

## Free COVID PCR Test Kits Available to Public at AE/MS

Free antigen tests available at COVIDtests.gov

Beacon staff

Free at-home PCR test kits to detect COVID-19 infections are now available to the community. AE/MS is a community distribution point for these test kits, offered by Vault Medical Services (VMS). Tests are available while supplies last. Samples must be sent back to VMS; results will be returned via email or phone within 48 hours.

Call AE/MS School Nurse Christine

Frost at 603 735-5500, Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM, to arrange to pick up tests for your household.

### Self-Tests for COVID

In addition, each US household can now receive by mail four free COVID-19 at-home tests. These tests are rapid antigen or "self" tests, which can be taken anywhere and give results within 30 minutes.

Visit COVIDtests.gov to order four free antigen tests to be mailed to your household.

## School Budget from page 1

lines. Overall, this is an increase of \$51,082.

Also included in this proposed budget are the voter-approved Collective Bargaining Agreements with the AE/MS unions. Year Two of the Andover Education Association contract is \$45,231, and Year Three of the Andover Education Support Staff contract is \$10,815.

AE/MS has another large eighth grade class that will be moving on to the Merrimack Valley High School. We do expect some of the students will attend high school elsewhere, but this budget plans for 87 students at \$14,000 each to attend high school in Penacook.

The Transportation section of the budget will see an increase in both regular and special transportation costs. In 2022-2023, the district will be in year three of the five-year contract for student transportation with First Student. This contract increases annually. The increase in special education transportation costs is based on the need as we know it now.

As we move (hopefully!) toward the end of this pandemic, the district is seeing increased need to provide critical instruction in regard to health education. Good nutritional, physical, emotional, and mental health are crucial to our student body. This budget proposes

bringing the Physical Education teacher from 80% (four days a week) to 100%. This extra day will allow this teacher to work at each grade level to talk about and to reach new, exciting, and motivating healthy goals.

Understanding and appreciating our responsibility to the taxpayers, I'd like to point out these increases combined are greater than the actual increase to the proposed budget. Through thoughtful conversations, this budget takes advantage of incoming grant funds, the interest payment for debt service lowering annually, and savings that we expect to see from snow removal now being handled by our AE/MS facilities crew.

We continue to see less and less school funding aid from the State, but we remain committed to bringing forward a lean, reasonable, and fair budget to the taxpayers of Andover.

The Andover School Board is proposing a separate warrant article for \$40,000 to be drawn from the 2021-2022 unassigned fund balance to be transferred to the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust. Andover voters have approved two previous transfers of \$30,000 each to be set aside in the trust for eventual replacement of the AE/MS boiler. These additional funds in the trust will position the district to be proactive instead of reactive should the need for replacement of the boiler be imminent.



## WHAT'S UP @ THE HUB!?

157 Main St. Andover, NH

### FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

**Bone Builders:** Strength & balance for seniors, Mondays & Thursdays, 9-10 am

**Coffee, Conversation and Card-playing:** Mondays & Thursdays, 10-11 am

**AARP Tax-Preparation Help:** Wednesdays by appointment. Call 802-332-5065

**Sound Meditation:** Drop in, alternate Mondays (Feb. 7 & 11), 6:30-7:30 pm \$15

**Yoga:** Fridays, 8:30-9:30 am. Drop-in, \$10/session. Taught by Maris Wofsy.

**Ballroom Dance:** 10 weeks beginning Fri. Feb. 11, 7-8 pm. Drop-in, \$10/class.

**Quilting 101:** Sat., Feb 12, 9 am-1 pm. Call 603-491-0826 to register & for details.

**Senior Health Clinic:** Tues. Feb. 15. Call the VNA, 224-4093, ext. 5815, for appt.

**Andover Garden Club:** "Seed Starting." Thur. Feb. 17, 6-8 pm. RSVP required.

**German Conversation:** Feb. 28, 5-6 pm. For more info: Gisela Darling, 735-5681.

**For more information, contact**  
**TheAndoverHub@gmail.com or 603-735-5509**

### THE HUB'S WINTER RAFFLES!

*Thank you*  
to our local donors!

Chris Caron,  
Hub Committee Members,  
Morgan Hill Bookstore, Trail Side Sugar House, Drake's Place & Ragged Mountain!

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DELIVERED WITHIN ANDOVER

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\$20 / 3 tickets

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS & FOR MORE INFO!



Visit the raffle website by scanning the QR code or by going to:  
<https://andovercommunityhub.betterworld.org>

RAFFLES END FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ 8AM | FUNDS BENEFIT THE ANDOVER COMMUNITY HUB

## Subdivision from page 1

permanently protected as designated open space.

Two public hearings were scheduled, on January 4 and January 18. Copies of the current draft ordinance were distributed to attendees. Public input and ideas were encouraged.

The first meeting was especially well attended, with a variety of stakeholders and professionals present, as well as a nearby town's Planning Board and Conservation Commission representative who wanted to learn more about Andover's innovative approach to Conservation Subdivisions.

Andover citizens shared their hopes and concerns with the Planning Board, asked questions, and got more informa-

tion about how this proposed new option for subdivision might help shape Andover's future in positive ways.

A lively discussion of the proposed pros and cons ensued, and some suggestions were made to further improve the details within the ordinance. By the end of the first meeting, all agreed that the concept of Conservation Subdivision is on target to help Andover achieve the vision of the 2011 Master Plan: to control the town's infrastructure costs while protecting Andover's natural beauty, charm, and character as a small New England town.

At the January 18 meeting the Planning Board collected even more valuable feedback from citizens, further sharpening the new ordinance's details to better protect what we all cherish in Andover, yet allow for sensible development in the future. The new ordinance will not replace the current subdivision ordinance, but create an aesthetically and economically attractive alternative to the existing ordinance.

The proposed Conservation Subdivision ordinance will be available at the Town Hall, on the Town of Andover website, and on *The Andover Beacon* website. Andover citizens will have an opportunity to vote on accepting the new ordinance at the polls on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 8.



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## Thank You, Volunteers!