

This diagram by Horizons Engineering, superimposed over a Google Earth photo of the Andover Transfer Station, shows how four lanes of traffic help each user of the Transfer Station circulate through the facility safely and efficiently. The rightmost two lanes allow you to dispose of trash in the trash hopper. Then circle around the Recycling Building and into the leftmost two lanes to put your recycling into the new single-stream recycling compactor. A concrete barrier separates the two sets of lanes for safety.

## Traffic Pattern Changes at the Transfer Station

New pattern for new equipment, better safety

By Duncan Coolidge  
Board of Selectmen

When you visit the Andover Transfer Station, you will see that some major changes are in progress. You will see a new compactor for recyclables; a new four-lane drive-through pattern, with two lanes for recycling and two for trash; and a new barrier between the recycling lanes and the trash lanes. In addition, there were less obvious changes that were needed to configure it all, such as grading, constructing a platform behind the recycling building,

and relocating a utility pole.

What drives these changes is an effort to keep the cost of handling the town's waste materials as low as possible. In addition, we want to recycle or re-use as much waste material as is reasonable, but the market value, labor expenses, and equipment maintenance must be considered when doing that.

Obviously, swings in the economy affect the market value of recyclables, so our Transfer Station needs to be designed to respond to those changes. Currently, given the low market value of recyclables, sorting and bailing recyclables does not make financial sense.

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## Beacon's First Canvassing Campaign a Success

Marks a significant step toward sustainability

By Charlie Darling, *Beacon* staff

I'm very pleased to announce that our first-ever canvassing campaign for *The Andover Beacon* raised well over \$6,000 and brought to 330 the total number of Andover households who have donated to the *Beacon* this year. That puts us just over half-way to achieving long-term sustainability for the *Beacon*, which we calculate will require about 650 Andover families donating to the *Beacon* every year.

Another hugely important thing we got from this canvassing campaign is compelling insight into fundraising for the *Beacon*. Clearly, just waiting and hoping that people will "get a round tuit" and support the *Beacon* every year simply isn't enough – we've got to put "feet

on the street" and ask each person who hasn't donated yet this year to step up.

We tried that this year ... it worked ... so we'll be back next fall, asking com-



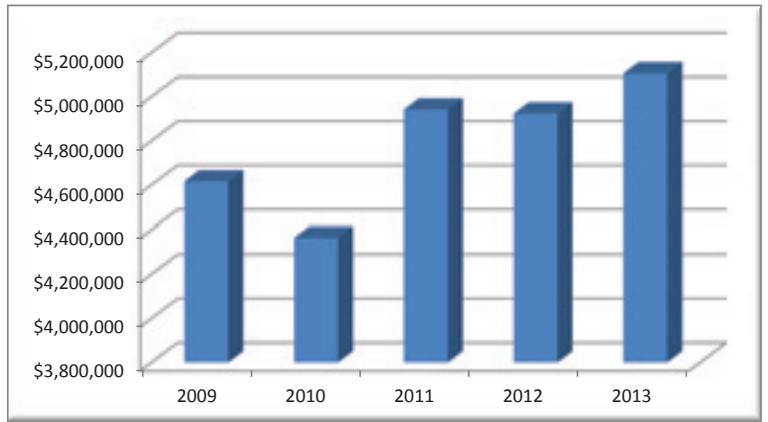
munity members to volunteer as canvassers and contact their friends and neighbors who haven't donated to the *Beacon* yet for 2014.

The money we've raised this year will go to hiring a part-time Production Assistant for the *Beacon* in order to start trimming my hours to something reasonable. Over the next two or three years, as canvassing gets us closer to 650 families donating every year, I hope to increase the salary for my posi-

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To Be Raised by Taxes - Past Five Years				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
\$4,616,373	\$4,363,935	\$4,941,587	\$4,923,500	\$5,105,830
+5.9%	-5.5%	+13.2%	-0.4%	+3.7%



## Andover Tax Rates for 2013 Up 3.9%

School's surplus averts larger increase

By Ed Hiller  
Andover Budget Committee

The tax rates for Andover for 2013 have been finalized – up about 3.9% over last year. A property in the Andover Fire District assessed at \$200,000 will have its tax bill increase from \$3,734 for 2012 to \$3,876 for 2013, an increase of \$142. Similar amounts apply for a property in the East Andover Fire Precinct.

What happened to reduce the gloomy prediction in the April *Beacon* of a 10% increase in taxes for this year? That estimate was based on the significant increase in appropriations voted at the annual meetings (up \$360,461, or 6.2% over the previous year's budgets) and the conservative assumption that there would be no unexpended funds available from the previous year to offset these increased appropriations.

However, at the end of the school's fiscal year on June 30, 2013, the Andover School District reported that they had under-spent their appropriated funds for that year by \$309,095 (approximately 6.7% of their total budget). By statute, that "unexpended surplus" is returned to the Town for the sole purpose of reducing the tax rate.

Major areas of under-spending for the school included Regular Education salaries (\$62,000, due to personnel turnover), High School Tuition (\$89,000, due to overestimating the student population), Special Education expenses (\$71,000, due to overestimating needs), Employee Benefits (\$70,000, due to a wind-fall reduction in charges), Utilities (\$23,000, due to lower fuel oil

### TAX RATES IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

New London	\$15.05
<b>E Andover</b>	<b>\$19.09</b>
<b>Andover</b>	<b>\$19.38</b>
Hill	\$19.39
Wilnot	\$20.79
Webster	\$21.73
Danbury	\$23.44
Sutton	\$23.64
Salisbury	\$24.30
Franklin	\$24.60
Warner	\$26.02
Boscawen	\$27.06

and Legal Expenses (\$13,000, due to fewer unanticipated expenses). Several areas of over-spending, including Repair and Maintenance of \$19,000, brought the net under-spending to the resultant \$309,095.

Budgeting for expenses that are impossible to anticipate is always a diffi-

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Scan this gizmo on your smartphone to donate now!

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