

The Swap Shop will be open on Sept. 12 from 8 AM to 2 PM and welcomes (before 1 PM) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchen-ware. Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.



**Cable TV from page 11**

- in Manchester, strives to present the best quality musicians and song-writers from all over New England and across the nation representing a wide variety of musical genres.
- **Coastal Gardens:** tours of gardens in mid-coast Maine.
- **Expedition New England:** takes viewers close up into areas much like their own backyards, where there are all kinds of interesting creatures. It's a great show for kids as well as adults. Makes you want to turn off the TV and get outside!
- **Healthy Living:** a health interview show from the Parkview Medical Center in Maine on a variety of topics including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and so forth.
- **People and Places:** individuals and the things that they are up to in Maine, concentrating not only on artists and musicians but also on individuals with special talents, homegrown businesses, etc.
- **Creating Local Self-Reliance:** individuals and groups building resilient, self-reliant communities responding to a collapsing economy

and accelerating energy and climate decline. Produced in California, but relevant nationwide.

- **Tracing Your Family Roots:** over 100 experts in various genealogy specialties share their knowledge.

Not all of these appear every week, of course, but as new episodes become available we work them into our schedule as quickly as possible. And we're always watching for new programs to introduce.

**Weekly Schedule On The Web**

Speaking of our weekly programming schedule (we change the programs on Channel 8 every Thursday), you can now find out what's on, quickly and easily. Go to the Town of Andover's Web site at AndoverNH.us.com and click on the Town TV link to see what's on through next Thursday.

Are you looking for a way to participate more in the community? We could really use a volunteer to enter the schedule into the calendar each week. It takes about 20 minutes or so and doesn't require any special computer skills – if you've ever surfed the Web or bought a book on the Web, you'll find that updating the Channel 8 schedule is no big deal at all. If you'd like to help, call me at 735-6099 and I can tell you more.

# East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre  
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

Sandwiched between a wet Friday and a monsoon Sunday was a warm dry Saturday. That happened to be the day of our annual East Andover Fire Department Chicken Barbeque. We have always been lucky, and the nice day and great turnout was definite proof of that.

Frank Baker won the kayak raffle. Frank is an avid outdoorsman and will put his prize to good use. Congratulations, Frank. And to all who came to support your fire department, a heartfelt thank you. Hope you had a great meal.

The Fire Truck Committee has finished its project and is almost ready to present a plan to the Fire Commissioners. The cost of a new machine has been a large consideration, but so has purchasing a machine that will meet the life-safety requirements of our community for many years. After looking at many custom-built trucks meeting our original specifications, the Committee presented their plan, along with cost estimates, to me for a reality check.

"The machine looks good, the cost is too high."

Not what they wanted to hear. The Committee started cutting back on specifications. The cost came down but then the truck did not meet the requirements of our rural community.

"Nice price guys, but still not the machine we need."

Our committee chair, Mark Perry, was very patient with the grey-haired old \$#@&! (although I think he was ready to impeach the Chief).

Mark and the team were not about to give up, and so looked at other options. They found a plan called "program trucks." Program trucks are built more like cars are built: They incorporate most of the popular features currently being placed on custom trucks. Simply put, a custom truck is made one at a

time, to customer specifications, but a program truck is made several at a time, with the most popular requests supplied as custom features.

Mark and his team have found a program truck that meets all but one requirement: front suction. We currently do not have that, and the Chief was never comfortable with the price tag on that option. We will do fine without it.

The Department feels strongly that this machine will meet all our needs and serve our community for many years. It is also within our budget.

Program trucks are sold on demand. However, once a buyer tentatively decides a program truck will fit the bill, the manufacturer will not sell the truck to anyone else for about 30 days in order to give a town time to look at the features and decide if the truck is a good fit. We are holding a truck at this time.

We are working with Lakes Region Fire Apparatus on a lease plan until the East Andover Fire Precinct meeting in March. At that time the voters may vote to purchase the truck or to return it with no obligation. We hope to have a package to show the Commissioners very soon.

I must commend Mark and the team for their efforts. We will end up with a machine that more than meets our expectations. Oh, and the savings over custom-built: \$50,000. Nice job, guys!

The first East Andover Fire Engine Company was started in 1897. How very different our town must have been. Fighting fire today is no picnic, but imagine a house fire 100 years ago. Those guys were tough!

**Celebrating 75 Years**

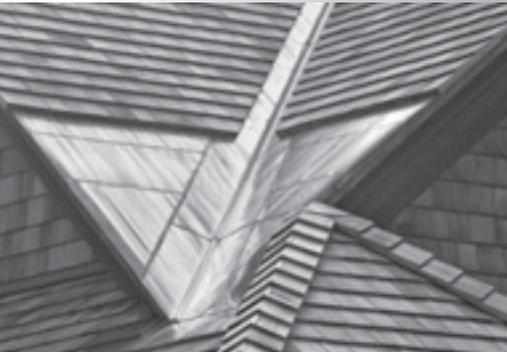
Please come join us at the fire station in East Andover on Sunday, September 20, to help celebrate our first 75 years as a Fire Precinct and Department. We will display our equipment and station from 1 to 4 PM. Cookies and other goodies will be served. See you then.



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## It's Time To Check Your Heating System

East Andover Fire Chief Rene Lefebvre passed this along to the Beacon and urges everyone to heed this advice.

Heating season will soon be here. The high energy prices concern fire officials, according to State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan. This is the time to check your heating systems. Having your heating system checked by a qualified professional will help ensure that the system is ready to operate safely and efficiently.

Heating unit fires are still the number one cause of fires in New Hampshire, and they are preventable. According to the President of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs, Lebanon Fire Chief Chris Christopoulos, heating fires are often the result of improper installation, use, or maintenance of supplemental home heating appliances

such as wood stoves, coal stoves, and kerosene space heaters. Chief Christopoulos warns that the use of these supplemental heating devices also increases the risk of dangerous accumulation of carbon monoxide in the home if not properly installed and maintained. Now is the time to have them checked.

It is critical that every home has interconnected smoke alarms on each floor level and that every family should develop and practice a home fire escape plan. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly. Matches and lighters should be kept out of the reach of children at all times.

For further information concerning home fire safety, contact your local fire department or the office of State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan at 271-3294.