



## Would like to say "THANK YOU, CHARLIE" for your years of service to our community!

### Memories and Tributes to Charlie

From your friends at the Andover Community Association, a sincere thank you for forgiving all our missed deadlines, and for always finding space for our articles, photos, and ads in the Beacon despite our behavior. Here's hoping the new editor will be just as lenient! Best wishes for your future endeavors, whatever they may be. ~Andover Community Association

For someone who was not born and raised in Andover, Charlie has a passion and dedication for supporting the community he lives in that cannot be matched. Charlie has worked tirelessly to create a newspaper that represents the Andover community, leaving a legacy to continue and flourish long after he retires as editor. For all that you have given, and continue to give Andover, I personally thank you Charlie Darling. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with you on the restoration of the Cilleyville Bog Bridge and *The Andover Beacon*. May you enjoy some well-deserved time off, and best wishes for your next endeavor...whatever that may be. ~Connie Powers

Thank You Charlie for all your efforts to make *The Beacon* such a fantastic local newspaper! ~The Johnson family, Tucker Mountain Road

Charlie was so patient teaching me what I needed to know about the calendar. He set up special programs for my treasurer's report and also for the Fourth of July ads. It has been great fun working with Charlie. I expect I will see him once a month when we do the mailing. Have some fun Charlie. ~Shirley

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Charlie, the impact you've had on our community by heading *The Andover Beacon* cannot be overstated. You have been the modern equivalent of the Town Crier. Thank you for your photos, your constant call for more news from the Town Office, your budget analysis, tax rate articles, and postings of all the meetings and hearings our residents need to know about. On a personal note, thank you for teaching me the concept of "the nugget". Maybe some day I'll be able to write a decent headline, too. You have been a joy to work with. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. ~Vicky Mishcon

Thank you, Charlie, for your many years of hard work and dedication. It's been a pleasure to work with you. We send you all good wishes in the days and years to come. With much appreciation, ~The Hafner Family at Chadwick Funeral Service

I became acquainted with Charlie on the Andover Conservation Commission where he demonstrated traits that have persisted with all of his endeavors. When on the commission, he initiated two projects: a cost analysis for developed versus undeveloped land and the need to protect the Bog Pond area through conservation easements. Although developed land generates more revenue through property taxes, this revenue is offset by town services such as schools, roads, transfer station, emergency services of fire, ambulance, police, and so forth that are unnecessary for undeveloped land; this exercise was a good introduction as to how the town is run. When I mentioned at a meeting that the Fentons were no longer going to publish *The Beacon*, Charlie immediately started to research what was essential for reactivating Andover's newspaper.

Charlie was working remotely for a computer-related company when he became available to become the first part time paid station manager of Andover's public access television station. Both the cable station and *The Beacon* were transitioning from the equivalent of analog to digital. Both were challenges for Charlie's computer expertise. I think it took about a year before Charlie was ready to publish his first edition of *The Beacon*. He carefully implemented setting up a non-profit; recruited a board of directors; and obtained office space, software for electronic publishing, and equipment. He established a format and templates for regular features; obtained many volunteers to submit articles, proofread, take photographs, etc., and he reported and photographed town events. Charlie established financial sustainability through donations and advertising; obtained town wide resident's mailing addresses for distribution, nicely bugged people for regular submissions, mentored volunteers, and oh! so many other things. Although he would modestly defer to the directors, he really was a one man band of ideas and action.

Always mindful of economy and simplification, Charlie expanded his expertise to publish the town report, July 4th program, and assist our town employees. Charlie's mind has always been looking towards the future with rapidly advancing technology. The more needs he saw, the more he took on. No wonder he found that getting someone to replace him was difficult. Finally he has found three people to continue *The Beacon's* tradition of knowing what is going on and keeping us informed on issues facing the town.

Thank you, Charlie, for your dedication, persistence, knowledge, prob-

lem-solving ability, alertness to town doings and issues, and the legacy you leave behind. Andover is fortunate to have you and better for your presence!

~Tina Cotton

Charlie, volunteering for the Beacon has provided me with unexpected positive experiences. Thank you for allowing me to enjoy *The Beacon* journey the past two years. Congratulations on your retirement. ~Sue Winters

After 12 years of being "the greatest one-man show" in Andover, it's time to let him know how much we appreciate all he's done for the Town. He should run for office---he knows everyone in town and they know him! We all have a fantastic impression of his thoroughness, attention to detail, humanity and humility, as well as his good humor, and just a great person to be around. We're all going to miss him at his usual post. Love ya, Charlie! ~Nan Kaplan

Many years ago, out of the blue and quite unexpectedly, I was contacted by Charlie who was rather coy about why he wanted to talk. He stopped by my home one afternoon and said he wanted to talk about the Andover Beacon and the possibility of me joining the Board of Directors. The discussion was as much of an interview as it was having Charlie discuss what the Beacon means to Andover and the role it plays in our community. If anyone has ever had the opportunity to talk with Charlie Darling about the town of Andover, community involvement, volunteerism, or the like you know that he can be very passionate and persuasive. I've never met anyone that can raise your spirit and drive you to want to help out in any way you can as Charlie. Over the years it has become quite apparent that Charlie is a one-man force with which to be reckoned. With the help of volunteers, he resurrected and ran the Beacon almost single handedly, putting in over 80-hour work weeks at times. It is with my most sincere gratitude that I say Thank You to Charlie for everything he has done and I offer my best wishes for a successful and happy future. ~John Kinney

Charlie, thanks for the tireless energy and unending dedication you have shown for our town newspaper. You have built a rallying point for this town which holds the entire community together.

Without your efforts Andover would be just a shell of what it is today. Congratulations on your well-earned retirement! ~Doug Phelps

Thanks, Charlie, for all your hard work making a great newspaper for Andover. I hope you have a fun retirement, you deserve it! ~Vic Phelps

Charlie, I would like to wish you well as you approach retirement. Thank you for the years you have worked so very hard on the Andover Beacon. It has been a pleasure working with you and appreciate your willingness to help as I tried to learn about the process of preparing each month for publication. Good luck and have a great time during your retirement years. ~Jan Brennan

Charlie, these last nine years have passed by so quickly, we have jumped from one issue to the next, always focused on getting out that next paper. I will always remember that I worked with you to help create our community's paper each month. Most people either remember working for someone or under someone's management, not the case with you Charlie, I got to work with you! Few people will hold the treasured memories that I have; memories of working with someone who treated all as his equal, always feeling respected, and always knowing my time and efforts were appreciated. Working with you has been a pleasure for me. ~Suzy Brown

Charlie, learning the ropes from you has been quite an experience. Someone should download the contents of your brain! You'll be missed being around the office on a regular basis, but we all know we'll see you regularly. Just remember the definition of the word "retired". Hint: it means to relax, kick back, and do fun things you haven't had time to do while slaving at the office. Thank you for all the years of dedication to the Andover Community and to *The Beacon*. ~Shelley Geoghegan, The Beacon Bookkeeper

I have three words for you, Charlie!...DON'T LEAVE US!! Seriously, I congratulate you on finally carving out some time for yourself--which you so deserve!! Sending you off with love and admiration! ~Lois Magenau

Charlie, I consider it an honor to have worked alongside you over the past three years on the Andover Beacon Board of Directors. Every small town in America needs someone like you to bring the wonderful stories we are all living to life for the community. Your dedication, commitment, and genuine care for every individual in the Town of Andover is a true gift to all of us. Thank you for your years of service and vision for the impact a little town-wide newspaper could have on building, sustaining, and nurturing a sense of community. Thank you! ~Scott Allenby