

Fourth of July Committee Announces Parade Theme for 2022

Our 80th Independence Day Celebration!

Press release

Anyone who's looked outside recently has noticed the frost on the ground. Time is marching forward, and the Fourth of July Committee is working on the 2022 celebration – Andover's 80th!

At our last committee meeting, the number 80 rang a bell and "Around the World in 80 Days" popped up. It was then a short leap to "Around Our Town in 80 Years" for our parade theme.

This theme should give everyone ideas for a float. It could be historic, or it could also play on the original story or any other ideas that highlight what a wonderful town Andover is.

The committee next moved on to planning activities for the event. Kids came to mind. We came to the conclusion that we did not have enough activities for kids of all ages. Vertical Entertainment had previously been contacted and had presented many options for us to choose from. We were excited to select a few, one of which will be an Obstacle Course on the Village Green. Come give

it a go! See how quickly you can navigate it! Stay tuned. More activities will be announced in the coming months.

In October we signed a contract for a fireworks display that won't soon be forgotten. Since this will be our 80th celebration, we've decided to shoot for the stars (literally) – it will be even better than last year!

As you look out the window at the snow, keep reflecting back on those beautiful, warm Fourth of July celebrations of the past; but, most of all, keep a place in your heart for the 80th Andover Independence Day Celebration in July 2022.

Do you enjoy having fun? Would you like to be a part of planning Andover's big day? Join our committee. Come to a meeting. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Andover Hub at 7 PM.

If meetings aren't your thing, contact one of us. We can use behind-the-scene helpers and extra hands on the day of the celebration. For more information, contact Doug Phelps at 603 977-0037 or Doug.Phelps80@gmail.com; Donna French at 603 735-6131 or DonnaFrench@comcast.net; or Beth Frost at 603 455-2882 or BFrost99@icloud.com. 

Keeping Up With the Times Requires Adaptability and Change

Secretarial hours added to assistant position

Marjorie Roy, Town Administrator

My, how things have changed!

During a conversation about the Town's new financial software and the features it offers, discussion began about how things have changed at the Town Office over the last 14 years. I was the Deputy Town Clerk then, and we were using IBM typewriters to process registrations, title applications, and dog licenses.

In 2007, I became the Town Clerk and Tax Collector, and as I had promised the Selectmen, I brought that office into the 20th century with computers and a more secure office space. We kept the typewriters in storage for a couple of years, but they eventually left the building.

In 2011, the Selectmen's Office was utilizing a poorly-designed QuickBooks system, a fax machine, and a copier. Over the years, all of this has been modernized.

The first financial audit that I experienced as Town Administrator had to be suspended because QuickBooks is not capable of processing fund accounting, which is the accounting method used by municipalities. Before the next year's audit, we were using a fund accounting system.

Job requirements in any business or industry you can think of have changed in the last 14 years. In the Town's case, there are many more state and federal demands that require constant, detailed attention and execution in all areas. All

municipal departments are operating with many more regulations, required continuing education, liability, public expectations, constant changes in technology, and of course, the current short-staffing problems that all towns and businesses are facing.

Just think about the changes in police departments, fire departments, and ambulance services in the last 14 years. Equipment design and costs, educational requirements, liability, and staffing issues are ever-changing and faced nationwide. These types of changes apply to municipal offices as well.

The Select Board's office is hiring an assistant because, regrettably, Jessica Rand has resigned. We wish Jessica the best and look forward to seeing her around town. That position has been a 30-hour-per-week position for several years. It will now be 30 hours per week doing accounts payable, processing Transfer Station invoices, customer service (questions about assessments, tax maps, and property cards, and providing reports and information), handling the Timber Tax process, and other miscellaneous duties, as has been the case. 10 secretarial hours per week have been added to help the Town Administrator.

Your Town Offices and Town departments are here to serve you. Office hours are on our website at Andover-NH.gov. If you need further information, please contact us at 603 735-5332 or via the contact information found on the website.

We wish everyone happy and safe holidays! 



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

May the Holidays fill your home with warmth, cheer, wonder, and all the simple joys!

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