

AndoverBeacon.com June 2020 735-6099



Eldora Walker Heath led the Children's Parade during the 1976 Andover Fourth of July celebration.

Andover's Fourth of July Celebration Has Been Cancelled

Committee is planning online games, videos ...

Press release

The Andover Fourth of July Committee, sad to say, has decided to cancel this year's Fourth of July celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The reasoning for cancelling is the unneces-

sary risk.

At a normal event, we would have police, fire and other safety measures in place. But none of these will protect us from COVID-19. A single, infected person attending this event could infect many others. If one person were infected from attending our event and, heaven

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Three of Andover's restaurants have opened outdoor dining areas, now that those are allowed under the state's cautious reopening rules. Pictured here is the *al fresco* dining option at The Kitchen; both Pizza Chef and The Refinery now offer outdoor seating as well. Photo: Charlie Darling

Local Businesses Rise to Challenges as Reopening Begins

Many creative safety measures emerge

Shelley Geoghegan, *Beacon* staff

With the beginning of the State of New Hampshire's phased reopening starting in May, the process of opening a business isn't as simple as turning the key and welcoming people back in. There are safety guidelines that must be adhered to, for which the business owner bears the financial, and time, burden.

This isn't the only consideration. A large number of business owners are skeptical about the safety of opening at this stage and must weigh their economic need to reopen versus the safety of themselves and their customers. Conversely, customers are also considering the safety of starting to shop in-person again at businesses outside of grocery stores and pharmacies.

The Kitchen Andover

Some businesses in Andover, such as The Kitchen Andover, have been able

to stay open as an "essential" business by making changes to stay in compliance with the original shutdown rules. Now, in order to expand their offerings, they must make new accommodations and spend more on resources to maintain everyone's safety. To that end, The Kitchen Andover's owner Michael Prete related the following about current accommodations and creative changes, as well as plans for the immediate future:

"The Kitchen Andover has been staying ahead of this wave and has been adapting before the need. We closed our doors to inside patrons when we didn't need to, opened an online ordering and payment system, and opened our drive-up window. We offered bulk meats, produce, baking ingredients, and even masks, sanitizer, and toilet paper at near costs before there was a lack of these items in the grocery store. We have been helping the community with gift cards and free meals as well, with help

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The *Andover Beacon* delivers news from your community that you can't get anywhere else, forging a vital link between the organizations that support our community – town government, fire, police, ambulance, schools, libraries, our many non-profit organizations – and the community they serve.

COVID has knocked the *Beacon's* advertising revenue down significantly, and we don't know when it will recover. If we are to continue to serve our community ... and the organizations that serve our community ... and you! ... then as a non-profit organization, we must rely more than ever on the generosity of the community.

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