



The East Andover Fire Department held its 25th annual chicken barbeque on Saturday, July 26. Above, Diane Miller prepares a batch of chicken for the hungry crowd while her husband Jeff minds the grill. Photo: Bob Bussey

East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

Again this year I spoke with many people who came to Andover to celebrate the Fourth of July with us. Several commented that the crowd on the Village Green and our great parade were a credit to our community. That may be true, but personally I just like being part of a community that understands the true spirit of our country. Recognizing our nation, our flag, and our soldiers comes easy in our town. I hope it always stays that way.

East Andover Fire is now an official Explorer Post, thanks to the efforts of Jacob Johnson and Jeff Miller. We are accepting young people, ages 14 to 18, who are interested in fire safety, to our post. Currently we have six members who train in all aspects of firefighting. The explorer also has an opportunity to spend a week at the Fire Academy training.

At the end of the three-year program the trainee will be certified as a Level One Firefighter. This program benefits everyone. When an explorer turns 18, he or she will be given an opportunity to join the regular department. This chief is not likely to turn down a motivated, well-trained young firefighter.

If you know someone who may be interested in our program, please call Jacob at 735-6174. Training a future firefighter, or exploring an interest in life safety while having fun, is what we hope to do.

Winter Heating Woes

I think it is safe to assume that no one wants to think, in August, about heating their homes in winter. The truth

is, I have been thinking about it a lot. The concern for me, and others, is the cost of fuel. Now, I know that you are saying, "The Chief has a gift for stating the obvious!" But hear me out.

That old furnace of yours has served you faithfully for many years, and you tune it up every fall, so what is the big deal? Think about this: Say you replaced that old faithful with a more efficient model. Now, I know you think I have gone off the deep end, but wait.

If a new model was able to get every bit of heat energy out of that expensive fuel you purchased and warmed your home more but your chimney less, what do you think? Say you were able to gain 20 % efficiency by making your furnace and your home energy misers. That would gain the equivalent of 50 gallons of fuel oil. At today's prices that is about \$225 savings per tank full. The payback may be quicker than you think, at that rate. Your heating professional is a good source for pointing out potential energy gains.

My point, finally, is that we should do everything we are able to make our homes energy friendly, and spending what it takes to do the job is more cost effective now than ever. Your heating appliance may be in great shape and that's good. I do not sell anything, but I do want you to think about your home in a new way, an energy efficient way. Being proactive about energy will likely prevent a tragic event caused by an unsafe heating plan.

As always, we are ready should you need us. The big red trucks are fueled, and ... speaking of fuel, did you see what that stuff costs?

Argus from page 11

shocked expressions I saw as people around here heard that the *Argus* was going under. As much as these readers might have complained about the local

paper over the years, they know that life won't be the same without it. Its closing is a tragic loss.

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Come Celebrate with the

ANDOVER RESCUE SQUAD

Current and Past members of the Andover Rescue Squad are invited to come honor the following retiring members:

JoAnn Hicks – 30 years of service
Ed Becker – 25 years of service
Brad Smith – 10 years of service

Tuesday, August 19th
6 pm to 8 pm

Bluewater Farm
22 Camp Marlyn Lane • Andover
Dinner will be served.

RSVP to 735-5855 by August 11th