

Selectmen Ponder Plans to Update Six Town Bridges

Volunteer bridge engineer helps plan strategy

By Vicky Mishcon

Andover Board of Selectmen

In August, the Andover Board of Selectmen and the Andover Road Agent had an opportunity to meet with Steve Liakos, retired senior New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge engineer. Steve's work for DOT now involves helping towns by explaining inspection reports and the State Bridge Aid Program and offering advice on bridge projects.

We met with Steve at the Town Hall for about an hour. Steve came with the most recent bridge inspection report, a list of bridges and their structural ratings, and maps showing the location of all of Andover's bridges. Andover is a "bridge rich" community, with a total of 33 state and municipal bridges. Of those, 20 are on Town roads and are the Town's responsibility to maintain.

Steve explained the rating system used by the state DOT and how a bridge becomes "red listed." The rating system goes from 0 to 9, with 0 being "failed" See Bridges on page 2

Andover Democrats Host Presentation on Healthcare Changes

Potluck supper at 6, presentation at 7 PM

Press release

As additional sections of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or Obamacare, are set to take effect in October, area residents may be unsure what impacts these changes may have on their personal medical care, their insurance coverage, etc. On Monday, October 21, at 7 PM, the Andover Democrats will sponsor an informational evening, co-sponsored by the Andover Public Libraries, on what these changes may mean for the average consumer of healthcare in New Hampshire.

Open to the public at no charge, the session will be held in the Andover Elementary/Middle School library, beginning at 7 PM. Those who would like to bring a dish to share are invited to arrive at 6 PM for a potluck supper before the program. The school and library are handicap-accessible.

Topics to be covered will include:

- What's currently happening in New Hampshire with regard to implementation of the ACA,

- Changes to expect in dealing with your medical provider,
- What – if anything – an individual needs to do differently and how to do it,
- What is available if one needs to buy a health insurance policy and how to go about it,
- What programs exist to help those whose income levels make them eligible for financial assistance in paying for insurance,

- Where to find additional information about any aspects of the law.

Discussing the ACA and answering questions will be Donna Toomey of HealthFirst Family Care Center, where she serves as patient advocate and financial counselor, helping patients apply for services. HealthFirst provides primary healthcare in the Twin Rivers and Lakes Regions of New Hampshire, serving 24 rural townships including Andover, Danbury, Salisbury, and Franklin. Ms. Toomey is currently preparing to become a Certified Navigator and Assistant Applicator for the healthcare reform marketplace, which will allow her to help anyone seeking insurance through the new marketplace.



Helen Armstrong was nearly overwhelmed with the bounty at the annual Apple-Fest Weekend at Highland Lake Apple Farm this year. Photo: Mary Lloyd-Evans

The Andover Beacon
Our Hometown Newspaper
Our 5th Anniversary!

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It's up to ALL OF US to HELP KEEP THE BEACON GOING!

Major Fundraising Push Starts on October 7

200 households aren't enough to keep the Beacon going!

The *Andover Beacon's* new fall fundraising campaign gets underway on October 7! That's when our volunteer canvassers will start picking names of Andover residents who haven't donated to the *Beacon* yet this year. If this is the first you're hearing of this new initiative and why it's vital to keeping the *Beacon* going, here's a quick "guided tour" of what's at stake and how you can help.

What's all the fuss about? In brief, we've tried for nine years now to create a stable, sustainable financial plan for the *Beacon*. We're not there yet, and we're running out of time to get there. It appears that the best chance of getting there lies in increasing the number of Andover households who make an annual donation to the *Beacon*. For much more detail on the problem and why we think this is the right solution, see the article on the front page of the September issue or on the *Beacon's* Web site at TinyURL.com/Beacon-All-of-Us.

How does this affect me? If you've already donated to *The Andover Beacon* this year (or if you get a donation to us by Monday, October 7), the fall

fundraising campaign doesn't affect you! Otherwise, one of our volunteer canvassers will probably be contacting you to ask if you would make a donation for 2013 to help keep the *Beacon* going.

What's the goal for this campaign?

Since this is the first time we've had to resort to this approach, we haven't set a specific goal for this year. But the ultimate goal, which it may take a few years to reach, is to increase the number of Andover households that donate each year to the *Beacon* from 200 to about 650. We think that should put the *Beacon* on a stable and sustainable financial footing, so it can continue serving Andover into the indefinite future.

I've got more questions about donating to the Beacon. We've tried to answer every question we could think of at TinyURL.com/Beacon-Donor-FAQ. But if that page doesn't help, please contact me at Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com or 735-6099.



Scan this gizmo on your smartphone to donate now!

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