

## How to Get Help If You Need It

**Mary Anne Broshek**  
Former NH Director of Family Assistance

I am writing as a follow-up to Mario Ratzki's comments on page 14 of the September Beacon about getting help when you need it. There is a lot of misinformation out there on welfare programs.

Most of what you see in the media is someone trying to game the system and, yes, some people do that, but the percentage is very small. That, plus the fact that there is a very active quality control and fraud detection effort, keeps errors – overpayments and underpayments – below the 3% and 4% limits.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

The program most people refer to as "welfare" is the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program. In New Hampshire, since 1997, this program is divided into two main parts:

The New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP), where an able-bodied adult receives assistance with the children. There is a 30-hour per week work activity requirement and a five-year time limit.

The Family Assistance program

(FAP), where there is no able-bodied adult receiving assistance. There is no work requirement and no five-year time limit.

FAP is the program Mario referred to when he mentioned the help available for grandparents who are taking care of their grandchildren as a result of the opioid crisis. It allows grandparents or other relatives to afford the additional costs of taking care of the children and keeps the children out of the foster care system. Both a cash grant and Medicaid can be provided.

As of July 31, there were 870 NHEP cases and 1,421 FAP cases. The term "case" means the family unit of adult and children who are receiving assistance.

An easy way to see if you are eligible for the many types of public assistance available for seniors, families, disabled individuals, children, and other low-income individuals is via computer. Visit [NHeasy.NH.gov](http://NHeasy.NH.gov), then click "Do I qualify?" After you enter information, the system will let you know if you are potentially eligible for all of the programs you might qualify for and will tell you what to do next.

## Andover's Fourth of July Committee Sends Christmas Wishes

The Andover Fourth of July Committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Although it's cold outside now, move a little closer to your woodstove and you will begin to feel the heat that we all enjoy on the Fourth of July. Just look outside at 4 PM this afternoon and it will be dark enough for fireworks.

By now, many of you have been contacted by a Fourth of July Committee member with the intent of encouraging you to enter a float in the upcoming, 75-year anniversary parade. In the next month or two, last year's parade participants will be receiving letters with registration forms in the hope that you will pre-register your float or entry. Pre-registering assists the parade line up team with a more organized line up process. As a reminder, the theme is: Remember When? 1942-2017.

As you go to sleep on Christmas Eve, we hope that visions of sugar plums and parade float ideas will be dancing in your head! We, the Fourth of July Committee, have a great time together putting on the Fourth of July celebration for everyone to enjoy. If you are interested in contributing in any capacity, large or small, or entering a float, please contact one of us: Doug Phelps, 802-310-1045; Donna French, 735-6131; Bob Ward, 735-5061; Beth Frost, 735-5562.

Just like surprises are a part of opening Christmas gifts, the committee has surprises in store for the 75th Andover Fourth of July celebration. Happy New Year to all and to all a good night!

## Wanted: Candidates for Town Boards and Committees

**Dennis Fenton**  
Andover Board of Selectmen (retired)

*Dennis Fenton, a long-time member of the Board of Selectmen, wrote these words in 2009 when he decided to retire from the Board. With his permission, we're re-running this to encourage people to consider becoming a candidate.*

First, the fact that you are busy is not a legitimate excuse! Everyone can use that one, but it's the town's well-being that is at stake, so we all have to find time to do the things that are really important to us.

What background should you have to run for a Town office? There's no one right answer to that question. George Upton, for example, took an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen before the moving van was completely unloaded when he came to Andover. He went on to win re-election. George only had on-the-job training, which is the hard way.

Other Town officers have taken different paths. All these folks had one thing in common – as a part of the community, they wanted to give something back to Andover.

### A Good Candidate

What makes a good candidate? The first item on any candidate's agenda should be what is good for the majority. When a new problem arises, the right solution is not the easy way out, but what serves our town the best.

As a member of a Town board or

committee, you are one of the overseers of our town whose job it is to manage the town's resources and problems. When a vote is taken, be supportive of the majority decision, even if you might like something a little different.

Your main charge is to have needed services provided to the town at a reasonable cost. An important tool available to you in pursuit of that goal is the Budget Committee. Their job is to review all budgets in town and present the budget to be voted on at Town Meeting, School District Meeting, and the meetings of the various precincts.

The Budget Committee takes the prejudice out of an individual budget as they look at the big picture. It is important that we all, boards and citizens, listen very closely to the story they tell each year as they attempt to keep our tax rate at a manageable level.

### Share Your Talents

To all you good folks out there: You are not too busy to make a commitment to share your many talents. Being a member of a Town board or committee is not a thankless job. People appreciate your willingness to serve, and you will be surprised how many times you are told this.

I don't know who will sign up, but you are out there. This is for your town. It is all worthwhile. Good luck!

*The filing dates for candidates to file with the Town Clerk are Wednesday, January 25, through Friday, February 3.*



**TOWN of ANDOVER**  
**Budget Committee**  
**Public Hearings**

- **Andover School Budget**  
January 4, 7 PM
- **Petitioned Warrant Articles**  
February 1, (if needed)

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**Aleksandra Stark, MD**  
A member of New London Hospital's wellness team

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