

MORE TOWN REPORTS

Andover One Wheelers

Not many people can say they can ride a unicycle. That percentage goes way up in the town of Andover, where school kids have a unique opportunity to develop the skill. In addition to balance and coordination, Andover One Wheelers develop patience and punctuality. They learn how to order in a restaurant and how to act in airport security. Training and performing as a team, working together towards a common goal, and acting as young ambassadors for Andover provides life skills of incredible value and memories never to be forgotten. AOW's guiding principal is Learning Through Commitment and Travel.

Made up of students of all ages attending Andover Elementary/Middle School, this precision unicycle team has performed in hundreds of parades and demonstrations throughout New England, the United States, and Canada since 1990. Riders begin at weekly Learn-To-Ride practices during the school year. It takes a couple of years to gain the skill and stamina needed to ride several miles nonstop in a parade.

AOW is funded entirely through generous private donations, fund raisers, and appearance fees. The funds pay for an annual trip for Travel Team members. These trips have included performances at Macy's and the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC. They have also been to Pennsylvania, Maine, Arizona, West Virginia, California, and the Bahamas. Interested parties may contact Alan Hanscom or Coach Michelle Keezer through AE/MS.

Andover Service Club

Our main purpose is community service: holding food drives, donating to community organizations, sending money to support relief efforts, or helping residents in need. This past year we gave \$10,000 in scholarships. To commemorate 50 years of service, we, with *The Andover Beacon*, published a town directory of all services and businesses.

Our year begins in September, and we meet the second Wednesday of each month at 10 AM. Our programs vary and include book reviews, speakers, fun activities like bingo, auctions, and two luncheons.

Our fundraising activities begin with the November pie sale, then a holiday basket raffle in December. We assist the Andover Lions and the Andover Girl Scouts at the annual town tree lighting. In March, we sell bake goods and lunch at Town Meeting. In April, we will have our annual treasure and bake sale at the Masonic Lodge. For the Fourth of July, we hold a fundraiser and have an ice cream social with the help of the Girl Scouts. We bake birthday cakes for the Proctor dorm students and prepare an occasional supper for the Masons. We

are most proud of our biggest fundraiser – the Thrift Shop – and invite everyone to visit. We cannot do any of this without our terrific members, and we always welcome new members.

East Andover Village Preschool

The East Andover Village Preschool, established in 1979, begins its 31st year nestled on the hill in East Andover. Our director, Doreen Perreault, is celebrating her ninth year, and our assistant teacher, Becky Smart, is enjoying her eighth year. The 2009 school year brought many new and exciting changes. We welcomed 27 preschool children, and extended our program to offer full day care. It has been an exciting adventure!

The staff continues to create a wonderful fun-filled learning environment that includes both social and emotional learning with the emphasis on hands-on learning.

Being a small non-profit preschool, we know that our success is based on two factors: the wonderful families enrolled in our preschool, and the support of the community. We continue to raise funds to support our scholarship program, as EAVP has a history of never turning any family away. During the 2009 school year EAVP was able to offer over \$4,500 in scholarship assistance. Thank you to all those that bought a tub of cookie dough, purchased a raffle ticket, hosted a field trip, or shared a kind word. Your overwhelming support is what has made EAVP what it is today.

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is underway. For more information about any of our programs, you can contact the school at 735-5105. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, water-playing, sand-creating year on the hill in East Andover.

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) work to improve, maintain, and promote the Northern Rail Trail as a four-season multi-use trail through Merrimack County. We are currently working to extend the Rail Trail in two directions: south into West Franklin and north to Danbury. In summer 2009 we reached Chance Pond Road in Franklin with a \$25,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Bureau and equipment donated by Peter Crowell of New London. A ribbon cutting on September 12 celebrated this achievement.

Ed Hiller returned two mileposts to their original locations, historically restored others, and added town line markers.

On June 6 there was a Health Walk on the Rail Trail in East Andover, based at Highland Lake Inn, and a workday at the Lawrence Street Bridge, to divert water run-off and reduce the flow of sand onto the Rail Trail.

Andover, July 4: the FNRT sold raffle tickets and offered memberships on the green, and the Firecracker 5K foot race was run on the Rail Trail. The raffle continued at the Andover Historical Society's Old Time Fair. S&W Sports of Concord and the Highland Lake Inn of East Andover contributed prizes with additional support from Jake's Market, Pizza Chef, and Green's Auto.

FNRT provides a four-season resource for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, and equestrians; a track for AE/MS; and a training site for Proctor Academy's cross country and mountain bike teams. The Rail Trail needs financial support and help throughout the year. FNRT meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Andover Fire House. For information call President Bob Ward at 735-5061 or Vice-President Alex Bernhard at 735-5071.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

The Catholic Church in Andover, Immaculate Conception, and our sister church in New London, Our Lady of Fatima, offer many events each year which are meant to bring our community and surrounding towns support and socialization.

Immaculate Conception has a won-

derful public Spaghetti Supper every February; two great rummage sales, one in April and one in September; and a delicious Strawberry Shortcake event during our town's Fourth of July celebration. People from Andover and many, many surrounding towns look forward to these events.

Our Lady of Fatima has a wonderful Holiday Fair each November, and people come from all over to this great event. They also have a delicious St. Patrick's Day Dinner which includes not only corned beef and all the fixings, but turkey and all the fixings for a traditional turkey dinner.

All of the functions that our parishes hold are special because they bring all members of our community together with so much to look forward to each year.

You may contact Loretta Bates for information about any of the above events at 735-5790.

Kearsarge Lodge # 81, Masons

Two thousand and nine was a good year for Masonry in Andover. Kearsarge Lodge brought in four new members, with another in the making for 2010. Many people are surprised to learn that Masonry is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. While not

See Reports on page 16



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