



With many hands and heavy hearts, the firemen of the Andover Fire Department have been building a memorial for Firefighter Jim Graham, who passed away in November of 2013. The department used many donations made in memory of Jim to purchase and install a flag pole at the Andover fire station. A dedication will be held on Sunday, June 8, at 4 PM. Please join us in honoring Jim as we raise the flag for the first time.

Caption: Meaghan Barton. Photo: Jake Johnson

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Town-wide Revaluation Updates All Properties to Market Value

Notice of new property value arrives soon

By Mark Stetson
Avitar Assessment Supervisor

For tax year 2014, all Andover property values will be updated to market value as of April 1, 2014. With the real estate market fluctuating over the past few years, many of you will see your property values decrease; however, some may see them increase. Just because some values decrease, this does not mean that your taxes will decrease.

Taxes are based on the combined budgets for the Town, school and county. The tax rate is determined by taking those budgets divided by the overall value of the Town to arrive at a tax rate that will raise enough money to "pay the bills."

As you may recall, the front page

headline from the April Beacon read "Town Meetings Pass 2014 Budgets – Budgets rise 3.7%; Taxes could rise 10%." Unfortunately, there is no way to determine the impact of the update until after the values are finalized and until after the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) calculates the total amount of money needed to "pay the bills." That process takes place in the fall, usually in October, with the Town's tax rate the end result.

Enough about taxes, let's get back to the update. As part of this process, Avitar assessing staff members have visited every Andover property that sold in the past two years to verify that the physical data is accurate. This is important, as the sale properties become the basis for the new values.

If you have not already received See Revaluation on page 3

Three Beacon Donors Win \$50 Visa Cards

Winners got "A Round Tuit" and donated by May 15

By Charlie Darling, Beacon staff

In 2013, about 350 Andover families donated to the *Beacon* – roughly one-third of the households in town.

So far in 2014, only 138 Andover families have donated in response to the Round Tuit envelope in the February issue of the *Beacon* and the brightly-colored reminder postcard we sent by mail at the end of April.

Hopefully, this article will serve as a crucial reminder to several hundred more families that without significant support every year from a very broad base of Andover households, the *Beacon* can't continue. If you can remember to send your donation soon, we won't have to contact you personally during the canvassing campaign in the fall.

So enough suspense already! It's time to announce the winners of the drawing from those who donated to the *Beacon* by May 15. Drumroll, please

Kathy Bennett ... Lauren Duquette ... Rich and Stephanie Gross – c'mon down! You've won a \$50 Visa card from the *Beacon* for getting "a round tuit" and making your 2014 donation to the *Beacon* by May 15. Please contact the *Beacon* at your convenience.

For everyone else who has sent their 2014 donation, thank you very much! Please "double down" on your support for the *Beacon* and make it a point to urge your friends and neighbors to send their annual donation soon!



The Air National Guard Band of the Northeast performs during Andover's Fourth of July celebration. Article on page 2.

Fourth of July Fireworks Move to July 5 This Year

Same time, same place ... different day

Press release

Important news for Andover's annual Fourth of July celebration! **The fireworks will not be on the Fourth this year** – they will be on Saturday, July 5, at dusk.

Here's the rest of the schedule for Andover's biggest day of the year:

July 3

6:30 PM: Lowering the Flag, Girl Scouts, Village Green

July 4

Parade Theme: *Summertime*

7–10 AM: Andover Lions Club

Pancake Breakfast, AE/MS

8 AM–5 PM: Flea Market, Village Green

8–9 AM: Firecracker 5K Race Registration, Blackwater Park

9 AM: Firecracker 5K Race, Blackwater Park, rain or shine

9–11 AM: Parade Registration, Proctor Field House

9 AM–1 PM: Closest to the Pin Drive, Carr Field

9 AM–1 PM: Road Relics Car Show, Pizza Chef parking lot

10 AM: Opening Ceremonies, Re-

See Fourth on page 3

Changes Needed to Improve the Town Beach

Plan on June 8, work on June 15

By Sophie Viandier, Andover Board of Selectmen

Let's get muddy now so we won't have to get muddy later!

Chaffee Beach is one of Andover's most visited spots in the summer, but recently it has lost a bit of its charm. Join Sophie Viandier on Sunday, June 8, from 1 to 3 PM to design our dream Chaffee Beach. We will look at how to address the drainage, improve the eating area, and make the place beautiful; then we'll implement the project the following Sunday, June 15, from 1 to 5 PM.

Join for whichever session(s) most interest you. We are in need of: townspeople who love the beach, pallets for boardwalks and picnic tables, perennial flowers, litter-pickers, hammers and nails, drills and screws, shovels, rakes, and other implements of creation.

If you have questions, comments, or items to donate, please e-mail Sophie at SGViandier@gmail.com or call 848-0171. Let's bring the beach back to life for the swimming season!

We'll meet at Chaffee Beach for both sessions. The rain location for June 8 is Sophie's house, Pay It Forward Farm, at 1129 Franklin Highway. The rain date for June 15 is Sunday, June 22.

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