

Fourth of July Committee Working Hard to Inspire More Floats

Goal is a very special 75th annual celebration

Press release

Summer has gone. Welcome fall! Cooler nights ahead, but warm feelings from the last Fourth of July celebration remain. Think about the wonderful memories of the few members of town who still remember all 74 Fourth of July celebrations! How lucky they are!

With that in mind, don't you think our next celebration, our 75th, should top them all? Those of us on the Fourth of July Committee aim to make that happen. Our plan is to build on our successes and improve those things that we can.

One important part of the celebration is the parade. It's been estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 people come to our little community to see the excellent display we work hard to make happen. During a recent brainstorming session, the Committee counted over 40 possible float entries for our upcoming Fourth of July parade. Some examples are local towns, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local businesses, churches, clubs, and individuals or families.

Members of the committee are dedicated to inviting every possible entry. We have taken it upon ourselves to contact all organizations in the area. Expect a phone call or a visit. We will be knocking on doors and attending local

organization meetings to help facilitate entries into the parade.

The committee is also re-evaluating prizes for float winners to entice more entrants. Putting together a winning float should be easy with this year's theme: *Remember When? 1942-2017*.

Don't you think 75 years of memories is enough to come up with an outstanding float idea? We do! Some suggestions would be local events, national events, world affairs, famous personalities, famous achievements, birth of a child. Anything goes! The possibilities are mind-boggling

So hold the door open, pick up the phone, and have an inspired conversation with a Fourth of July Committee member. We are here to help you make this happen and are counting on strong community support for this coming Fourth of July celebration.

Do you want to feel a sense of achievement, camaraderie, and that warm glow you get when serving your community? We have a great time working together. It really is a lot of fun!

Contact any of our members if you are interested in contributing in any capacity, large or small. Here are a few of our contact people: Doug Phelps, 802-310-1045; Donna French, 735-6131; Bob Ward, 735-5061; Beth Frost, 735-5562.

Stay tuned for up-coming developments and surprises!



This large pile of trash spoiled an otherwise beautiful hike on Tucker Mountain recently. Photo: Ken Wells

Trash Spoils Hike on Tucker Mountain

"...try to leave it better than I found it..."

Ken Wells

It was a gorgeous Sunday afternoon, with clear blue skies, blustery winds and delightful fall colors on the hillsides around Andover, so my wife, daughter, and I decided to take a walk up on Tucker Mountain to enjoy the day.

We were crestfallen to discover that since the last time we went up there, somebody had dumped a big load of trash. Where there had been a hillside that had been covered with blueberries, blackberries, and tiny highland plants, usually only seen above the treeline in the White Mountains, there were now junk car parts and bags of trash strewn down the slope.

One of the things we most enjoy about Andover is the justifiable pride our neighbors have in our town and its beautiful surroundings, and the way that we take care to protect our lakes, our trails, and the country roadsides that we share.

All of us have made messes, whether an inadvertent spill in the kitchen or a slip of paper blowing out of a moving vehicle. Usually we clean up our own messes right away, but sometimes we can't. We can't stop the car to grab that slip of paper now riding away on the wind, any more than we can grab that hat now sinking to the bottom of the lake, or round up the exhaust smoke blowing out our cars' tailpipes. Some bad stuff gets

away from every one of us, some of it by accident, and some through negligence. But does that mean we inevitably resign our surroundings to get dirtier and nastier? I certainly hope not!

I'm saddened that somebody, perhaps not even an Andover resident, saw fit to gut the interior from their car and throw it in a solitary and picturesque spot in our village. I'd be pleased if that person volunteered to pick it up and dispose of it in a responsible way, but it's possible it will fall to others to do the right thing in their place. (If it is your mess and you are reading this, play the hero and go get it! Who would know?) While we are at it, let's go out with friends to collect the abandoned glass and cans around the fire rings hidden along our snowmobile trails, in the woods and at the falls.

I figure the best I can do to make amends for the bad stuff that gets away from me is to try to "leave it better than I found it" whenever I can. I applaud the many good people of Andover and surrounding towns who have been doing the same even longer than I have, and I applaud those who are pitching in for the first time. My Andover neighbors go out and pick up trash along roadsides from time to time, and many more volunteers keep our beaches and miles and miles of trails looking nice.

We can only keep our towns and our beautiful New Hampshire surroundings wonderful if we work at it!



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Parents, please help the *Beacon* keep alive the connection between **your grown kids and the community they grew up in!**

Send news of how they're doing in college, in their careers, engagements, marriages, babies, promotions, etc. Everyone in town takes great pride in seeing how "our" kids turn out – please help us keep them up to date.

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