



## Andover Tax Rates For 2012 Down Slightly

By Ed Hiller  
For the Beacon

The tax rates for Andover for 2012 have been finalized and the tax bills will be in our mailboxes shortly. These bills show a slight decrease over last year. The components of the tax rate are shown in the tables that accompany this article.

The tax bill for a typical property assessed at \$200,000 will be approximately \$3,700 in 2012, down from last year by about \$60.

### Andover School Taxes

The 2012 annual School District Meeting voted to appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$4.35 million. This appropriation is an increase over the 2011 appropriation of \$4.32 million by approximately \$33,500.

In spite of the loss of \$62,000 of State support for the New Hampshire Retirement System (see the November 2012 Beacon article), there were sufficient budget savings resulting from an easy heating year and reduced high school tuition costs to be able to return an unexpended surplus of approximately \$165,000. After accounting for offsetting revenues, including the New Hampshire Education Grant of \$822,697, the amount to be raised by taxes for 2012 is \$3.190 million, down from last year's amount of \$3.298 million by approximately \$108,000.

The State component of the School tax rate for 2012 becomes \$2.13 per \$1,000 of assessed property value; the Town component of the School tax rate becomes \$9.89, for a total of \$12.02.

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## Beacon Launches News Web Site For Andover

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon staff

The biggest dent in the Beacon's value to the Andover community has always been that it only appears once a month. We've finally solved that problem with a totally new Web site at AndoverBeacon.com. As news arrives at the Beacon's office throughout the month, it will be posted to AndoverBeacon.com as fast as our volunteers can "get a round tuit."

As each new month rolls around, we'll still assemble "All the News That Fits" into the print edition of *The Andover Beacon*, just as we have for the past eight years. The print edition will still be mailed to every Andover address at no charge.

The new Web site doesn't replace the print edition – it simply picks up the slack that the print edition, by its very nature, has always left in the community.

### Two Big Advantages For The Community

The new AndoverBeacon.com has two important advantages for the community. See Web Site on page 2




The Andover Fire Department held its annual poinsettia sale on November 17 and again on November 24 to raise funds for the department.

Photo: Charlie Darling

## Andover Fire Departments To Combine On January 1

By Rene Lefebvre  
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

This is the last article I will write as the East Andover Fire Chief. As of January 1, we will be one department in Andover, and my current position will retire. I must admit that after 30 years as chief in East Andover, I am a bit melancholy. Serving with the firemen for the people of East Andover has been one of my proudest accomplishments. For that opportunity I thank the East Andover firemen and the people

we protect. The trust you have placed in me is humbling. Thank you.

Now we are ready to move forward. I have accepted the position of Fire Chief in the combined Andover fire department and very much look forward to the challenges we will face working with an absolutely super team of firemen.

We experienced an unusual event during the super storm in late October. That event in our community was

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## New Street Lights Are Brightening Main Street

New LEDs are brighter, cost the Town less to run

By Vicky Mishcon  
Andover Energy Group

Two new LED streetlights are shining on Main Street in Andover, with more to come. The LEDs give brighter light at less cost and last significantly longer. This should be good news for drivers and pedestrians, who have been complaining for years about the quality of lighting along Main Street in front of Proctor Academy.

And it's no wonder they've been complaining. The current types of

lighting – high-pressure sodium (HPS) and mercury – get dimmer over time, but the utility companies usually wait until a bulb actually fails before replacing it.

The Andover Energy Group has been working with New Hampshire Electric Co-op to improve night-time visibility on Main Street. We have identified seven Town-owned lights between the Town Hall and Proctor's Carr Field that will be changed over to LEDs. These lights were chosen because of the amount of pedestrian traffic in the area after dark.

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