



Steve Darling (far right) shows visitors the solar hot-water array he built in his Bridge Street back yard. Photos: Larry Chase

Energy Awareness Day: Spend Time, Save Money

By Larry Chase
Andover Energy Group

Got a couple of free hours this Saturday? The time you spend could save you hundreds – maybe even thousands – of dollars in future



The Johnson family's Tucker Mountain strawbale home. The interior contains a "truth window," a section of wall left unfinished to show that the construction actually uses straw bales. Photo: Larry Chase

energy costs and help ease the nation's dependency on fossil fuels.

Andover Energy Awareness Day will take place on Saturday, November 3, from 11 AM to 3 PM.

Plan to visit a few of your Andover neighbors who have invested in alternative-energy sources and energy-efficiency projects and learn what they've done, how they did it, what it cost, and how they're benefiting.

Or drop by the Town Hall parking lot and have a look at an array of fuel-

efficient vehicles, including several of the newest vehicles from Toyota, Ford, Honda, and Hyundai, being brought to Andover by the Grappone Automotive Group of Concord. While you're there, grab a cup of coffee and a doughnut in the Town Hall meeting room, pick up some literature on energy-saving products and projects, and watch a slide show about a local geothermal energy installation.

Or pay a visit to building-materials supplier RP Johnson and Son at 10 Mill Road and have a look at a special one-day display of products and tools that can help you reduce your home heating bill this winter.

The line-up of participants, and what they'll be showcasing:

- Solar hot-water installation: Mary Anne Broshek, 76 Shaw Hill Road
- High-efficiency propane furnace: Highland Lake Inn, 32 Maple Street
- Solar hot-water installation: Steve and Gisela Darling, 206 Bridge Street
- Geothermal heating and cooling (slide show): Town Hall meeting room
- Solar electricity and hot water: Bart and Liz Green, 140 Maple Street
- Strawbale house: Heide and Eric Johnson, 224 Tucker Mountain Road
- Solar electricity and hot water, bio-

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Recycling Committee Plans December 1 Holiday Swap

By Janet Moore and Robin Boynton
Co-Chairs, Holiday Swap Shop

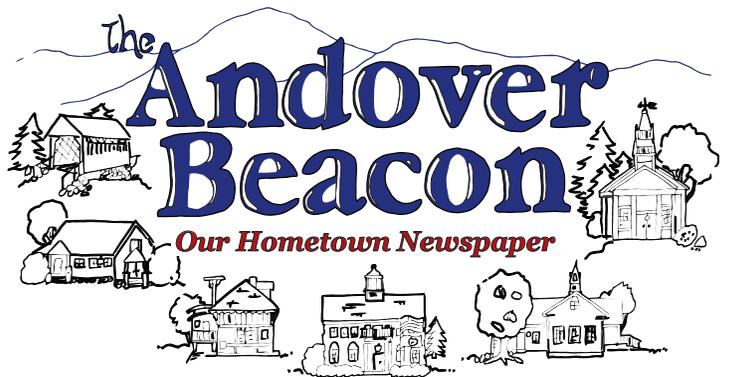
The annual Holiday Swap Shop/Gift Exchange will be held on Saturday, December 1, in the AE/MS gym from approximately 8:30 AM to 2 PM. Items for the Exchange may be dropped off at the school in the main lobby on Friday, November 30, or you may bring them in the morning of December 1.

This is not an ordinary swap shop, like the ones held at the Transfer Station throughout the warm months. The purpose is to share "gift ready" items with those who may truly need them for their holiday giving.

Please consider donating items such as clothes, toys, household goods, holiday decorations, sports and athletic equipment, all gently used and in good shape. Think of the joy you experience in giving, and pass on that joy so that someone else may give. Think of this day as an opportunity to make a difference.

We will also have a donation jar if you would like to drop off a few dollars, which will then be turned over to the Andover Food Pantry.

We thank you, and the goodness of everyone in this wonderful town, for this opportunity to spread joy. 



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Legislature Drops \$62,000 Bomb On Andover School District

By Bill Bardsley
Andover Budget Committee

The state cut its contribution to the New Hampshire Retirement System, leaving \$62,000 to be paid by the Andover School District for the 2011-2012 fiscal year that just ended June 30. This action was reported to the Andover Budget Committee at an October joint meeting with the Andover School Board and SAU administrators. The \$62,000 was added money the School District had to pay into the retirement system trust fund for its teachers and staff after the legislature dropped the state's contribution from 2.8% the prior year to zero for 2011-2012.

The district had to cover this 2.8% plus a dictated increased payment for teachers from 10.7% to 11.3%. None of this was known to the Andover School Board (or any other school board in the state) until June 29, 2012, one day before the end of the fiscal year and more than 15 months after the budget involved had been approved at the March 2011 School District Meeting.

Happily, in Andover there were big savings in last year's school expenses because of the easy winter, which cut maintenance costs at AE/MS, and fewer tuition students than had been projected at Merrimack Valley High
See \$62,000 on page 5

ANDOVER PROPERTY TAX BILLS

As this issue of the *Beacon* went to press, Andover Tax Collector Joanna Summer wasn't sure exactly when the 2012 property tax bills would go in the mail. The problem stems from the state being very slow this year in setting each town's tax rate, due to budget cuts and staff reductions in the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA).

Based on the latest information from DRA, Joanna expects tax bills to be mailed by mid-November, with payment due by mid-December.



Peter Zak looks on as Norah Carlson picks an apple. The AE/MS first graders visited and picked apples at Highland Lake Apple Farm, where Peter Zak and Mary Lloyd-Evans encouraged the children to pick two bushels of apples, which they brought back to school to make apple crisp for everyone!
Photo: Jennifer Bent

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