



Holiday Happenings

Andover Townsman

Thursday, November 26, 2015

No impostor this year for Santa parade

STAFF REPORT

The big, white-bearded man in the red suit with the big black buckle is ready. He's helped Andover officially kick off the holiday shopping season in proper style and he'll do it again in 2015.

Andover has had Santa aboard the last fire truck in the town's annual Santa parade - sponsored by the Andover Fire Department - for 20 years. Santa - who resembles Rick Pruneau, owner of the Park Street Pub in Andover - said it's the town's kids who keep Santa coming back.

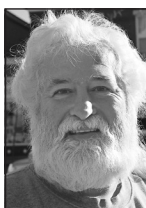
One year, an impostor sat in for Santa, and the kids knew it, Pruneau remembers.

"The Santa who filled in ... was booed and called a phoney," Pruneau remembers. "I knew at that time, Santa wanted to come back."



File photo

Patrick Hickey, 2, of Andover approaches Santa at the Old Town House on Main Street.



Rick Pruneau, owner of the Park Street Pub, has once again worked his magic and has been able to persuade Santa to come to Andover and be in this weekend's parade. Pruneau has been told he looks a lot like Santa.

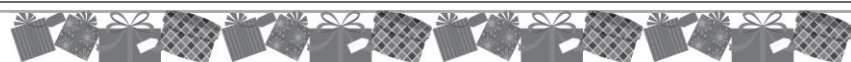
Pruneau, who has owned his restaurant for 23 years, was able to

secure Santa for the parade shortly after he opened the popular neighborhood pub.



File photo

Santa Claus makes his way past the gazebo in The Park on his way to the fire truck where he remains perched for the Andover Santa Parade.



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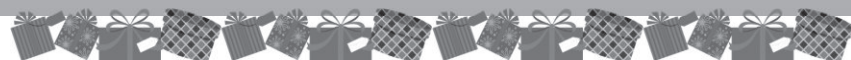
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IF YOU GO

What: Annual Santa parade and tree-lighting
When: Sunday, Nov. 29, 4 p.m. -- NOTE: New time
Where: Starts at The Park, winds around downtown

streets
Who: Firefighters union; parade marshal Bill Fahey,
Santa Claus

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Holiday parade theme: 'Nightmare Before Christmas'

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
JWAKEFIELD@
ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

Things may look a little different in this Sunday's holiday parade, as the theme takes a dark - and hopefully creative - turn.

Plus the parade starts about 3 hours later than usual - at 4 p.m. instead of 1 p.m. - to help local businesses hopefully drum up some holiday shopping revenue.

The parade is a longstanding holiday kick-off tradition for local families as hundreds of people attend. The parade has been happening since 1955, said firefighter Carl Morrison, who is the fire department parade organizer.

This year's parade theme is "The Nightmare Before Christmas," based on a 1993 dark-fantasy, stop-motion, musical film by Tim Burton.

"We wanted people on the parade floats to be creative with ideas and costumes," Morrison said. "We hope to see floats fit to make Jack Skellington (a character in the film) proud."

Float participation numbers are good, Morrison said, as numerous schools, scouting groups and dance studios are signed on along with bands including the Aleppo Shriners Mounted Patrol.



File photos

The girls from Daisy Troop 66145 proudly hold their colors as they march down Main Street as part of the Andover Santa Parade.

"We'll have great music, and dancing on some floats," Morrison said.

The parade will lead right into the downtown tree lighting ceremony being held in the alcove next to TD Bank. And, dancing with Santa will be happening.

Morrison said the Andover Business Center Association asked for this year's later-than-usual parade start as downtown businesses hope parade-goers stay downtown and shop.

Stores will be open until



File photo

Students from the North Andover School of Dance perform as Disney princesses in the parade last year.



A dragon from Yang's Fitness dances down Main Street during the Andover Santa Parade in 2013.



The Sons of Italy Drum & Bugle Corps play as they march down Main Street during last year's Santa Parade.

6:30 p.m. on Nov. 29. The ABCA website tells shoppers to plan on a night of deals and steals just in time for the holiday season. "Elsa," from the movie "Frozen," will also be stopping by after the parade to help Santa with post-parade festivities. There will be street vendors for food and hot chocolate, too.

"It's getting some mixed reviews," Morrison said of the 4 p.m. start time. "But we said we would try it. So, we'll see."

The parade will follow its traditional route from The Park at Chestnut and Bartlet streets, down Whittier Street and over to Elm Street, before making its grand procession down Main Street. It will then turn off Main at Morton Street and finish back up on Bartlet Street.

The Andover Firefighters Relief Association, with assistance from the Andover firefighters union, I.A.F.F. Local 1658, has hosted the annual Santa Parade for years.

It first began with a fire truck parade featuring Santa Claus that traveled around town before returning to the Central Station, formerly on Park Street, where a party was hosted for hundreds of town children.

It has been transformed over the years into the full marching procession that it is today, boasting a host of bands, floats and community groups.

For more information on the parade, visit www.andoversantaparade.com.

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AYS tree lot opens Nov. 28 with 532 trees



File photo

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
JWAKEFIELD@
ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

IF YOU GO

AYS Christmas tree lot schedule
OPENS: Saturday, Nov. 28 at 9 a.m.
CLOSES: Monday, Dec. 21 at 8 p.m.
HOURS: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on week-ends; 3 to 8 p.m. on weekdays
WHERE: town skate park located behind West Middle School on Shawsheen Road
NOTE: Cash or check ONLY. NO CREDIT CARDS.

Was that a team of professional lumberjacks harvesting Christmas trees in New Brunswick, Canada?

No, it was a group of 12 teens from Andover Youth Services doing their part to make sure the holidays are wrapped perfectly for local families. AYS runs a popular Christmas tree lot every year at the town skate park located behind West Middle School on Shawsheen Road. Hundreds of trees are sold. Proceeds benefit AYS.

Glen Wilson of AYS said the teen lumberjacks went north and harvested trees on Nov. 14. Wilson said 532 trees of all sizes are coming to the AYS lot this year and the lot opens on Saturday,

Nov. 28 at 9 a.m.

This is the 13th year for the AYS Christmas tree lot and the AYS volunteers are always willing to secure a tree to a car's roof or pack it safely inside a car for that important ride home.

"Plus, it's not just trees. We have wreaths and other holiday decorations, too," Wilson said.

◀ **Shaun Lima, 15, a volunteer at the Andover Youth Services Christmas Tree lot, carries a tree just purchased by Joe McConaughy, and his cousin Anna Kavanash during the annual tree sale in 2008. This year, the tree lot, located at the skate park behind the West Middle School on Shawsheen Road, opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28.**

Fahey will lead parade as grand marshal

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
JWAKEFIELD@ANDOVER-
TOWNSMAN.COM

Local firefighters organizing the annual holiday parade decided it was time to do more than honor Santa Claus.

They decided to honor Bill Fahey, executive director of Andover Youth Services and tireless advocate for local teens and young people.

"With all he has done to help so many people in town during the opiate crisis and just doing all he does we just thought he deserved this," said parade organizer and Andover firefighter Carl Morrison. "So many kids will be at the parade we thought this was a good way to recognize him and say thanks."

Fahey will be grand



Bill Fahey, executive director of Andover Youth Services, will be the grand marshal of the Santa Parade this year in honor of his hard work for the town's youth over the years.

marshal of the annual Firefighters Santa Parade, which is Sunday, Nov. 29 at 4 p.m.

Fahey, hired in 1994, has been pushing for a town youth center for several years and it finally opened

this year. Firemen thought their grand marshal selection was perfectly timed for this year's parade to recognize Fahey, Morrison said.

"We thought it was good timing for this recognition," Morrison said. "The new

youth center is great for kids."

Fire truck riding is reserved for the red-suited guest of honor only — Santa Claus — so Fahey will be seated in a car at the front of the parade, Morrison said.

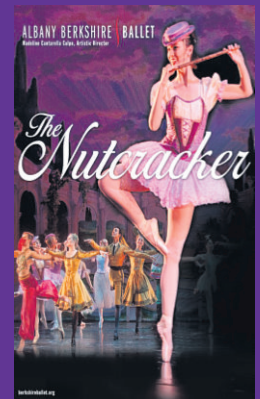
The firefighters' union website reports that Fahey "has been a dedicated leader and role model for the children of Andover. Fahey has used his position to inspire children and young adults to be proactive, and become advocates for the things that interest them. Fahey has also been heavily involved in the opiate crisis that is currently plaguing our youth, and has been deeply embedded in the uphill battle to help those that suffer from addiction."

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Holiday Happenings

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS PARADE, 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Main Street in Andover. The Andover Business Community Association is teaming up with the Andover Fire-fighter's Santa Parade. The Tree Lighting and Dancing with Santa will be after the parade which will end at the TD Bank fountain on Main Street. Elsa, from "Frozen," will stop by after the parade to help Santa. Street vendors will provide the food and hot chocolate will be available for everyone to enjoy. Sponsorship options are available. Email abcnow@gmail.com or visit www.andoverbusinesses.org to learn more.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, 6 p.m. at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St. Hosted by the Greater Lawrence Italian Women's Club. For more information, call 978-682-7453.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

THE CAPITAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA: A SWINGING YULETIDE, 7:30 p.m.

at the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. Music director, Clayton "Skip" Poole and the orchestra will perform classic songs that showcase the big band panache. Vocalist C.J. Poole and one of Boston's premier session singers, Patty Barkas, will perform. All tickets are \$40 at the door, \$35 in advance, \$30 in advance for seniors and students. Call 978-837-5355.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING STROLL, 4 to 8:30 p.m. on Main Street in Andover. Hosted by the Andover Business Community Association, in connection with Andover businesses. Attendees will get a night of deals and steals just in time for the holiday season. Email abcnow@gmail.com or visit www.andoverbusinesses.org for more information.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT, 7:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church, 43 Essex St., Andover. The New England Classical Singers will



In recent years, up to 200 people have gathered for the BallardVale tree-lighting and caroling ceremony. This year, the event on BallardVale Green is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. Enjoy the hot chocolate, cider and treats provided by BallardVale Historic District Commission members, past and present, and BallardVale friends and neighbors. Dress warmly and bring your singing voices and holiday spirit. Dogs are welcome, but please bring them on a leash.

perform Handel's "Messiah" Part I (with the "Hallelujah" chorus), "Alleluia! Puer Natus Est Nobis," a cantata by Boston composer Nicholas White, and a cappella holiday favorites. A

pre-concert lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$18 for seniors, \$15 for groups of 10 or more, free for children and students with ID. Visit www.newenglandclassical.org.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, 9 a.m. to noon at the Free Christian Church rotunda, 31 Elm St., Andover. Hosted by the Andover Girls Hockey team, the event will include craft activities and photos with Santa. The Andover Historical Society will have provide a traditional craft for the kids. Registration is not required. Visit www.andoverhistorical.org to learn more.

RED BOW FAIR, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Parish Church, 190 Academy Road (Old Center), North Andover. Sixteen juried crafters and artisans will be featured. Shoppers will find holiday arrangements, wreaths, kissing balls, swags, boxwood trees, country store crafts, gift baskets, a book shop, culinary corner, silent auction (closes at 2 p.m.), a quilt drawing, and wine cellar drawings. There will also be a section for "Granny's Treasures" filled with holiday decor, toys, jewelry, and kitchenware,

as well as children's activities in "Kids' Country." Take photos with Santa from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. Call 978-687-7948 or visit www.northparish.org.

SATURDAY AND MONDAY, DEC. 5 AND 7

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday at The Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover. Indulge in baked goods, shop for holiday gifts such as hand quilted, hooked and knit items (American Girl doll outfits, children's sweaters, tree decorations, etc.), and costume jewelry. There will also be live plants and floral arrangements. A variety of vendors will be on-hand with organic cosmetics, jewelry and other gift items, priced for every pocket. Breakfast and lunch will be served featuring apple crisp and chowder. All proceeds will support The Center's programs. Call 978-623-8321 for more information.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

MERRIMACK COLLEGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE: A JAZZY CHRISTMAS, 7 p.m. at the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. The ensemble, made up of students, faculty, and some special guests, will perform arrangements of traditional and contemporary holiday music. Admission is free with suggested donations at the door to benefit Lazarus House of Lawrence. For more information, call 978-837-5355.

FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT, 2:30 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 50 Bartlet St., Andover. Features performances by the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, Renese King as soloist and director of the New England Gospel Ensemble and Matthew Gagnon, student soloist, cello. Tickets are



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\$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and students, \$5 for children. Visit www.mvpmusic.org or call 978-685-3505.

MISTRAL HOLIDAY CONCERT: "THE BAROQUE BIG BAND," 4 p.m. at South Church, 41 Central St., Andover. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$25 for seniors. This program is subject to change. Visit www.mistralmusic.org for updates.

TREE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING, 5 p.m. on the Ballard-Vale Green. All are welcome to join in the lighting of the "smallest tree" and the carol sing. Enjoy hot chocolate, cider and treats provided by the BallardVale Historic District Commission members, past and present, and BallardVale friends and neighbors. Dress warmly and be prepared to sing. Dogs are welcome, but they must be kept on leashes. Call 978-475-0125 for more information.

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT, 1 p.m. in the Danvers High School auditorium, 60 Cabot Road. Presented by International Cars, Ltd. and Honda North. The program will feature the Hillyer Festival Orchestra, soprano Erin Smith, and sing-a-longs. This year's concert will benefit the Colleen E. Ritzer Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Danvers High School Falcon Band, and the In Control



Andover firefighters walk alongside the truck as they escort Santa Claus down Main Street at the end of the Andover Santa Parade in 2013.

File photo

Family Foundation. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors (60 and over), \$10 for high school and middle school students, free for children 12 and under. Go to www.ticketstage.com/CRMSF for details.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL," 7:30 p.m. at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm St., North Andover. Actor J.T. Turner will portray Charles Dickens and every single character from the story in this one-man show.

This version will bring all the drama, comedy and redemption as Dickens had originally written it. The performance will last for 90 minutes with a brief intermission. Tickets are \$15 and available at the church office. Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended. Proceeds from the show will benefit the church. Call 978-686-4445 for tickets. Email theactorscompany@aol.com or visit www.theactorscompany.org for more information.

ANNUAL CHANUKAH CELEBRATION, 2 p.m. at Osgood Landing, 1580 Osgood St., North Andover. Performing Puppets, latkes, and Chanukah treats will highlight this year's Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation's annual First Light celebration. Ventriloquist Jonathan Geffner, along with his madcap puppets, will perform "Maccabee Mishegoss!" as part of the



File photo

Jessica Andrews, 6, left, of Andover and her friend, Dierdre O'Rourke, also 6, of Lawrence, sipped hot chocolate during the tree-lighting in 2009. Every year the tree-lighting brings out friends and family. This year the tree-lighting is Nov. 29 after the Santa parade.

Chanukah celebration. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$9 for seniors (over 70), \$5 for ages 6 to 17, and free for children 5 and under. Tickets can be purchased online at www.mvjf.org or by calling 978-688-0466.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, DEC. 16 AND 17

PAJAMA STORY TIME WITH SANTA, 6 p.m. at the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St. Enjoy a quiet story hour with Santa as he reads "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in the decorated Blanchard House. Kids are encouraged to come in their pajamas. Have a snack, explore the house, and take pictures with Santa. For

toddlers to age 6. Limited to 15 children. Visit www.andoverhistorical.org.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DEC. 19 AND 20

DANCE PRISM: THE NUTCRACKER, at the J. Everett Collins Center for the Performing Arts, 100 Shawsheen Road, Andover. Performances are at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$20 for children and seniors, \$26 for adults. Group discounts are offered. Seating is reserved; handicapped seating is available and easily accessible. Tickets are available online at www.danceprism.com or by calling 978-371-1038.



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Holiday Happenings 2015!

Sunday November 29th ~ 4pm to 6:30pm

Main Street, Andover



**The Andover Business Community Association (ABCA)
& Andover Fire Dept continue the tradition!**

- ~ Santa Parade starting at 4pm bringing Santa to town
- ~TD Bank Courtyard Tree Lighting Ceremony following the parade
- ~Family Fun and Music at TD Bank
- ~Hot Chocolate ~Dancing with Santa at the Town House ~Elsa from Frozen
- Laser Light Show on Main Street!

Holiday Shopping Stroll 2015

Friday, December 4th ~ 4pm to 8:30pm

**Teaming with all the Andover businesses, plan on a night of deals and steals
just in time for the holiday season!**

Details on "Mom's Night Out" for this event are still in progress.

Breakfast with Santa ~ Saturday, December 5th, 9am-Noon

Free Christian Church, Elm Street, Andover

This events benefits the Andover High School Girls Hockey Team. Join us for photos, crafts and gift raffles.

Mark your calendar and get ready for another great Holiday Season in Andover!



Andover Business Community Association / www.andoverbusinesses.org / abcnow@gmail.com