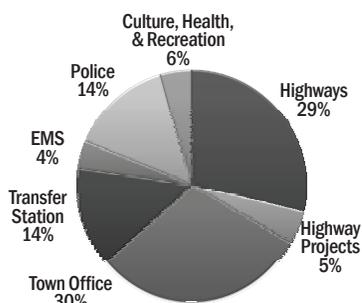
Commissioners project that the amount they'll be looking for from each Merrimack town will rise compared to last year by over 3%. They cite loss of county revenue and rising health insurance and fuel costs as reasons for the projected increase.

Town Budget

The proposed \$1.4 million net budget for the Town, including warrant articles, was helped significantly by the fact that both the Emery Road and the Morrill Hill Bridge projects are complete. Together, those projects accounted for over \$200,000 in expenditures last year.

Pushing the numbers up this year are:

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which proposes to start a capital reserve fund with \$25,000 in order to be able to replace the Town ambulance some day.
- Town Office expenses are up about \$24,000, which includes a 2.5% pay



Proposed \$1.4M Town Budget

raise for Town Office employees and additional hours for the Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

- Andover Police Department expenses are up about \$15,000, which includes a 2.5% pay raise and increased costs charged to the Town by the dispatch service and by the County Attorney's office for prosecuting cases.

Taking all the increases and decreases into account, the net 2012 Town budget, including warrant articles, as recommended by the Budget Committee, is down by about \$61,000 (or 4.2%) from last year's comparable figure.

Town Meeting votes every year on the Budget Committee's proposed budget (highlighted this year on pages 24 through 27 of the Town Report). But the

Selectmen also propose their own set of budget figures each year in the column to the left of the Budget Committee's figures, and the meeting is free to consider the merits of each figure.

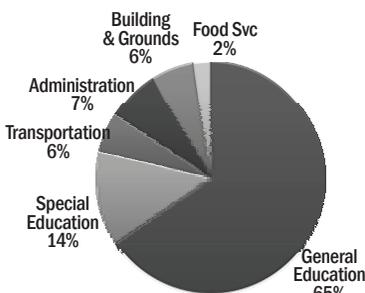
This year the Selectmen propose a budget that's \$30,380 higher than the Budget Committee's. See page 15 of this issue for more details about the Selectmen's proposed budget figures and why they're different than the Budget Committee's figures.

School District Budget

The proposed 2012 net budget for the Andover School District, including warrant articles, is for a total appropriation of \$4.35 million. This proposed budget shows an increase of nearly \$33,500 (0.8%) over the net appropriation of \$4.32 million voted for 2011.

Contributing to the increase this year were:

- Salaries and Benefits, due to an increase called for in the current teacher's contract and to separation pay



Proposed \$4.35M School Budget

- Special Education Services, due to changes in the services required by Andover's special education population
- Professional Services, due to contract negotiations and other issues that require extensive legal review
- Transportation Services, due to an increase called for in the current contract plus a fuel adjustment also called for in the current contract
- A proposed new Language Arts Program for the middle school

Figures that decreased this year were:

- High School Tuition, due to a decrease in Andover's MVHS population
- SAU Assessment, due to a decrease in Andover's share of SAU #46 costs
- Food Services, due to some economies that have been implemented plus an increase in federal support

To be a part of the decision process regarding the school budget, plan to attend the annual Andover School District meeting on Monday, March 5, at 7 PM in the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym.

The Town budget will be discussed and voted on at the annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, at 7 PM in the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym. All voters are urged to attend both these important meetings to participate in the discussions and to vote on the appropriations.



The Cilleyville-Bog Bridge is closed for safety reasons. State bridge inspectors reported to the Selectmen last month that the dry-laid part of the north abutment has shifted and no longer supports the bridge properly. In response, the Selectmen have ordered the bridge closed to all access until repairs can be made.

The bridge was restored in 2003 with funds raised through donations and an LCHIP grant from the state. Some of that money was set aside for maintenance and repairs and could be used to fix the abutment.

Photo: Charlie Darling

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Over 300 Attend Celebration of Roger and Mary Pellerin's Lives

By Ben Leubsdorf
Concord Monitor staff

From the January 29 Monitor

Roger and Mary Pellerin could have done the big things. He worked for Raytheon, helping build missiles with a shot at becoming an electrical engineer. She was an accomplished pianist and possessed "an intellect that was towering," according to their son, Joe.

But as Yogi Berra is said to have said, "Little things are big" – a quote Joe Pellerin recounted yesterday at his parents' memorial service, eight days after the elderly couple died in a fire at their Andover home.

"My parents never did the big things ... but these people did all these little things, and 40 years later, all of these little things have made all of us better, better people," he said. "And I am not the man I am today without the lessons that they taught me."

"This is good blood to come from," he added.

The Pellerins had a wide circle in the town where they'd lived since the early 1970s. Several hundred people came out yesterday to honor them, packing the dining hall at Proctor Academy, where they both worked for decades – she as a housekeeper, secretary, and shorthand teacher, he as a custodian.

"You gather to honor two people who obviously have left a mark on this community," said the Reverend Robert Biron. "They left their mark just by being themselves. They represent what is best in the community. And that happens day in and day out, all the time. It's not extraordinary. It's just beautiful."

Mary, 80, and Roger, 79, were killed January 20 when their house on Meadowlark Lane caught fire.

They're survived by two sons – Joe Pellerin, who lives in Iowa, and Bob Pellerin, who was living with them at the time of the fire – and three grandchildren.

According to Joe, Roger was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, and served in the Army just after the Korean War, with his transport pulling into Tokyo's harbor the day a ceasefire was declared.

"He always told us they were scared he was coming," Joe Pellerin said before yesterday's service.

Mary was born in Melrose, Massachusetts, and married Roger in 1967, a few years before they moved north to Andover. Roger found a job as a janitor at the *Monitor*; his son said, then went to work at Proctor and at Andover's elementary school.

"He liked seeing, at the end of the day, what he had done," Joe Pellerin said. "He took a lot of pride in that."

And, he said, Proctor Academy's offer to host the service in the dining hall carried special significance.

"My father did this floor every day for probably 40 years," he said. "It's a dining hall, but there's a lot of meaning to having it here."

Relatives speaking during the service paid tribute to the couple, describing them as compassionate, understanding, and trustworthy. They were a "perfect set of people," said Dennis Scofield, Mary's younger brother.

"If I could be one-quarter of what my sister and brother-in-law are and were and will always be, because they're always going to be in our hearts, I will die a satisfied man," he said.

Mary Pellerin – tarot-card reader, breast-cancer survivor, and avid crocheter – was a creature of habit, arranging coffee cups next to the machine just so and making cookie batter in advance for the entire week, said Amy Pellerin, Bob Pellerin's ex-wife.

"Initially, I really did not understand the need for so much sameness. I have to be honest: Sometimes it was a little irritating," Amy Pellerin said. "Over the years, however, especially as I became a parent myself, I came to realize that these rituals serve specific purposes. They were comforting, orienting, and organizing for both Mary and Roger."

The couple didn't agree on everything, including Mary's fondness for the television show *Star Trek*.

"Roger, however, couldn't get out of the room fast enough when it came on," Amy Pellerin said. "On a day when he was particularly annoyed with this, he looked at Mary and said, 'Why is it they say 'to boldly go where no man has gone before,' yet when they arrive, Mary, there are already people there?' Mary gave him the look that we all know, and he smugly walked out of the room with a smile."

In their later years, Mary, in declining health, expressed concern about being left alone if her husband passed away first.

"I cannot and I will not make sense of what happened last Friday," Amy Pellerin said, her voice thick with emotion. "I can simply take solace in the fact that Mary and Roger are together for eternity. Her greatest fear was never realized, and for that, I am grateful."

Ben Leubsdorf can be reached at 369-3307 or bleubsdorf@cmonitor.com.

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Father Robert Biron offered a prayer at a celebration of the lives of Roger and Mary Pellerin on January 28 at the Proctor Academy Dining Hall.

Photo: Alex Estin

Community Party To Benefit Pellerin Family

By Chuck Will
For the Beacon

A community potluck dance party will be held at Bluewater Farm on Saturday, April 7, to benefit Joe and Bob Pellerin, whose parents perished in a house fire on January 20. Doors will open for food, beverages (bring your

own!), and fellowship at 5 PM. Nick's Other Band will play late into the evening for dancers and rock 'n roll enthusiasts. Admission is free, but donation jars will be available to support the Pellerins. Bring a dish and join us for a fun evening and a great cause on April 7!

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Sat: 7:30-12:30

Second Energy Workshop Scheduled For March 15

Andover Energy Group press release

A free, in-depth workshop for controlling home energy costs will be offered in Andover beginning at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 15, at Andover Elementary/Middle School.

The two-hour workshop, called Button Up 201, is the second in a two-part program offered in conjunction with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning.

The first session, a general overview of energy-related problems, drew 21 participants in February. The March 15 session will focus on hands-on solutions. Attendees need not have attended the first workshop.

Led by certified energy professionals, the workshops provide residents with information and techniques to save money on home energy use. "With home heating prices predicted to rise by another 10 percent this season, the But-

ton Up New Hampshire workshops are a wonderful way to help guard against fuel price increases," says Denise Blaha, UNH program manager. "Participants will learn how to undertake basic air sealing and insulation techniques, where to find technical and financial resources, sources of energy waste, and easy do-it-yourself conservation measures to reduce fuel and electricity use that will save money and make homes more comfortable throughout the year."

Workshop attendees will also be able to receive personalized answers to energy-related questions and get guidance through the process of implementing an energy reduction project, such as air-sealing an attic or basement or implementing a solar hot water system.

The Andover workshops are cosponsored by the Andover Energy Group, the Andover Library Trustees, the Andover Conservation Commission, and Proctor Academy.

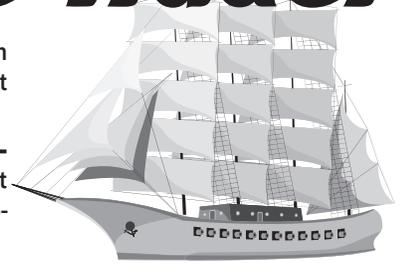
Correction

The Recycling Committee's minutes in last month's Beacon mistakenly named Dumpster Depot as the Town's paper recycler. Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), a nonprofit association of which Andover is

a member, is the Town's paper recycler, and it is NRRRA that raised its fees as indicated in the minutes.

Dumpster Depot is a subcontractor to NRRRA and as such supplies and hauls the paper dumpster we use at the Transfer Station. But it is NRRRA that sets the fees and to whom the Town makes payments for rental and hauling.

Andover's Yankee Trader



Side-by-Side Refrigerator: With ice maker. White, 26 cubic feet, perfect condition. 735-5746, \$300 OBO.

Polished Brass 3-Tier Chandelier: Approximately 24" height with etched glass panels. Free, 735-5746.

Silver Chest: Felt-lined, in excellent condition. Free, 735-5746.

Over-the-Range Microwave: 1 year old. \$100 OBO, 735-5746.

Pipe Staging: Two sets of used staging with cross-bars, bottles, and two jacks for sale. No planks. \$100 OBO. Call Bob at 735-5066 or e-mail RBussey@comcast.net.

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

Swivel Barrel Chair: Upholstered swivel barrel chair. Oatmeal color, ex-



cellent condition. \$75. SSchnare@comcast.net or 735-5389.

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

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

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Around the World with the Beacon



David Merwin took his Beacon abroad and got this shot on New Year's Day in Tripoli, Lebanon.



Around the World with the Beacon

"This Fabulous Country of Ours"

By Mary Lou Emerson
For the Beacon

Jim and I took a six-and-a-half week cross-country trip this fall, taking in sights such as Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse in South Dakota and the Devil's Tower, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons (including Jackson Hole) in Wyoming.

From there we spent two and a half weeks in Idaho visiting our son, Jeff, who has lived for seven years in Sun Valley. Jim and Jeff played a good bit of golf.

From Idaho we headed south into Utah, visiting many of the canyons, traveling over the Escalante Mountains, and visiting Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, and Zion. From there we visited Las Vegas, the Hoover Dam, the Grand Canyon's West Rim, and the Hualapai Nation, where there is the much-talked-

about Skywalk. We next visited and experienced the Grand Canyon via the southern entrance in Arizona.

Heading west, we drove through the Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest and then turned east, stopping in Nashville, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Asheville before heading north through the Carolinas, where we stopped to visit a number of friends.

We returned home to Connecticut (our permanent residence for some 43 years), where the October snowstorm welcomed us to no electricity and a very cold house. We camped in our driveway for a few days in our 19' camper/trailer which we had pulled across this fabulous country of ours.

Jim has spent the past eight winter seasons living in East Andover while working at Ragged Mountain Resort. He grew up in Cilleyville. 

DOT Prepares To Replace Mitchell Brook Culvert

By Don Gould
Andover School Board

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) held a Combined Public Officials/Public Informational Meeting at the Andover Town Hall on January 23 to review and discuss replacement of the culvert carrying Mitchell Brook under US Route 4 and New Hampshire Route 11 in the "dip" just to the east of Andover village.

The current four-foot circular culvert is to be replaced by a concrete box culvert 14 feet wide by 8 feet deep. The final road surface will be a foot higher than the current road surface. Material covering the culvert will be reduced from the present four feet covering the current culvert to approximately one foot covering the new box culvert.

Four-foot paved shoulders will be added to the 11-foot lanes in the impacted area of about 150 to 200 feet of roadway. The present paved shoulders one foot wide will remain along the road to the east and west of the project.

Floods Divide The Town

This highway change is in response to the flooding in this area during Mother's Day, 2006 – a 200- to 500-year flood – and Patriot's Day, 2007, a 100-year flood. These floods effectively stopped east-west traffic flow with up to 28 inches of water over the road and serious road washout. All detours

added many miles to those traveling this main east-west artery. The replacement is designed at a 50-year flood level.

The estimated cost of the project is \$600,000. Funding will be \$537,000 Federal and \$63,000 State.

Project manager Ronald Grandmason, PE expects to advertise for contractor bids during April or May, with approval in June. Construction is expected to start in July and be finished before the end of construction season in November.

During construction, traffic will be reduced to one lane to be interrupted by temporary intermittent stop lights. These may be overridden by police and certain others for emergency vehicles and, with special provisions, school buses.

DOT environmentalist Kathy Goodman added that a Department of Environmental Services permit will be applied for, as well as other applicable permits. These are expected to require a foot of rock at the bottom of the culvert to facilitate wildlife passage, and provision must be made for the containment of invasive species found in the area.

The Andover School Board recognizes that this project will undoubtedly impact school transportation, since legally, delays can be up to 20 minutes. Request for preferential passage of school buses to be included in contract to builder may be made to project leader. 

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Andover TOWN BUDGET



**Town Meeting
March 13, 2012**

Town Meeting Info Packet

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

- the full budget to be voted on at Town Meeting
- a summary of increases and decreases
- proposed amounts for warrant articles
- a comparison of budgets over the last five 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.



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School District Meeting Info Packet

The 2012 Andover School District Meeting information packet is available. 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



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Letters

Town Clerk

When you vote for town officers on March 13, please consider the strengths of Joanna Sumner for Town Clerk.

For the last five years she has served as Deputy to the Town Clerk, gaining experience and understanding of the job, the particulars, and the endless legal red tape.

When Dana Hadley left as Town Administrator this past October, Joanna stepped into the shoes of the Town Clerk, Marj Roy, who moved on to the

position of Town Administrator. For five months now, Joanna has been doing the job of two people.

She has been active in the community for years - all voluntary positions.

Having known her for over 40 years, from the get-go I always admired her smarts, spunk, work ethic, good nature, and the twinkle in her eye.

The best way to learn a job is to

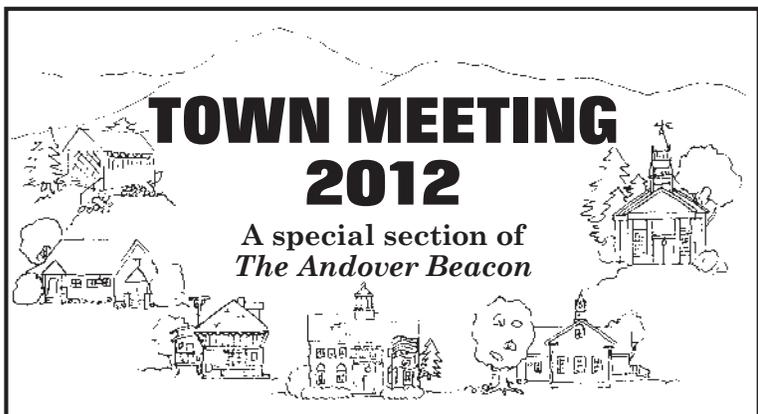
a job; Joanna Sumner has paid her dues. She's a motivated, qualified candidate who has earned your vote.

Suzy Norris

Your opinion matters! Please send a letter to the Beacon expressing your thoughts on any local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

Opinions on **specific warrant articles** appear this month in the *Issues at Town Meeting* section on page 15.

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.



TOWN MEETING SPECIAL EDITION

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

This month, voters in Andover are called upon to make important decisions that will set our taxes and guide our town for the coming year. We'll elect over a dozen of our neighbors to positions in Town and School District governing bodies, and we'll close the books on 2011 with the annual Town Report.

This month's *Beacon* coverage of this very important season includes:

- A summary of the budgets we'll vote on at School District Meeting and Town Meeting – Page 1.
- A facsimile of the ballots for Town and School District voting – Page 10.
- Profiles of many of the local candidates for office – Page 11.
- Discussion of issues that will appear on the Town Warrant – Page 15.
- The Town Warrant we'll vote on at Town Meeting, annotated to make the official language easier to understand – Page 17.
- The School District Warrant we'll vote on at School District Meeting, annotated to make the official language easier to understand – Page 18.
- Reports on 2011 from many of the

organizations that serve our community, rounding out the annual "snapshot" of Andover that appears in the 2011 Town Report – Page 19.

Important Dates

Here are the dates you need to keep in mind in order to participate fully in this important time of year:

Saturday, March 3 – Supervisor of the Checklist available to correct the checklist and register new voters, Town Hall, 11 to 11:30 AM.

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

Monday, March 5 – Andover Village District Annual Meeting, Andover Town Hall, 7 PM.

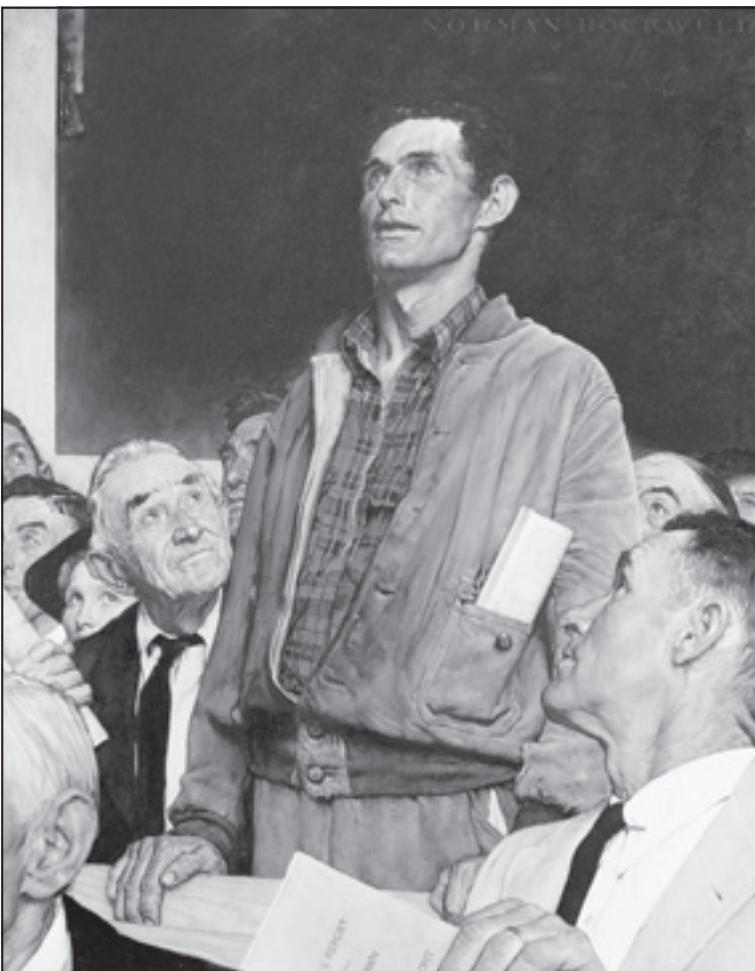
Tuesday, March 13 – Voting, AE/MS Gym, 11:30 AM to 7 PM.

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 TAdmin@TownOfAndover.org.



Norman Rockwell's famous *Freedom of Speech* painting, reproduced in the *Picturing America* collection at AE/MS, reminds us of the importance of participating in our annual meetings this month.

Norman Rockwell (1894–1978), *Freedom of Speech*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, February 20, 1943. Oil on canvas, 45 3/4" x 35 1/2". The Norman Rockwell Art Collection Trust, from the permanent collection of the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts NRM.org © 1943 SEPS: Licensed by Curtis Publishing, Indianapolis, Ind. All rights reserved. CurtisPublishing.com.

Subscribe to the Beacon!

There's no reason to miss out on Andover news, even if you don't live in Andover year round. For \$25 you can have the *Beacon* mailed to any US address, or even switch between your seasonal and regular addresses. (Amounts over \$25 are tax-deductible.)

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(March 13)

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Town Clerk To Appear On 2012 And 2013 Ballots

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

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

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

The Board of Selectmen has offered the position of Town Administrator to Marj,

effective March 14. State law requires she resign as Town Clerk / Tax Collector to accept the appointment 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. See the sample ballots (right).

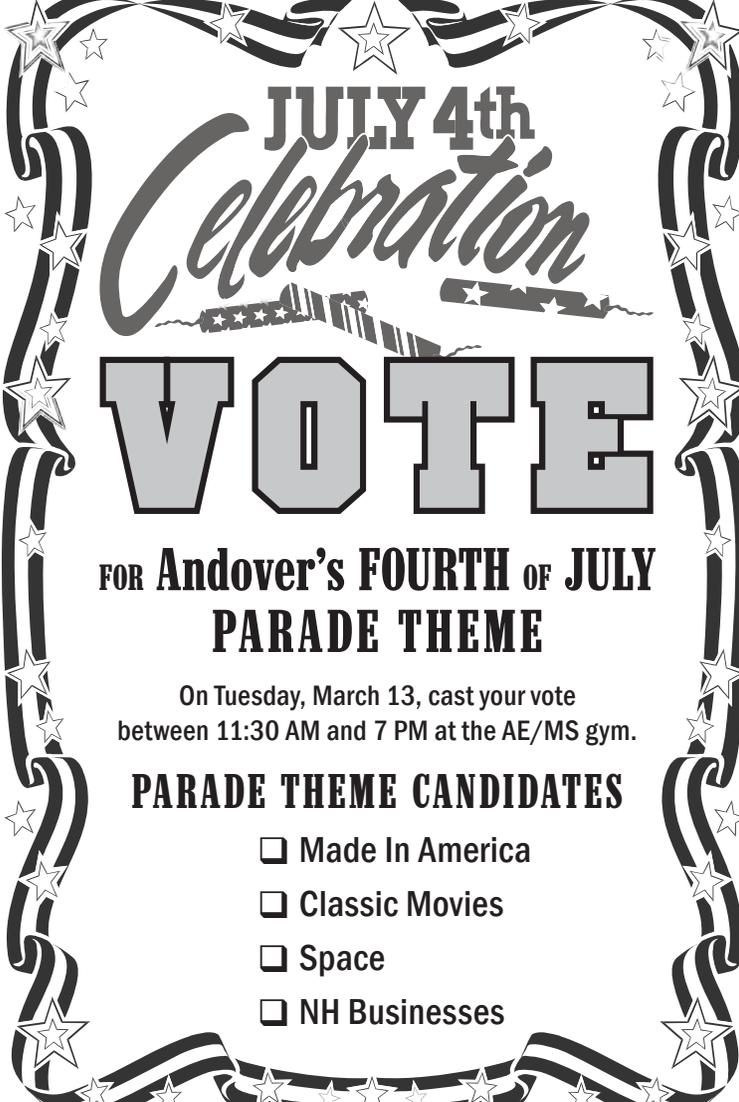
The Town Clerk / Tax Collector position will appear again on the 2013 ballot for its usual three-year term.



TOWN of ANDOVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
March 5, 7 PM
Andover Elementary/Middle School
PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332



TOWN of ANDOVER
TOWN MEETING
March 13, 7 PM
Voting 11:30 AM to 7 PM
Andover Elementary/Middle School
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JULY 4th Celebration
VOTE
FOR Andover's FOURTH OF JULY PARADE THEME
On Tuesday, March 13, cast your vote between 11:30 AM and 7 PM at the AE/MS gym.
PARADE THEME CANDIDATES

- Made In America
- Classic Movies
- Space
- NH Businesses

These are the Town and School District officers on the ballot for Tuesday, March 13, 11:30 AM to 7 PM, at AE/MS.

Town Officers Ballot

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary Town officers for the year ensuing.

<p>SELECTMAN <i>for Three Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Howard Wilson <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>James Danforth <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mary A. Levesque <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Robert Richardson <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ROAD AGENT <i>for Two Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Joseph D. Poulin <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Jon Champagne <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>BUDGET COMMITTEE <i>for Three Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for TWO</p> <p>Neil (Arch) Weathers <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>James Delaney, Sr. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Robert Ward <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR <i>for One Year</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Melissa Thompson <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Suzanne Carmack <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Joanna Sumner <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>LIBRARY TRUSTEE <i>for Three Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for TWO</p> <p>Anne Hewitt <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Susan Chase <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Shirley Currier <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>CEMETERY TRUSTEE <i>for Three Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Susan E. Schnare <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>MODERATOR <i>for Two Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Daniel Coolidge <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST <i>for Six Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Arthur Urie <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>TOWN TREASURER <i>for Two Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Shirley Currier <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Andover School District Officers Ballot

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary School District officers for the year ensuing.

<p>SCHOOL BOARD <i>for Three Years</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for TWO</p> <p>Barbara Lynch <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Michelle Dudek <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Donald E. Gould <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>SCHOOL CLERK <i>for One Year</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Christie Coll <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>SCHOOL MODERATOR <i>for One Year</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>SCHOOL TREASURER <i>for One Year</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vote for ONE</p> <p>Shirley H. Currier <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Barbara Lynch (School Board) has withdrawn her candidacy, though her name will appear on the ballot nonetheless, for legal reasons.



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ON THE BALLOT - MARCH 13, 2012

The Beacon asked every candidate running for a local office to submit 250 words and a picture.

Selectman

Howard Wilson

I congratulate the Budget Committee, and to a lesser degree, the Board of Selectmen, efforts by both bodies to keep the budget level funded. Yet these are not all the problems the Town suffers from.

History: I have lost too much of my business due to the economic conditions imposed by government, which makes payment of my property tax difficult, at best. Combined with all my other bills and contracted debt payments, I have very little left for groceries.

If it were not for help programs, such as the food banks, CAP, and the discount shelf at Market Basket, I would spend so much more for fresh foods that it would cut into my ability to pay bills. And, the amount of work I have for this winter can be counted on the finger of one hand. Similar conditions are suffered by too many other individuals.

I have been a member of both the Budget Committee (1984 to 1987 and



2003 to 2006) and the Board of Selectmen (1991 to 1997). Whether this is good or bad will be determined by the voters of Andover at Town Meeting. Hopefully, it will help, as I have already taken the courses offered by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, thus saving the cost after my election. And, newly-elected members of the Board of Selectmen are expected to be *ex-officio* to the Budget Committee.

James Danforth

I moved to Andover in 1999 and have served the local community on several committees, volunteer organizations, and as an elected representative. Currently I am President of the Andover Lions Club and a member of the Fourth of July Committee (co-chair, parade committee) here in Andover.

It is my intention to accentuate the positive and build on the hard work already done to move our community forward. I will continue to support the many volunteer groups in town and will work hard to ensure that together,



Order of Candidates on the Ballot

New Hampshire RSA 656:5-a defines the order in which candidates' names will appear on the ballots. For the sake of consistency with the ballot, the *Beacon's* On the Ballot section follows the same scheme.

The essence of the RSA 656:5-a scheme is that as an election draws near, the Secretary of State's office picks a random number for each possible number of candidates in a race. The candidate whose position in a specific race's alphabetical list of candidates matches the random number chosen for races with that number of candidates becomes the candidate who is listed first on the ballot. The ballot for that race continues from that point in the alphabetical list, wrapping back to the beginning of the list to include all the candidates.

In other words, if candidates A, B, and C are running against each other and the Secretary of State randomly selects the number 2 for races with three candidates, then the candidates will appear on the ballot in this order: B, C, A.

we succeed in making Andover a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

In the coming months and years our town is facing fundamental change: single-stream recycling, replacing or repairing nine Town bridges (\$1.6 million) which are already structurally deficient, and approving a new Master Plan for our town. This work and more needs to be brought to a successful conclusion while meeting the expectations of taxpayers.

My only agenda is to listen, research, and verify before voting on any issue; and to work with the other selectmen

and support the different Town committees, boards, and staff. My goal is to serve the taxpayers of Andover.

Mary Anne Levesque

It has been my pleasure and privilege to live in East Andover for the past 12 years. I have consistently come to



See Ballot on page 12

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Mary Anne Levesque,
and I am running for Andover selectman.

I promise I will work hard on your behalf.
I will bring frugality and common sense to town government,
and I will be responsive to your needs.

With your help I look forward to serving our town.

VOTE FOR MARY ANNE LEVESQUE For Selectman

Thank you for your support.

Paid for by Mary Anne Levesque • PO Box 2 • East Andover NH

ON THE BALLOT - MARCH 13, 2012

Ballot from page 11

town meetings and likely many of you will know my voice.

As a member of the Cemetery Trustees for the last two years, I undertook the task of modernizing their computer software and their database, all through my own labor without spending a dime of taxpayer money. I am a hard worker, and I am innovative.

As a member of the East Andover Volunteer Fire Department, I've done maintenance work and helped with their computer equipment. I am a perennial volunteer at the annual Chicken BBQ and Christmas Tree Sale since I came to live in Andover.

As a member of the Andover Service Club I've baked a lot of apple pies for bake sales. My aim is always to contribute what I can.

I have an Associate's Degree in electronics, and I've worked as an electronics technician. I've also been a line cook and an eighteen-wheel truck driver. For the past eight years I've worked for the gas company as a technician. I was recently promoted to foreman. I guess you could say that my collar is a little blue. I know what it's like to try to make ends meet when times are hard. And I know the difference between a want

and a need. I think the Town needs this knowledge, too.

I am a hard worker. Neighbors know me as someone who will help them in need. I hope you'll give me the chance to work for you.

Robert Richardson

I am 36 years old and I have lived in Andover for the past eight years with my wife Karen and my son Brandon.

I am running for selectman, but I must admit this will be a new experience for me. I am originally from Tyngsborough, which is a small town in Massachusetts just over the border of New Hampshire. My family owned and ran a dairy farm there until I was 14.

For 17 years, I worked for the Town of Tyngsborough Highway Department, plowing and maintaining the roads in the winter. As the town grew, I noticed many of the good people were moving out of town. Although these people liked small town living, they didn't appreciate the increased commercialism and simply couldn't afford to live there anymore because of the tax increases. This was difficult for me because I was proud to call these people my neighbors. I am running for selectman because I love small-town living and I don't want to see the same thing happen to the people of Andover.

I am a Republican and a supporter of Ron Paul. I think that if Paul does not get elected, this country and our government will be in big trouble. Our government is too big, it costs too much to run, and it takes too long to vote on important issues. I want to be a voice for the people of Andover and hope you'll vote for me at the polls.

Budget Committee

Neil (Arch) Weathers

Age: 63. Graduated Deerfield Acad-



emy, 1967; St. Lawrence University, BS in Geology, 1971; graduate program, Economic Geology at University of Vermont, 1973-75. Married, wife Mary. Two children, both married. Occupation: Publisher, President, Dunham Publishing Service. Trustee, Andover Historical Society.

My family's connection to the Lake Sunapee area goes back to the 1920s when my grandparents purchased one of the Granliden Hotel "cottages" on the lake. Every summer my grandmother gave her 16 grandchildren a summer-long vacation. Because of this deep connection, we have the family property still intact.

I spent my teenage summers working for Bill Kidder at Kidder's Garage in New London then full time after college. The place I had called home since birth now became my permanent residence, and I've never looked back.

My wife and I moved to Andover in November of 2009 and decided to contribute whatever effort time would allow.

The Budget Committee is an important element of any town, especially small ones. With the School Budget making up over 80% of our annual budget and many line items out of our local control, the challenges are immense. Having the time to become well informed about each expense category is critical in designing a responsible budget. I hope to do just that should I be elected.

James Delaney, Sr.

I am running because I feel some of the current Budget Committee members have tunnel vision. I feel that some of their decisions have cost the town of Andover money. When you put off a project of any kind, you have to think a little into the future. If we say "No" to a project that will cost us, say, \$3,000 this year, what will that same project cost us next year?

You can use the Highway Department for an example. If, say, you have a project that they want to do this year for the sum of \$3,000 and you say, "No, we cannot afford it. We can do it next year," that same project may cost you 20% more next year. This is what I mean by tunnel vision.

I know you have to try to manage the budget, but you also have to look into the future to see if by turning something down now, how much is it going to hurt you in the future?

I have lived in Andover for most of my 62 years. I left in 1966 to join the US Marines; I served four years. I got an honorable discharge, went to Massachusetts, got married, and came back to Andover. I have raised three sons. Two of them still live in Andover with their families, so you see I only have the good of Andover at heart. I would appreciate your vote on Election Day.

Robert Ward

I live with my wife Kathy at 118 Main Street. Since I first moved to Andover in 1968, I have been appointed by the Selectmen to several different boards or committees, including the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, and also was appointed by the Selectmen as Andover's representative to the Lakes Region Planning Commission. I also served as Chairman of Andover's Bicentennial Committee in 1979.

I was elected by Town Meeting to several terms on the Budget Committee during the 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1982 I was presented the Community Service Award by Andover's Blackwater Grange for outstanding service to our town. I have served as chairman of the Andover Fourth of July Committee from 1974 to 1982 and again from 2004 to 2012. I am president of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, the group which has built the rail trail running through Andover.

The Fourth of July celebration and the rail trail are two things which benefit Andover greatly but which are done without costing Town tax dollars. I support this approach to improving our town without adding to the cost of town government.



Paid Political Advertisement

VOTE JOANNA SUMNER

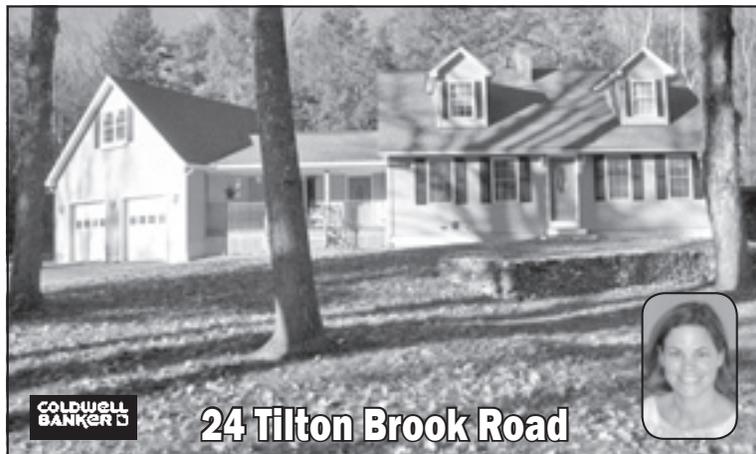


TOWN CLERK TAX COLLECTOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 13
11:30 A.M. - 7 P.M.

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I have known all the current members of the Budget Committee for many years and am sure that I will work effectively with each of them if I am elected to the Budget Committee.

I am a fiscal conservative and want to maintain the distinction which Andover has had for many years as having the lowest tax rate of any town in the area and will work hard to keep Andover's taxes under control.

Road Agent

Joseph D. Poulin



I successfully operate my own small business, Poulin Property Maintenance, and you may have noticed me in the past couple of years maintaining our town cemeteries, Highland Lake beach, the Blackwater Park baseball field, libraries, and other Town properties.

Over the past 12 years I have worked with both the Andover and Salisbury Road Agents operating the grader, doing roadside moving, ditching, patching, and plowing. I am thoroughly familiar with the tasks necessary to meet the obligations of Road Agent including conservative budget management, ecological pruning methods, and efficient and timely snowplowing in winter. I own and operate much of my own equipment and have commitments from qualified, courteous, and professional local business owners for additional resources and personnel as the need arises.

I am level-headed and very approachable, with a listening ear for your concerns. I am happily married to my wife Samantha and have two wonderful sons, Colby and Bentley. I have lived in Andover all my life and have the greatest desire to see our town be the best it can be for the comfort and safety of all our families.

If you believe that the position of Road Agent is one of community service and integrity, then please consider giving me your support. If you have questions or concerns that I may answer, please feel free to call me at 735-5282.

Jon Champagne



I have served as the Road Agent to Andover a total of six years. I was born and raised within the Andover community and currently reside on Bay Road with my wife Joane and our children Tyler and Julianna.

During my tenure as Road Agent I have implemented several cost saving measures. These include a Town-owned sand supply and a Town-operated gravel crushing operation. I have overseen and completed several Town projects, providing the best equipment and materials available while adhering to the constraints of the budget. I am both personal friends and colleagues with Mark Thompson (previous Road Agent, twelve years) and John Thompson (previous Road Agent, four years). This combination alone offers over 20 years knowledge, experience, and benefits to the citizens of Andover.

My education, my experience, my employees, and my equipment are all beneficial resources to you, the taxpayers of Andover. Together we can ensure that the maintenance and improvements given to the roads of Andover proceed in a cost-efficient and beneficial way for all residents.

I would appreciate, and be honored, to receive your vote.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Melissa Thompson



I have been a resident in Andover for 14 years. I am married and have two children who have grown up here. I have been and continue to be a volunteer coach for Andover Recreation Committee sports. I serve as president on the Andover Girls Softball board.

I was a bus driver for Andover School District for six years. I have six

years of office work experience and have worked in retail as well as working with the public. I currently work at Proctor Academy in the kitchen.

I hope to help bring a younger generation into our town's office. If I am elected to this position, I will serve the community to the best of my ability.

Suzanne Carmack



My family moved here in September 1986 when we decided that Andover would be a great place to raise children. It was and still is! My children Sean and Karen are now grown and out of here, but I am still here because Andover really is a nice place to live. Now it is time for me to find something to keep me busy. For this reason, I would like to become your new Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

I am a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Foods and Nutrition. This gave me the opportunity to work in many different settings over the years, mainly in administration of food service. For this reason, I feel I can undertake the position for which I am running without any difficulty.

You may know me as a parent of students at AE/MS, when I chaperoned some of their class trips. I also

met many of you when I volunteered with the Summer Reading Program at the Andover Public Library, where I am a substitute. I also substitute at the Bachelder Library and worked at the Andover Five Alive/After School Program for over two years.

I thank you for your time and consideration for the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector. I encourage you all to get out and vote! I hope to see you at the polls.

Joanna Sumner



The job of Town Clerk/Tax Collector is a high-profile job that is always under public scrutiny. The job is dictated by state and federal law which can make it very stressful, encompassing preparations for elections, reporting results, working with Vital Records, and doing the daily routine job of motor vehicle registrations. Tax collecting is a job in itself.

I had to think carefully before deciding to take on all these responsibilities. After considerable thought, I found I was excited about the challenge and felt I had a responsibility to make the change from one town clerk to another as seamless as possible for the community.

I have been Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector for nearly five years and

See Ballot on page 14

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Ballot from page 13

have worked in the business environment for 35 years. I have found over the years that I enjoy working in customer service. It is my feeling that everyone should be greeted with a smile, treated with respect and dignity, and have their business transacted professionally.

I have a Masters in Business Administration and Business Education.

I hope that I will have your support in the upcoming election.

Moderator

Daniel Coolidge

I am the younger and better-fed brother of Dr. Duncan Coolidge, a long-time Andover resident.



I have lived in Andover since April of 2011. I am running for moderator in Andover to be of service to the town. As a newcomer to town, what I lack in knowledge about specific issues the town faces should not be a detriment, as the moderator should not appear to take sides on issues before Town Meeting. However, if the voters think differently, I guess I could still lose an uncontested election!

I try to run a reasonably tight meeting. Everyone gets the chance to speak, and no gets to speak overmuch. No one may speak or vote who is not seated. However, the moderator may always be overruled by the voters.

My goals are to make meetings fair, fast, and enjoyable.

Library Trustee

Anne Hewitt

I love books! While the Internet provides access to a myriad of information, many still enjoy public library resources (includ-



ing the Internet!). I would like to serve my town as Library Trustee, helping this valuable resource to flourish and exploring ways our libraries can become a better tool for the community.

In 2005, I retired from New Hampshire Fish and Game Department after 20 years as a program administrator, outreach specialist, and production coordinator for the TV program *Wildlife Journal*. While doing research for *Wildlife Journal*, I realized how much I enjoy exploring topics, gathering information, and verifying sources. This began a new "romance" with libraries. I was amazed at the archival information contained at the State Library and gained new knowledge and respect for this valuable resource. I then volunteered at Andover Library weekly for two years.

Currently, I am a special education assistant at AE/MS, where I help students to become independent thinkers and teach them how to use a variety of resources.

My husband David and I moved to Andover in 1988 because of Andover's reputation as an exemplary community with a great school. We found both to be true, along with many other remarkable elements of this community and its people. My history of town involvement includes the Rescue Squad, Channel 8, the *Beacon*, and the Recycling Committee. I belong to the Andover Service Club and am involved as assistant treasurer, the Thrift Shop, chair the Thanksgiving Pie Sale, and assist with publicity.

Susan Chase

I'm a relatively recent year-round resident of Andover, having spent many years as a summer visitor to our seasonal camp on Bradley Lake. After I retired from work in New Jersey in 2001, my husband Larry and I spent 10 winters "on the road" as volunteers with the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy in Utah, New Mexico, and Florida, and then three winters house-sitting in Alaska.



We returned to Andover each summer, and two years ago decided it was time to acquire a year-round home again. We've spent the last year settling into an old farmhouse in East Andover.

As an avid reader and frequenter of Andover's libraries, I'd welcome the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees, to help the libraries confront the challenges of the digital age and continue to develop as vital community resources.

In addition to reading, I'm an early-morning walker, an enthusiastic birder, and a knitter. I'm also a member with my husband of the recently formed Andover Energy Group whose focus is to help us all learn to keep costs down by more efficient use of energy.

I grew up in Wisconsin, graduated from Brown University in 1963, and held a variety of jobs (in adoption, in day care, at a bookstore, and as an apprentice carpenter) before joining the staff of the Resource Center for Women in Summit, New Jersey, from which I retired as Executive Director in 2001. Larry and I have two grown children and one grandson.

School Board

Barbara Lynch

Barbara has withdrawn her candidacy, though her name will still appear on the ballot for legal reasons.

Michelle Dudek

As a member of the Andover community and the mother of two, I am excited to be a candidate for the School Board. My husband and I are raising our kids in East Andover, where they both attend the Village Preschool. Our oldest is eager to begin kindergarten in the fall. AE/MS has consistently shined as an educational community, and I am running for School Board to continue this journey of excellence.



My primary goals and objectives as a member of the School Board are quality education, affordable taxes, creative and responsible decision-making, and positive school and community relationships. I feel strongly that each of these goals is obtained with integrity and that the best interest of the students is at the heart of each decision.

My experiences as a mother, taxpayer, and educator will provide me with a balanced approach to serving on the

Board. I currently serve as the co-chair of the East Andover Village Preschool Advisory Board and am a member of the AE/MS Long Range Planning Committee. I enjoy serving our community by working with our educators and families to provide our children with a foundation of learning.

Furthermore, I have experience with school budgets, negotiations, school law, and committee work that will be necessary to serve on the Board. I also understand that affordable taxes are the only option, not just a goal.

I am unwavering in my belief that the school is the cornerstone of a community, and I am dedicated to supporting the school and the community. I am committed to maintaining a balanced and positive relationship between the two, where our taxes reflect our economic condition and our school reaches its full potential.

Donald E. Gould

Running for a second term on the Andover School Board, I seek voter support that will enable me to continue to contribute to the education of Andover students. As an incumbent, my commitment has been evident to a globally competitive education for Andover students in a safe environment, at minimum cost, through total community involvement.



I was born in New Hampshire and educated in New Hampshire to a degree in chemical engineering at the University of New Hampshire. The draft board insisted I apply this education to the remedy of orthopedic bandage failures in the Korean War. This started a career of solving industrial challenges through chemistry and of quality management techniques learned in master's degree studies in applied mathematics and probability at Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey. More recently, I became certified as an English as a Second Language tutor through studies at Passaic County College.

There are continuing challenges to which I feel I can continue to apply my education and life experiences to an ever-improving education of Andover students at a minimum cost to taxpayers and best maintenance of property values as people recognize that we have a great school system in Andover. Mine is the joy of serving others in educational growth.

Let's all provide the education for the Eagles to fly high to join the Pride – and beyond.

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ISSUES AT TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting warrant appears on page 17.

Budget Differences Explained (Warrant Article 2)

By Victoria Mishcon

Andover Board of Selectmen

After three months of a tough budget process (presentation, questioning, examining, increasing, redistributing, cutting, more questioning, philosophizing, defending, more cutting), the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen have agreed on a major portion of the budget.

Philosophy is at the heart of the few differences that remain. In the end, the Budget Committee decided to base its budget on the actual expenditures in 2011, offering a budget with no “wiggle room” and a prayer for a mild winter, a storm-free summer, and no unforeseen expenditures.

The Board of Selectmen based its budget on the future needs of the town while at the same time re-organizing the budget to keep expenses down and stable over time.

It is difficult to ignore the fact that we lost our Town Administrator last year to a job with higher pay and a stronger benefits package. We did not offer that Town Administrator a pay raise for three years. We have had to face the fact that our two full-time Town employees are near the bottom of the pay scale when compared with 44 other towns of our population size in the Local Government Center’s *Wage, Salary and Benefits Survey for Municipalities*.

We also cannot ignore the fact that we had an unscheduled bridge replacement over Sucker Brook on Valley Road, and that our computers in the Town Office are nine years old. Just this past week, the Town Office computer system failed catastrophically, mainly due to aging and inadequate equipment and systems.

Every Town Meeting, in good times and in bad, we hear of people who haven’t had pay raises “in years.” Keeping that in mind, we have taken the Highway Department Special Projects line out of the operating budget and are instead asking to establish a Highway Special Projects Capital Reserve Fund that we would like to put \$50,000 into each year until we have enough to complete a new road project.

But, we cannot base our entire budgeting procedure on the fact that not everyone sees an increase in their pay. Our job is to do what’s best for the good of the entire community.

Specific Differences

The Budget Committee’s budget is highlighted in the Town Report and is the budget that Town Meeting votes on. The Selectmen’s budget appears in the Town Report in the column to the left of the Budget Committee’s budget and will certainly be considered during dis-

cussion of the budget at Town Meeting. Here are the specific differences between the two budgets. (The first number mentioned for each line item, below, is the amount that the Budget Committee recommends in the 2012 budget. The cuts or additions mentioned are relative to the 2011 approved budget.)

\$1,000 ≈ 75¢

When you go to Town Meeting and School District Meeting this year, remember this:

For every \$1,000 the meeting adds to (or subtracts from) the amount to be raised by taxes, it will add (or subtract) approximately 75¢ to (or from) the tax bill of a \$200,000 property in Andover.

Public Safety Utilities, \$1,900: The Budget Committee cut \$300 from this line item. The Selectmen didn’t, because this line item includes computer access, which requires frequent upgrades.

Forest Fire Labor, \$3,000: The Budget Committee cut \$2,000 from this line item. The Selectmen didn’t, because there is no other place in the budget to find \$2,000 if we require the help of other communities in fighting these fires.

Highway Department Summer Labor, \$28,000: The Budget Committee added \$3,000 to this line item. Selectmen added \$5,000, because this line item hasn’t increased since 2008. The increase will allow for pay increases, if appropriate.

Highway Department Winter Equipment Rental, \$160,000: The Budget Committee cut \$10,000 from this line item. The Selectmen didn’t, because if we have a hard winter, we need every penny. If not, it allows us to do summer work (tree and brush trimming, crack sealing) that always gets cut in a year with a tough winter.

Highway Department Safety Equipment, \$3,000: This is a new line item. The Selectmen recommend \$2,000 more in this line item than the Budget Committee. We need this new line item because our highway crew has worked without proper safety equipment for too long. We need safety helmets, vests, ear protection, cones, barrels, and signage.

The cost of a barrel with a flashing light is much less than paying for a truck and driver to warn of a road hazard. How many people had to turn around on Elbow Pond Road three years ago when it was washed out because the Town didn’t own proper signage? Basic safety for our road crews is a must.

Construction Debris Disposal, \$13,500: The Budget Committee cut \$4,500 from this line item. The Selectmen only cut \$1,500.

Parks and Recreation, \$28,000: The Budget Committee cut \$3,080 from this line item. The Selectmen didn’t, because this department is all about the children

of Andover. They have not asked for an increase this year. We saw no reason to cut this line.

Tax Anticipation, \$12,000: The Budget Committee cut \$3,000 from this line item. The Selectmen didn’t, because this line was already cut last year by \$9,000. We have seen lower-than-usual interest rates for the past two years, but the numbers can change very quickly. We do not think it prudent to cut this line further.

Addition to the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund, \$20,000: The Budget Committee cut \$5,000 from this warrant article. The Selectmen didn’t, because almost all of Andover’s bridges are “red listed” by the State of New Hampshire DOT. We had to close the bridge on Hoyt Road due to the poor results of the last state inspection, and we had to replace the bridge over Sucker Brook on Valley Road unexpectedly. State funding for bridge replacement will not be available to us for another 10 to 12 years. We feel it is imperative to increase our annual bridge maintenance.

Ambulance Capital Reserve (Warrant Article 10)

By John Kinney

Andover EMS Chief

The 2011 operating budget for Andover Emergency Medical Service (EMS) was \$42,625, with anticipated

billing revenues of \$18,000. This was the first full fiscal year for Andover EMS. Every attempt possible to keep expenditures to a minimum was exercised.

The actual expenses for 2011 were \$29,671 based on invoice date, and 2011 billing revenues were \$16,227. The revenue was down from original estimates primarily due to cuts in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

The result would lead one to believe we were able to operate successfully in 2011 far under budget, but the truth is that some major expenses were simply postponed, or a less expensive alternative was discovered during the year. At no time would any choice place our emergency medical service in jeopardy or sacrifice patient care. They were simply decisions made during very rough economic times in an effort to save tax dollars.

The requested 2012 operating budget is \$31,125 – down 27% from the 2011 budget. Billing revenues are not likely to see a significant change, but are expected to be a bit higher.

Replacing The Ambulance

The establishment of a capital reserve fund for ambulance replacement represents a significant obligation. As with any major vehicle purchase, the types, styles, and options available can vary widely.

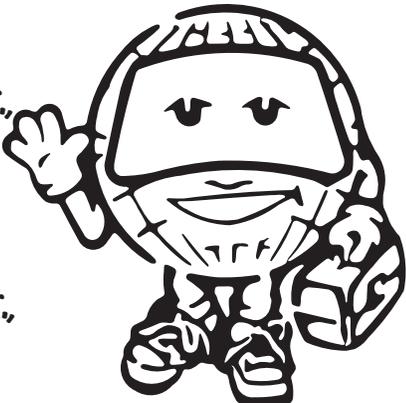
See ISSUES on page 16

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ISSUES AT TOWN MEETING

Issues from page 15

There are three general ambulance types with several subtypes. Type I is based on a truck body with a separate driver compartment. Most heavy duty ambulances are of this type and are used by municipalities far larger than Andover.

Type II ambulances are a long-wheelbase van with an integral cab design. This type is most commonly used by privately owned or operated transporting companies for the purpose of interfacility patient transfers.

Type III ambulances, like ours, are based on a van chassis rather than a truck chassis, but with the cab as an integral part of the ambulance. Within the Type III class, estimates for varying vehicle styles are light-duty chassis (\$155,000), which see an average of five to six years of use; medium-duty chassis (\$175,000), which other departments have indicated last between seven and eight years (ours is now nine years old); or a heavy-duty chassis (\$210,000), which has been lasting nine to twelve years.

The anticipated years of use seen here are for departments with 24 / 7 / 365 crews with annual call volume per ambulance approaching 2,000 calls per year. Andover's call volume is only a fraction of that, but hours operated, increased dis-

tance traveled, road and environment conditions, as well as the simple passage of time all come into play when estimating the life expectancy of our ambulance.

Mileage Calculations

The exact year in which we will be forced to replace our ambulance is uncertain. With proper care and maintenance, we could see three to five more years of reliable service with our current ambulance. However, our ambulance will then be 12 to 15 years old with about 50,000 miles.

In addition to miles, we must calculate idling hours. Ford Motors estimates that one hour of idle time is equal to approximately 25 miles of driving. Averaging one hour of idle time per call, times 150 to 175 calls per year, times 12 to 15 total years will mean that our ambulance at time of replacement will have the equivalent of 45,000 to 65,000 additional miles above the odometer reading, or 95,000 to 115,000 "total used miles."

At such time, reliability becomes a significant issue. At no time should we place the lives or well-being of our residents in jeopardy simply because the ambulance won't start or can't make it to the nearest hospital.

Applying For Grants

The idea of applying for grants to offset the pending ambulance replacement

cost is worth consideration. Preliminary inquiries at this early stage seem to indicate that our roughest hurdle will be a population benefit versus cost analysis.

Like you, providers of grant dollars like to see the most bang for their buck. Providing \$100,000 or more toward an ambulance to serve 10,000 people (in Hooksett, for example) certainly looks like a wiser investment for the grant-making foundation than providing the same amount to serve 2,000 people (in Andover, for example).

This population versus cost analysis may explain why regional ambulance services are growing in popularity. The obvious downside to a regional service is that instead of an on-scene average time under 10 minutes, the average time increases to 15 to 20 minutes due to the larger area served. Unfortunately, the bean counters often don't see all of the implications or effects of their decisions.

By establishing this year a capital reserve fund for our eventual ambulance replacement and adding \$25,000 annually to the fund, we should have half of the needed funds by 2015. Perhaps a grant that offers matching funds will be our best option then. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

In the meantime, we have to prepare the best we can for what we know is coming. Saving funds over a period of time is vastly preferential to raising the funds all at once.

Discontinuing A Class 6 Road (Warrant Article 12)

By Arch Weathers

Friends of Beech Hill

At Town Meeting, voters will be asked to support a petitioned warrant article to discontinue a portion of Beech Hill Road.

In October of 2011, residents living at the end of Beech Hill Road were informed by a developer of his intention to upgrade the surface of a section of Class 6 road in order to access his subdivision.

His company purchased the top 270 acres of the Fenvale Development in 2005. The original site plan, including the upper lots, was approved by the Planning Board in the mid-1980s. Because this acreage is in the Forest and Agriculture Zone, a variance was required from the Andover Zoning Board of Adjustment.

This approval included a dedicated and recorded "paper" road plat with access from Route 4. The access was constructed to rigorous specifications for the sole purpose of servicing the upper lots. Logging activities to provide views and to rough in a corridor for a private drive along the stone wall boundary on the western side were completed this winter.

The development company, with extensive experience in Florida subdivisions, intends to forego the approved plat because of convenience and cost issues.

RSA 674:41-I(d) provides a mechanism whereby a developer, using privately maintained, privately owned road frontage, may satisfy local zoning requirements necessary for building permits.

The Class 6 portion of Beech Hill Road would then serve as the connector. Upgrading the surface of a Class 6 road to Class 5 standards simply requires permission from either the Road Agent or the Board of Selectmen (RSA 236:9-12), and because of its status as a Class 6 road, the Board is not bound by any requirements as to maintenance and liability.

Over the course of the next several years, this has the potential to significantly increase the flow of traffic along the entire length of Beech Hill Road to an unsustainable level given the road's current deterioration (per the Road Agent). Research shows that this scenario ultimately leads to a petition to lay out a Class 5 road over the Class 6 road, which would then add more maintenance expense.

In designing an appropriate response to the level of threat to this scenic corridor, the Friends of Beech Hill felt that four tests needed to be met:

- Safety: The corridor in question contains an 18% grade and limited line of sight.
- Cost: Increased tax dollars required to accommodate increased traffic
- Preserving the Scenic Designator voted by the Town in 1978: Exposed tree roots in the right-of-way will suffer permanent damage and kill the trees lining the road.
- Create a level of permanence from which a mechanism could be created to provide, through private easements, a trail system that would be in keeping with the intent of the Master Plan.

After reviewing the possibilities, the only mechanism that satisfied all four tests was to formally discontinue 690 feet – the least amount necessary to respond to the threat, while at the same time allowing for the appropriate access to the subdivision from Route 4 as approved.

If passed, the discontinuance will then serve as a platform from which a private easement can be designed and held in perpetuity by a land trust and managed locally by the Andover Conservation Commission. What was a burden will now provide a benefit of wide-ranging possibilities for the townspeople to enjoy – perhaps a trail system with connecting links to the Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway, or a school program to map ancient cellar holes.

Most importantly, taxpayers will be relieved of additional tax expense due to the difficult-terrain road costs that would be avoided, and discontinuance will diffuse a potentially dangerous use of Beech Hill Road, one of Andover's most beautiful pastoral by-ways. 

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WARRANT ARTICLES - TOWN MEETING 2012

The following are the warrant articles that the Andover Town Meeting 2012 will vote on. Background information is provided, where appropriate, in square brackets [].

Voting for the election of officials will be open on Tuesday, March 13, from 11:30 AM to 7 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym. As soon as the polls close, Town Meeting will begin to consider the following warrant articles.

Article 1: To choose the necessary officers for the ensuing year.

[This happens by ballot voting from 11:30 AM to 7 PM on Tuesday, March 13, in the AE/MS gym.]

Article 2: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Two Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$1,255,973.50) for general municipal operations as recommended by the Budget Committee. This appropriation does not include appropriations that are voted for in other articles.

[This is the usual "approve the budget" warrant article. The amount mentioned in this article does not include any of the amounts mentioned in any of the other warrant articles. The amounts of all the warrant articles that pass (including this one) get added together to determine the final 2012 Town budget.]

[The amount in this article is the amount that the Budget Committee proposes. The Selectmen propose a total budget of \$1,281,354. See "2012 Budgets Set For Annual Meetings" on page 1 of this issue and the complete Town budget on page 24 of the Andover Town Report 2011 for details.]

Article 3: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *This article is supported by the Budget Committee. The Board of Selectmen support this article if the sum is amended to \$25,000.*

[The Bridge Rehabilitation Capital Reserve Fund is intended primarily for rehabilitating a Town bridge every five years or so. This article adds to the fund. The December 31, 2011 balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$134,106.61.]

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,550 to be added to the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *This article is supported by*

the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

[The Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund is intended to spread evenly over five years the impact of the approximately \$100,000 the Town must, by law, spend every five years on property valuation updates and revaluation. The December 31, 2011 balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$37,113.63.]

Article 5: To see if the town will vote to authorize the withdrawal of \$18,550 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund to fund the second year for the town-wide revaluation. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[See Article 4, above. Article 5 withdraws the amount the Town needs to spend this year on keeping its database of property valuations up to date.]

Article 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[The Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund is intended primarily for replacing the Town's road grader in about 15 years. The December 31, 2011 balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$58,198.02.]

Article 7: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[The Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund saves towards eventual equipment repair or replacement or necessary improvements to the Transfer Station. The December 31, 2011 balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$40,274.75.]

Article 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 to be added to the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund previously established. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[The Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund saves toward replacing the Police Department's oldest cruiser every four years. The next cruiser to be replaced will probably be in 2013. The December 31, 2011

balance in this Capital Reserve Fund is \$12,004.41.]

Article 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,000 for the purpose of repairing damaged stones and completion of interior road at the East Andover Cemetery. This will be a special non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or December 31, 2017, whichever is sooner. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[The "non-lapsing" language in this article is special legal language required to appropriate money for a project that may not be completed by the end of the year.]

Article 10: To see if the town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing the town ambulance, and to raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[The Town's current ambulance is expected to last about five to ten more years and could cost about \$150,000 to \$200,000 to replace. This capital reserve fund would help minimize the impact on taxes when

it's time to replace the ambulance.]

Article 11: To see if the town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of highway special projects, and to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be placed in this fund and to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend. *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

[This capital reserve fund would help minimize the impact on taxes when it's time to undertake a large highway special project.]

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to completely discontinue and relinquish all interests of the Town therein a portion of Beech Hill Road beginning at the terminus of the Class V section, then continuing in an easterly direction, terminating approximately 690 feet as measured by the centerline, but not to penetrate further than the corner(s) of the stone walls defining the width of the right of way, pursuant to RSA 231:43. *This article is supported by the Conservation Commission. Submitted by petition.*

[For more information about this warrant article, see page 7 of the February issue of the *Beacon* and page 16 of this issue.]

Article 13: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

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WARRANT ARTICLES
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The following are the warrant articles that the Andover School District Meeting 2012 will vote on. Background information is provided, where appropriate, in square brackets [].

School District Meeting starts at 7 PM on Monday, March 5, in the Andover Elementary/Middle School gym.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the District will vote to accept the reports of Officials, Agents, Auditors, and/or Committees as printed in the School District report.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the District will vote to authorize the School Board to make application for, to accept and expend on behalf of the District any and all advances, grants, or other funds for educational purposes which may now or hereinafter be forthcoming from the United States of America and its agencies or from the State of New Hampshire and its agencies.

[This article must appear every year to authorize the School Board to get the state and federal aid it anticipates being available in a given year.]

ARTICLE 3: To see if the District will authorize the School Board to accept and expend on behalf of the District private gifts and contributions for educational purposes.

[This article must appear every year to authorize the School Board to accept private donations in a given year.]

ARTICLE 4: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Million, Three Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand, Three Hundred

Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$4,335,339) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries of school district officers and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of said district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums that are estimated to be raised from the state's equalization payment, together with other income. The School Board shall certify to the Selectmen of Andover the amount to be raised by taxation of said town. *The Budget Committee and School Board recommend passing this article.*

[This article raises the money to run the district and is worded according to regulations set forth by the Department of Revenue. The amount mentioned does not include any of the amounts mentioned in any of the other warrant articles. The amounts of all the warrant articles that pass get added together to determine the final 2012 School District budget.]

ARTICLE 5: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand, Six Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$15,690) for the replacement of flooring in the middle school wing of the Andover Elementary/Middle School.

[This article concerns the old carpeting in the middle school wing which is rippled, ripped, and/or patched with duct tape. See page 12 of the February issue of the *Beacon* for details.]

ARTICLE 6: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.



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We have a general civil practice representing individuals, families, businesses, non-profit organizations, and municipalities in New Hampshire with an emphasis on school and municipal law, corporate, probate, estate planning, real estate and business law.

We do not have the overhead of many large firms, and we do not accept cases that are beyond our expertise. We stick to the matters that we can handle efficiently, economically and effectively. If we cannot handle a matter, we will help find someone who can. If you choose not to retain us, there is no charge for the preliminary consultation.

Please call or stop by. We would be pleased to meet and talk with you.

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THE REST OF THE TOWN REPORT

The annual Town Report includes reports from all the Town committees, boards, commissions, and other entities that form our local government. It also includes reports from some agencies and organizations that serve our community.

To round out this annual update, the Beacon asked over 20 other organizations that serve our community for a short report on their activities in 2011. Here, in alphabetical order, is "the rest of the Town Report."

Andover After School Program

The Andover After School Program was established in 1994 and was later joined by the Andover Five Alive Program, both New Hampshire state licensed programs. These separate non-profit 501(c)3 organizations run simultaneously in the AE/MS Annex and have the same board of directors. The two programs complement each other and provide comprehensive child-care for kindergartners and elementary school children. We provide a safe, friendly environment with an emphasis on friendship and fun!

Thanks to our board, staff, and program director, Diane Adams (who joined in the fall of 2010), the programs are thriving near full capacity. Though space is limited, we encourage all who are interested to contact us as there are always changes in enrollment, and we maintain a waiting list. Currently, spaces are available in both the morning and afternoon kindergarten Five Alive programs.

The building has received many renovations, including changing a storage room into a very popular game room, complete with air hockey and foosball. Renovations and updates are constantly performed to meet the needs of our students.

We are currently accepting registrations for the 2012-2013 academic year. Contact Diane Adams at 735-6566 or AndoverKids@gmail.com or visit AndoverKids.org

The Andover Beacon

It was an entirely "behind the scenes" matter, but a big deal none-

theless – in 2011, Community Publishing of Andover, Inc. (the New Hampshire non-profit organization that publishes *The Andover Beacon*) was recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt public charity. With this new designation in hand, we hope to pursue grants and other fundraising possibilities that until now were closed to us.

Little changed in 2011 in the newspaper itself. As donations and advertising support has allowed, we've tried to add more full-color pages whenever possible. Perhaps the biggest change this year was the addition of the Andover Yankee Trader (see page 6), which started in the December/January issue. If you've got stuff you don't want but it's "too good to throw away," try the Andover Yankee Trader – it's free for Andover residents!

In the office we've worked with several new volunteers this year. Robert Ofenloch in particular has put in many, many hours and now handles much of the e-mail and much of the layout that go into every issue.

As a non-profit community project, the *Beacon* is always in need of more volunteers, more donations, and more advertisers. Anything you have done or will do in any of these areas will make a big difference and is greatly appreciated!

For more information or to read the *Beacon* online, visit AndoverBeacon.com or call us at 735-6099.

Andover Energy Group

At a June brainstorming session, interested residents identified two major goals: (1) identify ways to reduce the Town's energy bills; and (2) find and publicize ways to help local residents reduce their home energy costs. They also decided to work as a voluntary organization rather than as an official Town committee.

After a summer of research, a preliminary action plan was developed.

1. Apply for a grant to cover costs of a Town Hall energy audit – a detailed assessment of the building's ability to prevent heat loss and reduce the cost of energy
2. Offer a public workshop on home

Please join me in thanking Mary Anne Broshek for the great job she has done once again in managing this important section of the *Beacon*. It takes hundreds of e-mails and dozens of phone calls to get all the organization leaders focused on our deadline and motivated to inform the readers of the *Beacon*. Thanks, Mary Anne!
- Charlie

weatherization in conjunction with the Button Up New Hampshire program

3. Begin a regular column on energy conservation in *The Andover Beacon*

4. Collect energy-efficiency documents published by other organizations and make them available on Town Meeting Day

5. Look into the possibility of holding an area-wide "energy expo," holding public "movie nights" on energy-conservation concerns and offering tours of local structures that have been modified to address energy-conservation issues

The Group has accomplished items 1 through 3 and will staff an information table at Town Meeting day. The grant for the energy audit has been received and the audit conducted. [See the results on page 35.] During 2012, the Group will work with the Town to address the opportunities for improvement identified in the audit and will investigate the actions listed in item 5.

Andover Food Pantry

The Andover Food Pantry, sponsored by the Andover Lions Club and *The*

Andover Beacon and generously supported by most Andover organizations and many Andover residents, continues to provide non-perishable foods and other household necessities to people in need. The Pantry is in the basement of the Town Hall and is open whenever the Town Hall is open. It's completely self-service, and there's no sign-up and no questions asked. Take what you need, or drop off what you can.

If you'd like to help, you can drop off at the Town Hall non-perishable, non-expired staple items (please avoid the unusual foods and condiments in the back of your cupboard!), or you can send a check to the Andover Lions Club, PO Box 166, Andover 03216.

The Pantry also needs volunteers to shop for the Pantry with the money we receive. If you can help, call 735-6099.

Andover Historical Society

The year 2011 was highlighted by five special happenings:

1. We published another calendar
See Reports on page 20

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We need your donations of non-perishable, staple foods and other necessities. (Please check those expiration dates!)

The food pantry is located downstairs at the Andover Town Hall and is open whenever the Town Hall is open.

It's self-service, no questions asked. Take what you need or drop off what you can.

If you know someone in need, tell them about the pantry. If they are not comfortable going to the pantry themselves, for whatever reason, let a Lion or Beacon volunteer know –

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MORE TOWN REPORTS

Reports from page 19

entitled "Mills and Manufactures" with photos of bygone enterprises in the town. The annual display in the station featured that theme along with a display of lead soldiers in Civil War dress, created by Richard Brewster, to celebrate the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

2. The annual visit by fourth graders from Andover, Salisbury, and Webster happened in early June.

3. Our August Old Time Fair was a resounding success, with no help from Mother Nature, who gave us a gloomy start to the day. But there was lots of help from hard-working volunteers.

4. In September, 60 anxious folk arrived with their antiques for appraisal by Dan Olmstead, who entertained us with his humor and expertise.

5. The railroad station sported a new look in October when it was repaired and painted in the original Boston & Maine Railroad colors of maroon and cream – a project that was long in coming.

Volunteer stationmasters were on duty every weekend at the station. The popularity of the rail trail brought more visitors. Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse was open every month through the summer and fall, with special events planned. We finished the year finan-

cially solvent.

For information, contact Pat Cutter, president, at 735-5628 or visit AndoverHistory.org.

Andover Lions Club

Formed in November of 1954, our mission is to provide assistance to people in need, specifically those who are visually or hearing impaired.

Members are active in sponsoring projects that benefit the community and improve the lives of citizens in Andover as well as Danbury, Salisbury, and Wilmot. Eye care and hearing aids have been provided to hundreds of people in the area. In addition, help is given in the form of scholarships, emergency funding, and sponsoring the Andover Food Pantry. The Andover Lions Club is an early supporter of Operation Kidsight, the program that uses special cameras to screen children between the ages of one and six for amblyopia. For the older grade school children, the club members do sight and hearing testing at the Andover and Danbury schools. The Andover Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are sponsored by the Andover Lions.

Raising funds consists of calendar raffle sales, rose sales, basketball tournaments for middle school children, Fourth of July pancake breakfast and

food concession, Concord Coach rides and displays. The Andover Lions meet every second and fourth Monday at 6 PM at the Kearsarge Masonic Hall. The Andover Lions Club strives to improve services and welcomes new members. If interested, call 735-6140 or 768-5543.

Andover Outing Club

The Proctor cross-country ski team and 15 AE/MS students teamed up for a great winter of cross-country skiing at the Blackwater Ski Area on Monday afternoons despite a reluctant winter. With the Andover Outing Club (and Greg Allen's help) supplying equipment free of charge, kids of all grades joined four members of the Proctor race team to learn to ski and have fun through the winter. Playing lots of games, exploring the trails, and post-ski lollipops were highlights.

Big thanks go out to Proctor Academy, the Proctor ski team, and Garry George and his crew who provide great snow. We're happy to keep the Andover nordic skiing tradition alive as Andover's Kris Freeman [see page 42] continues to be the top American skier on the World Cup international scene!

Andover Service Club

Since 1958, ladies from Andover, East Andover, and surrounding towns have been meeting each month to socialize, make new friends, and work together to be of service to others.

ASC contributes to the Andover After School Program, *The Andover Beacon*, AE/MS, Andover Food Pantry, Andover Public Library, Andover One-Wheelers, Bachelder Library, East Andover Village Preschool, Girl and Boy Scouts, Kearsarge Council On Aging, Lake Sunapee VNA, Wilmot Community Fund, and most importantly, the ASC Merit Scholarship fund. Child and Family Services, Danbury School, and Friends of the Northern Rail Trail also receive funding.

Hundreds of scholarships have been awarded since 1958. The ASC Thrift

Shop is the main source of funds for scholarships, as well as events such as the Thanksgiving pie sales, Fourth of July and Pumpkin Festival bake sales, Election Day lunches, raffles, Proctor cake sales, treasure sales, memorials, donations, and in-house auctions.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month (September through June) and consist of business, reports, special programs, and lunch. Proposed programs for the future are speakers from Kearsarge Council On Aging, Lake Sunapee VNA, and Cindy Benson of Colby-Sawyer College. Field trips and workshops are also planned.

All ladies are invited to become members. Annual dues are \$7. For more information, please contact Mary Ofenloch at MaryO.ASClub@live.com or Eileen Mackey at Mackey775@tds.net.

East Andover Village Preschool

East Andover Village Preschool on Chase Hill continues to offer services to children who are three years of age to five years of age in both morning and full-day preschool programs for families in Andover, East Andover, Franklin, Salisbury, and other nearby towns. We have recently been approved as a school to accept the New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship Fund.

The East Andover Village Preschool is licensed by the state. Our curriculum adheres to New Hampshire's Early Learning Standards and The Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate and developed to follow the interests and the children's curiosities.

With the start of the 2011-2012 school year, we welcomed our new director, Elizabeth Janvrin, along with teachers Carmen Bates and Alicia Colby. Both developed afternoon enrichment programs for the full day-students: Yoga, French, and Environmental Science. Over the year we have hosted some new fundraisers and events such as a Harvest Baked Goods/Pumpkin Sale, a Spaghetti Supper, Parents' Night Out,

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ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Announces its Third Annual Calendar

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Our calendars have been resounding successes, thanks to the generous sponsors who make the publication possible. Sponsoring a month costs \$100 but can be split among several businesses or individuals. Calendar proceeds go to the upkeep and maintenance of our growing collections and our properties.

Contact Pat Cutter at 735-5628 or Deborah Emeny at 735-5310 or e-mail Pres@AndoverHistory.org by March 30.

THE LAST OF THE TOWN REPORTS

Grandparents Gingerbread House making, and a Mother-Son/Father-Daughter Dance.

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year has begun. Please contact Elizabeth Janvrin at EAVP@tds.net or 735-5105 for more information.

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

We improve, maintain, and promote the Northern Rail Trail as a four-season multi-use trail through Merrimack County. About 10 miles of the Trail goes through Andover, connecting West Andover, Potter Place, Andover village, and East Andover.

For Andover's Fourth of July, Tom Frantz organized the Firecracker 5K foot race on the Trail, and Peter Southworth organized a raffle. S&W Sports of Concord and the Highland Lake Inn of East Andover contributed prizes, with additional support from Jake's Market, Pizza Chef, and RP Johnson and Son.

On July 31 we held a Golden Spike Celebration in Danbury to celebrate the joining of 23 miles of Grafton County trail with 23 in Merrimack County, making this the longest rail trail in New Hampshire.

In September, with a \$30,000 grant from the state and equipment donated by Ben and Peter Crowell of New London, we added more than two miles of trail to reach Holy Cross Road in West Franklin. Steve Rayno and Billy Hurd of Franklin contributed mightily to remove trash and uncover Northern Railroad artifacts; Chris Norris supervised the construction and Nita Tomaszewski of Franklin was project administrator.

The Trail needs financial support and help throughout the year. Donations may be made at FNRT.org. For information call President Bob Ward at 735-5061 or Vice-President Alex Bernhard at 735-5071.

Immaculate Conception

Immaculate Conception in Potter Place is a small church with a full house each Sunday! Our only mass is at 8:30 AM, and everyone who attends becomes special and we are all connected.

Events during the year include the February Spaghetti Supper (now 33 years old), our Spring and Fall Rummage Sales, and our annual Strawberry Shortcake Festival each year on the Fourth of July. Dozens of parishioners help to make each event wonderful.

All of the proceeds from our fundraisers support several efforts to provide assistance to anyone we hear about who is in need. We have Catholic Charities and Loaves and Fishes as our main outreach programs and several smaller groups who provide food baskets several times a year to those who need them. We also assist the Andover Food Pantry throughout the year.

Our Lady of Fatima Church in New London is our sister church and also has many wonderful events in between ours. These include the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Dinner and a Holiday Fair in November. Their schedule is Saturday at 5 PM and Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Kearsarge

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

KUUF meets on Sunday mornings at 11 AM in the Stone Chapel at Proctor Academy. KUUF has the following purposes:

- To worship and create a welcoming and nurturing community
- To support and care for one another
- To explore, reflect, and grow spiritually
- To understand our differences
- To feel safe to share our deeply held thoughts and values
- To support collective service to the larger community and to celebrate together our traditions and our lives with all their sorrows and joys

On Sunday mornings at 10 AM we discuss the series *Lost Christianities: Scripture and the Battle Over Authentication*.

KUUF helps local food banks, has a Meditation Group on Tuesday evenings, and holds a monthly book discussion group. We participate in the September CROP walk, help those in need through the UU Service committee and local families recommended by the VNA, help supply backpacks with school supplies to Andover children, and collect funds to support the Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministry. The Social Concerns Committee revised the *Volunteer Opportunities in the Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Area* brochure.

For 2012, we plan a yard sale for May and a concert for June. Social activities occur during the entire year. For more information, visit KUUF.org

New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family

The Halcyon Seekers chapter of New Hampshire Circle of Home and Families (NHCHF) is starting on its seventh year of operation and continues to expand in numbers and knowledge.

Over the years we have explored foreign countries, health issues, food, history, social problems and entertainment. This year's topics have included Wine, Friendship, Logging, The Underground Railroad, and France.

Our community activities include donations to the Andover Food Pantry and the AE/MS Christmas Shop. We also provide the shop with decorated bags, and our members help the children shop and wrap their gifts.

We support an NHCHF scholarship and provide books for a prison program.

NHCHF is associated with the UNH Cooperative Extension, and they are a

valuable resource for our organization.

We are a non-profit group and strive to fulfill our mission statement: "Enriching the lives of home and family through knowledge, skills, leadership, and self-esteem. For more information, call Judy Perreault at 735-5493.

Proctor Academy

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting celebration opened a new locker room facility on February 4, 2012. Although the six new lockers and showers are attached to the Teddy Maloney Rink, the facility will serve teams throughout the school year. Also on February 4, the Blackwater Ski Area was opened to the public for the sixth annual community celebration of that facility. Skiers and snowboarders enjoyed a great meal in Yarrow's Lodge, as well as skiing under the lights on trails tended by the new Prinoth B350 groomer.

Proctor is proceeding with all pre-construction work for a new dormitory to be located on North Street, between Mary Lowell Stone House and Leonard Field. The eighteen-student, two-faculty apartment residence will feature traditional New England architectural lines (complementing Mary Lowell Stone House,) but will be constructed to exacting environmental standards. Construction will proceed when all funds are identified. The total project, estimated at \$3.2 million, includes improvements to adjacent campus spaces, including parking north of the buildings, and purposeful use of the area surrounding the forestry department.

Also under discussion and study is possible installation of an artificial turf athletic field. The exact location of such a surface has yet to be determined.



Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Reverend William E. Nelson, Minister
Stone Chapel of Proctor Academy, Andover
11 AM Worship on Sundays
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East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
EAFD Chief

The people of Andover have given your fire department a wonderful surprise. While we have always enjoyed your support, we have been overwhelmed by your concern. We have people call us at home or ask us on the street, "How are you guys doing? Is your team OK? Are any of your people having a problem dealing with this tragic fire? How do you people do this difficult job?"

[The chief is referring to the January fire that killed Roger and Mary Pellerin.]

I certainly don't have all the answers; coping with this kind of stress is very personal. It is because so many truly care that I will attempt to make some sense of our unique calling.

At the time the initial alert sounded, our captain, Jake Johnson, was reporting to work at Proctor Academy. He saw the flames from his location, ordered a first alarm, and responded. He gathered information upon arrival, requested a second alarm, and reported people still in the home.

One can only imagine his stress and feeling of helplessness as he attempted a rescue, only to be driven back by heat and fire. At this point a firefighter must shove panic and pain aside and do the job. A plan must be formulated, orders must be given. Grief will come, but not now.

As engines and additional help arrived, lines were deployed, and slowly, very slowly, order replaced chaos. Command passed from the captain to the chief; time for the captain to have some water and let his legs stop shaking.

Fresh, second-alarm companies replaced the worn-out fighters on the fire line, and we older officers who have been through this before start to worry. One by one, we talked to every firefighter and asked if they were doing OK. It became apparent that some were dealing with a lot of pain, for they had seen and done things beyond anything they had ever imagined. But deal with it, they did. After a brief rest, they gathered their tools and headed for the fire line.

The Very Best

I don't know why we do the job. That is beyond my understanding. What I do know is that when I am around these young, intelligent, brave, and driven people, my heart fills with pride. They are the very best that our town has to offer. Perhaps they do the job because they must. It is in their blood and for reasons beyond understanding, they absolutely love what they do.

The bond between firefighters is very strong, and tremendous strength comes from the team. When asked how we can do the job, I simply think, "We are a team. If a member falters, his team- See EAFD on page 23

Road Agent Report

By Jon Champagne
Road Agent

With spring comes new beginnings; as Road Agent, I hope to write a monthly article for the Beacon, to keep Andover residents up to date with the state of its roads and Highway Department.

By the time you are reading this in early March, maple sugar season should be in full swing. While we will probably have another month of winter still to go, the brightening sun and warming days should mean that winters' cold grasp will not last much longer. Mud season will be upon us.

In the past four years, the highway department has graded ledge pack into the road-beds replacing lost aggregates. This decreases the amount of mud and yields a harder surface that will stay smoother longer than a conventional dirt road. My plan is to continue this practice.

The road crew also begins to open ditch lines to handle spring run-off. We try to leave these ditch lines covered as long as possible, with water flowing free-

ly under an insulating blanket of snow. However, as spring approaches and water flow increases ditch lines, culverts and catch basins tend to plug with debris. Hopefully, homeowners will have cleaned driveway culverts in the fall so they will not be plugged now.

On another note, the Selectmen have informed me that the Town's current policy is not to pay for or replace any damaged mail boxes in the Town's right of way. My plow crew does their very best not to hit mailboxes and signs with the trucks, but despite their best attempts, accidents do happen. More often, though, the force of the heavy wet snow coming off the plows is the culprit.

Upcoming summer projects such as the bridge on Morrill Hill Road and some small summer drainage projects are in the active planning stage. I hope to be able to give you more details in the coming months.

As we look to Town Meeting, I encourage you all to come out and vote. I hope to serve you for the coming two years.

Andover Fourth of July Celebrates 70 Years

By Judy Perreault
Fourth of July Committee

This is a banner year for Andover's Fourth of July celebration: 70 consecutive years of activities marking our independence. We could have never pulled it off without the work of many dedicated townspeople. Some have been doing the same job for years. Irene Jewett has been making arrangements for the fireworks and donations for more years than I can remember. Bill Leber was a familiar face and voice in the bandstand for years too. We will miss him this year. Howard Wilson has been managing the green and cleanup for ages. Bob Ward has been chair of the committee for many years as has Sara Tracy with Children's Parade. This is only a few who have given years of service.

At the last meeting officers were elected and are as follows Jamie Thompson, Chair; Bob Ward; Vice Chair; Rose

Tilton, Secretary; and Shirley Currier, Treasurer. Jamie will be coordinating the parade with Irene Haley and Jim Danforth; Howard Wilson, green activities and cleanup; Wanda Smith and Irene Jewett (Fireworks), Donations; Children's parade, Sara Tracy; Publicity, Judy Perreault; Parking, Wood Sutton.

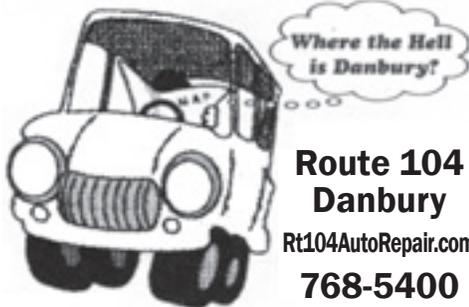
Plans for a bigger and better celebration are in the making with two bands already secured.

Once again we will be voting for the parade theme at the town meeting. The choices are Made in America, Classic Movies, Space, and New Hampshire Businesses. Voting will be by ballot with a different color paper for each category. Just pick your color and put it in the ballot box.

Financially, we have been running in the red for the last few years and other See Fourth on page 23

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MAPLE WEEKEND

NHMPA press release

Although early, the maple season in New Hampshire has begun. Due to the non-winter weather this February, sap has started to run, and the sugar makers of the state have begun the annual ritual of converting the clear sap into the liquid gold we all love: maple syrup.

Governor John Lynch has declared Saturday, March 24, and Sunday, March 25, as New Hampshire Maple Weekend. Maple Weekend is an annual open house held by the maple producers of the state to showcase their amber-colored liquid jewel and the products made from it.

Nearly 100 sugar houses – includ-

ing Tucker Mountain Maple at 224 Tucker Mountain Road in Andover – will be offering samples of syrup, maple products, and refreshments. Some locations will have petting farms, pancake breakfasts, and other family activities.

Come join the fun at a local sugar house. Producers will be happy to discuss with you how sap is turned into syrup. Experience the centuries-old craft, and taste why pure New Hampshire maple syrup has long been a delicious harbinger of spring.

Hours and participating locations can be found at NHMapleProducers.com or call 225-3757 for information. 

ANDOVER FISH & GAME CLUB

By Gordon Ordway

Andover Fish and Game Club

The Andover Fish and Game Club hosted the annual Al Chadwick Memorial Fishing Derby on February 4 at Keezer Lake in Sutton. We had a great turnout despite the weather. There were 57 participants total.

We awarded three prize categories, each winner receiving \$100 for the longest fish. The longest pickerel was caught by Arthur Ruff: 23.5". The longest perch was caught by Brian Kane: 13.25", and a 20" bass was caught by Spencer Jurbert.

The event coordi-

nators, Steve Smith and George Barton, said it was one of the best turnouts in years. We would like to thank Murray Smith and Bob Harrington for helping out with the Derby.

It has been a crazy winter, so be careful out on the ice!

Next month we will have the results from the annual Willis Nowell Kids Ice Fishing Derby.

At the last meeting, Howard George received his dedication plaque from the club. Howard has been a member for over 60 years. He is a very active member of the club and the community. Congratulations, Howard! 



Howard George with his dedication plaque for serving as a member of Andover Fish and Game for over 60 years.

Photo: Gordon Ordway

EAFD from page 22

mates will hold him up, dust him off, and provide support."

Ours is a job that no one is able to do alone. A firefighter who thinks he is alone is in trouble and cannot cope with our calling. We either must bring the member into the team spirit, or let him go. The emotional and physical weight of firefighting must be borne by many who act as one.

A single, well-trained fire depart-

ment fought that awful fire on that cold day. Perhaps that day marked the end of the old Andover and East Andover fire departments and the birth of a new, unified one. We shall see. But what I do know is that your fire department is stronger, for we have faced a tremendous test and we did well.

Are we OK? We have met as a team and discussed our concerns, but each man must answer that question himself. On balance, we are fine.

Thank you so very much for asking. 

Fourth from page 22

fundraisers are needed if we are to continue this tradition.

Other groups depend on this opportunity to raise money for their clubs and organizations. This year we will be raffling off a quilt (Sweet Liberty) on the fourth. It was made and donated by Irene Haley and the

proceeds will go into the Fourth of July fund. Tickets will be available on Town Meeting Day.

Jamie Thompson is working on a Web site that will have forms and Fourth of July updates. As soon as it is in place we will let you know. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or can help in any way please call Jamie at 735-5581. 

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

January 18

Condensed from draft minutes

Present: Alex Bernhard, Steve Darling, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Peter Southworth, Bob Ward, and guests Chuck Hoheisel, Dick Mackay, and Ken Warren from Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) Grafton.

FNRT Grafton/Merrimack combined issues: Special guests Dick Mackay and Ken Warren from FNRT Grafton

a. Common signage. It was agreed that both Merrimack and Grafton want to develop common signage. Charles shared current maps that we are using and could be used in Franklin. Dick asked about recording mileage on the maps (from town centers and services), an idea widely supported.

Alex noted that Upper Valley Trails Alliance is offering a February meeting on signage. Ken observed that many trail users would use electronic GPS technology in the future. Charles and Bob will continue working on the sign content, Alex will pursue a graphic designer, and that group will check in with Dick with developments.

b. Common milepost numbering. Dick expressed Grafton County's excitement to install granite mileposts. He plans to promote a newspaper article in hopes of publicizing and locating the missing mileposts. Charles reported the 12" posts are available to buy in Concord. Dick's plan is to create an "Adopt a Mile Marker" program for the public to fund the roughly 20 posts needed in Grafton County.

c. Joint Web site. Ken reported that a Web master in Enfield is getting ready to bring a new Grafton Web site online. It includes a Google map, a place to note a downed tree, a place to donate to the club, etc. It was agreed that we should share a common Web site, NorthernRailTrailOfNH.org, that will include links to both the Grafton and Merrimack Web sites. Ken will contact Steve to communicate with the Grafton Web master to set up the shared site.

d. Possible use of grader and compactor in Grafton. The Merrimack group will initiate grading and com-

pacting from Zaccariah Road north if Dick and the Grafton group believe it is needed in the spring.

e. Report on status of extension of Trail north of current terminus in Lebanon. Dick explained their work with Lebanon about how to extend the trail several miles north and across I-89 to behind the Timken plant.

Treasurer's Report: Steve submitted an end-of-year report. He noted that 96% of our money raised is spent in trail building and maintenance.

Old Business

Recreation Trail Program (RTP): There is no RTP funding available this year, and there is no guarantee the funds will be available in 2013. Alex suggested that our own fundraising might raise an additional \$15,000 to complement our allocated \$15,000 so we could build two miles of trail toward Boscawen. We discussed how to get Boscawen involved.

Maintenance: New illegal dumping east of Bridge Street. Usage signs for Franklin.

Trailhead at Irving Oil on Route 3 in Franklin: Bob explained the process of meeting with the city of Franklin, the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and RSG Engineers to plan and make an improved parking and trail access site.

Technology report: Heather suggested a calendar (Google type) added to our Web site that includes events, meetings, etc.

Enfield Bridge: Both FNRT Merrimack and FNRT Grafton are working to preserve the 19th-century railroad bridge over Main Street in Enfield. Without this bridge in place, trail users would have to cross a busy street. Loss of the bridge would also cause an interruption in the continuity of the trail, a key element to users. Lastly, there is no need to take the bridge down, since NH DOT has built a very workable road that bypasses the bridge for local traffic heading for the Shaker Bridge and Route 4A.

Alex offered to provide copies of a legal memorandum that the Boston law firm of WilmerHale had written in support of our efforts to save the bridge. 



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Andover Naturally

Examining The Evidence

By Lee Carvalho
For the Beacon

There's much to be said for such inspirational advice as "keep your head high" and "lift thine eyes," but you run the risk of missing a lot that way. On a recent walk along Mountain Brook, a group of us was fascinated at what we discovered by looking down at the snow's surface: catkins and the lovely fleur-de-lis seeds of yellow birch, empty husks of beechnuts, messy debris of excavated squirrel middens, relatively fresh coyote scat, moose tracks in pond ice, and the CSI-worthy remains of a blue jay. After examining the crime scene, Ethan Fecteau (at 6½ years old, the youngest investigator on our team) concluded that the culprit must have been an owl or hawk.



Coyote scat. Photo: Lee Carvalho

Hooded Merganser

Jeff Goodrich also benefited from looking down. He writes, "As I was walking down Lawrence Street in Andover, I noticed a hooded merganser right be-



Ice and frost. Photo: Larry Chase

low the east side of the bridge over the Blackwater River. It was quite calm and seemed to be enjoying paddling on the river. I checked, and their winter range is only supposed to reach as far north as Connecticut, but perhaps the mild winter we are having has made this duck more adventurous than most."

Ice Feathers

A while ago, Larry Chase sent me some astounding images of snowflakes and frost along with questions about how such patterns are created. Through the help of Nancy Teach, Larry received this helpful explanation from Andrew Cahoon, faculty member at See Naturally on page 25



A large area around the old railroad engine turntable site along the rail trail in Franklin has been cleared. Photo and caption: Nita Tomaszewski

FNRT Plans New Amenities Along The Rail Trail

By Lindy Heim
FNRT

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County (FNRT) announce plans for new amenities on the rail trail thanks to commendable work by eager beaver Steve Rayno of Franklin. Not only did he take charge of clearing a large area around the old railroad engine turntable site along the rail trail in Franklin last fall, but he is trying to restore another special site, a spring near the Franklin/Andover town line. To fund the effort, Steve organized a bike raffle netting the organization over \$700 in January.

Steve is a relatively new member of the FNRT board and has proven to be a strong advocate of the rail trail. He is an active rail trail user himself, both on a bike and snowmobile.

While exploring the latest section of the trail built in Franklin last fall, he was excited to find the remains of the old engine turntable. This circle of granite blocks is where engines were turned to head up the Bristol Branch Line to Newfound Lake from the track otherwise headed to White River Junction. Steve reports that he and his buddy, Billy Hurd, removed about 85 tires plus truckloads of debris from the area. And with the help of Thomas Richardson, encroaching trees were cut down as well. Steve envisions eventually turning the area into a grassy picnic park with historical markers.

Finding Cold Spring

More recently, another historical site has become the focus of Steve's attention. He had heard tales of a famous spring head and decided to investigate where it might be located in relation to the rail trail. He found it near the Andover and Franklin town line and is working with the property owners to relocate access to it for rail trail users.

Known in times past as Cold Spring from records going back to 1842, the spring was prized for its water quality. People came from far and wide to fill jugs and milk cans. "We know the spring passes drinking water tests, so, assuming we can get permissions from

the state and property owners, the fresh water spring would be an added amenity to the trail as well as a point of interest," comments Alex Bernhard, FNRT vice president.

The FNRT board voted to support Steve by designating any monies that Steve is able to raise to benefit the turntable park and spring renovation projects. To this end, Steve came up with two beautiful bikes and three other prizes to raffle off at the Andover Snowmobile Club Spaghetti Supper on January 28 at AE/MS, grossing FNRT \$750 for the effort.

The Andover Snowmobile Club, an FNRT partner, was kind enough to allow the raffle to be a part of the night's festivities. Allan Houle presided at the microphone, and Steve's son Shawn, along with Bob Ward, assisted. FNRT president Bob Ward wrote, "I just want to let everyone know how successful the 'winter bike raffle' was. Kudos to Steve Rayno for his good idea and making that idea a reality. Way to go, Steve!"

- Marie Morang of Franklin won a 700-series bike donated by S&W Sports in Concord
- Lexus Frechette of Hill won a self-shifting bike donated by Piche's Ski & Sports Shop in Gilford.
- Jacob Campbell of Franklin won a lube, oil, and filter from Benson Auto in Franklin.
- Mike Gilderman won a \$100 gift certificate from Murray Farms in Penacook.
- Linda Perry of Andover won a one-hour hypnosis by Barbara Blinn in Franklin.

Congratulations to all the winners! And thanks to all of the generous merchants listed above for donating such wonderful prizes.

For more information on the longest rail trail in New Hampshire, visit the new Web site NorthernRailTrailOfNH.org, which links to both the FNRT Grafton and FNRT Merrimack Web sites. Up-to-date information and pictures are available on Facebook at Facebook.com/FNRTnh as well.

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One highlight of the Proctor Ski Area community celebration was a torchlight parade down the mountain. Photos: Lindsey Allenby

Andover Community Enjoys Evening Of Skiing

By Chuck Will, Proctor Academy

An estimated 400 community members and friends of Proctor enjoyed an evening of skiing and snowboarding under the lights at Proctor Ski Area on February 4. This was the sixth annual celebration of a ski hill that serves thousands of high school and college skiers and their teams each winter.

It was an opportunity to enjoy improvements to the Burden and Blackwater Trails, new lighting, enhanced snow-making, and impeccable grooming due to the arrival of a Prinoth BR 350 grooming machine.

Parent volunteers served hearty soups and stews, and fires blazed inside and outside Yarrow's Lodge. This celebration has quickly become a tradition and is certain to be repeated next winter!



Jay, Jane, and Jake Hubbard were among those at the Proctor Ski Area community celebration.

Ausbon Sargent To Hold Moonlight Hike

SRKG press release

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition (SRKG), Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT), and New London Conservation Commission will hold a moonlight hike on the evening of March 7, 8, or 9 at 9 PM.

The full moon rises at 6:32 PM on March 8. The one-time-only hike departure time will be made to coincide with the best moonlight and weather conditions predicted for March 7, 8, or 9. If you are interested in participating, please send your e-mail address to David Cook at DWCook@tds.net or call 526-4570 between 5:30 and 6:30 PM to determine which night has been chosen.

All participants must come prepared with snowshoes, warm clothing, and headlamps with fresh batteries. Poles are strongly recommended. The hike will be approximately two miles in length and two hours in duration. It will be dark, and this hike is not for novices.

The meet, park, start, and finish are all at the same location: in Elkins, where the power line crosses Whitney Brook Road, which is just shy of one-half mile from where Whitney Brook Road be-

gins at Wilmot Center Road. The route will follow the Cook and Deming Easements, climaxing at the ridge-top skyline vista of the Cook Easement.

For more info, visit SRKG.org.

Naturally from page 24

Colby-Sawyer College.

"The freezing of a water droplet typically requires a 'nucleating agent' – a starting point. For snowflakes, it will happen on a dust particle or other atmospheric contaminant. On a window, freezing usually begins at a scratch or pit in the surface.

"Once nucleated, the type of growth depends on the physical conditions of temperature and humidity. When the conditions are just slightly below freezing, without high humidity, the



Catkins.

Photo: Lee Carvalho

"However, when the conditions are very cold and there is a lot of readily available moisture, growth can happen very quickly. In that case, the corners of the seed crystal grow most rapidly and protrude out to form the dendritic structure.

Basically, the moisture in the air tends to bunch up near the corners, and so the crystals grow preferentially from those points. As the corner grows outward and widens, new corners are revealed, which themselves grow out, and the pattern repeats itself with a branching structure.

"The repeating pattern on smaller and smaller scales is called a fractal. The swirly feathery patterns are a bit mysterious to me, but I would guess that has something to do with the surface of the glass underneath."

Check out www.its.caltech.edu.



Blue jay crime scene. Photo: Lee Carvalho

growth is rather slow and what tends to form are hexagonal crystals due to the underlying hexagonal crystal structure of ice.

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Andover Knitting Club

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

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

Kearsarge Masonic Lodge

Thu, Mar 1, 7:30 PM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Meal information: 735-6412

Voter Registration Checklist

Sat, Mar 3, 11 to 11:30 AM
Town Office
The Supervisor of the Checklist will be available to make changes to the voter registration checklist. This is your last chance to register to vote until Town Meeting Day on Tuesday, March 13.

ChocolateFest

Sat, Mar 3, noon to 2 PM
Colby-Sawyer College
Sample chocolate treats and vote for your favorite. \$10 admission. Article: page 37.

School District Meeting

Mon, Mar 5, 7 PM, AE/MS
The School District budget and warrant articles will be discussed and voted on.

Girls Softball Clinic

Sat, Mar 10, 9 AM to 4 PM
Proctor Academy Gym
Open to all girls, not just Andover. Article: page 47.

Andover Lions Club

Mon, Mar 12, 6:30 PM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Dinner at 6 PM, meeting at 7 PM.

Andover Snowmobile Club

Mon, Mar 12, 7 PM, AE/MS

Voting for Town and School District Officers

Tue, Mar 13, 11:30 AM to 7 PM
AE/MS
The Andover Service Club will offer lunch. Ad: page 9.

Town Meeting

Tue, Mar 13, 7 PM, AE/MS
The Town budget and warrant articles will be discussed and voted on.

Town Clerk / Tax Collector CLOSED

Tue, Mar 13
The Town Office will be open.

Andover Service Club

Wed, Mar 14, 10 AM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Kat Darling will speak on Community Supported Agriculture and container gardening.

Weatherization Workshop

Thu, Mar 15, 6:30 PM, AE/MS
Basics of home energy costs and weatherization. Article: page 6.

Coupon Class Fundraiser

Fri, Mar 16, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, AE/MS
Save at least half off your grocery bill. Ad: page 20.

NHCHF

Mon, Mar 19, noon
27 Evans Road, Willmot
Program: Ireland

AE/MS PTO

Mon, Mar 19, 6:30 PM, AE/MS

East Andover Fire Department Annual Meeting

Tue, Mar 20, 7:30 PM
East Andover Fire Station

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Wed, Mar 21, 7 PM
Andover Fire Station

Andover Fire Department Annual Meeting

Wed, Mar 21, 7:30 PM
Andover Fire Station

Nancy Tripp Trio

Sat, Mar 24, 7 PM
Andover Congregational Church
A fundraiser for the Highland Lake Grange Hall. Article: page 34.

NH Maple Maple Weekend

Sat, Mar 24 to Sun, Mar 25
224 Tucker Mountain Road
Tucker Mountain Maple holds its annual open house. Ad: page 22.

Andover Lions Club

Mon, Mar 26, 7 PM
Masonic Hall, Potter Place
Meeting only

Andover Fish and Game Club

Tue, Mar 27, 7:30 PM
Clubhouse, East Andover
Article: page 23.

Potluck and Dance Party

Sat, Apr 7, 5 PM, Bluewater Farm
A community potluck dance party to benefit Joe and Bob Pellerin. Bring a dish and enjoy Nick's Other Band. Article: page 5.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Annie

Fri, Mar 2 to Sun, Mar 4
OCIC, New London
March 2 and 3 at 7 PM. March 3 and 4 at 2 PM. Reservations: 998-4828. Article: page 34.

Danbury Grange Winter Market

Sat, Mar 3, 9 AM to 1 PM
Danbury Grange Hall
Market opens with breakfast. Lunch available from 10:30 AM.

Raising Backyard Chickens

Mon, Mar 5, 6:30 PM
Boscawen Municipal Complex
Dot Perkins will talk about raising chickens for eggs or meat.

Moonlight Madness Snowshoe Hike

Wed, Thur, or Fri, Mar 7, 8, or 9
9 to 11 PM
Whitney Brook Road, Elkins
This hike is not for novices. Date depends on the weather. Article: page 25.

MVHS Parent Advisory Group

Wed, Mar 21, 7 PM, MVHS

Fruit Workshop & Pruning

Sat, Mar 31, 10 AM to noon
Pustizzi Fruit Farm, Boscawen
Amy Ouellette will discuss small fruit, tree fruit, and pruning. Register at 796-2151 or e-mail Mary.West@unh.edu.

Companion Planting

Mon, Apr 2, 6:30 PM
Boscawen Municipal Complex
A Master Gardener will discuss the benefits and disadvantages of companion planting.

FNRT Fundraising Dinner

Thur, Apr 12, 5 PM
Rockwell's at New London Inn
Article: page 27.

Nancy Tripp Trio

By donation

Nancy Tripp, Chuck Will, and Robbin Bourbeau perform the Great American Songbook with singing, piano, and bass.

Join us on March 24 at 7 PM

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Orthopedic Surgeon Offers New Procedure To End Hip Pain

LRGH press release

When Dr. Jeremy Hogan meets patients who have been suffering from hip pain, they usually leave with renewed hope, thanks to Dr. Hogan's success rate with a new procedure in hip replacement — the direct anterior approach.

As one of only a few surgeons in New Hampshire performing hip replacements using this advanced, minimally invasive technique, the Lakes and Three Rivers regions are fortunate that Dr. Hogan is based at Orthopedic Professional Association (OPA), a department of Lakes Region General Hospital.

"Hip replacement is one of the most effective surgeries in the history of medicine," says Dr. Hogan. "The direct anterior approach makes it even better. I have seen patients recover faster and with less pain than would be expected with other hip replacement techniques."

Advancements in the design of surgical instruments coupled with the specialized expertise and training of surgeons like Dr. Hogan, have resulted in several advantages over traditional approaches to hip replacement. The new, minimally invasive anterior approach is a great option for patients with arthritis, and it requires a much smaller incision than traditional hip replacement. "My patients are able to move sooner without worrying about restrictions," said Hogan.

Other benefits include less pain and scarring, a lower dislocation risk, and a quicker recovery, returning patients home and to normal activity with fewer limitations. Fellowship trained in adult



Dr. Jeremy Hogan is one of just a few surgeons to perform the new anterior method of hip replacement. Photo: LRGH

orthopedic reconstruction and arthritis surgery, Dr. Hogan specializes in treatment of hip and knee arthritis including direct anterior hip replacement, total as well as partial knee replacement, and complex joint revision surgery at OPA, a department of Lakes Region General Hospital, with offices in Gilford, Franklin, and Meredith.

Call 528-9100 or visit OPA.com for more information.

Rail Trail Benefit Scheduled For April At Rockwell's At The Inn

By Lindy Heim
FNRT

Don't miss the next Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County (FNRT) event coming up in April: our annual fundraising dinner, scheduled for one night only on Thursday, April 12, at Rockwell's at the New London Inn in New London. Owner and chef Jerrod Rockwell will offer the restaurant's regular menu, which is varied and outstanding, in both dining rooms.

There is no set time or set menu; you decide when you want to have dinner and with whom. Just make reservations, go, and enjoy yourself as you do on any evening out. The atmosphere promises to be festive, as the dinner crowd tends to be made up of exuberant FNRT supporters!

Community-minded former New London Inn owner Bridget LeRoy founded the Thursday's Child program a few years back, and Chef Jerrod has generously continued it, allowing half

of the night's profit to benefit the rail trail effort. Please make reservations before they are filled by calling the New London Inn at 526-2791. Dinner may be enjoyed as early as 5 PM in the Tavern (reservations not necessary) or 5:30 PM in the main dining room.

Besides coming to our dinner on April 12, another way you can help the rail trail effort is to become a member. In return for your membership dues you will get updated information on rail trail progress, events, and meetings, if you wish to be informed of these. Membership categories range from \$15 to \$100 and can be processed securely online on our Web site. And you can lend a hand at upcoming FNRT events promoted on FNRT.org and on our Facebook page at FNRTNH.

Please visit FNRT.org for more information on organizational activities, printable trail maps, membership, and giving opportunities.



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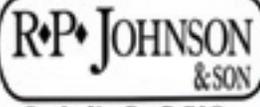
Somehow prime location for plates and bowls didn't seem quite right.



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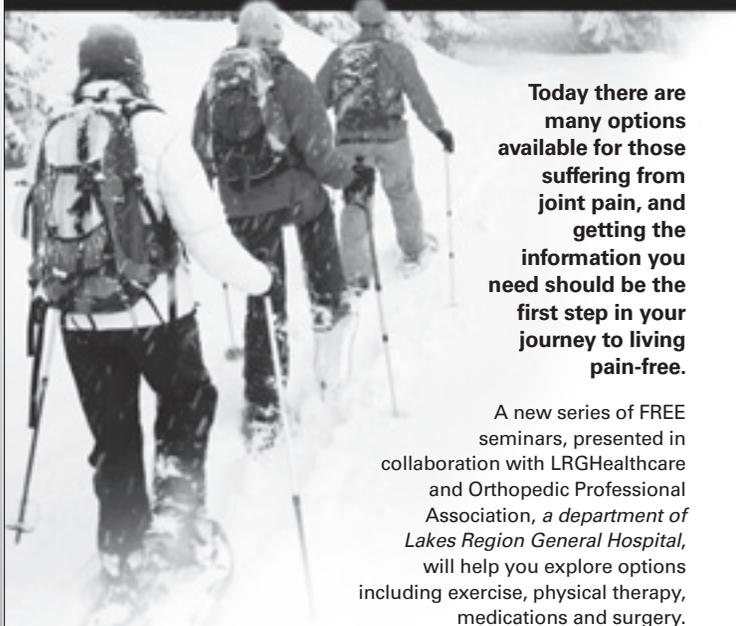
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Tuesday, March 6, 6-7:30 pm
You Don't Have to Live with Hip Pain
Woodside, Taylor Communities, Laconia *Jeremy Hogan, MD*

Tuesday, April 17, 6-7:30 pm
Ultrasound - The New Orthopedic Tool in Imaging
Laconia Public Library *John Grobman, MD*

Tuesday, May 8, 6-7:30 pm
Innovations in Spine Surgery
Laconia Public Library *Glenn Lieberman, MD*

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New London Hospital and Newport Health Center are pleased to welcome Rebecca Lozman, DNP, CPNP, MPH to the pediatric team. Ms. Lozman will see patients at the Newport Health Center, working with Tara Thurston, DO and at the New London Pediatric Care Center, working with Sarah Lester, MD and Aram Kalpakgian, PA-C.

Says Rebecca, "New Hampshire is very special to me and I look forward to being part of a practice committed to improving the health of a community."

For an appointment with Rebecca, call 863-4100 at Newport Health Center and 526-5363 at New London Pediatric Care Center.



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TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Board

January 10

Condensed from draft minutes

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

Announcements: Eric stated he had received a phone call from Brian Crockett regarding the calculations of acreage on the McLeod, Braley, and Thompson subdivision.

Eric stated Joyce Jones spoke to him indicating she feels the minimum lot size for the Forest and Agricultural Zone should be increased for the Master Plan Update.

A complaint was received regarding Dave Marceau's property on Plains Road. The complaint is that his use of his property has not gone through site plan review. Eric will speak to the Board of Selectmen as they had previously indicated that a goal for 2012 is to focus on enforcement concerns/issues.

Notice was received pertaining to a new law regarding involuntary lot merger. This notice needs to be posted at the Town Hall and issued in the Town Report for five consecutive years.

Master Plan Work Session

Paul will write a summary of responses to public input from the Master Plan public hearings. The industrial zone on the north side of Route 11 in East Andover needs to be removed from the map.

January 24

Condensed from draft minutes

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

Also present for duration of appropriate items: Larry Ballin; John Ferris; Bill Flynn; Bill Stacks; Vic Phelps; and Eric Therrien

Announcements: Eric stated he had attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss enforcement con-

cerns. He will contact Lakes Region Planning Commission regarding actions for handling complaints and issues of non-compliance. The Selectmen will contact those persons that the Board has received complaints against.

Eric received a phone call from Fritz Hunting regarding the Planning Board files relating to the Zoning Board Special Exception.

Continued Preliminary Non-Binding Consultation: Site Plan Review for Proctor Academy for a new 16-student, 2-faculty-apartment dormitory

Eric Johnson and Jacob Johnson recused due to their affiliation with Proctor Academy. The Board reviewed the application and voted unanimously in favor of deeming the application complete. The Board voted unanimously in favor of deeming the site appropriate for the proposed use.

Public Hearing: Site Plan Review for Proctor Academy for a new 16-student, 2-faculty-apartment dormitory

Eric Johnson and Jacob Johnson recused due to their affiliation with Proctor Academy. Proctor's representatives presented several diagrams of the proposed building. The current footprint is approximately 1,600 square feet, and the proposed building will be approximately 8,600 square feet, excluding the porches.

It was asked if the building could be set further back from the road. *From an aesthetic standpoint, it would break the continuity of the street and they would like to keep the essence of the streetscape. From a technical standpoint, the area in the rear of the building gets very wet and they would like to keep the foundation out of the water. The access for faculty and emergency vehicles, should they be necessary, will be from the rear and if the building is set back further, it would make the access very tight.*

See Planning on page 32

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
Bachelder 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
 Andover Library or
 Bachelder 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

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

Mark Your Calendar!

MARCH

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

19: Andover Fire Depts Training, 7
20: Building Inspector, 6-7
20: Zoning Board, 7
**20: Andover EMS,
 East Andover Fire Station, 7**
27: Building Inspector, 6-7
27: Planning Board, 7

APRIL

2: Board of Selectmen, 7
2: Andover Fire Depts Training, 7
3: Building Inspector, 6-7
3: School Board, 6:30
**4: Fourth of July Comm,
 Andover Fire Station, 7**
10: Planning Board, 7

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Planning from page 31

It was asked if there were any concerns with the snow shed from the roof. *It is designed as a cold roof. They don't foresee a tremendous amount of snow-shed.*

Drainage will be addressed during the course of construction – a new catch basin in the rear of the building will be installed with a drain pipe around the east side of the building out to North Street. The building will be on town water, as is the current building, so there is satisfactory water supply. A new 2,100-gallon septic tank will be installed.

This new building is not to increase the student capacity but to start relocating students from other locations on campus.

Abutters who were present stated they were satisfied with the proposal and feel Proctor has put a lot of thought and work into maintaining the New England village atmosphere.

There being no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of approving the application pending receipt of fees, a building permit, and a driveway permit.

Conservation Commission

January 11

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Members Larry Chase, Tina Cotton, Sandra Graves, Jerry Hersey, Nan Kaplan, Pat Moyer; Guests Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT) land specialist Andy Deegan, Andover residents Arch Weathers and John Cotton.

1. Andy Deegan reported on a 54-acre parcel of privately-owned Andover land, now in Current Use, that might be offered to ASLPT for conservation purposes. Without asking for a vote of support by Conservation Commission members, Deegan sought their input on possible concerns, such as whether the Town would accept stewardship of the parcel. Several Conservation Commission members agreed to accompany Deegan to a presentation before the Jan-

uary 16 Board of Selectmen's meeting to help answer questions and concerns.

2. Arch Weathers, a Beech Hill Road resident, reported on a plan to present, at the 2012 Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, a warrant article to discontinue a Class 6 designation of a section of right-of-way extending from the upper end of Beech Hill Road toward US Route 4. If the warrant article is approved, Weathers said he would then propose that the Town and abutting property-owners create a permanent conservation easement permitting public recreational (non-motorized) uses of the former right-of-way. Conservation Commission members advised that Weathers should have his easement proposal ready for possible discussion at the Town Meeting.

3. Conservation Commission members and Deegan briefly discussed several bills before the New Hampshire House of Representatives to limit the responsibilities of local conservation commissions around the state. Deegan advised receiving advice from ASLPT before the Conservation Commission reacts to the bills.

5. Conservation Commission approved the recommendation of the treasurer to move Conservation Commission funds from the municipal account to an Advantage CD at Lake Sunapee Bank in order to gain an improved interest rate.

7. Larry Chase was named Conservation Commission secretary, succeeding Pat Moyer, who received heartfelt words of thanks from Conservation Commission members for her three years of secretarial duties.

Recycling Committee

February 8

Condensed from draft minutes

Attending: Duncan Coolidge, Sandra Graves, Ken Tripp

Accounting: Because of the time required for budget and Town Report preparation and the rather sudden change in town administrators, the in-

formation required to detail savings resulting from recycling could not be obtained. It is hoped that some time after Town Meeting this information can be streamed to an online spreadsheet and little or no effort will be required to prepare such a report. This should also enable the Town to determine whether Transfer Station fees are too high, too low, or just right.

Got Books: Sandra will broach the subject at the next Library Trustees meeting.

Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA): Ken attended the monthly meeting on February 7. He had several interesting discussions with other attendees and NRRA staff members.

Paper: It was reported in the December minutes that Dumpster Depot had increased their trailer rental cost from \$25 per month to \$35 per month and their transportation cost from \$125 per trip to \$135 per trip. Actually, NRRA got the extra money to cover their paperwork. Dumpster Depot had not increased their rates.

Co-Op Single Steam: Several Co-Op member towns which had decided not to join the single steam venture were in attendance. They expressed their reasons for not joining. They feared that if the venture went bankrupt, they would lose their town's share of money held in escrow for future trash disposal.

New Hampshire the Beautiful (NHB): Two members of the NRRA staff work part-time for NHB. They have received our sign order, but signs are back-ordered. Any points not used by the Town could be donated to the town's school. It was stated that towns should not be fearful of writing grants. The forms are simple and help is available.

Glass: Warner grinds its own glass. The grinder was built by a local contractor.

School Recycling: Caitlin of NRRA visited Andover Elementary/Middle School. She discovered Andover was participating in a single-steam program offered by PepsiCo. She was impressed and had been unaware this program was available. She is preparing a report

which she will send to Jane Slayton, the principal. Caitlin stated that most towns in Vermont compost their pre-consumer organic waste.

Hazardous Waste: We were unsure whether or not the budget provided money for a 2012 Hazardous Waste Day. We still have not recycled the oil-based paints stored at the Transfer Station for the last three to four years. We have not received our booklets, *Alternatives to Household Hazardous Wastes*.

Freon: We still have not scheduled a training session for freon extraction. Duncan and Ken will review the equipment.

Waste Oil: The possibility of heating the recycling building with a waste oil heater was discussed. We currently give the oil away. The value of the oil is unknown. Duncan and Ken will have a look at the oil stored in the oil recycle building. Should we try to get grant money for an oil filter crusher?

Department of Environmental Services (DES): DES now requires tags affixed to any container which contains mercury. Copies of these tags were given to Reggie Roy. DES will soon be requesting the number of tons recycled for their annual report. Transfer Station employees who attend two NRRA monthly meetings will be awarded credit toward their continuing education requirement.

Swap Shop: The *Beacon* now provides some "on paper" swapping. [See Andover Yankee Trader on page 6.]

School Board

January 3

Condensed from draft minutes

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

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

Public: Tina Cotton

Public Participation: None.

Good News: Ed Becker has agreed to moderate the 2012 School District Meeting on Monday, March 5.

Old Business

Draft 2012-2013 School Calendar: Jane shared the draft school 2012-2013 calendar, as well as the input from staff and parents. The calendar will be an action item at the next meeting.

New Business

Draft Warrants: Robin shared the draft warrants.

Superintendent's Report: Filing period for open Board positions was discussed.

TOWN MATTERS!

The *Beacon* needs volunteers to help with reporting about town news and/or taking pictures around town. Do as much or as little as suits your schedule, but please help! The *Beacon* is not just about our community – it's by our community! Call Charlie at 735-6099

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Andover writers Brian and Matthew Richardson have recently published their mystery novel and are at work on a sequel. Photo: Cecilia Richardson

Local Writers Self-Publish A Mystery

By Cecilia Richardson
For the Beacon

Brian and Matthew Richardson are brothers from Andover, New Hampshire. Both went to Andover Elementary/Middle School and then Merrimack Valley High School. They also briefly attended NHTI.

Matt is the third brother, and Brian is the youngest of four. They both worked at Cricenti's Market, which was bought by Hannaford Supermarkets. Matt started as a cart boy when he was just 12 years old and was on the grocery crew when he left. Brian worked in the deli until he left.

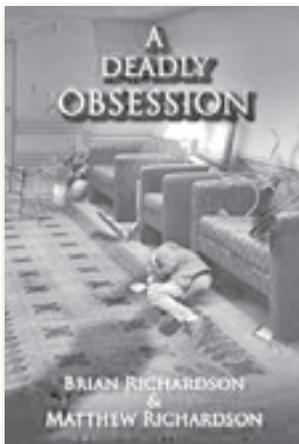
After 10 years at this location, Matt left and came to work at Merrimack County Nursing Home as a housekeeper, then dietary aide. Brian left after eight years with the supermarket, then came to the nursing home as a laundry aide.

Brian and Matt are always making up stories and what-ifs in their daily discussions with one another. They haven't always gotten along well at all times. Matt has a tendency to rub Brian the wrong way, but as the years go on they have learned to get along better.

One fateful day, Matt approached Brian with the idea for a novel. They sat down and discussed ideas and made notes and worked together to see what they could come up with. By early 2011 they started on their first novel, *A Deadly Obsession*, and it was completed in March. This turned out to be something they could finally work on

together and not have a lot of arguments about.

Matt usually has a lot of the ideas for what to write about, and Brian, with his wit and exceptional writing ability, can put it on paper and make it into an enjoyable story. Writing the story proved to be easier than getting it published. It sat for a few months while Matt searched for a publisher, finally settling on AuthorHouse. The book is available through their Web site at TinyURL.com/6ohrdm.



The reason they wrote this book is because Matt had an idea for a book, which Brian agreed was good, and they combined their skills. Also, they wanted to see if they could actually write a book that people would want to read. Matt likes collecting and watching movies, and Brian likes to read and watch movies, too. They watch many of these movies together and can be heard quoting films.

Their book is about a rookie detective with the New York Police Department who discovers that his best friend has a drug addiction, so he tries to help him by finding out who is supplying the drugs, and stopping it.

They are working on a sequel, which continues the story from the first book. It is nearly finished and will hopefully be out later this year.

A Deadly Obsession is available at AuthorHouse.com, BarnesAndNoble.com, Amazon.com, and BooksAMillion.com. It's available in hardcover, paperback, or e-book formats.

Bill Bardsley Publishes Memories of King Ridge

By Janet Moore
Library Trustee

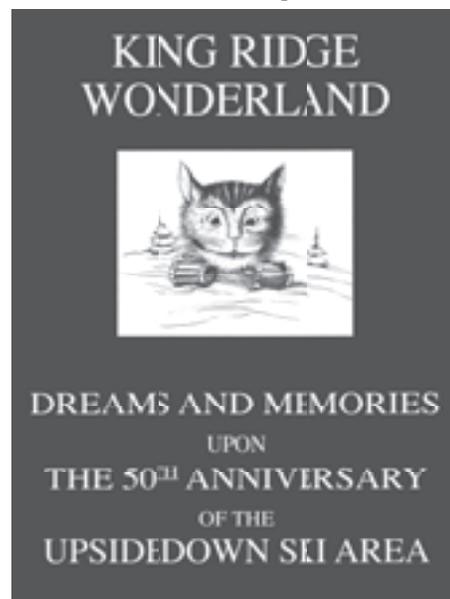
Bill Bardsley, who shares his prodigious store of local memories with anyone who asks, decided to publish a few, and the result is a delightful book about the King Ridge Ski Area, 1961 through 1995. Bill was a founding member of the King Ridge operation and its manager until 1981. The book is titled *King Ridge Wonderland Dreams and Memories Upon the 50th Anniversary of the Upsidedown Ski Area*.

Anyone who had the pleasure of skiing there, and I did, too, knows that the "upside down" designation refers to the lodge and parking lot being on top of the mountain. One had to be aware of closing time and the last lift!

Bill highlights the best of the King Ridge area: the founders, the men who kept the area running smoothly, literally, and photographs designed to tickle your memories and your ski-booted toes.

What makes this effort so delightful is the dual purpose, for what precedes the memories and pictures is a slightly

altered version of Lewis Carroll poems, complete with touched up illustrations from the Alice in Wonderland story. Bill Andrews, who operated the North-



side T-bar one year, has turned Father William, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, Alice (of course), and even the caterpillar-treaded Cheshire Cat into apt depictions of ski adventures through poetry fit for giggling.

Look for this at Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London.

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BRUCE ADAMS - OWNER

Nancy Tripp Trio To Perform In Benefit Concert

By Judy Evans
Andover Congregational Church

The Nancy Tripp Trio will present a concert fundraiser for the Highland Lake Grange Hall to be held at the Andover Congregational Church on Saturday, March 24, at 7 PM. Light refreshments will be served following the concert in the Grange Hall next to the church.

A native of New Milford, New Jersey, and a student of piano since the age of four, Nancy majored in voice and piano at Manhattan School of Music before pursuing a career as a singer and actress. In addition to soloing at the Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Nancy has performed in musical revues, opera festivals, nightclubs, regional theaters, and nine Broadway musicals.

Nancy moved to Andover in 1988 and is recently retired from a career in education. She will share her renditions of *The Great American Songbook* for the concert.

Accompanying Nancy on piano will be Chuck Will, Director of Communication at Proctor Academy. He began play-

ing piano by ear at age seven, studied at Lawrence University in Wisconsin, and began teaching at Proctor Academy in 1976. He plays piano in Nick's Other Band and has enjoyed backing Nancy at private parties for many years.

The third member of the trio, playing bass, is Robbin Bourbeau, who has performed with local and regional bands for the past 48 years. He is a graduate of New Hampshire Institute of Art and a student of music theory, arrangement, composition, and instrument and session ensemble. He served as a music educator at Proctor Academy from 2003 to 2006 and has won the NHCMAA Bassist Band of the Year award three times.

We hope to see many of you at this event and are grateful to Nancy and friends for sharing their time and talents. Come early to get a good parking space, as we are expecting a large crowd! Donations to the Highland Lake Grange Hall fund will be accepted. For more information, please contact Judy at 735-5331.



Nancy Tripp

Through the Reading Glasses

Andover Libraries

By Janet Moore

Andover Library Trustees

Sponsorship, that's another side of a public library. Currently, we have agreed to co-sponsor a local initiative into providing a public peek into our community resources, such as the Hersey Farm and Proctor Academy, set to take place in the summer.

Just within the last few weeks, the new Alternative Energy Committee has asked us to co-sponsor a different kind of event. Button Up New Hampshire is a workshop offered by the New Hampshire Department of Energy and Planning, a practical evening devoted to showing people how to refit their homes to keep out the elements, generally in easy and inexpensive ways.

We are also providing a home for Barbara Woolley's Memoir Writing Workshop, the second Thursday of each month this winter. I've been attending that one, which has proved to be a real eye-opening experience into the past.

And so it goes. But we need to hear from you: what would you like the libraries to offer? Have you seen, by the way, the number of large-print books we have available in the Andover Library?

Michelle Bengivengo is ready and waiting to have tea and books over at the Bachelder Library, perhaps when the snow stops falling (!) and the ice melts.

We have some interest in computer skills classes and/or tutoring, and we have feelers out in the community. Want to teach others your technology expertise, even just the basics? Let us know soon.

New Titles

The Andover library has two more books for children in the Dragon Breath series and a lovely picture book about the new kid in town, called Neville, who

Friends of the Andover Libraries

The Friends of the Andover Libraries are returning. Check with your local librarian or trustee to find out how you can join this wonderful organization. All we ask is your time and energy.

Please assist us in making the libraries more welcoming, comfortable, and useful to all town residents. Just think what you can do for your town.

Join now, and be the first on your block to get involved in community projects. Call 735-5333 now!

-JM

gathers the neighborhood children from their houses to yell for Neville, whoever he is, and the more children appear, the brighter the colors become. Both libraries have ordered the DVD *Carbon Nation*, a more positive but thorough look at our changing earth.

Just in are three books straight out of the *New York Times Book Review*: *The Night Swimmer* by Matt Bondurant, *No One Is Here Except All of Us* by Asubel, and *Nurk* by Elizabeth Vernon. The directors have also ordered (on back order) the three books associated with the *Downton Abbey* series – hurrah!

Halfway To Broadway Stages Annie This Weekend In New London

Halfway to Broadway press release

The beloved classic *Annie* is coming to the Outing Club Indoor Center (OCIC) in New London on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 2, 3, and 4. The OCIC is located on Cougar Court in the old Middle School in New London. Shows are on Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, at 7 PM and on Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, at 2 PM. Tickets range from \$12 to \$15.

Come and enjoy the bright-eyed optimism of a young orphan trying to make it in a big world. You will hear classic songs such as *Tomorrow* and *Hard Knock Life* and enjoy beautiful sets and the talent of children from your

own communities.

The part of *Annie* will be played by two actresses – Andover seventh-grader Maya Haynes and Kearsarge student Courtney Lauster. Other orphans will be played by Andover's Scout Armstrong, Vienna Marcus, Madalyn Goodwin, Ryelle Jenifer, Emily Abrahamson, Helen Armstrong, and Trinity Delaney.

The production is produced and directed by Andover native Jason Roy.

Please come out to support the arts! All proceeds raised are put towards the Halfway to Broadway summer day camp. To reserve your tickets, call 998-4828 today.



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Andover Energy Matters Conservation By The Numbers

By Larry Chase
Andover Energy Group

It's no secret that fuel prices are climbing and will continue to do so. They fluctuate, of course, but that might just be making things worse.

For example, when the cost of gasoline or heating oil hits, say, \$3.50 a gallon or more, we begin to think Prius and 55-degree thermostat settings. But then the prices drop, we relax, we fill up the pickup and jack up the heat, and we hope for a continual downward slide, all the way back to the good old days – which of course never happens. The price rises continue to overwhelm the price drops.

For a look at New Hampshire price trends for commonly used fuels from 2007 to the present, visit NH.gov/oepl/programs/energy/fuelpricecharts/. Over the past couple of years, here's the January heating-oil picture: 2010, \$2.83; 2011, \$3.33; 2012, \$3.68.

Town Energy Costs

For the Town, increasing energy prices can mean higher expenses and higher property taxes. A few items from the 2010 and 2011 Town Reports (shown in the chart above) tell the story:

The figures reflect a colder-than-usual 2010-2011 winter, of course. And not all Town agencies showed an increase. The Andover Fire Department, for instance, reduced its heating fuel costs by over \$300 year-over-year. But the overall trend is clearly upward.

The story is the same for individuals, as the costs of heating our homes and driving our vehicles spiral ever upward.

Eventually, as these numbers grow, folks tend to get serious about energy conservation. For example, four local groups – the Andover Energy Group, the Andover Library Trustees, the Andover Conservation Commission, and Proctor Academy – sponsored a Button Up New Hampshire home energy workshop for homeowners last month.

Town Hall Energy Audit

For another example, the Town received a grant to cover the costs of an energy audit of the Andover Town Hall. The grant funded a day-long, basement-to-attic professional probe of the building's energy efficiency, which has led to recommendations of specific "energy efficiency measures" (EEMs). Results were reported to the Board of Selectmen on February 14 and are contained

in an 87-page document available in the town libraries.

The major recommended EEMs are divided into two tiers: Tier One, for measures costing \$500 or less to implement; and Tier Two, for measures over

	2010 Report	2011 Report
Town Hall utilities	\$4,935	\$5,938
School District electricity	32,546	42,670
School District heating oil	18,684	33,452
Village District propane	2,496	5,079
Village District electricity	3,752	4,890

\$500. The audit estimates the cost of implementing eight Tier One measures at an estimated total of roughly \$1,595; it estimates the annual savings (at current energy costs) at about \$1,215, an annual return on investment of 76 percent. Tier One measures include:

- Turn off library ceiling fans
- Install a well-sealed, insulated air conditioner cover
- Install programmable thermostats
- Weather-strip all exterior doors
- Insulate all water pipes
- Manage phantom loads
- Reduce size of electric water heater
- Add circuits with switches to five rooms

The report estimates the cost of implementing six Tier Two measures at roughly \$12,785; it estimates the annual savings (at current energy costs) at about \$1,106, for a return on investment of more than 8 percent – much better than CDs are offering these days. Tier Two measures include:

- Add insulation to cavity voids in library walls
- Air-seal attic floor over library
- Add cellulose to existing levels in library attic
- Install SEER 15 or better mini-split ductless air conditioner with three units
- Line crawl space floors and foam rim joists and walls
- Install Thermopane interior storm windows in library

The recommendations in the Town Hall audit represent only the easy-to-accomplish, inexpensive first steps, of course. Locally generated energy – from solar panels, wind turbines, water, or biomass (wood and other organic materials) – would cost more at the beginning, but could take more of a bite out of fuel and electric bills in the long term.

As the *Beacon* was going to press, the Selectmen were working on an implementation plan for the audit recommendations.

Andover Service Club

By Anne Hewitt
Andover Service Club

Andover Service Club's (ASC) February 8 meeting was held at the regular location, the Masonic Hall in Potter Place. President Mary Ofenloch opened the meeting with a President's Day theme and read President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and a portion of President George Washington's inaugural address. It was sadly noted that five ASC members have passed away over the past year: Faith Downes, Jan Williams, Julia Philipson, Louise Fuller, and Marjorie Sheldon. They contributed generously to ASC in support of the community projects we endeavor.

Nancy Tripp reported that the Thrift Shop's computer system is up and running. Thrift Shop volunteer workers who have been trained on the system are impressed with how easy it is to use the program. Clothing prices for consignments were discussed, as there is competition in town. We would like to attract more consigners by bringing our prices in line with what other thrift shops are getting. New pricing guidelines are being developed for uniformity. During March, all color-tagged clothing is 50% off.

Scholarship applications are now

available at the Thrift Shop. The deadline for submitting completed applications is May 1.

At Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, ASC members will be serving homemade soup, chili, breads, and baked goods in the AE/MS gym, beginning at 11 AM.

The Andover Service Club is the featured town organization in the 2011 Andover Town Report. An array of historical information and photos is included throughout the booklet.

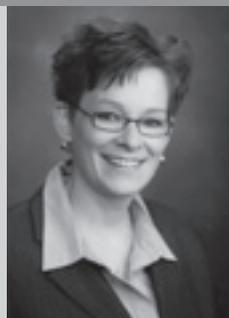
We continue to provide birthday cakes to Proctor students. The students really appreciate being recognized on their special day, as many are far from home.

Following the meeting, light refreshments were served, and the annual auction was held. Members brought in new or gently-used items from home, and the highest bid on each item provided the recipient with a new addition to their home.

The next meeting will be at the Masonic Hall in Potter Place at 10 AM on Wednesday, March 14. The speaker will be Kat Darling of Two Mountain Farm in Andover.

Our Wednesday, April 11, meeting is the annual Guest Night, which will be held at the Highland Lake Grange Hall in East Andover.

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Andover Congregational Church

By Linda McGrail
Andover Congregational Church

A small group from the Andover Congregational Church will be traveling to the Dominican Republic in April. They are Linda McGrail, Elizabeth Daneault, and Lorna and Patricia Rogers, and they will be traveling with an organization in Laconia called Open Arms Outreach.

This is one of many trips that are organized by Open Arms Outreach. This trip will be April 20 through April 30.

During this ten-day God-venture they will be bringing much-needed medicines to the Ebenezer Clinic and visiting orphans. Open Arms Outreach is developing a site for a future orphanage.

Each team member will carry \$2,000 or more of valuable medical supplies which are being donated to the clinic. They will also be doing outdoor evangelism and teaching in various churches and visiting many friends, brothers, and sisters with whom Open Arms has built relationships, some for over 20 years.

The cost of the trip for each team

member is \$1,350 and includes the round-trip airfare from Boston to Santo Domingo, in-country transportation, food, lodging, and benevolence funding of the mission projects.

Towards this goal there are some fundraisers:

On February 24, an indoor yard sale and craft fair were held at the Highland Lake Grange Hall.

A raffle is now in the works. The winner of the raffle will be given a "day off" and whatever they need will be done for them: mowing lawns, housework, shopping, etc. Chances are \$5 each, and you can enter as many times as you like. The drawing will be held sometime at the end of March, and your "day off" will expire August 31, 2012.

For information or to make a contribution to this travel fund, contact Linda McGrail at 387-0289.

If you would like more information about Open Arms Outreach and/or their mission trips, contact Ken Peters at 524-4589 or KenPeters@gmail.com.



HONOR ROLLS

Andover students continue to receive honors at colleges and universities.

Parents: Please send information about your undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate student's accomplishments to the Beacon! As you can see below, the information we receive without your help is spotty at best. Please help us recognize our Andover scholars more completely!

Connecticut College

Blair Southworth, a sophomore, was named to the dean's list.

Emmanuel College, Boston

Rebecca Lance was named to the dean's list for the fall semester.

Lakes Region Community College

Mariah Haley was named to the vice-president's list for the fall semester.

Stonehill College, Easton, Mass.

Elizabeth Stearns, a sophomore, was

named to the dean's list.

University of Connecticut

Abigail Smith was named to the dean's list for the fall semester.

University of New Hampshire

Nathan Clasby, an electrical engineering technology major, was named to the dean's list.

Meredith Cline was named to the dean's list.

Michael Donovan was named to the dean's list at UNH's Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

Kinley Viandier was named to the dean's list with high honors.

University of Vermont

Kayla Dansereau was named to the dean's list for the fall semester. She is a sophomore majoring in environmental studies.



Andover Lions Club News

By Joyce Egge
Andover Lions Club

The Andover Lions Club will be awarding scholarships to deserving college-bound high school students from Andover. Applications will be out in March and can be obtained from area high school guidance counselors.

Scholarships will be awarded to the recipients at the end of the school

year. The Andover Lions have several fundraising events during the year in order to finance these scholarships, and we would like to thank everyone for supporting these events. We just finished our annual rose sale and will be holding a pancake breakfast on the Fourth of July as well as a food concession on the Village Green that day.

More information: 934-0245.



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Brendaen Makechnie, then ...

Where Are They Now?

Brendaen Makechnie

By Mary T. Ofenloch
Andover Service Club

In March, 1996, professors at Brigham Young University (BYU) were asked to identify their most outstanding student. He was Brendaen K. Makechnie of Andover. Later, in 1997, Brendaen, who is the son of former Andover Service Club (ASC) member Heather Makechnie and her husband Arthur, received a \$1,000 ASC Merit Scholarship for Continuing Education.

Brendaen and his family moved to Andover in 1985 where he entered AE/MS as a sixth grade student. He spent his high school years at Proctor Academy as an outstanding student, a respected leader, a hard worker, a photographer, and a willing volunteer who loved Andover.

"Brendaen has always been a very handy person, mostly self-taught," his mother, Heather, recalled. "With the help and guidance of many people, especially Howard George, he learned very useful things. He won a Lifetime Membership Award from the Andover Historical Society for a research project on the old Andover Village District Water System, which consisted of piping made from hollowed-out logs."

After graduating from Proctor in 1992, Brendaen attended BYU, where he declared English as his major and Business as his minor. In order to defray the costs of tuition and room and board, Brendaen applied for an ASC Merit Scholarship, which he easily won. Since he was responsible for all of his expenses at BYU, he held various part-time jobs, such as: mechanic, barber, mail carrier, freelance photographer, and property manager. He also received a BYU academic scholarship.

In May, 1997, just before entering his senior year, Brendaen married Jill Anne Lowman of Des Moines, Iowa. Later, in 1998, after graduating, the

couple moved to Wisconsin where they both were employed by Lands' End, a catalog company. Brendaen was inventory manager, catalog merchandiser,



... and now.

and associate product manager. Hailey, their first child, was born in January, 2000. Two months later, Brendaen joined a Boston-based startup called Upromise, where he played a foundational role in the grocery vertical of Upromise. Over the next 10 years at Upromise, he served in client service, business development, sales, and partnership management roles.

During this time, Jill and Brendaen welcomed Chloe, Ella, and Grace, their beautiful daughters, into their family. Their growing family necessitated a move from a Newton apartment to a house in Needham, Massachusetts. He and a business partner launched a side business selling and installing custom window treatments in the Boston market. But after four years, the economic recession forced them to shut down their business.

Meanwhile, in 2006, Sallie Mae, the
See Brendaen on page 38

Calling All Chocolate Lovers!

LSRCC press release

Chocolate lovers! Come revel in an afternoon of chocolate delights at the 17th annual ChocolateFest Chocolate Challenge taking place on March 3, from noon to 2 PM at Colby-Sawyer College in the Weare Campus Center in beautiful Wheeler Hall, Main Street, New London.

The event, presented by the Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce (LSRCC), features a smorgas-

bord of scrumptious chocolate desserts and handmade chocolate delights. Professional bakers and chefs, as well as amateur enthusiasts, will compete for top honors of Best Chocolate Creation.

Attendees get to sample with sweet gusto all the chocolate treats and then vote for their favorite. Admission is \$10 per person and kids under five are free. For information, call the Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce at 526-6575, or visit LakeSunapeeNH.org.

The Constant Quilter

LEPRECHAUN SHOP HOP

Leprechaun Hop press release

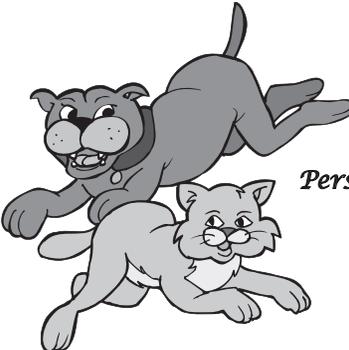
The Constant Quilter, on the corner of Route 11 and Pancake Road in Andover, and The Quilting Corner at Riverfront Place on Main Street in Tilton, along with five other participating quilt shops, invite you to join us in our Leprechaun Hop from Thursday, March 15, through Saturday, March 17.

The month of March is sometimes grim, With grimy snow and sunlight dim. You'll add some sizzle, flash, and pop When you join in this quilt shop hop! For an \$8 registration fee, you will be provided with a 16" Three Heart Quilt Hanger and a shop hop guide/passport.

Over the three designated days, visit each shop, have your passport stamped, and enter to win daily door prizes. Play Leprechaun Bingo for extra fun and prizes.

Completed passports will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing for a chance to win a Singer Sewing Machine donated by the Constant Quilter, or an Aurifil thread assortment.

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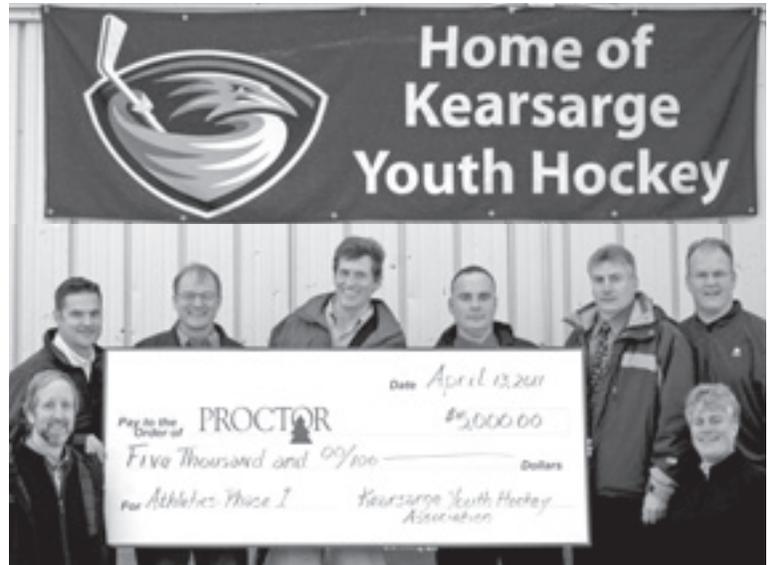
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ATTENTION: Andover Contractors, Handymen, and Other Tradesmen!

The *Beacon* is planning an article for the April issue to help homeowners find local tradesmen for their spring and summer clean-up or improvement projects, large or small.

We'd like to mention as many local people as possible, along with the type of work you do and how our readers can contact you – but we can't mention you if we don't know about you!

If you'd like to be included in the article, please let us know by March 15 at the latest. Contact Charlie at 735-6099 or Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com, or stop by the *Beacon* office in the basement of the Town Hall. Our readers will be glad you did!



Ribbon cutting for the spacious six-locker-room athletic facility at Proctor Academy's Teddy Maloney Rink took place on February 4. Pictured are Doug Houston, girls hockey assistant coach; Gregor Makechnie, athletic director; Doug Windsor, Kearsarge Youth Hockey Association (KYHA); Mike Henriques, head of school; Don Kimitis, president of KYHA; Joe Stone, KYHA treasurer; Mike Walsh, varsity coach; Keith Barrett, director of development.

KYHA, continuing its long-standing support of Proctor's hockey rink facilities, has made a \$5,000 matching contribution to the 7,200 square foot locker room addition to the hockey rink. KYHA has supported Proctor's ice rinks since its first refrigerated facility in the late 1970s, when KYHA provided the funds to enclose the then-outside rink. Over the years, KYHA has provided Proctor with its first skate sharpening machine as well as building a warming room for spectators and replacing ice-making compressors lost in a fire.

KYHA is a non-profit 501(c)3 association providing youth hockey for boys and girls ages 5 to 16, as well as a free learn-to-skate program for ages 3 to 12.

Photo and caption: Doug Windsor

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The Laconia Housing Authority does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation or age.



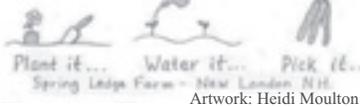
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Bruss Finishes Rink Expansion, Begins New Dormitory At Proctor

Bruss Construction of Bradford recently completed the 7,800 square foot addition to the Teddy Maloney Ice Arena at Proctor Academy. The addition contains a new visitors lobby with rink viewing area, new locker room, coaches' offices, referee changing rooms, and training facilities.

Also at Proctor, Bruss is providing integrated design/build services for the construction of a new dormitory.

Brendaen from page 37

largest student lending bank, acquired Uprromise, but had no interest in the grocery vertical. So, in August, 2010, Brendaen and other founding members of the service formed Saving Star, Inc., a fully digital promotion service in the grocery industry.

As active members of the Church of Latter-day Saints, Brendaen and his family spend much of their family time serving church-sponsored events. Heather said, "I am very proud of my son, and all of my children. He is a born leader with intelligence, and courage of his convictions. His greatest accomplishment is his choice of Jill for his wife." Brendaen committed to fully re-

plenish his ASC scholarship.

The ASC has been awarding merit scholarships since 1958. Funds are raised for scholarships by community support of ASC events throughout the year, and sales made at the ASC Thrift Shop. For more information, e-mail Mary Ofenloch, President, at MaryO.AS-Club@live.com or Diane Rice, Scholarship Chair, at Diane.Rice226@gmail.com. Donations and memorials gratefully accepted.

**10 YEARS SERVICE
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Alicia L. Marceau was honored by Franklin Savings Bank for 10 years of service.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES M. KENISTON, Jr., 90, passed on Sunday, January 22, 2012 in the comfort of his home. He was born in East Andover on April 27, 1921 to the late James M. Keniston, Sr. and Maud (Severance) Keniston. He lived most of his life in East Andover.

Mr. Keniston served our country during World War II in the US Air Force. His tour of duty included North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. Following the war, he started his own dairy farm and worked at Bristol Dry Cleaners. Later, he worked at JP Stevens in Franklin until it closed. He then worked for 20 years at Riverside Millworks in Penacook.

Mr. Keniston was a past member of the East Andover Fire Department and the Andover Lions Club. He was an active member of Bristol VFW Post #10640.

Most of all, he enjoyed time spent with his family and friends. He was an avid reader and loved working in his garden and feeding the birds. Each year, he looked forward to the annual gathering to press cider.

Family members include his wife of 65 years, Dorothy (Preble) Keniston; two sons, James M. Keniston III of Hines, Oregon, and Roger Keniston of Concord; two daughters, Druscilla Gauthier of Franklin and Nancy Woodward of Franklin; eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by seven sisters: Lois Tilton, Helen Carlisle, Georgia Woodley, Iris Rice, Florence Sanborn Severance, Una Brooks Hallinan, and Mildred Palmer; and two brothers: James E. Keniston and Percival Mills.

A visiting hour was held on January 27 at Thibault-Neun Funeral Home in Franklin. Funeral services followed. Spring burial will be in Franklin Cemetery. For an online guestbook, visit NeunFuneralHomes.com.

VIRGINIA M. MAXFIELD, 95, died quietly at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento, California on January 22, 2012, after a long period of failing health.

Among surviving family members are a daughter, Marjorie Leber of Andover; grandchildren Deborah Barton and Mark Leber, both of New Hampshire; great-grandchildren Jason Barton, Alexander Barton, Corwin Leber, and Braden Leber, all of New Hampshire; and a great-great granddaughter, Riley Barton of New Hampshire.

EVA ELIZABETH HEATH, 85, of Salisbury, passed away on January 26, 2012 at her home. She was predeceased by her husband of 33 years, Joseph M. Heath, Jr. and her step-son, Joseph Heath, III.

Among surviving family members are her children, Joseph St. Jacques and his wife Charlotte of Franklin, Robert St. Jacques and his wife Mary of Franklin, Jaclynn Cilley of Fayetteville, North Carolina; her step-children Miriam and husband Russell Bowne of Andover, daughter-in-law Mary Heath of Salisbury, Steven Heath, Sr. and wife Mary of Salisbury, and Dianne Marston of Northwood; 23 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Salisbury Rescue Squad, PO Box 100, Salisbury 03268.

BARBARA JEAN FRENIERE, 57, of Danbury went home to be with our Father on February 12, 2012. Among surviving family is a sister, Mary Murphy of Andover.

DOROTHY LORDEN, 80, of Beech Hill Road died on February 13, 2012 at the William P. Clough Extended Care Center in New London. She was born in Andover on December 13, 1931, the daughter of William J. and Goldie M. (Moody) Lorden. She graduated from Andover High School in 1949.

Dorothy cleaned homes for people in the New London and Andover areas and also for camps around Bradley Lake. Highlights for her included her 60th class reunion and her 80th birthday party.

Dorothy was a communicant of Immaculate Conception Parish in Potter Place. She was predeceased by her brothers, William D. and Joseph K. Lorden. She is survived by a sister, Esther Charest of Manchester; nieces and nephews; and her volunteer caregiver, Donald Gould of Andover.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on February 20 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Potter Place with Reverend Robert Biron, pastor, celebrant. Burial will be in Elkins Cemetery in Elkins in the spring. Memorial contributions may be made to Loaves and Fishes, 724 Main Street, New London 03257.

GARY W. PARADIS, 54, of Boscawen, died on February 13, 2012 at Lahey Clinic in Burlington, Massachusetts.

Gary is survived by his two daughters. See Obituaries on page 40



Cody Provost, Alizabith Clark, and Katelynn Kenny on ice.

Photo: Doreen Perreault

IMAGINATION INN

By Doreen Perreault
Imagination Inn

and celebrate the season.

December was a busy month at the Inn. Our *Polar Express* Family Night was a huge hit. The children followed the gumdrop trail throughout the school and enjoyed making ornaments and mixing up reindeer food and snowman soup. The children wore their pajamas and snacked on homemade cookies and milk from our Cookie Station. It was a wonderful way to end the month

Tigers and Pandas enjoyed a field trip to one of our favorite neighbors, Pizza Chef. The children had the opportunity to make their own pizza, visit the back station, explore the coolers, watch the dough being made, and see 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 was fan- See Inn on page 40



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Obituaries from page 39 Inn from page 39

ters, Katrina Welch and her husband Nick of Andover and Caitlin Smarkel of Manchester; one son, Derek Paradis of Boscawen; three grandchildren, Logan Welch of Andover, Jecenia Perez of Manchester, and Grace Paradis of Salisbury; two sisters Lisa Adams Paradis and her husband Mike of Andover, and Kathy Payeur and her husband Mike of Pembroke; nieces and nephews, and his best friend, Suzette Paradis of Manchester.

Donations may be made to the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 800, Washington DC 20004 or visit Lung.org. 

tastic with the children and they loved their behind-the-scenes tour. Thank you, Pizza Chef!

With Jack Frost nipping at our noses, we welcomed a blustery January. Our classroom walls were decorated with paper snowflakes and cheery snowmen. We were lacing skates and not surprised to hear the groundhog predict six more weeks of winter. February really felt more like spring than winter in New England.

During February we explored all things winter. We colored our water table and filled it with fresh white snow. It was fun to see how the snow melted throughout the day and watch as it turned into a large puddle of water. We enjoyed a few snow days and the chance to catch some fresh snowflakes on our tongues. We built snowmen and learned some new winter songs. The parachute and musical instruments kept us busy on those days when Jack Frost decided to make it too cold for outdoor fun.

Our Bouncy Bears become more curious with each passing month. The children are busy learners exploring, walking, and chattering along. Despite the cold winter months, we have enjoyed muddling through the snow and marching around outdoors. It's an adventure in itself getting our youngest ones bundled up for the great outdoors. Trisha, Stacy, and Amy continue to make it all look easy.

In November, Imagination Inn expanded its staff and welcomed Stacy Rowe to our Infant/Toddler classroom. Stacy joins us with her extensive experience and knowledge in the Early Childhood field. Anyone who has met Stacy or taken a few minutes to watch her can quickly see her love and passion for children. We are excited to welcome Stacy and look forward to years of growing, laughing, and learning together.

The Marvelous Monkeys continue to amaze us. They are learning and growing at a rate that is nearly impossible to keep up with. Karyn does an amazing job keeping up with our busy two-year-old classroom. Whether they are digging in the sand table, painting with Kool-Aid or playing with their much-loved train table, the Monkeys are always on the go.

The Terrific Tigers with Becky have spent the month learning about penguins and winter animals. They waddled around the classroom, experimented with ice cubes, and made a winter white polar bear collage. They continue to enjoy Wednesday's town library storytime visits and especially the chance to take a book home from the library. It's a favorite part of our week.

The Preschool Pandas have been lacing, tracing, and creating some winter fun. We created our own indoor skating rink and used wax paper to glide our way around the rink. Colored ice cube painting and icicle graphing

were a fun way to welcome the winter weather.

The Afterschool Adventures have been growing crystals and exploring the science world. Ashley has some fun, colorful experiments that have kept the Afterschool children intrigued and excited. Can't wait to see what they create next.

January ended with a generous treat from Jordan's family. Dave Kenney, with the help of Brad Hardie, mixed up a delicious pancake breakfast for our children and families. It was a fun and yummy way to start a great morning at the Inn. Preschoolers enjoyed a follow up story of *If You Give a Kid a Pancake*.

February brought lots of "lovely" moments to our classrooms. We made Valentine mailboxes with tissue boxes and painted them for our Valentine exchanges. We explored all the things we love and created our own Valentines. Our classroom walls were decorated in pink, purple, and red hearts. We talked about those we love, our family and our friends. Though we are enjoying the winter months, we are always ready for signs of spring.

The children are having a great time exploring the Proctor campus and the area around us. We are loving our Friday mornings skating at the Proctor rink. We are still waiting for a *huge* snowstorm so we can build a snowman (or rather snow people) right outside our door.

Imagination Inn is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and accepts children from eight weeks to 12 years old. We are open school vacations, school closings, and most holidays.

Our summer program begins in mid-June and believe it or not ... we are beginning to think of summer. If you are interested in information regarding our summer program or for the fall of 2012, now is the time to call. You can reach us at 735-5900 and set up a time to visit our program, meet the staff, and explore our classrooms.

You can also check out our Facebook page at Imagination Inn. It's updated weekly. You can view our classrooms, see pictures, and read the latest school happenings. You can also drop us an e-mail at ImaginationInn@gmail.com.

We are looking forward to a busy March. We will be setting our leprechaun trap in hopes of catching something magical at the end of the rainbow. I'm feeling pretty confident this year may be the year we catch ourselves a leprechaun! Green will be the theme of the month. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss and enjoy a visit from Chef Combo as we whip up some delicious *green* eggs and ham.

Looks like another adventurous month here at Imagination Inn!

"Don't underestimate the value of Doing Nothing, of just going along, listening to all the things you can't hear, and not bothering."

— A.A. Milne



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Yoga with Ms. Carmen: (clockwise) Carmen Bates, Liam Murphy, Garrett Barton, Logan Welch, Ollie Grotnes, Carsyn Perkins, and, in the middle, Eric Bates. Photo: Elizabeth Janvrin

Andover After School Program

By Diane Adams
Andover After School Program

Andover After School Program has been in full winter attire. We have added sledding to our list of activities. The children were anxious to take out the sleds. It was a long wait for the arrival of snow.

This month we made a large selection of snowflakes and snowmen. The Five Alive crew made puppets, handmade guitars, and secret message paintings. We also made a puppet theater and added some new role-playing kits to our play time.

We were open on February vacation on various days and will be open on April vacation. If you are currently enrolled in our Five Alive program or

after school program, you may sign up for any or all days of April vacation. We are open from 8 AM to 4 PM all week. If you have any questions about this



Puppets and the new puppet theater are a big hit at the Andover After School Program. Photo: Diane Adams

service, call Diane at 735-6566.

In like a lion, out like a lamb! Stay warm, everyone. Spring is on its way.

East Andover Village Preschool

By Alicia Colby
Enrichment Teacher

Exciting afternoon programs at the East Andover Village Preschool (EAVP) offer full day students the opportunity to explore new subject areas. This year at EAVP, our extended day students have had the opportunity to learn Yoga with Ms. Carmen and to explore the French language as well as Environmental Science with Ms. Alicia. These enrichment programs offer important lessons for young minds.

During Environmental Science, we foster a respect and enjoyment for nature. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful location for the preschool, where the children have free time to play outside in both the mornings and afternoons. Recently, we have made sticks to measure snow and have made a chart to keep track of how much snow we have gotten this winter. The students loved measuring snow,

but unfortunately Mother Nature hasn't given us much to play with lately. We have also started a unit about birds. The students made bird feeders to take home and helped to fill bird feeders that are hung up outside the preschool. Our bird table is set up to explore bird nests and is filled with identification guides; hopefully, the birds find our feeders soon. Exposure to the natural world can help improve a child's cognitive development, by improving awareness, reasoning, and observational skills. It's amazing the observations the children make about the world around them.

On Yoga afternoons, Ms. Carmen helps the preschool children practice three to four yoga positions, a stretch pose, and a type of breathing. Beyond having fun, yoga improves flexibility, coordination, and body awareness. Yoga also helps children to concentrate

and relax. Every few weeks when the group has mastered the poses, they help to pick new ones.

Our last enrichment program cur-



Tristan Colby and Garrett Barton explore their measuring sticks in the fresh-fallen snow. Photo: Elizabeth Janvrin

rently offered is French. The best time to start learning a new language is as a young child. While the children will not be fluently speaking the new language, they may learn a few new words. Exposure to foreign languages at a young age leads to cultural awareness and may lead to higher cognitive skills. The preschool students are learning French through songs, stories, and play. One of their favorite words is *s'il vous plait*, our very special way to say please in the afternoons.

One of the great parts of the extended day is that we are able to offer these new learning opportunities for the children. During the afternoons we have time to let the children's interests lead the way to what we learn next. Hopefully, the children's enthusiasm will lead us to more exciting afternoons for the rest of the school year.

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There's no reason to miss out on Andover news, even if you don't live in Andover year round. For \$25 you can have the *Beacon* mailed to any US address, or even switch between your seasonal and regular addresses. (Amounts over \$25 are tax-deductible.)



*"To everything there is a season,
 a time for every purpose under heaven."
 Ecclesiastes 3:1*

**The season for the Andover Bible Church has ended.
 Good Bye, and God Bless!**

IS YOUR LITTLE ONE GOING TO KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR?

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- Safe learning environment
- Arts & crafts daily
- Socialization with children in their class
- Extracurricular activities with AE/MS

When your child is enrolled in our Five Alive program, you may use us on every school day, or just the days you select. AFAP is open on many days when AE/MS isn't, including:

- Teacher workshop days
- Occasional snow days, delays, and holidays
- February and April vacations

When your child is enrolled in AFAP, you have priority for the Andover After School Program (which is generally filled to capacity and is open until 6 PM every day after school).

Stop in any time for a visit.

You may also call with any questions: 735-6566



Andover's kindergarten-to-second grade basketball team. Back: Coach Justin Carey, Michael Miller, Aaron Weeks, Jesse Niemyer, Jeremy Johnson, Wesley Koziol, Colby Jones, Brendan Miller, Brandon Dukette, Joey Upton, Coach Steve Perkins. Front: Dylan Heller, Andrew Croteau, Ryan Carey, Kalee Keyser, Aiden Heller, Cam Chevarie, Cam Perkins.
Photo: Jaime Carey



Paul Hubert, Lee Donaldson, and Linda DeMinico.
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

Kris Freeman Competes In Cross-Country World Cup

Condensed from Associated Press reports

Competing in Otepaa, Estonia, Andover's Kris Freeman finished fourth among Americans in 59th place in the World Cup classic cross-country 1.4-kilometer race. In the 15-kilometer race on January 23, Kris took 22nd place in 42:03.6.

On February 5, Kris had his best individual result of the World Cup season to date, skiing to 13th place in a

cross-country skiathlon in Demino, Russia. He was just 14.4 seconds behind the winner and just 1.2 seconds out of the top ten in the grueling 15-kilometer classic and 15-kilometer free-style race.

On February 12 in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic, the US men's relay team, of which Kris is a member, finished 12th in the cross-country World Cup relay race, a 4x10-kilometer competition.

Lee Donaldson Says Goodbye To AE/MS

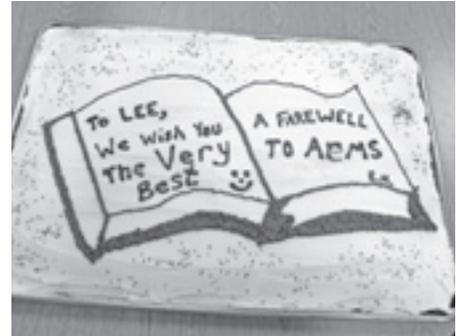
By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

Students and staff members said goodbye to a beloved librarian and colleague in mid-February. Since 1999, Mrs. Donaldson has been helping students find just the right book at Andover Elementary/Middle School.

Mrs. Donaldson was wonderful about supplying teachers with needed resources for units of study. She knew when to display the vast collection of poetry books in time for Poetry Night. Mrs. Donaldson knew what every student was reading and was always helpful to order the next in a series of books for avid readers. She was able to offer suggestions to students because she knew their interests. Grandparents and parents would seek her advice at holiday time for book suggestions for children.

Mrs. Donaldson brought wonderful Book Fairs to AE/MS. The school library is computerized today because of Book Fair profits. Mrs. Donaldson helped students learn the Dewey Deci-

mal system and how to use the card catalog. She would have students do scavenger hunts to learn the library. She was an expert when helping the middle school students complete research papers.



A homemade cake by AE/MS chef Joanne Young was a tribute to AE/MS librarian Lee Donaldson.
Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

Although Mrs. Donaldson was employed as a library assistant she did so much more than that. She was the librarian, the "read aloud" person, the teacher, the book lover, and a friend to all. We will really miss Mrs. Donaldson, but we wish her well in her new position. We have yet to fill the big shoes she has left behind.

PUBLICIZE YOUR FUNDRAISER IN THE BEACON!

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

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Recyclers: Eighth-graders Keith Davis, Riley Anderson, and Nick Kenniston. Photo: Christine Braley

AE/MS Makes Recycling Pay

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

Eighth grade boys have been doing most of the recycling at AE/MS. The dedicated boys are Nick Keniston, Will Cox, Adrian Bolte, Keith Davis, and Riley Anderson. They can be seen on Friday afternoons going from room to room picking up recyclables.

The boys use a scanner and laptop computer to scan the bar codes from plastic bottles. After bottles are scanned they are put into a bin to be picked up weekly by Waste Management. Points are earned for the school from the collection of plastic bottles, and the points can then be redeemed for school supplies. This incentive has greatly increased the amount of recycling we do on a weekly basis.

Our recycling bin can also be used to collect cardboard. We no longer need to take this up to the Andover Transfer Station and can easily flatten and dispose of it on site. We are increasing what we are able to recycle on site. We also collect aluminum cans, newspapers, and classroom paper. Waste Management empties the bin weekly, and there is no charge to AE/MS for this service.

Food waste must still be brought to the Andover Transfer Station, but we are rallying the students to waste

less. Potato chip bags and energy bar wrappers are collected in the cafeteria and shipped to Terracycle. Points are earned for this and can be redeemed for cash dedicated to non-profit organizations, AE/MS being one. It is really pretty fascinating to see how Terracycle re-uses the chip bags, energy bar wrappers, and many other trash items.

The Recycling Team will spend the rest of this school year training younger students to step up into their roles. The boys will also be educating all of the students and staff as to how they can recycle more at AE/MS.

The boys recently had a meeting with Caitlin Meaney, the Programs Coordinator for Northeast Resource Recovery Association. She shared more ideas with the boys, and they may visit a couple of schools to learn about recycling efforts at similar-sized schools.

Nancy Tripp and Jane Slayton were also in attendance and interested to learn of more recycling opportunities they might create within the school. The discussion included composting and the excessive amount of packaging used by some companies. The group may follow up by attending a conference in June.



Mrs. Kidane's fourth grade class and Mr. Jensen's second grade class with Mrs. Kidane, Ms. DeMinico, and Mr. Hubert. Photo: Jane Slayton

AE/MS CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

Gung Hey Fat Choy ... and Happy New Year at AE/MS!

A Chinese proverb states that all creations are reborn on New Year's Day. The Chinese New Year is a celebration of change ... out with the old and in with the new!

Students at Andover Elementary/Middle School have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year for many years. It is a tradition for the fourth grade class to work with Mrs. DeMinico to create festive dragons for the Dragon Parade. Mr. Hubert and musicians join in the parade as they festively weave in and out of all the classrooms at AE/MS.

Students and staff enjoy a wonderful array of food at lunch. There is jai, a combination of food that represents

good fortune. AE/MS jai consists of bamboo shoots, vermicelli, scallion, bok choy, ginger, etc. Chicken is included, as that represents prosperity. Noodles represent longevity and are included as well. In addition, there are fruit and fortune cookies. It is a favorite lunch of many students.

Students are given red envelopes called a lee see or lucky money envelope. In their envelopes, students find Andover Eagle Wings instead of money. Wings are used like money at the AE/MS Eagle Store.

The Chinese New Year is welcomed with open classroom windows so that happiness can come into the school. Bad luck is swept out from the old year and clears the way for good luck.

Gung Hey Fat Choy ... and Happy New Year from AE/MS!

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Order your earth day t-shirt now. Earth Day is April 22nd.
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by Friday, March 16th. Please make checks payable to AEMS.
Money will benefit the end of school curricular activities.

----- Cut Here -----

Earth Day Order Form

Child's Name _____ Homeroom _____
Parent's Name _____ Phone _____
Orders are due Friday, March 16th. Any questions please contact the school.
Cash and Checks Accepted. Please make checks payable to AEMS.

Sizes	Price and Quantity	Amount
	Short sleeves	
Child S (6-10)	\$8.00	
Child M (10-12)	\$8.00	
Child L (14-16)	\$8.00	
Adult Small	\$9.00	
Adult Medium	\$9.00	
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Adult X-Large	\$9.00	
Adult 2X	\$12.00	
Adult 3X	\$12.00	
Totals	<u>Total Short Sleeves</u>	<u>Total Price</u>

Order Due Friday, March 16th Color of shirt is light blue.

Renewed Interest In Andover Community Park and Playground

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

Recess is over, and it is time to get back to work.

We have enjoyed our Community Park and Playground for several years. Now it is time for us to collectively plan renewal efforts on the school grounds.

Some of the playground equipment is beginning to show its age. We have annually replaced and repaired small components over the years. We continue to replace and refill the wood chip surface area, do safety inspections, and sand and paint over graffiti. We have also added games to the blacktop surface.

In 1999, a design was drawn up by landscape architect Bill Hoffman that outlined the three phases of the Andover Community Park and Playground. This original design is framed and hangs in the primary hallway near the school office if you are interested in viewing it.

Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the original plan were successfully completed. Those phases included the playground area and the skate park. Phase 3 called for the development of an amphitheater near the Andover After School Pro-

gram. The amphitheater was planned to take advantage of the natural sloping of the land for seating, with a stage below. The stage could be used for outdoor concerts, community gatherings, Fourth of July events, classroom presentations, plays, readings, etc.

Student members of the AE/MS Long Range Planning Committee have officially joined forces with the Andover PTO and AE/MS school administration to take on the challenge of designing, repairing/replacing, and fundraising. However, this will become a community-wide project as it takes shape. Phases 1 and 2 would never have been successful without the involvement of many groups and individuals. We would love ideas and involvement from the community.

The fundraising efforts have already begun, as all money earned through Box Tops for Education is going into the Andover Community Park fund. The box tops are coming in at record speed and in record numbers. We are also seeking grant opportunities. There will also be many fundraising raffles, bake sales, etc. over the next few months.



My second grade class wrote their final drafts of "How to Make a Peanut Butter Jelly Sandwich" on Monday, January 30. They had attempted first drafts the previous Thursday, but only one child succeeded in writing directions to get the lid of the jelly jar open. It was hilarious, but writing sequential step-by-step directions is very hard! Pictured above: Madison Colby, Michael Miller, and Tyler Champagne, with Sierra Provost in the background. Pictured below: Every child was finally successful in making a sandwich. Back: Madison Colby, Michael Miller, Tyler Champagne, Fenn Davis, Jesse Niemyer, Bryson Cate, Sierra Provost, Logan Smith, Sophia Reynolds, Sasha Mackenzie. Front: Cassidy Piroso, Lily Menard, Brynne Makechnie, Lilly Carlson. Photos and caption: Gretchen Hildebrand



SCHOOL MATTERS!

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

QuickBooks Volunteer Wanted

The *Beacon* needs a volunteer to help with our everyday bookkeeping chores. If you'd like to learn QuickBooks, we're happy to train you.

For more info, call Charlie at 735-6099.



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Heather Jewett gave Ryelle Jenifer a lesson on the spinning wheel at AE/MS
Photos: Molly Kidane

SHARE Day Is May 18

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

See How Arts Reach Everyone (SHARE) Day is coming to AE/MS on Friday, May 18th! SHARE Day is an annual tradition that over the years has become a favorite part of spring in Andover. It is a true community day!

This exciting day brings local artists, craftspeople, and musicians into the school to share their wealth of talents with AE/MS students. All students, kindergarten through eighth grade, benefit from SHARE Day.

Workshop content and format varies according to grade level. The morning is filled with workshops, and then, after a picnic lunch, there is entertainment, and the students have the opportunity to share with others what they made. Student groups often perform and share dances, songs, karate moves, drumming, or even walking on stilts they made.

SHARE Day depends on community involvement. Please consider offering a workshop, assisting with a workshop, or providing general help with the day. It is a great day, and it is lots of fun to be in the midst of the creative energy and enthusiasm.

Contact Gisela Darling at 735-5681 or Jane Slayton at 735-5494 if you are interested in helping or just learning

more about it.

Below is a sampling of past workshop offerings. Of course, we are always open to new ideas!

- Archery
- Bird Feeders
- Cake Decorating
- Karate
- Mosaic Tiles
- Photography
- Mural Painting
- Horses
- First Aid
- Dancing
- Fencing
- Mountain Biking
- New Hampshire Animals
- Quilting
- Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse
- Puppet Making
- Theatre Games
- Wire Sculpture
- Fly Tying and Fly Fishing
- Sewing
- Soap Making
- Golf
- Auto Detailing
- Stained Glass
- Lacrosse
- Poetry
- Woodworking
- Drumming
- Baking

Colonial Craft Day At AE/MS

By Ethan Davis and Caleb Chevie
AE/MS Fourth Grade

Mrs. Kidane's fourth graders went back in time to Jamestown in the 1700s to make some colonial crafts of that time. The craft projects were tin punching, spinning, knitting, baking, and rug braiding.

Students who did tin punching used hammers and nails to make designs on tin cans filled with ice. When the ice melted, a candle would light up the design. Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Ms. McMahon helped out with this activity.

Colonial time travelers used real spinning wheels to turn wool into yarn. Students found it hard to do until they got the hang of it.

In rug braiding, students took three scraps of fabric and braided them together to make a pot holder. Mrs. Gagne and her Andover Knitting Club friends – the Wool Wizards – helped with these two activities.

The last project was baking Johnny-cakes with homemade butter. Johnny-cakes are corn meal cakes which Jamestown colonists took with them when

they traveled.

These craft activities were fun and educational. We would like to thank the volunteers for participating in Colonial Craft Days. We really felt like we were in Jamestown that day.



Caleb Chevarie and Cyrus King punched decorative patterns into their tin lanterns.

BEACON DEADLINE: THE 15TH!

Do You Have EXTRA EGGS From Your Hens?
Donate them to the ANDOVER FOOD PANTRY
Bring them in to the basement of the Town Hall anytime the building is open.
Empty egg cartons needed, too!

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.

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Spirit Week at AE/MS started off with a bang! Laura Witt is dressed as a kid, and Joanne Young is Chef Boyardee.

Photo and caption: Michael Wiley

MVHS Honor Roll

2011-2012 - Second Term • Andover Students

2012 • Honors

- Danielle Adams
- Chantal Caron
- Edie Corey
- Savanna Donovan
- Adam Ellis
- Elise Goodwin
- Ashley Lamson
- Joseph Rego
- Jonathon Wagner
- Kyle Wiley

2013 • High Honors

- Alexis King
- Mariah Lansdown-Howard
- Kristi Perreault

2013 • Honors

- Jason Ashburn
- Ethan Barton
- Stephanie Croteau
- Jenna Davis
- Marissa Laro
- Daiquiri Przybyla

2014 • High Honors

- Rebekah Stearns

2014 • Honors

- Haley Adams
- Katelyn Ashburn
- Erin Frost
- Emily Lance
- Philemont Ponzi
- Skyler Smith
- Rhiannon White

2015 • High Honors

- Vincent Bolte
- Tia Hoyt

2015 • Honors

- Nicole Barton
- Austin Hawks
- Alyson Mullett
- Shelby Perreault
- Elijah Shedd
- Nicholas Terwilliger
- Hannah Veinotte
- Fiona White
- Amy Wittel

Proctor Receives Sail Training Program Of The Year Award

By Susan Hodder

Ocean Classroom Foundation

The Ocean Classroom high school semester at sea program, accredited by Proctor Academy, has been named the Sail Training Program of the Year by Tall Ships America. The award was presented at the Tall Ships America Annual Conference in Newport, Rhode Island on February 1 and was accepted by David Pilla of Proctor Academy and Ocean Classroom founder Alix Thorne.

Proctor Academy and Ocean Classroom Foundation (OCF) began their partnership in 1994. Each year since then, approximately 21 Proctor students have spent their fall semester sailing a schooner from New England to the Caribbean as part of Ocean Classroom, putting into practice experiential education at its most intense.

Each spring, 21 students from a variety of public and private schools all over the US mirror that voyage in the OCF Discovery semester program, beginning in the Caribbean in late January and ending in a northeastern port in late May. Every moment of each voyage is a hands-on learning experience, fraught with physical and emotional challenges.

“Ocean Classroom is one of the most successful programs of its kind,” says Tall Ships America Executive Director Bert Rogers. “Students not only complete a rigorous academic course load, they do so while learning to sail an historical schooner over 2,000 nautical miles, experiencing many different coastal environments and cultures along the way. But their greatest accomplishment is unquestionably the confidence, leadership, and strength of character that is brought about by meeting the challenges of extended voyaging, traits

evidenced by every OCF graduate.”

“Our students learn to live by three critical priorities: Ship, Shipmates, Self,” says Ocean Classroom Director of Education Alyson Graham. “They are completely unplugged from electronic media, which helps cultivate a sense of alert responsiveness that is critical to the safety of everyone aboard. Students from a variety of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds find that their semester at sea experience gives them a much greater sense of their place in the world, something missing from the lives of most teens today. They are able to form close bonds as they learn how to effectively communicate, take responsibility, work as a team, and be proactive individuals living in the moment.”

Ocean Classroom’s current Discovery High School Semester at Sea program departed from St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, on January 26 with a full complement of students from all over the United States, including Minnesota, Maryland, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Florida, and Maine. These students will spend four months studying, working, and living aboard the schooner *Harvey Gamage* before arriving in Boston on May 20. Ocean Classroom is presently accepting applications for the 2013 Discovery spring semester at sea and for this summer’s one- and two-week Seafaring Adventure Camps for ages 12 to 18.

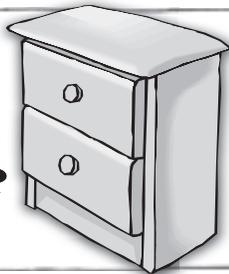
The Ocean Classroom Foundation’s Annual Appeal is underway, seeking donations of all sizes to provide scholarships to enable participation for students of lesser means and to support capital improvements to its fleet of historic vessels. For more information or to make a donation, please call 1-800-724-SAIL, or visit OceanClassroom.org.

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Andover Girls Softball

AGS press release

Andover Girls Softball will be having a softball clinic at Proctor Academy on Saturday, March 10, from 9 AM to 4 PM. Look on Facebook for more information and for flyers.

Softball sign ups will be held at the Andover Elementary/Middle School lobby on Tuesday, March 6, and Thursday, March 8, from 5 to 6:30 PM. All girls are welcome, even if you're not from Andover.

We also are looking to fill some positions on the AGS board, including vice-president and parent representatives. The board meets once a month from February through July. We have lots of fun and could use some new faces.

For more information, contact AGS president Melissa Thompson at TMells-sa68@yahoo.com. 

News from page 48

your thoughts with Andover Recreation Committee members; Marj Roy, the Town administrator; or Ellie George, a Recreation Committee member with long-time involvement in ski program. The Town generously supports this program financially.

Our seventh and eighth grade basketball teams will end their seasons before the February vacation. The successful season will culminate with a Parent/Student basketball game, a banquet, and awards. Students are already talking about the upcoming track season in the spring.

The third trimester marking period begins on March 12. Report cards will be sent home with students on March 23.

One of our best evenings at AE/MS is coming up on Thursday, April 12 – Poetry Night! Students in grades one to eight choose poetry that interests them within the guidelines for their grade and then work on memorizing to prepare for recitations. All students benefit from this experience.

Our library has an abundance of poetry books so that students have a wide variety of choices. Poetry is a big part of the curriculum in all grades, and it is nice to have this annual opportunity to celebrate it together.

The annual School District Meeting is on Monday, March 5, at 7 PM in the AE/MS gym. It is at this meeting that the 2012-2013 school budget is voted upon. You must be present to vote.

The only new addition to the school budget is a world language teacher for the upper grades. It is important for our students to have some French or Spanish background before high school.

Keep those Box Tops for Education coming in! The participation keeps growing. One day this week we collected \$30 worth! Some students are very enthusiastic and have all their family members contributing. The money is quickly adding up, and 100% of it is going toward new playground equipment. We collect Box Tops for Education year round. You would be surprised how quickly those 10 cent-box tops add up!

We are already thinking about the 2012-2013 school year. The school calendar for next year has been finalized by the Andover School Board and has been sent home to school families.

Transportation is being examined and updated for the 2012-2013 school

year. Future needs are being anticipated. The Andover School Board, administration, First Student manager Alison Jones, and bus drivers are studying the present bus routes and looking ahead to future needs of our students.

Keeping safety first and foremost, we want to be sure we are providing the most efficient and economical system possible. I do anticipate changes for next year. Transportation discussion will be a regular agenda item beginning in March at meetings of the Andover School Board.

SHARE Day is Friday, May 18. Please consider offering a workshop or helping out in a general manner to be part of the fun. This is a real community event that involves many Andover residents, Proctor Academy teachers, AE/MS teachers, and students. Give me or Gisela Darling a call for more information. Consider joining us for a spirited and productive community day.

We are looking for members of the 2012-2013 kindergarten class. If you know of any children who will be five years old on or before September 30, 2012, please send them our way. I understand it will be a large class.

We have set a date of Wednesday, April 11, for Kindergarten Registration. The following Wednesday, April 18, is also reserved for Kindergarten Registration if we are not able to accommodate the large number of students on April 11.

As always, our halls are filled with incredible student art work. When you are in the building during March for School District Meeting and Town Meeting, please peruse the halls and enjoy the various fine art displays. 



Little Caesars
pizza! pizza!
 Fundraiser for AE/MS
EIGHTH GRADE
YEAR-END TRIP!
 Orders accepted through
 Tuesday, March 20.
 Pizza kits will be delivered on
 Thursday, March 29.
 See your local 8th grader or call
 AE/MS at 735-5494.
 Thank you for your support!



The AE/MS second grade staged a heart-healthy restaurant. Above: Colby Jones enjoys a fresh fruit kabob. Wesley Kozial is in the background.
 Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand

Language from page 48

Advanced Spanish course offered after Spanish III. German is also offered at MVHS after students have successfully completed two years of another foreign language. Most universities and colleges require a two- or three-year sequence of a foreign language to satisfy entrance requirements.

Language One Day Per Week

The proposed 2012-2013 Andover school budget includes enough to fund a teacher of world language for the equivalent of one day per week. Our sixth, sev-

enth, and eighth grade students would be the primary target for second language instruction. There would also be opportunities for the fourth and fifth grades to receive second language instruction.

At this point we don't know if we will be offering French, Spanish, or both. If the budget is approved, it will then depend on the job market and availability of teaching candidates.

Please come and support the school budget on Monday, March 5, at 7 PM at AE/MS.

You must be present in order to vote on the budget. 

Kids like *Molly* need families like yours.



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The **Andover Beacon**
Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com March 2012 735-6099



Back: Sophia Reynolds, Tyler Champagne, Logan Smith, River Turnbull, Fenn Davis, Sasha Mackenzie, Tyler French, Jesse Niemyer, Wesley Kozial, Aurora Pryzbyla, Breanna Fredette, Joey Upton, Damien Fuller, Brenden Miller, Bryson Cate. Front: Aaron Weeks, Cassidy Piroso, Dana Buswell, Anastacia Mariner, Brynne Makechnie, Lily Menard, Lilly Carlson, Julianna Baptiste, Colby Jones, Adam Barry, Jeremy Johnson, Shannen O'Donnell, Rylee Sweeney, Garrett Niemyer. Featured: Mr. Jensen in Strawberry Shortcake apron and heart antennae. Photo: Gretchen Hildebrand



AE/MS students Aiden Cox, Finn Weber, Sophia Weber, Katelyn Barton, Hannah French, and Kathryn Thompson enjoy a ski afternoon at Ragged Mountain. Photos: Melissa Barton

AE/MS NEWS

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

We are still waiting for snow. Winter recesses have been unusual this year with the lack of snow and having to deal with ice and even mud at times.

February was a very busy month at AE/MS. Primary students celebrated Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, and the 100th Day of School. The older students were involved in the Chinese New Year and participated in an essay contest connected with President's Day. These activities, of course, were in addition to their regular academic assignments.

Action planning and implementation of the AE/MS Long Range Plan continue. Two graduate level courses will be brought on-site for teachers this winter and spring.

The Andover Lions Club is sponsoring a "Citizen and Patriotism" essay contest for students in grades 5 through 8. The theme is the American Flag.

The Lions are generously awarding a \$50 savings bond for each grade-level winner. The students will complete their essays on President's Day, and winner will be announced next month.

Those who have visited school have probably noticed the 12-foot-high fluorescent orange stakes surrounding all our raised garden beds in the courtyard area. It has looked a bit ridiculous this winter, though, as we can still see the soil. Last

year we had to do some rebuilding in the garden and didn't want to risk that again.

Watch for the call for volunteers to help us add to our garden area as we prepare for a bounty of healthy vegetables to enhance school lunches.



AE/MS students Tori Braley and Sadie Barton enjoy a ski afternoon at Ragged Mountain.

We are appreciative to the Town of Andover, Proctor Academy, and lots of volunteers for making skiing, snowboarding, and skating available for the school community. Another successful season has just been completed.

The ski program is run by the Andover Recreation Committee. They would love to hear feedback and suggestions for the program, so please share

See News on page 47

Valentine's Heart-Healthy Restaurant

By Gretchen Hildebrand
AE/MS second grade teacher

AE/MS second graders had their annual Heart Healthy Valentine's Day Restaurant, and it was a *huge* success! Some new culinary highlights were strawberry sushi, avocado and chicken salad sandwiches, and healthy morning muffins.

Of course, we had our highly popular standbys, among them ants on a log, shrimp cocktail, banana bread, fruit kabobs, mixed green salad, and much, much more.

This year's third graders (who had been last year's servers) were the first to attend the restaurant, and many teachers and honored guests (including our retired Mrs. Pellegrino and Mrs. Jurta) were served as well.

The final report was: delicious food, very full stomachs, very tired second graders, and a whopping \$181.61 donation to the Andover Food Pantry.

AE/MS Hopes To Add World Language Curriculum

By Jane Slayton
AE/MS principal

Included in the school budget that will go before Andover voters at the School District Meeting on Monday, March 5, is the amount needed to fund a part-time teacher of French and/or Spanish for the 2012-2013 school year.

Students today are growing up in a global society. Competition for business and other jobs is increasing. Students in other nations have been required to take additional languages for many years. Our children need to be prepared for the future.

Former US Secretary of Education Rod Paige summed it up nicely when he said, "World language instruction should be part of every child's education. A language is more than sounds and syntax. It is a culture, a way of thinking, and a perspective on the world. The study of language is the study of life, literature, history, and thought. It is nothing less than the study of our world and ourselves."

The Andover Disadvantage

When they get to Merrimack Valley High School, Andover students are at a disadvantage when it comes to learning a second language. All of the other schools in SAU #46 – including Webster, Salisbury, Loudon, Penacook, and Boscawen – begin a second language in kindergarten. Students in these elementary schools are exposed to both Spanish and French on a rotating semester basis.

Those schools all feed into Merrimack Valley Middle School, where students in sixth grade are enrolled in a flex course in which they are exposed to both French and Spanish. In seventh and eighth grade at MVMS, students have their choice of Spanish or French. Then at the high school level, both French and Spanish are offered.

Students at Merrimack Valley High School can go through French V and take AP French. There is currently an

See Language on page 47



MVHS senior Danielle Adams has chosen Zumba as her senior project. Charity work is also a big part of her life. She is currently the president of the MVHS Key Club, a charity club, and has been an active member since her freshman year.

Danielle decided to team up with Michelle Keezer to have a Zumba for Cans fundraiser. She raised \$79 and filled up three big boxes of food for the Andover Food Pantry. She would like to thank everyone who participated and donated.

Photo and caption: Diane Adams