

The BallardVale Gazette

Newsletter of the BallardVale Historic District Commission

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HAPPY ENDING TO BIKE THEFT

On a warm summer evening in late July, just one week before moving from BallardVale to their new home in New Hampshire, Steve and Tammy Hasse noticed that their son's new bike was missing. Fearing the worst after a thorough search for the bike, they reported it missing to the Andover Police Department, and then broke the news to young Matt that he probably would not see the bike again. "He was just learning to ride and was so excited about bringing it to the new house", said mom Tammy.

Officer Hagerty of the Andover Police Department took the report. "It's pretty unlikely to get a stolen bicycle back. But it sure helps if it's registered with the police." (See "Residents Are Key to Safety in BallardVale" for information on safeguarding bicycles.)

Apparently several items had been stolen from the area including a couple of bicycles. Detectives were able to recover the goods, and because of their prompt report, Officer Hagerty had the rare pleasure to return the much-loved bicycle to the family. As neighbors gathered to enjoy the moment, one was overheard to say, "This is great. My bike was stolen when I was a kid, and I never saw it again."

The slim chances of recovery may have been lost on young Matt, but his pleasure was quite evident as he rode around the driveway, and the bike spent the night of its celebrated return in the family's living room.

RESIDENTS ARE KEY TO SAFETY IN BALLARDVALE

How can thefts of personal property and damage or break-ins to homes be avoided? Sgt. Harry Collins of the Andover Police Department spoke to the Gazette about general safety issues for residents of BallardVale.

"The most effective policing involves the community," said Sgt. Collins. "In BallardVale you have the perfect situation for that because houses tend to be close together and people know one another. Neighbors and residents play a key role in helping us do our job. There are lots of very simple things people can do to make BallardVale, as well as their homes, safer."

Sgt. Collins suggests these simple tips:

Take an interest in your neighbors. Know your abutters. If new people move in next door, make an effort to meet them. Be familiar with the usual comings and goings of the neighborhood.

Pay attention to your elderly neighbors. Watch for signs of normal routine.

Leave exterior lights on at night. Lights can be attached to motion units that switch on when movement is detected.

Leave lights on indoors. Lights on timers are useful and a deterrent to break-ins both when you are home or away.

Cancel newspaper delivery and arrange for mail and trash to be collected on its normal schedule while on vacation. A change of routine and the build-up of mail or papers are clear signs that people are not at home (or that something may be wrong).

Schedule a "house check". If you plan to be away from home for 1-4 weeks, you can register at the Andover Police Department to do a daily check of your property. Information and forms are available at the Andover Police Department.

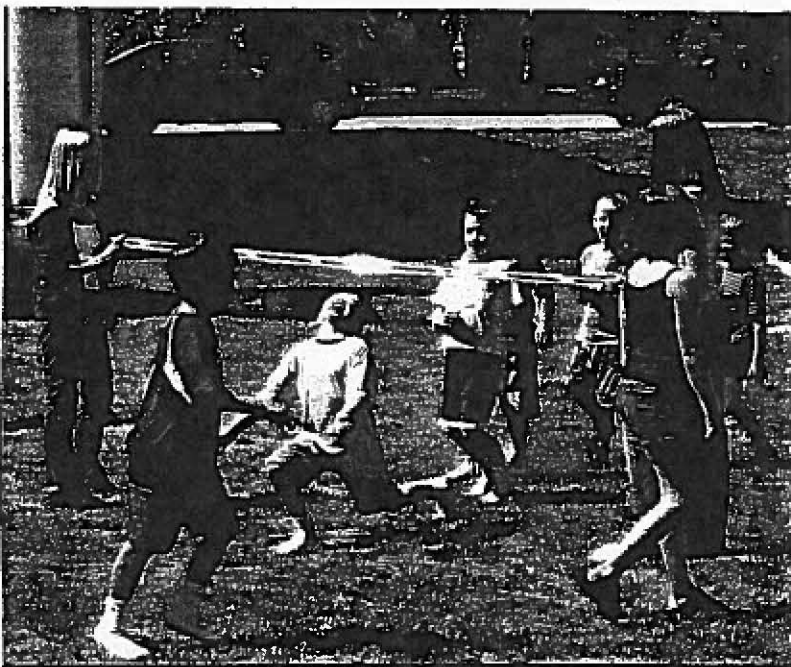
Lock up bicycles or keep them in a locked garage. Bikes should be registered and tagged at the Andover Police Department. Registered information helps police

BLOCK PARTY II

The weather and the turnout were spectacular for BallardVale's second annual block party held on Saturday, September 7. Area residents gathered to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs, potluck specialties, conversation, games and fun. Once again DJ extraordinaire, Ted Teichert, led games that were entertaining for participants and observers alike. Whether bouncing in the "moonwalk", playing tug-of-war, dancing on the field or simply relaxing with friends, old and young shared a wonderful day.

Thanks to Ted and to everyone who helped by making cash contributions, setting up, cleaning up and participating. Several local businesses also helped make the day a great success. Wyeth/Genetics loaned the grill and gas tanks for the day, and their in-house catering service Sodexo Marriott provided lots of drinks. Ice was provided by Sunday's General Store. Delicious "Hoodsies" were donated by Cronin's Ice Cream, and Spinners Pizza served up - what else? - pizza! And last but not least, "portapotties" were brought to you by Elm Street Auto. Thank you, one and all.

Mark your calendars for next year's 3rd Annual BallardVale Block Party to be held on the Saturday after Labor Day. See you next year!



locate stolen bicycles quickly. Call the Andover Police for more information.

Keep clear records. Conduct a room-by-room insurance-like survey by videotaping or photographing your belongings. Be sure to record the make, model, serial number and cost of items in your house. Keep this information in a safety deposit box or other safe place. In case of theft, the sooner this information is provided to police, the better the chances for retrieval.

Contact the Andover Police at 978-475-0411 (non-emergency) for more information or visit the website at: www.police.town.andover.ma.us/

TREE LIGHTING ON THE BALLARDVALE GREEN

It's time again to join neighbors and friends on the BallardVale Green and celebrate the holidays with the annual tree lighting ceremony. On Sunday, December 8 at 5:00pm, come to the Green for song and good cheer. For those who may not know, the beautiful spruce tree we gathered round last year was irreparably damaged and had to be removed. Its replacement subsequently suffered from drought and negligence, and died during the summer. We expect that the new tree will be planted in time for the holiday season and tree lighting. Let's join to celebrate the holidays *and* our new tree that we hope will live a long happy life on the BallardVale Green!



WE'VE BEEN ASKED...

Where can I find a copy of the BallardVale Historic District Commission guidelines?

A BallardVale Historic District Commission notebook which lists all rules, regulations, procedures and current commission members is available to the community and can be found in several places. One notebook of guidelines is located in the Department of Community Planning and Development on the ground level of Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street. Another can be found in the reference section of Memorial Hall Library. The book is stored in the *Andover* file drawer at the reference desk. Look for it under the heading "BallardVale", or ask the reference librarian for assistance. There will also be a notebook available at the Andover Historical Society in the near future.

In addition, every member of the Commission has a notebook and can answer questions you may have about regulations or procedures regarding the application process. Current members are listed below.

Chris Huntress, Commission Chair, 978-475-7738.
chuntress@attbi.com

Diane Derby, V. Chair, 978-475-0125.
derby01@attbi.com

Bruce Taylor, Secretary, 978-475-1615.
Btaylor143@aol.com

Ron Abraham, 978-470-2616.
ccamel@attbi.com

M.P.Bogan, Gazette Editor, 978-474-1910.
mpbogan@nedcc.org

Richard Bowen, 978-475-6986.
richardbowen@aol.com

Perry Raffi, 978-474-4288.

James Sheldon, 978-475-4915.
jsheldon@attbi.com

Brian Zinsmeister, 978-474-4324.
atz@attbi.com

Patti D'Agata, Secretarial Support at Andover Town Offices, 978-623-8301.
PDAgata@town.andover.ma.us

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Veterans will be honored at the annual Veteran's Day Ceremony to be held on the BallardVale Green on Monday November 11 at 12 noon.

"It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that the government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

- President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863.

CALENDAR

Nov. 11 (Monday)	Veteran's Day Ceremony on the BallardVale Green – 12 noon
Nov. 13 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00PM
Dec. 4 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00PM
Dec. 8 (Sunday)	Tree Lighting Celebration on the BallardVale Green - 5:00PM
Jan. 8 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00PM
Feb. 5 (Wednesday)	BallardVale Historic District Commission monthly meeting Town Offices – 2 nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00PM

BallardVale Historic District Commission

*Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810*

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*See you at the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11
and the Tree Lighting on December 8!*