



Carrying the American Legion Crosby/Gilbert Post Banner in the 4th of July Parade are L to R: Jordyn Southworth, Koby Perreault, Meghan Smith and Samantha Parkman.

4th of July Celebration Successful in Spite of the Heat

Press release

Hot! Hot! Hot! Who can say that the Andover 4th of July Committee can't wish for hot weather for the 4th? Our wish certainly came true this year and then some! Nothing can keep a good town down though. Everyone stayed close to their liquids and cool, tasty treats. All aspects of Andover's 4th of July celebration were in top form. From all indications, everything went better than anticipated. That's because Andover is a town that supports our nation and one another.

This year's parade was as good as ever with 35 entries. The floats were spectacular! They reflected hours of work and imagination in following this year's theme, Old Glory: Our American Flag. Parade winners were as follows:

Grand Prize

East Andover Village Preschool

Floats

- First Prize: Andover Congregational Church
- Second Prize: Salisbury Sestercentennial - 250th
- Third Prize: Andover Fish & Game Club

Antique Cars:

- First Prize: Roger Gross - 1959 Corvette
- Second Prize: Steve & Tricia Rosen - 1930 Model A-Ford Cabriolet
- Third Prize: Tim & Pat Foster - 1966 Cady Sedan Deville

Other Vehicles:

- First Prize: Mac Johnson - 1938 John Deere L
- Second Prize: Roger Gross - 2017 Corvette
- Third Prize: Melinda Johnson - 1946 IH Farmall A

Animals:

- First Prize: Sandra - Lola (Horse)

It takes many volunteers and hours of hard work to make the Andover 4th of July celebration happen. We are grateful for the help of each and

every one. Also, thank you to the parade judges: Julie Cooper, Michelle Lebreque, Kathy Ederson, Faith Clendenen, George Hashem, Marcy Vieren, Cathy Ellis, and Samantha Pelletier. Special thanks once again for the patience and skill of Michelle Gage & Mike Evleth for lining up the parade. Over on the Village Green we had help from Jim Henderson, who delivered and picked up the trash cans; and many thanks again to Toby Locke, who has been setting up the reviewing stand for as long as anyone can remember! And where would we be without the two gentlemen on the reviewing stand, Bob Ward & Steve Smith? Thank you also to Garrett Niemyer for his wonderful rendition of the National Anthem and to Nancy Tripp & Margo Coolidge for their rousing patriotic medley.

Besides the many non-profits and vendors selling food and their wares, there was the Firecracker 5K Foot Race, the Hillbilly Scramble men's softball game & the women's softball game at Blackwater Park.

Music and refreshments (expertly cooked by Rob French) were available all afternoon on the Village Green. At dusk, American Thunder Fireworks put on a fireworks display that brought in people from miles around.

The committee is forever grateful to Proctor Academy for their many resources, manpower and facilities provided to us! And, of course, thank you to all our committee members, long-time and new, for your many hours of service! This year, as in the past, we have had a great time working together to make the 4th of July celebration a special event for our community. Anyone interested in joining us in the fun, come to a meeting. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Andover Fire Station at 7 PM. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 3.



A violent storm that ripped through Andover Village on July 10 caused a lot of work for utility crews from the electric, telephone and cable companies. Photos: Tiffany Perkins

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continued for several more minutes with one tone after another. The on-scene reports were of Route 11 being closed and the possibility of closing Main Street. It sounded like we were going to have a long night.

Main Street was, in fact, closed, but not by any clever decision made by the incident commander. Mother Nature made that call. Trees, telephone poles and wires covered Main Street from Proctor Academy to the Fire Station. Fire teams worked alongside DOT crews to get Route 11 opened to traffic. This task was accomplished very quickly. Trees and poles were cut up and pushed out of the road way. The real clean up and power restoration would take longer. On Main Street, traffic was rerouted around North Street and this proved a challenge for large tractor trailer rigs, but they managed well.

As I looked at the large phone lines and tangle of power lines laying on Main Street, my fire chief mind was trying to figure how we would get all the resources we needed to fix everything. However, before long a crew from NH COOP arrived with new poles and soon several more teams of power crews came with more poles and more bucket trucks. A little later a crew from the telephone company came and started planning the repairs.

About half the town was without power and, but for Main Street and Elbow Pond Road, all roads were passable. It was now about 10 PM and progress was made. Most fire and EMS crews were sent home to rest. More storms were predicted. Andover police were patrolling the town and the police chief and I had set up our commands at the

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