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pated in the parade and to the judges who volunteered to help us out. It was also great to have so many antique vehicles this year. Smoky Bear and all the animals were a great addition. And who can forget Leapin' Lena, which has appeared in every Fourth of July parade



Smoky Bear made an appearance at the Fourth of July parade this year.

Photo: Jen Bent

for well over a half century.

Our latest addition of the inflatable Obstacle Course, Basketball Game, and Bullseye Blitz were all a smashing success. Those attractions were not idle for one minute as the day went on. After all, it's all about the kids! The origin of

our Fourth of July celebration in 1942 was the Children's Parade, which continued with gusto as well.

Steve Smith, our Master of Ceremonies, did a fantastic job once again, and his recitation of *The Ragged Old Flag* brought tears to our eyes. Jason Wood, Steve's new MC partner, was also a wonderful addition. Kudos to both!

This year the committee splurged on an extensive fireworks display, hoping the "Oohs" and "Aahs" on Carr Field would be louder than ever. Those in attendance were blown away!

Thank you to all our valued helpers: Toby Locke for assembling the reviewing stand once again, Andover Police, Andover Fire and EMS Departments, Proctor Academy, sponsors, nonprofits, vendors, Immaculate Sound, and Tex's Troubadours. Without their support, our celebration could not happen.

The Andover Fourth of July Committee is an all-volunteer organization of people who truly care about Andover and the traditions that make it a great place to live.

#ImInTheBeacon!

Share a selfie with the Beacon on Facebook using #ImInTheBeacon.

Andover Fire Chief Rene Lefebvre Honored with 2022 Dedication

Annual recognition in Fourth of July program

Andover Fourth of July Committee

Each year the Andover Fourth of July Committee chooses an outstanding volunteer to receive the annual dedication. This year, they are very pleased to announce their choice of Fire Chief Rene Lefebvre. The following text appeared in the booklet printed by the Committee for the celebration:

Andover is very fortunate that Rene Lefebvre made East Andover his home in 1977. And our community is even more fortunate that Rene started volunteering with the East Andover Fire Department. Rene and Sharon raised their daughters, Martha and Amy, and are now the proud grandparents of two grandchildren.

Over the years, Rene has volunteered thousands of hours to keep the Andover community safe. We admire his courage and bravery. We appreciate his regular articles in *The Andover Beacon* regarding fire safety and prevention.

It is community members like Rene that make Andover a special place. Not only does he respond to emergencies, but he also works to educate and mitigate situations before a problem arises. He has been an amazing resource for schools, businesses, organizations, and for community members.

Deputy Chief Stephen Barton Sr. summed it up well when he said, "If I was asked for an example of dedication or volunteerism, I would say Rene Lefebvre is a prime example. For each time his pager has gone off, Rene is always

one of the first members to respond and one of the last to go home. He has been a member of our team for 44 years, and has led us for 39. I feel that is pure dedication to our community."

Rene has always been involved with the Fourth of



Andover Fire Chief Rene Lefebvre received the annual Fourth of July Committee dedication for 2022.

Photo: Sharon Lefebvre

July festivities. Over the years you've seen him on a firetruck, fundraising on the Green, or at the Andover Fire Station.

The Fourth of July Committee and the town of Andover are very grateful to Rene. His years of dedication and commitment to Andover exemplifies community spirit!

Thanks, Chief!

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The Swap Shop will be open on **Saturday, August 13** from 8 AM to noon and welcomes (before noon) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, **no upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.**

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