

Community Support for the Beacon— A Letter From the Board of Directors

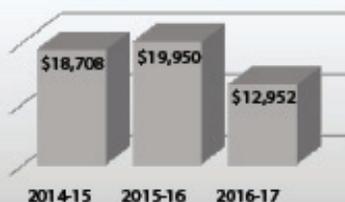
Dear Readers

When we step into a community, like Andover, we must be willing to become citizens of the community, and not simply residents. Citizens come to know, appreciate, and engage in the makeup of community. They know that sustaining community requires understanding the responsibilities of being a part of community, and the need of each individual to give back to community.

The community of Andover is unlike any other we have seen with its disproportionate richness a by-product of so many of you who invest your time, energy, and resource into sustaining it. Whether you are volunteering for the Andover Fire and Rescue squad, helping run the Andover Coffee House, serving on the School Board, Town Budget Committee, helping run a local scout troop, or coaching a youth sports team, your engagement in building this community has never been higher.

The Andover Beacon plays an integral role in tying the various parts of this community together. Whether it is informing voters of issues on the table at Town Meeting, sharing news from our schools, or simply serving as a distribution mechanism for minutes from monthly meetings of organizations in town, the Beacon is our entire town's 'go to' resource for the latest news and information in town. Delivered free to every household in Andover, The Andover Beacon is a true gift to the community of Andover, and an invaluable resource that very few small towns have available to them.

Andover Beacon Giving Trends



Despite feeling as though the Town of Andover is as vibrant as ever, over the past two years, annual donations to the Beacon have decreased from a high in 2015 (\$19,000) to a low over the past year (\$12,952). This trend provides a call to action to each of us who desire to not just be resi-

dents of Andover, but community members. We must each step up and support the Beacon.

As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, the Andover Beacon runs a unique financial model, reliant on both ad sales and charitable donations. Ad sales, on average, account for roughly 60% of operating expenses. The other 40% of costs must be covered through donations. This model is often misunderstood by members of our community who see ads and assume their revenues fully offset costs. With two part-time Sales Representatives, Suzy Brown and Connie Powers, who work diligently to bring in ad sales from local businesses, and a part-time Editor, Steve Foley, and a part-time Publisher, Shelley Geoghegan, the newspaper is run as an incredibly cost efficient operation, with the value added to the community of Andover far exceeding the financial costs required to keep it running. Put bluntly: The Andover Beacon requires charitable donations from the community to operate, and we need your help!

In an effort to revitalize our community's financial backing of the Andover Beacon, we will be mailing a letter to each household in Andover in May asking for you to consider giving whatever you are able to support the Beacon. In the past, this reminder came in the form of the 'A Round Tuit' envelope each February. The goal behind this letter is the same as it has been in the past, and we hope you join us in providing the necessary financial support to keep the Beacon a thriving institution in this town.

Respectfully,

The Andover Beacon Board of Directors

Scott Allenby • Charlie Darling • Nan Kaplan
John Kinney • Doug Phelps

Rabies Clinic

Saturday, April 28 • 1-2 P.M.

Sponsored by The Andover fish and game club

At the Club House in East Andover

Rabies shots provided by Pleasant Lake Veterinary Hospital

Lions Club Food Pantry Closes

Steve Foley

The Andover Food Pantry, which has been operated by the Andover Lions Club since 2006, has been closed, according to Virginia Edwards, the Lions Club president.

The food pantry, which was located in the lower level of the Andover Town Hall, operated for many years with minimal supervision by the club. People from all over the region donated food to the pantry. Hannaford Supermarkets also provided meal boxes and other items. Proctor Academy also regularly provided frozen meals. Others provided fresh eggs, and produce from their own gardens.

Most people took only what they really needed. The Andover Beacon office was located in the room next to the food pantry and the Beacon staff could keep an eye on things. After the Beacon office was moved, there was no longer any supervi-

sion and apparently some people took advantage of that. The shelves were quickly depleted after they were restocked.

In recent months the club decided to lock up the food and have certain hours of operation. Very few people took advantage of what was offered and the club voted at it's last meeting to close the pantry down.

For those who need assistance in obtaining food, there are still options. The Towns of Wilmot, Danbury and Boscawen have pantries. The Twin Rivers interfaith Food Pantry in Franklin serves residents of Andover. Each pantry has different guidelines and policies. Inquiries at your local town office should provide information on what is available for your town.

The Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 2 Central Street, across from Benson Auto Co. in Franklin. For information call: (603) 934-2662.



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