

Andover Lions Look Back On 50 Years Of Service

by Joan E. Holleran and Betty Egge
Andover Lions Club

If, as most social scientists contend, the success and livability of a place is exhibited by the vibrancy and participation of its organizations in the life of the community, then Andover is indeed a thriving town. The number of community-based organizations serving Andover is rather startling for a town that has changed significantly from a small rural farming community to one that is growing and taking on more and more the character of a suburb.

One community organization which has played and continues to play an important role in our area is the Andover Lions Club. Organized fifty years ago with 32 members, the Andover Lions Club has grown to 47 members who live not only in Andover, but Danbury.

Restoring The Concord Coach

The Andover Lions Club has become an integral part of the community from those early days in 1954. One of its first projects was the restoration of a Concord Stage Coach that had been bequeathed to the Club by the Charles E. Murphy estate and Mrs. Harry Clark and family. The restoration work was completed in 1960. The Andover Lions Club Concord Coach made its first appearance in Andover at the Annual 4th of July Celebration shortly thereafter.

Annually, the Club contributes to the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops; awards three college scholarships; provides free eye and hearing exams at the Andover Elementary and Middle School (AE/MS) and Danbury Elementary School; provides eye glasses for needy Andover and Danbury residents; distributes holiday food and gift baskets to needy residents of both towns; contributes large-print Readers Digest subscriptions to the Andover and Danbury Libraries; sponsors a Lions Club International Peace Poster contest for area middle school students; and conducts a quarterly roadside clean up of Route 4 between Andover and Danbury.

Many Local Projects

In addition to these annual community projects, the Andover Lions Club over the past several years has built the beach house at Highland Lake; donated \$5,000 to the Andover Ambulance Fund; built the baseball dugout; provided a sign for the Andover Little League; supported the Andover One-Wheelers' special events; provided a defibrillator for the Andover Fire Department; donated \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity; provided a "Jaws of Life" and Radio Communication system for the Andover and Danbury Fire Departments; provided a donation which bought furniture for the Danbury Community Center; and provided a sound system in the AE/MS gym for use by the town.

In 1986, the Club was asked to contribute to a fund created to buy a new ambulance for the East Andover

Fire Rescue Squad. Over the course of the following three years, the Club held a series of special fund raising events, and in the Fall of 1989, the Andover Lions Club presented a \$12,000 contribution to the Rescue Squad's treasurer.

The Andover Lions Club conducts a number of fundraising events over the course of the year. The Andover 4th of July celebration begins with the Lions Pancake Breakfast. The Club also provides the throngs who attend with french fries and onion rings.

The Lions Lobster Bake has become an August tradition. The Club also participates in Musterfield Farm Days and the Danbury Grange Fair by providing food sales. The Andover Lions Club Rose Sale in February is an anticipated event for local residents...a touch of Spring in the middle of a New Hampshire Winter.

For years, Lion Jim Goody has been selling Christmas trees in December with the proceeds donated to the Andover Lions Club. The annual Penny Sale, which was moved to October this year, is a well-attended event. Most recently, the Club has added to its events listing an April Horse Show held at 3J Farm in Danbury.

Detect Vision And Hearing Problems

Andover Lions Club volunteers visited the Andover Elementary School on November 30 and December 1 in conjunction with the Lions' annual free screening program for hearing and visual acuity. The Health Service Board of the New Hampshire Lions supplies the equipment used. This project is in support of the Lions' world-wide efforts for early detection of hearing and vision problems in children.

The KidSight program is also run by Lions Club members. This program

is most effectively done in day-care centers and tests vision in children between the ages of one and five at no cost to the participants.

In 2004, the ownership of the old Andover fire house was transferred to the Andover Lions Club. Currently the building is being repaired and will be used for the storage of various pieces of equipment owned by the Club.

At the same time as the Andover Lions Club looks back over its 50 years with pride and satisfaction, it continues to be an active and vibrant member of the Andover/Danbury community dedicated to making positive contributions to the quality of life in our community.

If you are interested in becoming a Lion, call Joyce or Bill Egge in Danbury at 768-5543; Bill Leber in Andover at 735-5144; or Ron Evans in Andover at 735-5331.

Andover Service Club News

By Diane Rice

Andover Service Club

The November meeting of the Andover Service Club was filled with reports of successful undertakings by Club members to raise money for the Club's scholarship fund and its many other endeavors.

The Election Day Bake Sale in early November was a great success, as was the Primary Day Bake Sale in September. At both, eager voters could purchase homemade treats as they waited to vote.

Proceeds from the Primary Day Bake Sale were donated to The Andover Beacon to help with its start-up costs. Proceeds from the Election Day Bake Sale will go to the general fund of the Club in support of other projects.

Pie Sale a Huge Success

Over one hundred pies, some still warm and fresh from the oven, were brought by Andover Service Club members to the Food Stop in Andover to be sold for the benefit of the Andover Service Club's many projects. Happy customers could choose among pecan, pumpkin, mince, and apple pies to

bring to their Thanksgiving table as a delicious end to their holiday feast.

The pie sale is an annual event of the Andover Service Club to raise money. Many thanks are given to Food Stop for letting it take place there.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Plans were finalized regarding the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, a joint venture among many groups in the community, which took place on Sunday, November 28.

The Club was delighted to welcome a new member, Robin Boynton. The Club is a wonderful way to meet people involved in community activities. Please call Joan Filon at 735-5349 if you are thinking about becoming a member.

Original artwork by Natalie Stafford, a former Hallmark artist and now in charge of her own company, Echo Hill Cards, will be for sale at the Thrift Shop during the month of December. Do stop by for a look and also peruse the selection of seasonal apparel for all ages.

Holiday Luncheon At Potter Place Inn

The annual Holiday luncheon will be held this year on December 8 at the Potter Place Inn, where Chef Giovanni Leopardi has planned a special luncheon for club members. The Inn was a winner of Wine Spectator's 2004 Award of Excellence.

The Club thanks all those who support its many activities and wishes all a happy and healthy holiday season.

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