

# Expect To See More Changes in Town Offices

New service windows, new Web site, and more

By Carly Strathdee, *Beacon* intern

The new year brings new and necessary changes to the Andover Town Offices. Improvements to safety via the Department of Labor, adjustments to Town personnel and their hours, and technological upgrades are all in effect. Progress is essential to the Town, and the Board of Selectmen is confident these changes will prove to be valuable.

## Department of Labor

Department of Labor standards have led to three significant changes for the Town, including a generator upgrade, rearrangement of the Town Hall office environment, and reactivation and staffing of the Town Safety Committee.

The Board of Selectmen has created a new line item in the budget for Emergency Management Services. The allocated funds will be used to purchase a generator for the Town Hall. The current portable generator is stored in the Town Hall basement and has to be dragged outside, started, and plugged in before it can be used. The new generator will be housed outdoors on a concrete pad and will feature automatic turn-on in order to prevent damage to computers and other electronics.

In an effort to improve and protect the Town Office work environment, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be redesigned, separating the employees and their work stations from the public. The current office door and window will be converted into service windows where all business will be conducted. Lastly, the Town Safety Committee, which oversees Town employee safety issues, will be reactivated and re-staffed in order to fulfill the Town's obligations under law.

## Personnel Changes

After the retirement of Eileen Neville last fall, the Board of Selectmen examined and redefined the position of

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Chuck Houston of Boscawen tackled the project of reconfiguring the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office in the Town Hall. In this photo he is enlarging the small window onto the waiting area so it can become a service window. A second service window will be added in the office door, and those windows will be where you will transact your business.

Photo: Charlie Darling

## Andover Blood Drive Dedicated To Tyler Graf

Proctor 2012 graduate is battling leukemia.

### Press release

Proctor Academy is hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, February 14 from 10 AM to 4 PM, at the Stone Chapel, 204 Main Street, on the Village Green.

This year's drive is dedicated to New London's Tyler Graf, who graduated from Proctor last June. A National Honor Society member and captain of

Proctor's cross-country team, Tyler is on leave from Middlebury College, battling leukemia.

Blood donors will receive a buy-one, get-one-free adult ticket to participating ski areas for downhill, alpine, snowboarding, or Nordic skiing, plus a coupon for a free appetizer or dessert at Chili's Grill and Bar.

Appointments (not required) are accepted online at RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 800-733-2767.

## Mario Ratzki Reports From Concord

Public input welcomed on February 5 at Town Hall

By Mario Ratzki  
New Hampshire House

• Successful bi-partisan rescue of the Newfound School District, thanks to efforts by Senator Forrester (R) and Representative Gary Richards (D).

• Committee assignments: I got Public Works and Highways. David

Karrick got Ways and Means.

I have had many requests from constituents on topics ranging from school board rules to wind farm information to animal rights. Do not hesitate to contact me at MarioRatzki@gmail.com or 735-5440.

I will be available on Tuesday, February 5, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in the meeting room at the Andover Town Hall for my first monthly meeting.

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## Proposed Budgets Up Over 4% for 2013

Loss of surpluses, other offsets could mean 9% tax hike

By Ed Hiller, for the *Beacon*

The Andover Budget Committee has finalized its recommended 2013 budgets. The committee members worked hard to balance requests for increased funding for the School and the Town with the desire to keep the growth in property taxes within manageable limits. The budgets they are recommending are the results of these difficult compromises.

The recommended 2013 school budget is \$4.50 million, up \$145,827 (3.4%) from the 2012 appropriation. The recommended 2013 town budget is \$1.51

million, up \$122,932 (8.9%) from the 2012 net appropriation.

The budgets for the two fire departments are only slightly reduced from those of last year. Assuming that the Merrimack County charge to Andover remains the same this year as last year, the total recommended 2013 budgets will be \$6.84 million, up \$266,314 (4.1%) from the total 2012 net appropriations.

Estimated revenues in 2013 are expected to go down by \$174,319 (primarily from the lack of unexpended surplus from the current 2012-2013 school budget), resulting in a total of \$440,633 in additional taxes to be raised in 2013 compared with 2012. This increased tax

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### Budget Hearing Videos Available

Andover Cable TV 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.

## Beacon's 2013 Fundraising Needs A Boost - From You!

Paper and Web site grow; support dwindles

By Charlie Darling  
*Beacon* staff

It's that time of year again – time for Andover residents, all of whom receive the *Beacon* in their mailbox each month at no charge, to make a voluntary contribution to help keep the *Beacon* going.

The *Andover Beacon* is published by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a 501(c)(3) public charitable trust. We rely on voluntary dona-

tions for about a third of the *Beacon's* annual operating expenses.

Other than a salary for me and commissions for our ad salespeople, the *Beacon* and AndoverBeacon.com are produced entirely by volunteers. But it still takes a budget of over \$70,000 a year to bring the *Beacon* to every mailbox in Andover every month at no charge, and to make everything that's in the paper (and much more) available at AndoverBeacon.com at no charge.

About two-thirds of our budget is

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