



Stu Randall works his way along the serving line at the Andover Fire Department's annual Chicken Barbecue at the East Andover Fire Station on July 25. Serving are Judy Perreault, Jeff Clark, Tiffany Perkins, Scott Kidder, JoAnn Hicks, Kitty Kidder (hidden), and Roger Kidder. The event drew 250 diners; the kayak raffle was won by Carla Levesque. Photo: Sharon Darling

Andover Fire Department, August 2015

Do you have any fire department memorabilia?

Rene Lefebvre, AFD Chief

It is believed that Benjamin Franklin started the first formal Volunteer Fire Department to protect the citizens and city of Philadelphia. Mr. Franklin was an inventor and statesman ahead of his time in many ways.

I have always thought that if one of our founding fathers took the time to start a fire department, he must have felt it was a project worth doing. I feel that history has proven that Ben was right. In its 200-plus years of existence, the formal citizen fire department has continually grown and has become a worldwide life safety organization of volunteers and professionals.

Your fire department is a part of that team. We have a long and proud history here in Andover – certainly not back to Ben Franklin's days, but long enough back to where we want to preserve some of our history.

Displaying our past is a project that we have taken on. Actually, Lloyd Perrault has taken it on, and we are willing helpers.

We need your help. We are looking for pictures, old badges, or dated gear that once was used by the East Andover or Andover Fire Departments. Your pictures will be copied and returned to you.

Lloyd has installed a very nice display case in the East Andover Fire Station for this project. Please call Lloyd

Perrault at 735-5493 or Rene Lefebvre at 934-2197 if you have a piece of our fire department history you would like displayed.

Speaking of history, thank you all for participating in our Fourth of July celebration. The weather was just a little dodgy, but not many seemed to care. The number of people who stopped by our tent was record setting. The people of Andover have once again charged our batteries. Thank you for your support.

We moved the location of the fire-works to the Proctor Ski Area. It was our hope that the higher location would enhance the show. From a safety standpoint, the new location was much better.

Next month is September. I will be writing about weather and storms common to late summer and fall. But not now. It is summer, and a time to enjoy good friends and spend lazy days with family. Please keep your fun safe. If it looks or feels dangerous, then it probably is.

I remember a little of my own history when I was very young. I recall as we were driving past the Franklin Fire Station my grandfather said, "When you see all the trucks back in their places and the firemen playing checkers, then you know the city is safe." At the time, I thought the firemen would rather be out fighting fire and having fun.

Many years serving as your chief have made my grandfather's words very clear. Please, keep our trucks in their stations. I will learn to like checkers. 

Andover Residents Get \$10 Off Rain Barrels and Composters

Order deadline is August 7

Andover Conservation Commission

Merrimack County Conservation District is celebrating summer with a sale of rain barrels, composters, and other composting essentials. These durable environmental additions to your yard will help harvest rain water and create compost for garden and landscape needs, saving money and natural resources.

As part of the ongoing coordination between the Andover Conservation Commission and the Merrimack County Conservation District, Andover residents will receive a special discount of \$10 on each rain barrel and composter and 10% off the other items. The special prices for Andover residents are:

- Rain barrel with faucet on the bottom and screw-on lid: \$70
- Large turning composter on wooden stand: \$70
- Earth machine composter: \$55
- Compost turning rod: \$22.50
- Kitchen compost pail: \$13.50

The Andover deadline date for ordering has been extended to Friday,

August 7, with pick-up on Saturday, August 15, behind the Andover Town Hall from 9 to 11 AM.

Visit AndoverBeacon.com/Composter-Order-2015 or call 975-0110 to get item descriptions and the order form. Be sure to write "Andover Beacon Order" on your order form. Note that payment must accompany the order form.

Rain barrels are simply large containers that capture rainwater from your roof that can be used for watering gardens, lawns, or washing your car. Saving water helps the environment, saves energy, and money. Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams and rivers.

The District is offering two types of composters. Composting is a great way to create nutrient rich fertilizer for gardens or landscaping by recycling much of your kitchen and yard waste. This reduces the amount of garbage going to your local transfer station while improving the soil, supporting healthier and more productive plants.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit conservation education programs throughout Merrimack County. 

Semi-Annual Tax Bills Make a Big Difference

Still 294 unlicensed dogs around town

Joanna Sumner
Town Clerk and Tax Collector

The state of New Hampshire requires every owner or keeper of a dog four months old or older to have the dog registered in the town in which the dog is kept. Regardless of when the license is obtained, the license shall be effective from May 1 to April 30 of the following year.

There are still 294 unlicensed dogs residing in the town of Andover. A late fee of \$1 per month began on June 1. The civil forfeiture fee is \$25. If you have not registered your dog, please take care of it as soon as possible.

Statistics

Revenue in the Town Clerk's office totaled \$282,935 for the first six months of this year. This is an increase of about \$6,000 from last year. The number of transactions stays nearly the same each year, but the value of new vehicles increases, which does have an effect on our revenue.

Tax revenue is quite different this year because of the semi-annual tax billing. We billed out \$2,579,679 at the end of May and have collected \$2,376,961 of this billing. That is a 92% collection rate.

Total collections year-to-date is \$3,049,330. Total collections at this time last year were \$662,158.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! 

THE SWAP SHOP WELCOME

REUSABLE ITEMS IN WORKING CONDITION:

TOYS, CLOTHING, BOOKS, BICYCLES, AND KITCHENWARE. PLEASE, NO UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, TIRES, WINDOWS, DOORS, ELECTRONICS, PORCELAIN FIXTURES.

The Swap Shop will be open on Saturday, August 8, from 8 AM to noon and welcomes (before noon) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.

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