

Fourth Of July Committee

By Judy Perreault
Fourth of July Committee

Once again the voters of Andover have cast their ballots for the Fourth of July Parade Theme. "Farms, Fields, and Forests" took an early lead and finished first with 115 votes. "Classic Movies" received 65, "Patriots" was third with 38, and World War II was last at 17.

I can think of a dozen ways to go with this theme. My first thought was Sherwood Forest. I wonder if Andover can come up with some Merry Men (or women) in green tights. I know there are a lot of bows and arrows around.

A float in the parade is a great way to advertise your club, group, or organization. I remember years ago we had a lot of family floats. It is a fun project for a family. It doesn't have to be complicated. Most of them were on the back of a small truck.

We have eight prize categories. Theme floats can win \$100, \$75, \$50, or \$25; others can win Best Decorated, Most Patriotic, Best Costumes, or Most Unique, each of which receive \$50.

The committee works hard to bring some variety to the parade and provide entertainment on the Village Green. We can only hire so much. We need your participation as well.

We are still looking for parade judges. Don't forget about the Children's Parade. You can decorate bikes, carts, carriages, and children. Sara Tracy is in charge. They meet up at the Pro-Claim building on Main Street. Sara keeps them busy with judging and activities before the parade.

Realtor Joyce Egge of Equine Homes is providing the judging and prize money for the animal category. Think about an entry this year. It doesn't have to be a large animal.

Get those antique cars, tractors, trucks, and motorcycles running, and

enter them in the parade. No sense in letting them gather dust in the garage. We have dust and viewers. It's fun to see how far we have come since the early 1900s. Dino Green of Green's Auto did a superb job of judging last year.

You may register the day of the parade at the Proctor Field House. Parking is limited, so only parade entries are allowed in this area. You'd be surprised how crowded this area can get, especially when all the fire trucks arrive.

Parking is always a problem on the Fourth. This year we are trying to keep our handicap parking spaces open. We need two parking attendants for the morning of the Fourth. We also need one to help with parade parking. Note: There is a fine for parking in a handicap space.

The month of May begins our Capital Campaign, and volunteers will be calling at your house for a donation. Please keep in mind that we have run in the red for the last two years. If we are to continue with the caliber of our Fourth of July celebration, we need your support.

Irene Jewett worked her magic with Atlas Fireworks, and we are all set for another wonderful display. Remember, almost \$7,000 of our budget goes to this item.

Irene is also in charge of donations and can use some more volunteers. Call her at 735-5372 if you can help. Early donations are appreciated, and you can drop them off or mail them to PO Box 36, East Andover 03231.

Irene is also in charge of program ads. She wears many hats and looks good in all of them.

If you need more information, these are the go-to people: Chair Bob Ward, 735-5061; Parade Chair Jamie Thompson, 455- 5939; Parade Co-Chair Judy Perreault, 735-5493;

Flea Market Coordinator Howard Wilson, 735- 5427. Or you can always reach us at 4thOfJulyCommittee@gmail.com.



Lynsey, Steve, Jazlyn, and Camryn Perkins. Missing from the photo is Steve and Lynsey's son Carsyn.
Photo: Kristi Perreault

Perkins Family Buys East Andover Store Building

By Kristi Perreault
Beacon volunteer

Many of you may know of the former marketplace located in East Andover next to the East Andover Post Office. For the past several months this former store has been sitting across from the East Andover Fire Station on Route 11 empty; until now. The building was purchased in March by local business owners Lynsey and Steve Perkins of East Andover.

The Perkins have lived in town for six years and have three children: Jazlyn, Camryn, and Carsyn. They are also the owners of Byron's Septic, which they have owned and operated for the past eight years.

So why have they decided to buy this former store? Well, the Perkins viewed the building as a good opportunity and a good investment. They believe that it has lots of potential, and the location was great.

They have been inundated with ideas for the space. What we do know is that there will not be a convenience store, as was previously. For now, they have no business plans for the ground floor of the building and are concentrating on

updating and preparing the second floor apartment for rental.

Jazlyn, however, seems thrilled at the idea of having a bakery in East Andover, which Lynsey believes to be entirely possible. So there may eventually be some sort of business in the ground floor of the building, but for now it will remain empty.

The Perkins will be focusing on the second floor apartment, which they have been renovating since they bought the building. The renovations should be finished in the beginning of April, when this two-bedroom apartment will be ready for new tenants. Until then, you will see lots of activity around the property.

Folks here in East Andover are excited to see progress and growth in this small town. We wish the Perkins all the best in their new endeavor and look forward to seeing the changes in the months ahead. For more information regarding the apartment and rental information, you can call Lynsey Perkins at 520-6716.

Please join us in welcoming our new friends to the neighborhood!

VOLUNTEER!

The Beacon is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers for almost everything. Please do your part to keep our community newspaper going strong. To find a role that's right for you, call Charlie at 735-6099.




Lake Farm REALTY
164 MAIN STREET

Your Neighborhood Experts
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urie@tds.net

**Andover
Reduced
\$ 189,900**



Gardens & Charm
Screened Porch, Potting Shed
2 Car Garage, Tractor Garage
Views of River, 2.7 Acres
2nd Floor Master Suite.



Shirley Henderson stopped by the Beacon office with this snapshot from 1950 of the East Andover store when it was run by Pop Low.