



In a dramatic last-minute twist, the East Andover Fire Department wound up buying the truck they wanted, but for less than they'd planned to pay.

EAFD Buys New Fire Truck For Less

By Rene Lefebvre
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

The new truck is now a reality. We were able to find several program trucks that met the requirements of our community. But the truck we wanted the most, a really nice machine, was already spoken for and had been promised to another town.

Though greatly disappointed, we acted like big boys and ordered a very similar truck that would more than serve our needs. It just didn't look as ... well ... really, really nice. We asked the truck salesman what the likelihood was that the other town would not take the truck. He felt very strongly that they would purchase the truck and, quite frankly, so did we. However, we asked him to call us should they change their minds.

Two days later the call came! They wanted custom features this machine was not designed to provide.

"Are you still interested in the truck?"

the salesman asked.

Sounding dignified and chief-like is not easy while you are bouncing off the walls. "Well, yes, we are interested, but this truck was priced higher." (Good thing phones don't show your face, because my smile would have betrayed my price negotiating position.)

"OK, you were fair with me," he says. "We will sell this truck to you for the price of the truck you ordered." I must admit, at this point, any real measure of adult demeanor was history. We had just purchased the machine that we wanted for a price we had only dreamed of.

I spent the rest of the morning calling the members of our department to give everyone the good news. What a bunch of little boys! You'd think it was Christmas. Some days it's very nice to be a fire chief.

We expect to have the truck in service in July. Oh ... and the new truck

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FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The Andover Fourth of July Committee is hard at work putting together another memorable celebration for Andover and the surrounding communities. As always, there will be a big flea market on the Village Green, a parade at noon, fireworks in the evening, and many other events.

The money to stage Andover's biggest event of the year is raised by the Fourth of July Committee through sales of advertisements in the printed program and through donations from many Andover residents. The money goes toward:

- Fireworks – These are very expensive, and getting more so every year. This year's bill for the fireworks show: \$6,000.

- Marching Bands – Not one, but

two! This year we'll all enjoy the Bekdash Shriners Drum and Bugle Corps and the Bluff Point Quohog Diggers Band, too.

- Parade Prizes – There are prizes in many categories, plus prizes and goodies for the Children's Parade.

Every year the Fourth of July Committee organizes a door-to-door fundraising drive in May in selected neighborhoods around town. Even if no one has asked you yet, there's still time to show your support for this important community celebration.

Last year's celebration ran a \$1,500 deficit due to stormy weather on the Fourth, so it's especially important that the community steps up to the plate this year. Please send a donation today to The Andover Fourth of July Committee, c/o Irene Jewett, PO Box 36, East Andover 03231.



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Selectmen Finalize \$62K In Cuts To Town Budget

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

An amendment to the budget warrant article at Town Meeting in March reduced the total Town budget of \$1,246,845 (not including other warrant articles) by 5%. At its April 5th meeting, the Board of Selectmen met with the heads of all Town departments to discuss what each department could contribute to the \$62,343 in cuts required. After much planning and discussion, the Board voted at its April 23 meeting to make specific budget reductions to reduce the overall town budget by the required amount. (See the meeting minutes on page 10.)

The biggest reduction came from deferring \$25,000 of the Chase Hill Road project until another budget year. The selectmen and road agent are still working out what exactly will get done this year on Chase Hill Road and what will be put off.

The two next-biggest cuts came, at least in part, from the relatively mild winter of '09/'10. There is enough road sand left over from last winter that the sand budget for next winter could be reduced by \$16,000. The budget for this summer's sweeping up of last winter's road sand was cut in half, as was the budget for summer mowing. Those re-

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The Andover Historical Society is offering a reward in hopes of getting back the rail that was stolen in Potter Place. Staff photo: Charlie Darling

Theft Could Spoil Pumper Car Fun At Old Time Fair

By Pat Cutter
Andover Historical Society

Sometime between Monday, May 10, and Thursday, May 13, a section of railroad track approximately 20 feet long was levered out of the siding track in Potter Place. That section was stolen, along with two sections that were lying beside the track waiting to be used to lengthen the siding. The theft was discovered by a walker along the Rail Trail on Friday, May 14, and was reported to

the Andover Police.

A local resident also reported hearing the sounds of an ATV in the area of Bridge Road at 2:30 AM on Saturday, May 22. A visit to the area later that day showed evidence that further metal had been taken. The assumption must be made that the rail and additional metal will be sold as scrap.

The Potter Place siding from which the rail was stolen is not just an impor-

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