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# East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre  
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

If you stop by the East Andover fire station you will see several construction and fix-up projects in various stages of completion. I happened to stop by the Andover station last weekend and they were also working inside to make improvements. It is always nice to complete projects and make the stations look good, and winter is a great time to get inside work done. I suspect that encouragement from our spouses to get out from under foot helps.

If you happen by when we are there, please stop in. We're firemen – we love to show off our nice station and our big toys.

### 911 Magic

When you dial 911 and request help, say to an auto accident, several very important things happen to save time.

The 911 operator requests information that will help decide the proper people and equipment needed to help you. Through the magic of electronics the information you are giving 911 is also transmitted to our dispatch center in Laconia. The information appears on a large monitor as you are speaking. In some cases your location will also appear.

From the information you provide, the dispatch center alerts the proper fire station and medical team. Full-time career as well as volunteer emergency responders are alerted by pager, again through the magic of microwave electronics. (We really do have some neat toys.) Critical information is transmit-

ted as the responders are putting on their gear. The gear was designed to provide maximum personal protection and to be donned very quickly.

When we arrive at the station, the lights inside the building come on with motion to save time. The trucks are plugged into a power supply and an air compressor to assure that the equipment will start quickly and require no warm up time to delay our response.

You've all seen us drive down the road – we are very focused on getting to your accident. Our entire system, from the initial call to the emergency equipment responding, is about saving time.

### True Story ...

Next is a true story: We arrive at an accident, and the patient is inside the car, banged up and a little bloody. We lean in the car to ask if everyone is okay. The patient raises a hand to tell us to be quiet so they can finish talking on their cell phone. The good Lord strike me dead if I'm lying!

After choking back a naughty word and discussing with the patient the wisdom of some medical attention, my pleasant, angelic demeanor returned.

The number of times we have had to ask people to turn off their cell phones and concentrate on us – you did call 911 after all – is becoming more common on calls. We, the emergency services, do all we are able to have in place the best people and equipment available. Help us help you. Please turn off the cell phone when we arrive.

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# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By Tina Cotton  
Andover Conservation Commission

Do you have an interest in preserving Andover's rural character? Would you like to learn more about regulations concerning land use or conservation easements? Please consider joining the Conservation Commission.

You may express your interest by calling Mary Anne Broshek at 648-

2539 or another member; Town Administrator Mark Stetson at 735-5332; or by coming to our next meeting on Wednesday, February 13, at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall meeting room.

We are also looking for a volunteer to help us with the minutes. If you are good at taking notes and want to be involved as a non-member, please let us know.

# Andover Libraries

By Diane Rice  
Library Trustee

The Trustees of the Andover and Bachelder Libraries are already anticipating the book sale on the Village Green on the Fourth of July. Books can be dropped off at either library during the hours that each is open.

Certain items will not be accepted for sale this year. These include encyclopedias, textbooks, Reader's Digest, VCR tapes, or books teach-

ing computer programs, etc. Demand for these items for the past few years has been almost non-existent, and the difficulty of disposing of the remaining books has increased dramatically.

Eliminating these categories will provide needed space for other books and facilitate cleanup at the end. The Trustees thank you all for your continued interest and support of this greatly appreciated fundraiser.

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