

East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre

Chief, East Andover Fire Department

It only seems appropriate to start by quoting Snoopy from the comic strip *Peanuts*: "It was a dark and stormy night." I cannot remember a time when all the resources of both of Andover's fire departments were so quickly depleted. During May's Mother's Day Flood we responded to over 25 calls for help with flooding, stalled vehicles, and washed out roads.

Just when we thought things were under control, the Highland Lake Dam started to leak. Needless to say, by Monday afternoon many of us in emergency services were running on very little sleep and were starting to wear down. The thought of filling and moving the hundreds of sandbags that the Highland Lake Dam would require was a bit discouraging.

A radio call from the Emergency Management Center at Town Hall advised us that they were sending filled sandbags and help from Proctor Academy. Thirty minutes later a large truck with hundreds of sandbags and three busloads of Proctor students and staff arrived at the Dam to help. It was a wonderful sight for exhausted fire fighters.

In less than an hour the job was complete. We are deeply grateful to Proctor Academy for their help and support.

Several weeks have passed since we experienced all the flooding, and though we still have some "opportunities" with the Dam, life for the fire fighters is back to normal. The town leaders and the emergency management people have met to discuss how we will handle emergencies better in the future. Though, on balance, everyone did very well.

The real measure of success for this emergency, in my view, is the response from the people of Andover. If Fire, Police, and the Town crews are the pointy end of the stick, then the people of Andover are the energy behind it. You turned out to fill sand bags, dig ditches, and man pumps. Food and coffee was always available at the fire stations and at the Proctor kitchen. This was a town emergency and we responded like a community. Andover, you did OK.

The Fourth of July will mark the beginning of our fund raising season. We hope you will stop by our tent on the Village Green and support our effort by purchasing a snow cone or a chance for a kayak. As luck would have it, we bought a boat earlier this spring with last year's fund-raising proceeds. Though it seems funny when you think about it, I don't think we will take any chances by buying snowshoes this fall.



Andover Police Department's Dave Hewitt (l) and Chief Glenn Laramie (r) welcome Daniel Shaw to the department.
Photo: Mark Stetson

POLICE BLOTTER

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The Andover Police Department welcomes Daniel Shaw as its newest part-time patrolman. Daniel, a certified police officer previously with the Alexandria Police Department, lives with his family in Andover. He is a major at the New Hampshire State Prison in Concord, where he has worked for 21 years.

Software Grant

The Department recently received a \$2,400 grant for Uniform Crime Reporting software from the New Hampshire Department of Safety. Department staff are still making the transition to the new system, which is why the usual statistics aren't available this month.

The new software will make Andover Police Department records compatible with over 100 state, county,

and local law enforcement agencies in New Hampshire, including most of the police departments in surrounding towns. This allows our statistics to be more easily summarized by the state and added to the national Uniform Crime Reporting data.

Vehicle Break-Ins Solved

While investigating seven vehicle break-ins that occurred in Andover during the first weekend in June, the Department received a tip that led to a search warrant, the search of a house in Franklin, and the recovery of most of the items stolen from the vehicles.

All the break-ins occurred while the vehicles were parked in their driveways, so please remember to remove valuables – iPods, credit cards, wallets, pocketbooks, guns, tools, etc. – and lock your vehicles at all times, even at home in your driveway.

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Andover Snowmobile Club Raffle Tickets!

Tickets will be sold on the green on the Fourth of July Only 1,100 will be sold Drawing will be January 27, 2007

Call 934-3327 or 735-4418 for ticket info

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