

The **Andover Beacon**
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A workshop on Shaw Hill Road was fully involved when Andover fire crews arrived at the scene early in the morning of December 9.

Workshop on Shaw Hill Road Destroyed in December Fire

Steve Foley

On December 9, 2017, the Andover Fire Department was called out at 2:30 in the morning, for a building fire on Shaw Hill Rd. Upon arrival they found a single story workshop building fully involved in fire. A second alarm was requested within minutes. The department received assistance from the Wilmot, Salisbury, Franklin, Hill, Boscawen, Danbury, New London, Sutton, Bristol, Sanborton and Tilton-Northfield fire departments. There were no injuries. The building was a total loss.

The property is owned by Chris and Katie Caron. Katie Caron said they were awakened by a noise about 2:15 AM on Saturday and saw a red glow. When they looked outside they saw that the approximately 60-by-100-foot garage was engulfed in flames. The building had been constructed earlier in 2017. A firewood processing machine located nearby was also destroyed. A logging truck was able to be moved before it was damaged.

Due to the extent of the damage, the cause may not be able to be determined.

Wilmot House Explosion Investigation Results in Indictments

Explosion occurred in May 2017

Press release

State Fire Marshal J. William Deignan, Wilmot Fire Chief Sean Brunel, and Wilmot Police Chief David Zuger announce an update to the investigation into a house explosion at 543 NH Rt. 4A in the town of Wilmot.

On December 13, 2017, as a result of this joint investigation, the Merrimack County Grand Jury indicted Shane T. Fortier (DOB 12/24/1987) on the following charges: Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary, Second Degree Assault, Conspiracy to Commit Second Degree Assault, Mechanical Licensing

Penalties, Falsifying Physical Evidence, Conspiracy to Commit Falsifying Physical Evidence and Possession of a Controlled Drug. Adam J. Dalton (DOB 02/25/1992) was indicted on the following charges: Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary, Second Degree Assault, Mechanical Licensing Penalties, Falsifying Physical Evidence, Solicitation to Commit Falsifying Physical Evidence and Tampering with Witnesses and Informants.

The joint investigation into this incident revealed that Shane Fortier and Adam Dalton went to the residence at 543 NH Rt. 4A to steal copper from the home. They were confronted by the vic-

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Heavy rains that followed a long stretch of cold weather caused flooding and ice jams on the Blackwater River. This picture was taken looking South on Route 4 at Fenvale Road where Route 4 crosses the Blackwater. Photo: Nicole Donovan

Report From Andover Select Board for 2017

Andover Select Board

2017 was a good year for Andover in general. Our budget stood up to some challenges which were overcome by the 2017 plan and a bit of ingenuity. Many projects, bridges, roads, and upgrades to Town files and records were completed as anticipated.

There were some difficult moments, such as the October storm which caused so much damage town-wide; the brutal cold and snow from late December; and the surprise of White Oak Pit as presented to us from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT). Let's start with White Oak Pit.

White Oak Sand Pit

DOT informed us midyear that White Oak Pit, where the Town has been getting its sand, was in fact state-

owned property. This claim came as a complete surprise to the Select Board and the Town Administrator.

We challenged the State's claim and reviewed land records, past Select Board and Planning Board notes, and input from a number of residents familiar with that area. Our Town legal counsel was presented with numerous questions surrounding state actions over decades.

The state has gone back to 1904 and railroad records; however, in our minds, there were numerous inconsistencies and misleading actions by the state. But, it appears the state is sticking to their claim. This issue is not resolved, and our challenge to the state will go well into 2018 and possibly 2019.

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Andover resident Camden Donovan, a Junior at Merrimack Valley High School, successfully cleared a high jump of 6' to take first place at the NH Winter Indoor Track League Meet at UNH January 21, 2018. Camden is ranked third in New Hampshire as he heads to the Division II State Championship at Dartmouth on February 4th. Photo: Angie Considine

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