



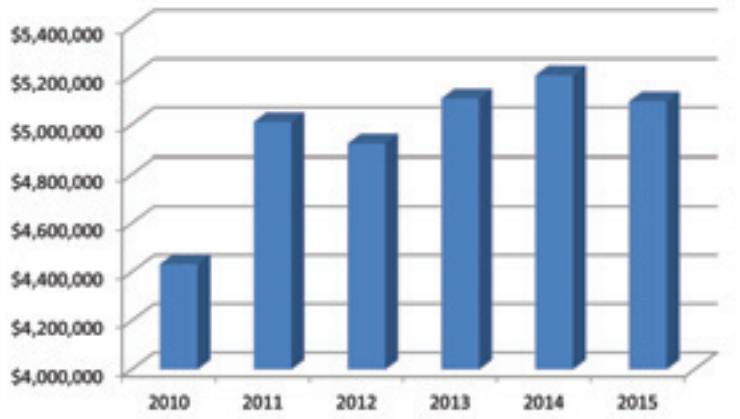
AndoverBeacon.com

Holidays 2015

735-6099

To Be Raised by Taxes - Past Six Years

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
\$4,431,790	\$5,009,718	\$4,921,453	\$5,105,830	\$5,200,882	\$5,093,965



The scale on this graph is offset (doesn't begin at \$0) in order to highlight the small year-to-year differences. Statistically, the five-year trend is close to flat.

Amount to be Raised by Taxes Down 2.1%

Average Andover tax bill drops 2.5%

Ed Hiller, Budget Committee

The amounts to be raised by taxes for Andover for 2015 add up to \$5,093,965. This is a decrease over last year of \$106,917 (2.1%). A small increase in the total town valuation for 2015 resulted in a decrease in the tax rate of 2.5%. The 2015 tax bill for a property valued at \$200,000 will decrease by about \$100.

The amounts of taxes to be raised for 2015 for the various components of Andover are shown in the table on page 3. The total Andover tax burden over the past five years has remained almost flat.

Andover School Taxes

The 2015 annual School District Meeting voted a total appropriation of \$4,774,465, up slightly from the previous year by \$19,912 (0.4%).

An operating budget of \$4,729,465

See Taxes on page 3



The Andover Lions hosted a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at the Town Hall on December 6. Santa arrived by police cruiser with the sirens blaring, much to the excitement of all the gathered kids. With the tree lighted, Lion Jim Goody led those assembled in a rousing round of Christmas carols.

Photo: Charlie Darling



Andover Fire Department Deputy Chief Ellis is silhouetted by the training fires set at the old Cilleyville Bookstore property on November 22.

Photo: Meghan Barton

Andover Fire and EMS Stage a Training Burn in Cilleyville

Franklin, Sutton, Wilmot, Danbury, and Salisbury join in

Rene Lefebvre, AFD Chief

Your fire department recently conducted a training burn. In very simple terms, we burned a building intentionally. Do not try this at home! It takes many permits, reams of forms, and specialized trainers to do a burn legally. From start to finish, the process takes about two months. But for your fire department, it's well worth the effort in training value.

The morning of training day, November 22, starts at 4:30 AM. Equipment and trucks are moved from the East Andover Fire Station to the Andover Fire Station. At 5 AM, all the

towns that are joining us in the training – Franklin, Sutton, Wilmot, Danbury, and Salisbury – gather with us in the Andover Fire Station meeting room for a briefing of the day's activities.

Though the excitement in the room is very high, not a word is spoken as the instructors detail training exercises, safety procedures, and radio channels. For a fire chief, the feeling is somewhere between Christmas morning and a trip to the dentist. A training burn is not unsafe, but it does have lots of smoke and fire and many firemen that fire officers tend to worry about.

The fire ground at the site of the former Cilleyville Bookstore is set up with pre-placed hose lines. Each hose line is

See Burn on page 2

There's Still Time to Support the Beacon in 2015!

Please help us finish strong in 2015

Charlie Darling, Beacon staff

We're wrapping up the *Beacon*'s 2015 fundraising year, but there's still time to do your part! A donation to the *Beacon* is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, so if you haven't donated yet this year, doing so by December 31 would be a good plan.

For the year this far, total donations are up 8% from the total at this point in 2014. To carry that 8% improvement through to the end of this year, we have to receive \$1,675 in donations by December 31. So if you haven't supported



the *Beacon* yet in 2015, please do so in the next few days, before 2015 runs out. Join your friends and neighbors in helping wrap up

this year with strong fundraising results. It will send a powerful message about what the *Beacon* means to the community and what the community is willing to do to help keep it going strong.

If you haven't donated to the *Beacon* yet this year, please don't wait! Use the coupon on page 4 of the current issue, or click the Donate button on any page of AndoverBeacon.com. If you have questions, visit AndoverBeacon.com/DonorFAQ or contact me at Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com or 735-6099.

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