

East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

Firemen are like soldiers, in that sometimes you have to throw yourself into a situation without much thought. The mission is in front of you and you tend to focus on only a positive outcome. To be strong and brave is good and necessary. To be well-trained is essential.

About 20 years ago a bunch of us young fire fighters was trying to bring ourselves up to the modern standards then being adopted by the fire service. Training in a small volunteer fire department could be haphazard. As a small department we were busy with maintenance, budget, and getting used to being part of a large mutual aid team. State certified training seemed beyond our reach.

We were called to a structure fire that summer on Chase Hill Road. As part of the mutual aid system we had joined, men and engines were called in from other towns to help battle the fire. A four-inch line was laid to the lake, a first for us, and in spite of our ability the fire was put out and the home was saved.

During the clean up an officer from Franklin, Andrew Nadeau, asked if he could speak to me the next day at his department. That night was a long one for me – we had just had our first mutual aid fire, and as a young chief you want everything to go well.

Andy wanted to talk to me about training. He said, “Your people are good, and they work very hard, but they need to learn new skills,” and with that, Andy became our unofficial training officer and our official friend for many years.

The rest of that summer and fall Andy brought the State certified program to our small town. He then taught certified pump and engine operator classes.

For several years Andy and other “city” Chiefs would come to our large fires. They would stand at the command post and watch. Once in a while they would say, “What do you think about...?” or “Have you had a chance to do this?” As a young chief I took great comfort in their counsel.

They stopped coming several years ago, and I guess that means they don’t need to. I very much miss their “just stopping by.”

That summer a long time ago was exciting. We learned much and brought new and better firefighting to Andover. Andy Nadeau believed in us, and his skill and love of teaching have greatly benefited our community.

Andy retired from fire fighting several years ago but has remained a good friend. He rides with us to every fire as skill in our hands, knowledge under our helmets, and confidence in our hearts.

POLICE BLOTTER

The Andover Police Department responded to 211 calls for service from December 15 through January 15. A call for service is any complaint or call where an officer has to be involved. The following is a partial breakdown of this month’s activity:

- Traffic accidents – 6
- Traffic warnings – 85
- Traffic summons – 17
- Reckless driving – 1
- Abandoned vehicles – 2
- Assaults – 1
- Attempted suicide – 1
- Thefts – 3
- House alarms – 3
- Business alarms – 2
- Property checks – 15
- Animal complaints – 2

Arrests

- Andrew Pumphret, 36, Danbury, Civil warrant

4TH OF JULY

By Judy Perreault
Fourth of July Committee

The middle of winter seems like a strange time to be thinking of the Fourth of July, but planning is already underway.

Voting for the parade theme will once again be at Town Meeting in March. You will have your choice of a number of categories. We also welcome write-in suggestions for future themes.

The committee meets the first Wednesday of the month, starting on February 7, at 7 PM at the Town Hall. There are all kinds of jobs available. We need more people to help with the parade, publicity, judging, collections, etc. If you are interested, please come and help us plan for a memorable celebration.

Celebrate!

The *Beacon* needs your help gathering news of births, marriages, honors, and other notable events. Call 735-6099.

Andover Rescue Squad

By Anne Hewitt
Andover Rescue Squad

Seasonal changes here in New England compel us humans to modify our routines in response. Critters can grow extra fur coats, pack on layers of insulating fat, take a long nap, or fly south (along with some human snowbirds). But like the chipmunks that gather and store food, we’ve got to do some planning ahead. This year’s prolonged warm weather has confused wildlife and may be contributed to our procrastination of winter preparedness routines.

We could still have two months – or more – of winter weather. If you haven’t quite finished getting ready for *real* winter conditions, you might want to check and complete the following safeguards:

Home

Keep walkways clear and safe. All entrances should be accessible – even if you don’t usually use them – in case of fire or medical emergency.

Prescription medications need to be filled in advance. Don’t wait until the last minute, as a storm may close roads and/or businesses.

Fireplaces, woodstoves, and heating systems should be used according to safety guidelines and with plenty of caution.

Vehicles

Snow tires mounted, and in good condition

Windshield washer solvent filled (antifreeze type)

Windshield wipers in good condition

Snow brush and ice scraper in vehicle

Emergency provisions packed – first aid kit, blanket, etc.

Travel And Transportation

Allow extra driving time for yourself and others. Extra cautious drivers may travel more slowly than you’d like. Be patient and keep plenty of following distance.

Watch for “black ice” – ice that you can’t see on the road surface. Rain or runoff followed by freezing temperatures quickly changes puddles to skating rinks.

Get off the gas when approaching slippery-looking sections of highway. Coasting and keeping the steering wheel straight may prevent a spinout.

Dress warmly. You may only need to wear a sweater and sneakers to roam around Steeplegate Mall, but there’s 20 miles of winter weather before you get there! Bring along boots, gloves, hat, and that winter coat, just in case.

Wear your seatbelt at all times! It has absolutely nothing to do with your driving ability; you cannot control the road conditions or actions of other drivers.

The Andover Rescue Squad will be there when you need us, but we’d prefer that you never get sick or injured, for your own good. Be safe!

Windy Field Pet, Plant, and House Sitting

*We love all creatures,
great and small.*

Contact Amanda or Stephanie.

Cell: 496-5726 • Home: 735-5311 • E-mail: themerwoman@yahoo.com

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