



NEW RAMP
GREETED BY
STUDENTS,
STAFF

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LOCAL WOMAN
IN PLAY ABOUT
WITCH TRIALS

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JOEL FAMILY
A SOCCER
POWERHOUSE

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OUR 130TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 50

OCTOBER 11, 2018

\$1.00

Businesses still struggling a month later

By JESSICA VALERIANI
Staff Writer

Nearly a month after the Sept. 13 gas explosions struck Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, local businesses continue the struggle to stay on their feet as they are still without gas.

"It's all about being creative now," said Spiro Pappadopoulos, owner of Sauce at 19 Essex St., Andover. He also owns 15sx and

Andolinis in Andover.

Pappadopoulos said they have had to change their menu, making it smaller and adding items they typically don't serve.

"We see a lot of happy faces that we're open, but we can't give as much," he said. The restaurant has lowered the number of guests they can serve, so they would not have to lower their standards.

An electric convection oven and electric griddle

have been installed, but Pappadopoulos said the building simply does not have enough electricity supply to buy more electrical equipment.

"We have half as much business as we normally do," he said.

Pappadopoulos' most valuable asset is his team, and he does not want to lose any members of that team as a result of losing business.

Sauce opened slowly

about 10 days after the Sept. 13 gas explosions. They staggered up and opened about a week ago to the extent they are at now, which Pappadopoulos said is the highest extent they can be at without gas and dependent on their new installations.

Other restaurants like UBurger and Bueno Malo still have signs posted on their doors stating they are closed until further notice

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AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

UBurger in downtown Andover remains closed due to no gas.

ELECTION 2018

Tram Nguyen 'opposite of my opponent'

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

In some ways, Tram Nguyen's story is a classic American tale.

She came to the United States as part of an immigrant family that had \$100 to its name. The family worked hard and was able to send Tram to college. She got out and got a job as an attorney. Now, she says, she wants to give back.

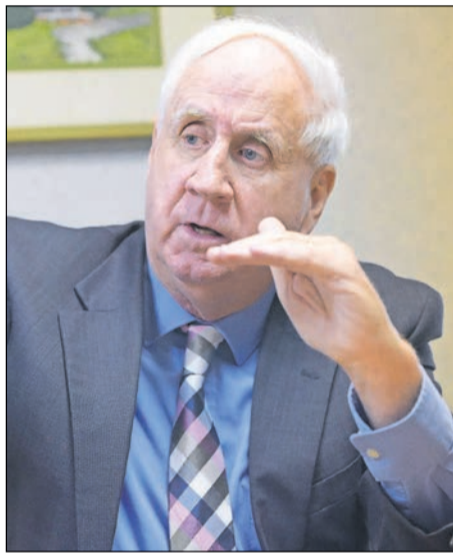
Background

Nguyen came from Vietnam when she was five years old, with her mother, father and one

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AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo
Tram Nguyen is a Democratic candidate for the 18th Essex District State Representative seat.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo
Republican state rep Jim Lyons is running for reelection in November.

Andover continues water flushing

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

The Board of Selectmen decided to continue forward with the water flushing program to eliminate the brown water issue that arose this summer.

At last Monday's meeting, Public Works Director Chris Cronin strongly suggested the town continue with the program, despite the Sept. 13 gas explosions and the work being done in town to restore the gas lines and gas appliances.

"I do think we want to do this program," he said. "I'm very sensitive to the people who have suffered through it."

Cronin said if the town does not continue soon, the program will have to be finished next spring. Once the weather gets cold and it starts freezing, the program will have to stop.

Concerns from the board arose over water pipes that needed to be flushed being located in the affected areas from the gas explosions.

"I can guarantee you our flushing program will not impede the Columbia Gas

projects," Cronin told the board.

Cronin has discussed the work with Columbia Gas and NiSource, and Cronin assured them the town will do its best to work around them.

"We have fire hoses where we can aim the water off the road and not into the holes," he said. "We have ways to divert the water away from the gas work."

Selectman Annie Gilbert said the whole reason this topic was on the agenda is because it was such a problem over the summer.

"If we feel that we decide we don't want to do the flushing because there could be some additional disruption, we're going to be in a worse position in the spring," she said.

Cronin said the program will include flushing water during the evenings.

The board took Cronin's strong recommendation to continue the flushing program into consideration and approved it.

During the summer months, residents from neighborhoods across the

See WATER, Page 2

Lyons still passionate about the job

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsman.com

Jim Lyons pounds his fist, jams his index finger into the conference room table like he's trying to bore a hole through it,

and raises his voice when he gets passionate about a point he wants to make.

At age 65, Lyons, an incumbent Republican state representative running for reelection against Democrat Tram Nguyen,

still gets excited about a job he says he still loves.

"The people on Beacon Hill are bought off daily," says Lyons, who has lived in Andover since 1986. "The process is broken. I see the corruption daily."

That approach has put Lyons on the losing end of a lot of votes in the state Legislature. He even votes against many bills his Republican colleagues vote for.

See LYONS, Page 3

AHS facility study committee presents school options

By JESSICA VALERIANI
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Renovations to Andover High School could range anywhere from \$20 million to \$100 million, according to a presentation last week by the Andover High School Facility Study Committee.

Since January 2017, the Andover High School Facility Study Committee and the School Committee have held meetings and conducted studies to develop project strategies to meet their goals for the building and address its major issues.

At last week's meeting, the study committee presented possible renovation

plans and their costs, and conducted tours of the high school building. About 75 people were in attendance.

The current high school, constructed in 1966 with a partial renovation done in 1995, comfortably accommodates an enrollment of up to 1,500. There are currently 1,800 students in the school, said Andover High School Principal Philip Conrad.

Space issues are expected to become more acute during peak years, with expected enrollments of 1,900.

"We want to be able to go up to the projected 1,900," Conrad said.

With such a large number of students in a space not

equipped for that population, overcrowding has become a big issue at Andover High School.

"Everything we can possibly use for kids and teachers, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and other related services, we're using," Conrad said.

Book closets have been made into small institutional classrooms, storage rooms have been made into offices, and teachers don't have their own classrooms.

Stairwells and hallways are also overcrowded.

Environmental controls are at the top of the list of renovations for Conrad.

"We have classrooms that

get really, really hot or really, really cold," he said.

According to the presentation, uninsulated walls and older windows allow heat to enter from outside in the summer and enable heat loss in the winter.

Conrad said there are other big priorities on the list as well, such as the library and the cafeteria. The library is not a collaborative area and it's really loud, he said.

Conrad said there are four lunch periods held throughout the day, because the cafeteria only holds around 450 students at a time, a fourth of the student population.

"We have 30-minute lunch times and the lunch block is

two hours," Conrad said.

Despite the space constraints and need for renovations, Conrad acknowledged the students have kept a positive attitude about it all.

"We have great kids and they get this is how it's going to be," he said.

AHS Facility Study Committee Chair Mark Johnson said the question comes down to: "How much do you invest in the current building?"

"We are looking to educate kids for a long time...and the problem is that education has changed," he said.

Nine options for the school were developed with cost

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AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

Spiro Pappadopoulos in one of his restaurants Sauce in downtown Andover.



Bueno Malo in downtown Andover remains closed due to no gas.

LATER

Continued from Page 1

because they have no gas.

Franco Lozano, owner of Bueno Malo at 93 Main St., said the past month has been a complete nightmare.

"My highest priority was my staff and getting them paid," he said. "But the reality is the money just runs out."

Luckily, his employees have been able to receive paychecks through the insurance company.

However, Lozano is left with the apprehension of who will return once the restaurant is back up and running.

"Everyone is welcome back, but some have found jobs because it's a long time to go without getting paid," he said.

Restaurants like Boston Chowda Company at 109 Main St. in North Andover have been largely impacted by the gas explosions but are still able to run effectively.

The restaurant closed for a week and still has no gas, but has been able to continue selling soups, sandwiches and salads, said owner Michael Lamattina. "We had just started serving fried, fresh seafood and was just gaining momentum, then we lost gas and had to completely stop selling the fried seafood," he said.

Though Boston Chowda Company had to take a step back and resort to their usual menu without the fried seafood, Lamattina said they are doing well despite the lack of gas.

Many restaurants in Lawrence are still closed and without gas, but have made it clear they are working hard to open again soon.

Pronto Pizza at 62 South Union St. in Lawrence has a voicemail stating, "We apologize but we are closed because of the gas outage. We are working with Columbia Gas and restoring service, and we will reopen as soon as possible."

Restaurants aren't the only businesses impacted by the gas outage. David Bider, owner of Lifestyles Furniture, Bider Music, Halloween Headquarters and Andover Dance, all located on South Broadway in Lawrence, said his clientele has decreased drastically.

People seriously affected aren't able to occupy their homes right now, so Bider said they just don't have any interest in buying furniture.

"They aren't worried about getting bedroom sets or dining room sets," he said.

Bider said the area around his businesses has been noticeably quieter. People can't get into Lawrence without running into construction crews and being forced around detours, and they are trying to dodge that.

"I don't see any enthusiasm around here," he said. "A lot of people are just displaced."

List of businesses affected by gas blast

STAFF REPORT

ANDOVER — More than 100 businesses are in the zone affected by the natural gas disaster. According to town officials, they are open, although many of the restaurants have altered their menus to reflect their inability to cook with gas.

According to a press release put out by the town on Monday: "The Town of Andover encourages everyone to support and patronize Andover businesses and to use the hashtag #AndoverBiz on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to support the hardworking business owners and workers who have struggled during the gas emergency."

The following is the list issued Monday by the town, in alphabetical order:

- Acorn Design Center, 10 Essex St.; Advanced Health & Wellness, 76 Main St.; Andolini's, 19 Essex St.; Andover Barber Shop, 17 Main St.; Andover Bookstore, 74 Main St.; Andover Classic Wines, 209 North Main St.; Andover Gallery, 68 Park St.; Andover Inn, 4 Chapel Ave.; Andover Optical, 42 Main St.; Andover School of Ballet, 14 Park St.; Andover Shop, 127 Main St.; Andover Spa, 9 Elm St.; Andover Thrift Shop, 10 Park St.; Andrea's Skin Care, 78 Main St.; Ann's Cleaners, 2 Railroad St.; Beauty Solutions, 36 Main St.; Bertucci's, 90 Main St.; Best You, 10 Main St.; Bobbles and Lace, 2 Main St.; Cache Hair Salon, 20 Post Office Ave.; Caffe Nero, 77 Main St.; Campus Collection, 40 Main St.; Chic Consignment, 44 Main St.; Christian Science Reading Room, 36 Main St.; Clear and Now Holistic Healing Center, 52 Main St.; Coco Collection, 8 Main St.; Cristina's Bridal, 1 Main St.; CVS, 68 Main St.; D'Agostino's Deli, 93 Main St.; David's Shoe Repair, 7 Bartlet St.; Depot Pizza, 53 Essex St.; Doherty Insurance, 21 Elm St.; Domino's Pizza, 63 Park St.; Dove Tail Beauty Connections, 44 Main St.; Driscoll's Package Store, 5 Bartlet St.; Dunkin Donuts, 349 North Main St.; Dunkin Donuts, 93 Main St.; Elements Andover, 209 North Main St.; Elizabeth Grady, 89 R Main St.; Enzo, 91 Main St.; Eva Nails, 28 Chestnut St.

- Grassfields Restaurant, 207 North Main St.; Helen Thomas, 90 Main St.; Home Yoga, 28 Chestnut St.; Irresistibles, 15 Barnard St.; J. McLaughlin, 13 Main St.; Karma 209, North Main St.; Kiki Skin & Body Spa38, Florence St.; Kings Subs, 11 Bartlet St.; Kokke Flowers, 16 Main St.; La Mia Moda 1 Main St.; Lanam Club, 260 North Main St.; LaRosa's, 7 Barnard St.; Les Fleurs, 27 Barnard St.; Letourneau's Pharmacy, 349 North Main St.; Mak and Co., 18 Red Spring Road; Marissa Michaels Hair Salon, 38 Florence St.; Max and Riley, 2 Elm Square; Minuteman Press, 79 North Main St.; Mootone, 15 Railroad St.; Mr. Gelato Café, 89 Main St.; Mr. Take Out, 54 Haverhill St.; Nazarian Jewelers, 2 Elm Square; New England Gallery, 350 North Main St.; Oak & Iron Brewing Co., 18 Red Spring Road.; P Nalbandian Oriental Rugs, 77 Main St.; Park St. Pub, 40 Park St.; Peking Garden, 36 Park St.; Perfecto's Caffe, 79 North Main St.; Philip Ciampa Salon, 22 Park St.; Prim Salon Andover, 90 Main St.; Quiet Pleasures Jewlery, 24 Chestnut St.; Raagini Indian Bistro, 209 North Main St.; Raini Nails, 3 Elm St.; Red Stone Liquors, 89 Main St.; Revitalive, 93 Main St.; Richdale, 10 Railroad St.; Robert Jason Salon, 92 Main St.; Royal Jewelers, 58 Main St.; Salon 7 Elm, 7 Elm St.; Salon Invi, 28 Chestnut St.; Salon Navid, 8 Main St.; Savoir Faire Home, 23 Barnard St.; Shaban's of Andover, 9 Main St.; Shawshen Luncheonette, 3 Lowell St.; Shenada Salon & Spa, 125 Main St.; Sole Amour, 4 Main St.; Starbucks, 14 Main St.; Stop & Shop, 209 North Main St.; Sweet Mim's, 94 Main St.; Teatone, 17 Railroad St.; The Style Refinery, 77 Main St.; Todd Rogers, 18 Park St.; Town Dog, 201 North Main St.; Tulle Bridal, 342 North Main St.; Ultimate Perk, 96 Main St.; UPS, 9 Bartlet St.; Whole Foods, 40 Railroad St.; William Roberts Salon, 211 North Main St.

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AHS
Continued from Page 1

estimates from \$7 million to more than \$200 million, according to the presentation. A new high school would be estimated at \$203

WATER
Continued from Page 1

community have been complaining that dark, murky and muddy water has been flowing out of their taps at home. Some are concerned about the health and safety

million.

The options range from doing nothing to building a new school, with options including renovations and additions in between.

To do nothing to the school, it would still cost the town \$20 million over the next 10

years to maintain.

The ultimate decision will be voted on at Town Meeting. The school committee will present a final plan at the meeting after hearing recommendations from the community and carefully taking all feedback into consideration.

of the water, as well as the stains it leaves behind on toilets, bathtubs and clothing.

Some in town have reported that the brown water is gunking-up their hot water heaters and water filtration systems.

Even people in North Reading, which gets much of its

water from Andover, have complained about the brown water.

The brown water was due to iron and manganese sediment in the water system that is stirred up by heavy demand on the water supply in the summer due to pool-filling and lawn-watering.

NGUYEN

Continued from Page 1

sister at the time. They had \$100 to support a family of four, and her mother didn't know any English.

Her father was a prisoner of war for eight years.

Through hard work, Tram, now 32, was the first in her family to attend college at Tufts University. She earned her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Tram currently lives in Andover with her partner, Nate, 33, and their three dogs. They reside at 1 Brookfield Road.

She works as a legal aid attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services, where she represents workers, domestic violence survivors, seniors, children and veterans in the courtroom.

Why state representative?

In 2017, Tram started to consider running for state representative.

She put together her committee in December 2017 and has taken a leave of absence from work, starting in April 2018, to campaign full-time.

"I stand polar opposite of my opponent," she said of her

opponent, Republican incumbent state Rep. Jim Lyons, also of Andover.

Through her work, Tram said she has pushed for bills that benefit her clients and the Commonwealth, two of those being paid family medical leave and earned income tax credit, which were signed into law in 2017 and the past session in 2018.

"The current state representative has been in office since 2018, for eight years now, and has not passed a single bill at the Statehouse," she said.

Tram said her experience has allowed her to understand how to get things done at the state level.

Her inability as a constituent to meet with the current state representative also influenced her decision to run.

"As a representative you're supposed to represent the people, but how can you do that if you're not meeting with the people?" she asked.

Her position as a legal aid attorney has provided her a lot of leverage for the position.

"Frankly, I'm not a politician," she said. "As an advocate, I have a lot of skill set coming into this position. The job of a representative

is to meet with people, talk to them about their issues and find real solutions, and that is exactly what I've been doing."

The Campaign

"This race is an exciting race for a lot of reasons," Tram said.

She said this campaign is about the values of the community and who shares the values most with the people. Tram cares about common sense gun safety, reproductive rights, and making sure the community is talking about prevention and treatment for the opioid crisis and not just criminalization.

"These are things I'm fighting for and I believe these are the values of our community, and Jim Lyons does not represent the values of our community," she said.

Tram said she wants to create a community where people want to come to it.

"I chose to come back here and be in this community because I think it's a great community and I want to make sure it stays that way," she said. "Lyons is trying to paint me as someone who is new to this area."

Tram's campaign was endorsed by Barack Obama and about 60 others.



AMANDA SABGA/Staff photo

Tram Nguyen is a Democratic candidate for the 18th Essex District State Representative seat.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Republican state rep Jim Lyons is running for reelection in November.

LYONS

Continued from Page 1

But he's got reasons for doing what he does. "I have no desire to go in and do what I'm told," he said, adding that the process in the Legislature is "closed" and lacks transparency.

While he said he doesn't like the term "gadfly," it fits him.

"I am in there raising these issues and they don't want me in there," he says, pounding the table for emphasis. "They know I will not sit there quietly."

Early life

Born and raised in Arlington, Lyons attended St. Agnes School and graduated from Brandeis University.

He has lived in Andover for over 30 years with his wife of 37 years and two adopted sons Tyler, 24, and Mikey, 23.

Lyons is a small business owner for over 2 decades at a family-owned retail business Dandi-Lyons, a flower and ice cream shop.

Why State Representative?

Though growing up his father told him never to vote for a Republican, Lyons is currently serving his fourth term in the House of Representatives, first elected in 2010, as a Republican.

"As a kid I was on the school committee and had an interest in public service," said Lyons.

Lyons has continued his interest in public service, and said he made it his job to go out and represent the taxpayers. He says he wants to be effective and say when he believes things are ineffective.

"Ineffective is not what I am," he said, countering

what he said his opponent has said about him.

He adds that his opponent is just another Democrat who will do whatever she needs to do to get along.

"The Democrats are about control, dictating and going along to get along," he said.

Often times Lyons has been the one opposing vote on decisions, such as the vote for this year's budget, which he said he believes is broken.

Opioid epidemic

Lyons said that everyone has been personally impacted by the opioid epidemic, including himself.

In an emotional interview, he revealed that within his own family, one of his son's is a heroin addict. He has seen firsthand the impacts on an individual and their family.

"It's the addict that has to help themselves, and it's ridiculous to arrest addicts," he said. "Drug dealers care about nobody but themselves and will continue to kill our kids."

The Campaign

Lyons said it has been made clear that himself and Tram Nguyen are polar opposites.

"She supports funding to illegal immigrants, I don't. She supports Judge Feeley releasing criminals, I don't. She supports the pay raises to the top committee chairmen on Beacon Hill, I don't," he said.

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Courtesy photos

Andover High School students Ally Keenan, Ava Goff, Kelley Carzo, Hannah Rowe, Haley Brenner, Becca Nash, Julia Mazrucchi, Karishma Mistry, Melissa Holguin, Bryant Kroeger and Morgan Swain participate in the after-school programs. Some of them were honored for their efforts, along with Fire Chief Michael Mansfield and other first responders.

Students, first-responders honored and thanked

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

Andover High School students were honored by principals and administrators from Andover High School, High Plain and South Elementary schools for leadership displayed in the immediate moments following the Sept. 13 gas explosions and fires in the Merrimack Valley. Students from West Middle School also presented Andover Police and Fire with hundreds of 'thank you' cards created by students from across the district. Andover High School students Ally Keenan, Ava Goff, Kelley Carzo, Hannah Rowe, Haley Brenner, Becca Nash, Julia Mazrucchi, Karishma Mistry, Melissa Holguin, Bryant Kroeger and Morgan Swain participate in the after-school programs at High Plain and South Elementary schools, where they are responsible for watching younger students. All of them worked the afternoon

of the gas explosions, and made the decision to stay late with the younger children until each one was picked up by their parents or guardians. Melissa Holguin, a senior at Andover High School, said they played games with the younger children to keep them busy and assure them everything was okay. "We were really scared and we didn't want them to feel the same way," she said. Andover principals Phil Conrad, Pamela Lathrop and Tracy Crowley as well as APS Assistant Superintendent Sandra Trach honored the students for their quick thinking to ensure younger students' safety through the chaos of the afternoon. "We are so very proud of our students for their commitment," said Superintendent Sheldon Bertram. "The high school students' bravery at these after-school programs, our 7th graders fundraising at West Middle School and creating thank

you cards for first responders from all our schools are wonderful ways to honor the community." Hannah Rowe, a junior at Andover High School, said it was a cool feeling to get recognized for what they did. "We weren't trained like the first responders so we just did our best to help using the common sense we had," she said. Holly Smith, Ella Vidoni, Eva Routhier, Maeve Feeley and Julia Rodenberger, seventh graders at West Middle School, have been hard at work since the Monday following the incident to raise funds for those in need, and have collected gift cards to local businesses, as well as cash and checks to donate to the Red Cross of Massachusetts. Holly, Eva and Ella presented Andover Fire and Police departments with certificates of appreciation and thank you cards written for first-responders by students across all Andover Public Schools.



In no particular order, Holly Smith, Ella Vidoni, Eva Routhier, Maeve Feeley and Julia Rodenberger, seventh graders at West Middle School, were recognized for their hard work helping those in need following the incident.

Immigration talk at West Parish

A leader of the Teaching Immigration Across the Curriculum which offers workshops for Massachusetts educators is speaking about immigration at West Parish Church on Oct. 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Marcia Drew Hohn is an immigration expert, and is presenting her talk with the intention of informing people about immigration issues before the November election. The talk will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall at



Marcia Drew Hohn

129 Reservation Road. Victoria Gaisford, the director of Christian Education at West Parish Church, said the talk, titled "Immigrants and Immigration: Now and in the Future Immigration," are issues that are front and center in national politics, and will figure into the November

midterm elections. "Emotions surrounding the issue are intense, but what are the facts? What are the benefits and burdens of immigration for the nation and Massachusetts?" Gaisford asked. "What could immigration reform look like?" Hohn will present up-to-date facts about immigration. She will include a review of the McCain/Kennedy Immigration Reform Bill and current reform recommendations. Hohn is the director of The

Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. Public Education Institute. The Institute helps community educators and their immigrant students and equips them with the tools to integrate immigrant students and immigration into their classrooms. A recent summer workshop had 80 registered participants from 23 states. Twenty-five states have been reached by the Institute's workshop since its online debut. The workshop included new

modules led by new collaborators to address the changing needs of educators. These modules included a discussion on "Issues, Perspectives and Ideas to Build a Framework for Curriculum Adaption" with Westy Egmont of Boston College and new collaborators Judy Shreves of Warren Country Schools, Missouri, and Usha Tummala-Narra of Boston College. Hohn holds a doctorate in organization systems and directed a public education

institute from 2003 to 2014 to raise the visibility of immigrants as assets to Massachusetts and the nation. She is the author of many published reports including Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Creating Jobs and Strengthening the Economy published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (2012) and Immigrants in Health Care: Keeping Americans Healthy through Care and Innovation published by George Mason University (2016).

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

The Center at Punchard (The Center), 30 Whittier Court, Andover, has lots of activities and programs on tap. Here are some of the highlights: **Friday Night Special:** Chinese American Association of Andovers and Andover Elder Services host free activities at The Center on Fridays, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., including Zumba, yoga, ping pong, Mah Jong, board and card games, and other social activities. All are welcome. **Wellness Clinics:** Stop in for a blood pressure and weight check with trained nurses Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Get help with day-to-day health needs. This service is free and confidential. **Townie Trips:** Thursdays, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Center offers in-town traveling for those who want to get their hair done, go out to lunch, to a friend's house or to the library. A one-hour minimum stay at the destination is required. The

cost is \$4 one way or \$7 round trip. Travel plans should be arranged by Tuesday at noon. Call 978-623-8323 to schedule transportation. **Monday Movie Matinee:** Free movies are shown Mondays at 1 p.m., with popcorn and sodas available for purchase. **Mindfulness Meditation:** Fridays from 3 to 3:30 p.m. by donation. Mindfulness is a modern, evidence-based way of increasing one's mental clarity, calm, happiness and health. Facilitated by Chip Carter. Preregistration requested. **What's for Lunch:** Warm meals served weekdays at noon; suggested cost \$2.50. Prior day registration is requested. **Bereavement Support Group:** Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. All are welcome to attend once or monthly to learn new ways together to carry on traditional ways of doing things and how to commemorate days that can trigger a lot of emotions. To register, call Lois Marra, Home Health VNA Hospice, at 978-552-4537.

Pain Management Support Group: This intimate and confidential group meets on the second Monday of the month, September through June. Open to anyone dealing with chronic pain management issues, the group is facilitated by Gerry Rainville, RN, MSN. Newcomers are always welcome. Call to register. **Computer Users Group:** Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, from September through June, at Memorial Hall Library. **Council on Aging board meetings:** The COA meets on the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend the meetings. **Parkinson's Support Group:** Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, 1:30 to 3 p.m., September through June, and are open to all. Call Kristine Arakelian, outreach coordinator, to confirm attendance or for more information. **Brown Bag:** Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Boston Food Bank and The Center at Punchard, are expanding the Brown Bag program. This free program is for anyone 60 and over with an income less than \$21,978 for a single person or \$29,637 for a couple, on Mass Health, Chapter 115, food stamps or fuel assistance. The grocery bag is available on the fourth Tuesday of the month and must be picked up by 10:15 a.m. Call Annmary Connor or Kristine Arakelian to check eligibility or to sign up.



Courtesy photo

Andover police seized cash drugs and a handgun during a recent drug bust.

Andover man faces drug and weapons charges

By MIKE LABELLA
mlabella@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — A 25-year-old Andover man who has a pending case of trafficking fentanyl against him was again arrested for trafficking fentanyl in addition to other charges, including possession of a handgun without a license. At his arraignment on Friday in Lawrence District Court, Radhames Antonio Diaz-Jimenez was charged with trafficking fentanyl, distribution of a Class A substance (fentanyl), possession of a firearm without a license and identity theft. At the hearing, a prosecutor with the Essex District Attorney's office asked that Diaz-Jimenez be held on

\$100,000 cash bail and filed a motion to revoke his bail on an open case of fentanyl trafficking. Judge Kevin Gaffney set bail at \$75,000 and revoked the \$5,000 cash bail Diaz-Jimenez had posted on an open case of fentanyl trafficking out of Lawrence District Court, according to the Essex District Attorney's office. Diaz-Jimenez must appear Oct. 25 for probable cause hearings on both cases. Andover Police Chief Patrick Keefe said that on Thursday, Oct. 4, the Andover Police Department Substance Abuse Unit and Detective Unit executed a search warrant at an apartment at 800 Bullfinch Drive. Keefe said the search was conducted as part of an

extensive ongoing investigation by Andover Police in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration Cross Border initiative. During the search, Andover Police seized approximately 150 grams of suspected fentanyl, items commonly associated with manufacturing, packaging and distributing fentanyl, a semi-automatic handgun and \$7,791 in cash. "This was a significant arrest and seizure that results in the removal of a significant amount of a deadly opioid from potentially reaching members of our community or surrounding communities," Keefe said. "I'm proud of the cooperative effort that went into this successful investigation."

ON CAMPUS

Ritu Kumble is attending Eastern Connecticut State University this fall. Kumble's major is biology. **Lindsay Williams** has joined the University of Vermont's Honors College. Williams is one of 212 students to join the Honors College's class of 2022. **Charlotte Guterman** and **Sosha Stecher** recently

matriculated as first-year students at Hamilton College. **Kenan Chen** and **Kylie Fox** were named to the chancellor's list at UMass Dartmouth for the spring 2018 semester. **Diana Difo**, **Zachary Herrera** and **Michele Scaraggi** were named to the spring 2018 dean's list at UMass Dartmouth.

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Tewksbury street bridge construction to start soon

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

ANDOVER — Bridge repair construction on the Tewksbury Street Bridge over the Pan Am Railroad should start soon, said Town Manager Andrew Flanagan. Flanagan said the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has the required permits to proceed with improvements that will

allow for one lane of signalized traffic.

Bridge repairs consist of installing shoring under the south side of the bridge and closing the westbound travel lane to traffic with Jersey barriers. That work is scheduled to be completed in four to six weeks.

The existing traffic detour for the bridge closure, which will remain the same, is as follows:

Westbound traffic is directed to follow Andover Street; left onto Dascomb Road; left onto Shawsheen Street and follow to its intersection with Vale Street in Tewksbury Street.

Eastbound traffic is directed to follow Shawsheen Street; right onto Dascomb Road; right onto Andover Street and follow to its intersection with Tewksbury Street in Andover.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

Digital newspaper collection available

Memorial Hall Library is pleased to announce a free addition to its digital newspaper collection.

The Boston Metropolitan News, updated daily, provides web-based access to current and archived issues of 163 newspapers in the Greater Boston area, including the Andover Townsman, The Eagle-Tribune, Tewksbury

Advocate, Wilmington Advocate, North Andover Citizen, Lowell Sun, Worcester Telegram & Gazette, Metro Boston, Boston Herald, and many others.

Patrons can easily search and browse current and archived news articles, editorials, reviews, birth and marriage announcements, obituaries and a variety of special sections.

Boston Metropolitan News can be accessed at <https://mhl.org/bostonnews>.

The collection is available to anyone in the library and at home to Andover cardholders.

Other newspapers offered by the library, including the New York Times and Boston Globe, can be found by visiting <https://mhl.org/databases>.

The library is located at 2 N. Main St., Andover. For more information, visit www.mhl.org, or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

How many antennae to improve web, phone access?

Editor, Townsman:

There are two, well-qualified candidates running for the 18th Essex seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and this highlights exactly what is wrong with Massachusetts politics.

Democratic challenger Tram Nguyen is young, energetic and with a background serving indigent clients as a legal aid attorney. She is exactly the type of person who should be a state representative.

However, step one in becoming a legislator is finding a district in which to run. Unfortunately for Nguyen, running against a Democratic incumbent goes against the unwritten rules

of the game, so she had to find one of the few seats held by a Republican.

With only 34 of the 160 House districts held by Republicans, each GOP seat is vital to providing balance to the competing interests in the Statehouse. As a small business owner, Republican state Rep. Jim Lyons is a fierce advocate for fiscal responsibility and reasonable limits on taxation. One might think that these positions are common sense, but they are anything but common in the Democratically dominated House.

While Tram Nguyen's drive, experience and left-leaning platform of support of the downtrodden are admirable, I wish she would focus her efforts on replacing one of the dozens of corrupt career politicians in her own party. There

are presently more than 20 Democrats in the Statehouse that were first elected to their seats in the '80s or '90s. Certainly the party that had room for convicted criminals Tom Finneran, Chuck Flaherty and Sal DiMasi could make room for a young and talented individual like Tram Nguyen.

The people of the 18th Essex District are fortunate. Not too many of us in Andover, North Andover and Boxford are truly downtrodden. But we do face challenges in raising our families and running our businesses. We cannot afford to lose one of the few voices that understand and represent our struggles on Beacon Hill. That is why I support the reelection of Jim Lyons as state representative.

DAVID PETERSON
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To our neighbors,

As a North Andover based company and long-time residents of the Merrimack Valley, our thoughts go out to all those impacted by the recent gas crisis. While it is unknown exactly when gas services will be restored in the Merrimack Valley,

ACE Solar would like to offer assistance where we can.

If you purchase an ACE Solar system for your home between now and December 31, 2018, we will convert your gas water heater to an electric water heater at no cost to you.* We hope this will help you and your family begin the return to normalcy with hot water while the solar system will help to offset the additional electricity cost for decades to come.

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Opinion

Gas company should've been more prepared

Columbia Gas has come under intense criticism for its slow response to the Sept. 13 fires and explosions throughout the region and for its opaque communication in the weeks since. It comes as little surprise that the utility is also taking blame for its lack of preparedness.

Added to a growing list of complaints about Columbia Gas now is its inadequate planning. Had the utility been more thoughtful and diligent in imagining worst-case scenarios, a letter sent by Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey last week suggests, the disaster that swept over the Merrimack Valley might have been contained much more quickly, if it were allowed to happen at all.

Having reviewed the company's emergency plans and operations manuals, Warren and Markey report that Columbia Gas was "woefully unprepared for a major, system-wide disaster" like the one that killed a teenage boy, wounded dozens of other people, damaged scores of homes and left a large population without the heat, hot water and appliances associated with natural gas service. The Massachusetts senators, both Democrats, sent their seven-page letter demanding explanations to Columbia Gas President Stephen Bryant and to Joseph Hamrock, president and CEO of Columbia Gas' parent company, NiSource.

The letter raises a number of issues with the utility's natural gas network and its operation, starting with the fact that much of it — including about one-fifth of the network in the Lawrence area — is made from cast iron or wrought iron pipe. The material is especially vulnerable to both under-pressurization and over-pressurization, they note. It was a surge of over-pressurized gas, as much as 12 times normal levels, that's been blamed for the mayhem that affected some 8,600 home and business gas customers in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover last month.

The senators' letter raises issues with how gas pressure is regulated; the equipment used to regulate it; the sensors that measure pressure in the system; the procedures for replacing low-pressure lines with high-pressure ones, as was happening in the Merrimack Valley on Sept. 13; and the process of human intervention when the system goes awry.

Though Columbia Gas and others involved in the disaster recovery have yet to explain the sequence of events that led to it — again illustrating the company's lack of transparency — one infers that it involved sensors that either malfunctioned or weren't properly placed during a line upgrade. The shocking thing is that, regardless of what started the problem, it wasn't detected and corrected sooner.

Even more alarming, as the senators write, is the fact Columbia Gas apparently had not contemplated or prepared for this scenario.

To the company's overall lack of communication, they write, "By failing to provide a plan for immediately informing customers and the public, Columbia Gas' response plan meant that the public was kept in the dark for what was a dangerously long time while the disaster was ongoing."

Later, they add: "We are extremely concerned that it does not appear that Columbia Gas ever considered that a disaster of this scale could occur. Residents of the Merrimack Valley affected by this disaster, the 86,679 customers currently served by low-pressure systems operated by Columbia Gas in Massachusetts like the one where this disaster occurred, and people all across the commonwealth deserve answers on this apparent failure of Columbia Gas' safety and response plans."

Columbia Gas has been called upon to answer many, many questions since the Sept 13 disaster — most notably about what it is doing to restore service and when that will happen.

But, as Markey and Warren note, there are deeper questions that are also pressing and must be addressed if we're to have confidence in our gas network in the future.

WEB QUESTION

This week's question:

As the natural gas crisis stretches into its fourth week, certain problems are coming into sharp focus. In Andover, one of the biggest impacts is road closures as crews dig up the streets to replace gas lines and other underground equipment. **Do you find this to be a nuisance?**

Yes. It's hard to get from point A to point B in town. I can't get into my driveway or down my street.

No. There are much worse problems, such as how some people who don't have heat or hot water.

It could be worse. Police and construction crews are doing a great job of detouring traffic and keeping cars moving.

Last week's question:

The Board of Selectmen, led by chairman Alex Vispoli, is trying to assess the impact of town spending on the tax rate, with an eye toward keeping down what Vispoli calls "the rate of increase." Last year, he said, the increase was "unsustainable." **With two, massive school projects in the planning stages, and other major capital expenses, do you think the town should raise taxes through an override or find another way to fund these huge projects?**

Go for an override. We need modern, up-to-date school and town facilities. **227 votes.**

Find another way. Taxes are already too high in Andover. **49 votes.**

Cut taxes. We don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. **151 votes.**

Kavanaugh belongs in jail, not on Supreme Court

Editor, Townsman:

The United States Supreme Court is the highest court in the federal judiciary of the United States. Those that serve on the court will make tough decisions and determine what is and what isn't constitutional. The justices must be moral and have the country's best interests at heart. Brett Kavanaugh's nomination is disgraceful to both the prestige of the Supreme Court, and to our country.

The only place Kavanaugh should be sitting in a courtroom is in the defendant's chair. Kavanaugh is accused of sexually assaulting 3 women: Christine Blasey Ford, Deborah Ramirez and Julie Swetnick. Kavanaugh denies all allegations of any misconduct. The Supreme Court needs someone who will honor laws and represent the people. Kavanaugh, in his testimony, said that this situation is "a national disgrace," but he doesn't realize that he is the reason. According to a Wall Street Journal poll Kavanaugh is the least popular Supreme Court nominee since Robert Bork 30 years ago. Bork didn't serve, and neither should Kavanaugh.

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford has been asked if she is sure that Kavanaugh was the one who assaulted her, which is just wrong. Of course Dr. Ford would know who assaulted her. When asked about the degree of certainty that she knew Judge Kavanaugh assaulted her she replied, "100 percent."

Dr. Ford has been incredibly brave to come out and say that a Supreme Court nominee sexually assaulted her, especially in today's political scene. Dr. Ford is testifying against her assailant which requires great strength. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said it the best when saying, "If we agree on nothing else today, I hope on a bipartisan basis we can agree on how much courage it has taken for you to come forward."

The courts are most effective when they have the backing of the people, and as a nation it is paramount that we don't support a sexual abuser. America needs a moral Supreme Court Justice, if we needed someone who abuses women President Trump could have nominated Bill Cosby. Kavanaugh being nominated is bad enough, let's make sure he doesn't get any further.

ZACHARY BHATTACHARJEE
267 Chandler Road
Andover

Editor's note: Kavanaugh was sworn in as a Supreme Court justice just days after this letter was sent in.

Vote Tram Nguyen for state representative

Editor, Townsman:

First, I would like to commend the letter submitted by Andy Rouse a week or so ago. He outlined very clearly why Jim Lyons is out-of-step, not only with his constituents, but also with his own

Republican colleagues.

There are 34 Republicans in the House, and Jim is repeatedly just one out of 3 or 4 voting "No" on such bills as prohibiting vaping in high schools, police training, housing for low/moderate income citizens and health care for seniors.

The one "Yes" vote he did cast was to make it easier for those who have had restraining orders issued against them to retain their guns. And then he has the gall to attempt to make an issue out of decisions passed by district court judges where he lacks the facts.

So, plenty of reasons to not vote for Jim. Here today, I would make the case of why we should vote for Tram Nguyen to replace him. I am very encouraged by the great many blue "Tram" signs throughout Andover, as well as the strong positive responses I have encountered as I engage voters on the phone or in person canvassing for Tram. But signs do not vote. People do.

Tram is the quintessential American success story. She embodies why the United States is the greatest country on the planet. Tram's family came to America when she was 5 years old, escaping the communist oppression of Viet Nam. She excelled at school and graduated from Tufts University and Northeastern Law.

She has shown her appreciation for her background by giving back as a tireless advocate for others. As a legal aid attorney, she has represented veterans, workers, domestic violence victims and children. She will insure that our voice is heard on issues such as health care, common sense gun reforms and the opioid epidemic. She will also partner with other Merrimack Valley representatives to drive economic benefit to the area which is, sadly, another area our incumbent has failed us.

I encourage everyone to join me in voting for Tram Nguyen on Nov. 6. It is time our voice is heard.

GERRY GUSTUS
5 Fern Road
Andover

Lyons a fighter for working people

Editor, Townsman:

I'd like to remind voters in the 18th Essex that Rep. Jim Lyons has a proven track record on Beacon Hill for resisting the intense pressure placed on politicians to "go along" to "get along." As one of only a handful of Republicans in the state Legislature, he represents our values and our concerns in the Merrimack Valley, rather than always pushing the usual tax increases, salary raises and rate hikes perpetually promoted by the establishment reps.

He has consistently voted against tax increases. He has fought tirelessly to bring local aid to our communities. He voted against the recent salary increase for legislators. And as a business owner himself, he knows the stranglehold that regulation can have on starting or growing a business.

If we had more representatives like Jim, the working people in the Commonwealth

would actually get to keep more of their hard-earned money, which will translate to higher revenues for the state, in spite of what you may have heard from typical politicians on the hill, whose focus is trained like a laser beam on our pocketbooks. Rep. Lyons knows from experience that people who earn money know best how to spend it.

Thank you, Jim, for keeping the best interests of "we the people" at the forefront of your focus.

PATRICIA OWENS
4 Azalea Drive
Andover

Lyons represents middle-class

Editor, Townsman:

Our fine state Rep. Jim Lyons has a serious opponent this time. She's not serious because she is a good candidate, but serious because she has a lot of out-of-state money and endorsements. A legal aid attorney from Methuen, Tram Nguyen is for greatly increased spending on more government programs, certainly not shocking for a Democrat!

Instead of more government programs proposed by liberal attorneys, we need far less government and more qualified leaders who will represent the interests of the district.

Jim Lyons is a successful local businessman, having lived in the district for many years, and raised his family while active in the community. For the last eight years he has been a breath of fresh air at the Statehouse and is often one of the lone, sane voices against the latest Democrat scheme. Our American two-party system only works when there are two viable parties and it is important to preserve a voice for the middle class. The never-ending Democrat scandals in the Legislature bear proof of this fact.

Please join me and Gov. Charlie Baker in voting for our friend Jim Lyons who has extensive business and public service experience. Jim is a fine, wise and caring individual and I could not think of a better candidate to continue to represent the issues that are important to the district and help Massachusetts transition back to a two-party state.

BILL PERKINS
14 Rennie Drive
Andover

Lyons helped in fight against Kinder-Morgan pipeline

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to strongly support Jim Lyons for state representative in the upcoming November elections because he is someone who has proven that he will listen to his constituents and then go to work on their behalf.

In 2015 and 2016, the large out-of-state gas company Kinder-Morgan pushed to build a new high-pressure gas pipeline. It was called the Northeast Expansion Project Pipeline. The map provided by Kinder-Morgan showed the huge pipeline would run through the Ames Pond Corporate Park to the

backyards of Tewksbury's Cardigan Road and many yards in West Andover, into our backyard and many of our neighbors' properties.

We were opposed to this project because of the devastation it would cause. In addition, we learned that the projected pipeline was never intended to give our areas cheaper gas; they just wanted to get the gas to the shore for shipment overseas.

Jim Lyons fought hard for us! He spoke knowledgeably, eloquently and forcefully at meetings. He was extremely well prepared with intricate facts and information he had uncovered. In the end, the project was abandoned (to our great relief) thanks in large measure to Jim's great efforts on behalf of us and the many people threatened by this terrible project.

Jim Lyons is a state representative in the truest meaning of the word. He consistently, effectively and passionately works for the many people he represents. He deserves our vote!

THERESA GOREY
33 Brown St.
Andover

AT&T antennae might help in case of emergency

Editor, Townsman,

Pertaining to the article written by Jessica Valeriani, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018: "AT&T wants to put small antennae on light posts in town."

During the Columbia Gas explosions and fires I was several miles away from Andover. It wasn't until after 8 p.m. that I learned what had happened. At that point I tried to call my husband but could not reach him by land line or cell phone.

Once I arrived home, I realized I couldn't contact his cell phone because there was no service in my Shawsheen neighborhood for AT&T customers. I couldn't reach him by landline because the electricity had been shut off. There was no way to get information (cell, TV, computer) on what was going on. We were literally and figuratively "in the dark." It was an extremely unsettling situation.

The worst part of the ordeal was not getting updates from the town because there was no AT&T cell connection. On Saturday I had to drive near Phillips Academy to get cell reception.

I am all for putting small antennae on existing utility poles for better AT&T reception so that the next disaster, at least, leaves me with the ability to receive news updates and contact my family.

I hope the town of Andover responds favorably to this installment. I understand that the cell tower initiative (last year) in Shawsheen Village would not match the historic aesthetic of the community. However, small antennae sounds like a pretty reasonable compromise, especially in light of the recent emergency situation in the town.

NANCY HALL
Andover

LETTERS POLICY

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We re-

serve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.

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E-mail: townsmen@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

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To reach the newsroom with a news tip or request, please call the appropriate person:

■ **Editor Bill Kirk** for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-691-8733, bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Reporter Jessica Valeriani** at 978-691-8723, or jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Sports Writer Dave Willis** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andovertownsmen.com.

■ **Account Executive Jason Hutchinson** at 978-946-2168, cell 781-572-9959; or jhutchinson@andovertownsmen.com

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Courtesy photo

The ramp is specially designed to accommodate both handicapped and non-handicapped students to create inclusivity in the schools' sports programs.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

The Flanagan family, including, from left, Leo, Colin, 11, Carlene Bell-Flanagan, Aidan, 10, and Liam, 13, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Wood Hill/High Plain access ramp officially opens

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

After months of construction and delayed openings, parents, students, town and school officials, and High Plain Elementary and Wood Hill Middle School faculty celebrated the grand opening of the Athletic Field Accessibility project last Friday.

The ramp will connect the schools' basketball court to the lower soccer fields, adding accessibility and inclusivity to the fields. The design will function as a standard for future projects in Andover.

"The lessons and knowledge gained from this project will serve as a blueprint for future accessibility projects in Andover that include the fundamentals of inclusive design. I am very proud to see this project completed," said Town Manager Andrew Flanagan. "It is a great example of collaboration and I am pleased we will be able

provide opportunity to all who wish to participate and utilize the space."

"We are thrilled that all students, and the entire Andover community, can access the fields at the High Plain and Wood Hill schools," noted Superintendent Sheldon Berman. "We commend the town for its continued commitment to inclusivity and accessibility."

School Committee Chairwoman Shannon Scully spoke directly to the students. "I hope you look at this not just as a concrete structure that gets you down to a field," said Scully, "But also as an example of what can happen when people work together and advocate for things that are important to them."

"This has always been about making these fields a community space for all to access and enjoy," said High Plain Elementary principal Pamela Lathrop. "It's great to see that all students at High Plain and Wood Hill will be

able to reach the fields by the same path; inclusivity was a primary goal."

Andover parent Carlene Bell-Flanagan championed the project, which was voted on by the community at Town Meeting in 2017, and construction began in June 2018.

The push to construct the ramp started eight years ago, when Bell-Flanagan's son Liam, who walks with canes and has been unable to navigate down the steep slope, was in kindergarten. He is now in seventh grade.

She believes this is a project to be proud of. "In the end, this project encompasses the best this town has to offer in working together," she said.

Architecture firm Lemon Brooke, who specializes in creating accessible landscapes, created the design. Construction work was performed by Cella Construction. Andover's Plant and Facilities Project Manager Ihor Raniuk oversaw the project on behalf of the town.



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

The entire student body of both schools gathered to hear town and school officials celebrate the grand opening of the ramp system.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover town and school officials walk along the access ramp as they celebrate the grand opening last Friday.



Courtesy photo

The ramp also has a slide that can carry kids down to the soccer field below.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Carlene Bell-Flanagan speaks to the crowd during the grand opening celebration.

ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER THURSDAY, OCT. 11

ACCESSORY SWAP AND SHOP, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road. Presented by the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel in Andover, proceeds will benefit Uncommon Threads of Lawrence; enjoy drinks and appetizers, shop the supporting vendors, and find new-to-you treasures, including jewelry, handbags, scarves, sunglasses, shoes, wallets, watches, blazers, jackets, capes, wraps and new beauty product gift sets; earn a swap ticket for every accepted item you contribute; swap tickets, or \$5 per item, will be accepted for those with nothing to swap or anyone who wants to go home with more than they brought; admission is \$20 for Sisterhood members, \$25 for nonmembers; click the Paypal link at <https://templemanuel.net/community/sisterhood> or buy tickets at the door.

ELDER LAW PRESENTATION, 1:30 p.m., Andover Senior Center, 30 Whittier Court. Certified elder law attorneys Patrick G. Curley and Lucy J. Budman, of Curley Law Firm LLP, will lead this free presentation; attendees will learn about the advance trust and estate planning needed by seniors to better protect themselves and their loved ones, how to preserve their own independence and shield their assets, as well as strategies to navigate a health or care crisis, with a focus on securing MassHealth benefits while avoiding losing one's nest egg; registration is requested; 781-245-2222, ext. 10.

OCT. 12, 13, 19 AND 20

'AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY,' The Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road. Spotlight Playhouse will present the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning drama at 7 p.m. on Oct. 12, 13, 19 and 20, and 2 p.m. on Oct. 13; the melodrama shares an intimate view of three strong-willed Weston daughters whose lives have diverged until a domestic crisis brings them back to the Oklahoma house they grew up in and to the bitter, dysfunctional woman who raised them; tickets range from \$18 to \$20; 617-470-2175, email tickets@spotlightplayhouse.org, www.spotlightplayhouse.org.

OCT. 14, 21 AND 28

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m., Ballard Vale United Church, 23 Clark Road. Is food a problem for you? Overeaters Anonymous can help; 781-641-0830.

OCT. 15 AND NOV. 26

MEMORY-MAKING CAFÉS AND DINNERS, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Salvatore's Restaurant, 34 Park St., Andover. Memory-Making Cafés create opportunities for individuals living with memory challenges, their caregivers, families and friends to come together for light-hearted social events; each café will have a specific theme and activity facilitated by a presenter aimed to stimulate shared connection and joy; this event is free and pizza will be provided; sponsorship opportunities are available; 978-604-0830.

TUESDAY, OCT. 16

'IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION: NOW AND IN THE FUTURE,' 7 to 8:30 p.m., West Parish Church, Fellowship Hall, 129 Reservation

Road. Immigration issues are front and center in national politics, and will figure into the November midterm elections; Marcia Hohn will present up-to-date facts about immigration, including a review of the McCain/Kennedy Immigration Reform Bill and current reform recommendations; Hohn holds a doctorate in organization systems and directed a public education institute from 2003 to 2014 to raise the visibility of immigrants as assets to Massachusetts and the nation; she is the author of many published reports, including "Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Creating Jobs and Strengthening the Economy" and "Immigrants in Health Care: Keeping Americans Healthy through Care and Innovation"; 978-475-3528, www.westparishchurch.org.

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

AUTHOR VISIT, 6:30 p.m., Andover Bookstore, 74 Main St. Jenna Blum will read from her new novel, "The Lost Family," which tells the story of a man who lost his family in the Holocaust and his hope of starting over with his new wife and daughter; she is the author of "Those Who Save Us" and "The Stormchasers"; free and open to all; 978-475-0143.

PANEL DISCUSSION: COORDINATING YOUR LOVED ONE'S CARE, 2 p.m., Bridges by EPOCH at Andover, 254 Lowell St. Attendees will get experts tips on where to begin when coordinating care for a loved one; panelists will include Elder Law Attorney T. Michael Sullivan of AndoverLaw, P.C., Erin DiCarlo, owner of Dovetail Support Services,

Bonnie Sisson, community relations manager at Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Annmary Connor, director of elder services at Andover Senior Center, Jennifer Pilz, MPT, CMC, owner of Riverside Care Advisors, and Beth Vellante, executive director of Bridges by EPOCH at Andover; refreshments will be served; 978-775-1070, www.epochsl.com.

SATURDAY, OCT. 20

HYE KEF 5, 7 p.m. to midnight, DoubleTree By Hilton, 123 Old River Road. The five-hour dance, presented by Armenian Friends of America, Inc., will feature musician and singer Onnik Dinkjian, along with John Berberian (oud), Mal Barsamian (clarinet), Ara Dinkjian (keyboard), and Jason Naroian (dumbeg); continuous buffet, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., coffee and dessert, and a cash bar; tickets are \$65 for adults and \$50 for students 21 and under; tickets must be purchased in advance, as they will not be sold at the door; all sales are final; proceeds will benefit the Armenian Churches of the Merrimack Valley, St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of North Andover, the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe in Bradford, Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Chelmsford, and the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem, New Hampshire. For tickets, call 603-560-3826, 978-683-9121, 978-375-1616, 978-808-0598 or 978-475-8309. For more information, visit armenianfriendsofamerica.org.

SATURDAYS THROUGH OCT. 20

ANDOVER FARMERS MARKET, 10

a.m. to 2 p.m., Amos Blanchard House and Barn, 97 Main St. Since 2007, the Andover Center for History & Culture has welcomed the community to the lawn to socialize while buying fresh, locally grown food; www.andoverhistoryandculture.org/farmers-market.

SUNDAY, OCT. 21

ANDOVER 101 AND ANDOVER 102, Andover Center for History and Culture, 97 Main St. Andover 101 will introduce residents to the essential stories of Andover at 1 p.m., and Andover 102 will take residents on a tour of Andover's special places at 3 p.m.; both programs are free of charge, but reservations are required; 978-475-2236, email info@andoverhistoryandculture.org, www.andoverhistoryandculture.org.

MONDAY, OCT. 22

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 2 to 7 p.m., Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App; 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), www.redcrossblood.org.

TUESDAY, OCT. 23

FLUAU: FLU CLINIC, 3 to 6 p.m., Bridges by EPOCH at Andover, 254 Lowell St. Bridges by EPOCH at Andover is partnering with Caretenders Home Health and Hanford Pharmacy to host a flu clinic with a tropical luau theme; most major insurance plans accepted; bring insurance cards; for those without insurance, the flu shot will be available for cash or check purchase: \$40 for the quadrivalent flu vaccine (under 65),

\$80 for the high-dose flu vaccine (65 and older); flu shots will be offered amidst live entertainment, "mocktails" and luau-themed appetizers prepared by Bridges by EPOCH at Andover's executive chef; registration is required; 978-775-1070, www.epochsl.com.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24

CONSERVATION MOONLIGHT HISTORY HIKE, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Pole Hill Drive, Andover. Join local historians from the Andover Center for History and Culture and members of the Andover Conservation Commission for a hike at the Pole Hill Reservation in the light of October's full Blood Moon; share spooky stories including Andover's relationship with the Salem Witch Trials, the Pole Hill Dance Hall murder and the mysterious sacrifice circle found on the banks of the Shawsheen River; wear sturdy boots and bring a flashlight; limited parking on Pole Hill Drive; carpooling is encouraged; 978-475-2236, email info@andoverhistoryandculture.org, www.andoverhistoryandculture.org.

THURSDAY, OCT. 25

PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES, 5 to 6 p.m., Andover Center for History and Culture, 97 Main St. Peek inside closets, pull aside curtains, and explore behind the scenes in the Blanchard House and the History Center; tour the Blanchard house attics, closets, nooks and crannies and hear stories about rarely seen collections items; free and open to the public; registration is required; 978-475-2236, email info@andoverhistoryandculture.org, www.andoverhistoryandculture.org. See CALENDAR, Page 10

Guitarist, vocalist Matt Minigell comes home with new album and show

By JUDY WAKEFIELD

Seven years ago he was just another teen from Andover who played guitar and sang pretty well with his local garage band, Left Hand Blue. He talked a lot about making it in rock 'n' roll.

There were loads of those "yeah, right" comments that would have kept any 17-year-old out of a music studio. But Matt Minigell ignored those comments and followed his heart.

His new solo album, called "pipe dreaming," just came out on Oct. 10 and his first album release show is happening Oct. 11 in his hometown. The show is at Town Market on South Main Street. The show starts at 6 p.m. and is free.

Now 24, Minigell's blondish hair is longer than it used to be and both of his arms have tattoos. But he's still extremely polite and talks softly about his music

experiences as he's been touring around the country for the past few years.

A 2012 graduate of Andover High School, he's also a licensed subway performer who likes Boston's Park Street subway stop for performances.

"It's always busy there and the listeners are really nice," he said.

That sounds too mellow for a rock 'n' roller and that's exactly what happened to him. He and his music have mellowed as he put his rock 'n' roll dream to bed years ago.

"It just wasn't who I am. I did a lot of inner searching and just realized that rock 'n' roll was not me," he said.

His music is now a folk music style, with maybe a little pop added. He writes his own songs and there are nine of them on his new album.

He simply writes about life, he said, and all of its ups and downs. Love gets a lot of

attention in his songwriting. Giving thanks to his legion of supporters also matters to him as that list is on the album. It's a very long list thanking loved ones and everyone who kept him alive on tour.

The not-so-positive life lessons include hearing the hecklers at shows and wondering if they will heckle all night. Heckling still affects his confidence.

"About three songs in, I start to relax," he said. "You just never know the audience's reaction to your music."

Minigell said he loves coming home to Andover and looks forward to turning listeners on to "pipe dreams." He's performed at Town Market before as the owners are on that long list of supporters.

"Maybe someone will come and say, 'oh yeah, I remember him.' That's cool," Minigell said.



Courtesy image

Matt Minigell, seen here, will be performing songs from his new album at the Town Market, South Main Street, Thursday, Oct. 11.

IF YOU GO

WHO: Guitarist, vocalist Matt Minigell's album release show
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Town Market, South

Main Street, Andover
COST: free
pipe dreaming is available on Amazon for \$8.91.

Also: Vinyl Destination Record Shop
250 Jackson St., Lowell
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m.

Where have all the pensions gone?

Financially Speaking

John Spoto



Since the 1950s academic and financial industry researchers have developed an impressive literature

on the financial readiness of American workers for retirement. The general conclusion is that a large number of Americans across a broad swath of the income spectrum is poorly prepared.

In a compelling book "Falling Short: The Coming Retirement Crisis and What to Do About It" (Oxford University Press), authors Charles Ellis, Alicia Munnell and Andrew Eschtruth present the nature and magnitude of the problem. Ellis, a former consultant to some of the world's most sophisticated financial institutions and Munnell and Eschtruth, Boston College public policy experts, deliver a message that is straightforward and not especially upbeat: "Because of economic and demographic developments, our retirement income systems are contracting just as our need for retirement income is growing. On the income side, Social Security is replacing less of our pre-retirement income; traditional defined benefit pension plans have been displaced by 401(k)s with modest balances; and employers are dropping retiree health benefits. On the needs side, longer lifespans, rising healthcare

costs, and low-interest rates all require a much bigger nest egg to maintain our standard of living. The result of these changes is that millions of us will not have enough money for the comfortable retirement that our parents and grandparents enjoyed."

In the United States and much of the developed world, retirement is a much-anticipated event. It represents a time in life that offers greater independence, more time for leisure, family, friends and personal fulfillment. So why do so many Americans find themselves unprepared? The newness of the problem may be the main reason. A brief historical perspective offers some insight.

A 20th century invention. The idea of a period of leisure after three or four decades of working is a relatively new concept in human history. Up through the early 1900s people typically worked until they were physically unable and often passed away shortly thereafter. During those interim years, if they required

assistance, family members who usually lived close by, cared them for.

The glory days. During the period from the mid 1930s through the mid 1980s, four significant developments established what is nostalgically referred to as the "Golden Era" for American retirees. First, the Social Security Program was created to provide income for life for retired American workers. Second, the employer-based pension movement that had begun in the late 1800s and offered a lifetime income stream to retirees began to expand rapidly. Third, to protect older retirees without access to an employer's health plan against catastrophic medical expenses, Medicare was created. Additionally, some private employers extended subsidized health insurance benefits to retirees, further reducing their out-of-pocket costs. The rich benefits were affordable to employers and the federal government because not many people lived long

enough to claim them for more than a few years. The safety net for the elderly had never been stronger. The impact of two powerful forces had yet to be felt.

The seismic shift. The 1990s began a transition from the "Golden Era" to what workers and retirees face today. The two driving forces were the remarkable increases in human longevity and escalating health costs. The advances in technology and medicine that was largely responsible for both factors showed no signs of abating.

It didn't take long for companies to appreciate the implications. Baby boomers and succeeding cohorts that would be leaving the workforce in droves were likely to remain retired for a very long time. Pension and health plans in their current form were designed to support retirees for a period of years,

not multiple decades. Private employers have responded by shifting away from defined benefit pensions to 401(k) type plans; offering less generous health insurance plans for workers and sharply curtailing or eliminating those for retirees. These trends have continued to accelerate. According to the American Academy of Actuaries, "In 1980, 84 percent of workers in medium and large organizations were covered by defined benefit plans. In 2010 only 30 percent were. A 2014 Kaiser Family Foundation study reported that "since 1988, the percentage of large (the study's authors define as 200 or more employees) firms offering retiree health coverage has dropped by more than half from 66 percent in 1988 to 28 percent in 2013."

Employer sponsored benefits are not the only casualties of increasing lifespans

and steadily rising medical costs. Americans will almost certainly feel the impact on a second front. In our next article, we will discuss the effects on two of the most important programs workers count on for a secure retirement.

John Spoto is the founder of Sentry Financial Planning in Andover and Danvers. For more information, call 978-475-2533 or visit www.sentry-financialplanning.com.

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MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY TEENS

There's a ton of fun in store for teens at MHL.

Upcoming events at the library include:

Pay less for college by picking the right place

Abby Van Geldern, from College Wise, will talk to teens and parents/caregivers about finding that elusive college "fit" on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m.

Registration is not needed. Call 978-623-8432 for more information.

Free practice SAT exam

The Princeton Review will administer a free, full-length practice SAT exam on Saturday, Oct. 20, at 9:15 a.m.

Teens should bring a pencil, a calculator that is not a phone, and a snack. Scores will be sent by email.

Registration is required. Sign up at www.mhl.org/calendar and call 978-623-8432 if there are any questions.

♻ Please recycle this newspaper.

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IMMEDIATE OPENINGS: The Andover Public Preschool Program at Shawsheen School currently has openings in the Full Day and Half Day programs. For additional information, please visit the aps1.net website or call Mary Kay Poe at 978-247-8200 to schedule an appointment.

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Columbia Gas - Natural Gas event of 9/13/18

The "Natural Gas Event" that occurred 9/13/18 has impacted thousands of households and businesses including many of our customers and even ourselves here at Callahan A/C & Heating Services.

Columbia Gas has many teams out evaluating each location and will determine if your heating system, water heater and other gas appliances need to be replaced or repaired. Depending on what you are told for timing we can help you with temporary solutions for hot water & heating or permanent replacements and conversions for when the gas is restored.

We have altered our resources to prioritize the recovery effort and want you to know we are just a phone call away and ready to help.

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Polling hours, absentee ballots and early voting

By JESSICA VALERIANI
jvaleriani@andovertownsmen.com

The State Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Polling hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Precincts 1 and 3 will vote at the Punchard Senior Center on Whittier Court. Precincts 4, 5 and 6 will vote at the Wood Hill Middle School. Precincts 2, 7, 7A, 8 and 9 will vote at the Andover High School Field House on Shawshen Road.

Voters can check their voter registration status, precinct, and polling place

on the Secretary of State's web site at www.sec.state.ma.us or by calling the Town Clerk's office at 978-623-8230.

Voter Registration

The last day and hour to register to vote for the state election is Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m.

Residents may register to vote at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Town Clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m. on Oct. 17 for voter

registration.

Residents can also register online at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com. To apply online, residents need a license or an I.D. issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles, subject to the Oct. 17 deadline. Mail-in voter registration forms must be postmarked by the Oct. 17 deadline.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are available for voters that will be absent from their city or town on election day, have a disability that prevents them from going to the polls, or

have a religious belief preventing the same.

The last day and hour to apply for an absentee ballot is 12 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 5. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office. To be counted, absentee ballots must be received in the Town Clerk's office on election day by the close of polls at 8 p.m.

Early Voting

All registered voters will be able to vote before Election Day. Early voting will begin on Oct. 22 and continue through Nov. 2.

Early voting is available to every registered voter. Registered voters do not need a reason to participate in early voting.

Early voting can be done in person or by mail. Early voting sessions for in-person voting will be held at the Town Office building, 36 Bartlet St., on the following dates and times:

Monday, Oct. 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 25 from 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Once a voter has cast an early voting ballot, the voter may no longer vote at the polls on election day.

All Those Years Ago

Susan McKelliget

Andover Center for History and Culture

100 Years Ago—Oct. 11, 1918

Throughout the country there has been a greater interest in gardens this year than ever before. With the introduction of the community garden two years ago, for those whose land did not permit the homelike little backyard patch, came a widespread enthusiasm for trying out one's luck at planting seeds and, while the first year brought many backaches and often less produce than had

been desired, the Yankee stick-to-it-ness forced those amateur gardeners to try their luck again this season.

Walther Smith of Carter's Corner has entered the employ of A.S. Manning, to be a clerk in his store on Essex Street.

An Andover ward will be opened at the base hospital at Emery hill, Lawrence, to care for influenza patients from this town if the need arises.

75 Years Ago—Oct. 28, 1943

A 29-year-old Boston man was "resting comfortably" at Lawrence General hospital this noon, following a spectacular accident in which he

was hurled fully 20 feet in the air when struck by a passing motorist on Route 28, near Gould Road, yesterday afternoon about 2:15.

A request has been made by the hospitals in this area, through the American Red Cross, for walking canes to be used by convalescing men returned from abroad. They say that every source of supply in this area has been exhausted, and must be obtained by voluntary contributions from those who have them to spare.

For Halloween fun you can't beat Walter's Café; as always, we'll have a good crowd and a comradely atmosphere. If

you're having friends in, Halloween, bring 'em all down to Walter's Café.

50 Years Ago—Oct. 17, 1968

A foul odor in the center of town continues to baffle town officials. The odor has been present the past few weeks. Town Manager Richard J. Bowen said it definitely is not due to the Rogers Brook bed being dry due to construction this summer which placed the entire brook up to Whittier Street in an underground pipe. Some have contributed the cause to dead animals, but this matter has been checked out by not only town employees but by the

Board of Health officials as well.

An architect's drawing shows the new Public Safety Center to be built on the site of the old Tyer Rubber Warehouse on North Main Street. The fire department entrance and four apparatus bays face North Main Street. The police department entrance is facing Pearson Street.

A truck driver escaped serious injury this week only because he was able to stop his vehicle in time after vandals had changed a sign on the Abbot Bridge.

25 Years Ago—Oct. 21, 1993

A vote to abolish school

bus fees is the seventh and final article on the warrant for the Nov. 8 Town Meeting. Article 7 is a citizen's petition. Mohawk Road resident Dennis Teves collected the necessary signatures to have the article placed on the warrant.

Margaret Pustell runs Earth Week for the town of Andover each April. It's big business! According to Ms. Pustell, the first Earth Day was celebrated with great flourish in 1970. In 1990, the 20th anniversary of Earth Day, Ms. Pustell asked schools and local organizations to exhibit their environmental projects at Old Town Hall.

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

Here's what's in store for young people at the library at 2 N. Main St.:

Baby Brunch planned

Parents of children under the age of 1 are invited to an informal get-together on Saturday, Oct. 20 to meet other parents, see what the library has to offer, and enjoy some goodies.

Drop in anytime between 11 a.m. and noon. Participants may win a special handmade door prize.

Registration is not necessary. Email bkerrigan@mhl.org if there are any questions.

Celebrate Halloween with the Junior Friends

Children ages 3 and up are invited to attend the Junior Friends' Halloween party on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 3:45 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Activities will include games and Halloween-inspired crafts. Costumes are encouraged as the party

finale will be a costume parade through the library at 4:25 p.m.

Other events in the Children's Room:

AlphaBuddies, Thursday, Oct. 11, 1:30 p.m. Share stories and activities about one letter of the alphabet. Designed for ages 4 to 5 and an adult. Sign up at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Chinese Language Story Time, Saturday, Oct. 13, 11:15 a.m. Infants to age 6 can enjoy Chinese stories, songs and simple crafts in the Activity Room. Email andover-ma@chinesestorytime.org for more information.

Dads and Doughnuts, Saturdays, Oct. 13 and 27, 10 a.m. This story time targets dads and children ages 2 to 5, although all are welcome. Take part in stories, songs, rhymes and a craft, and then have some coffee, juice and doughnuts. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

Make It Take It Tuesday, Oct. 16, 23 and 30, 6:30 p.m. This drop-in craft program is geared toward ages 3 and up and their adult caregivers.

Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

Junior Friends, Wednesdays, Oct. 17 and 31, 3:45 p.m. Group members, made up of ages 8 to 11, plan programs and do small projects to help the Children's Room. For more information, call 978-623-8401, ext. 39 or email kbelczyk@mhl.org.

Thinking Thursday, Oct. 18, 3:45 p.m. Kids, ages 5 to 8, can share a story, do simple experiments and create a craft to take home. Register at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Preschool Music with Peter

Sheridan, Friday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. Register online at www.mhl.org/calendar.

Yoga for Kids, Sunday, Oct. 21. Offered by Stand Tall Family Yoga, ages 5 to 9 can come to Bigger Yoga at 2 p.m. and walkers to age 5, with a parent or caregiver, can attend Little Yoga at 3 p.m. Online registration is required, as space is limited.

In-Be-Tweens Program: Halloween Craft, Monday, Oct. 22, 4 p.m. Open to students in grades four and five. Space is limited. Registration is required.

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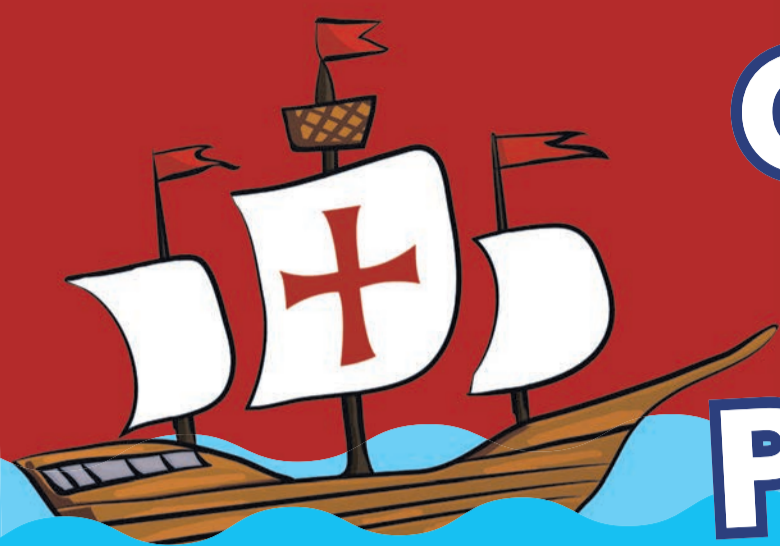
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Gas Disaster



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Dumpsters full of appliances damaged in the Sept. 13 gas disaster in the Merrimack Valley are collected in the parking lot of 1 Canal St. for recycling.

Columbia says it will replace appliances

Stoves, dryers damaged in gas disaster will be scrapped

By Kiera Blessing
kblessing@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — Massive dumpsters filled to the brim with appliances old and new sat in the parking lot of 1 Canal St. Monday evening. The sound of grating metal bounced off the nearby buildings as one of the dumpsters was pulled onto the back of a truck to be carted off to a recycling center.

The lot in Lawrence has become a staging area for the gargantuan recycling effort needed as thousands of homes across this city, Andover and North Andover are emptied of appliances damaged in the Sept. 13 gas disaster. From stoves to boilers, furnaces to clothes dryers, appliances deemed “condemned” by Columbia Gas were ripped out of homes and brought here, where they are being sorted and recycled.

On Monday, Columbia Gas confirmed it will fully replace all gas-fueled appliances that suffered damage as a result of September’s gas disaster, a change from the company’s previous policy — to repair when possible, and replace if necessary.

The Eagle-Tribune first

“Things have to move so quickly, that just in the interest of time, I think by the time you try to repair something, its just easier to replace it with something of the same quality.”

Scott Ferson, spokesman for Columbia Gas.

reported this plan on Saturday. North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor told the newspaper the gas company would be replacing all damaged appliances; but Columbia Gas refuted that claim last week. The company said it would still “repair or replace” the appliances, including stoves, dryers, furnaces and boilers.

Monday, Maylor tweeted that it was the professional opinion of both himself and Fire Chief William McCarthy that all appliances needed to be replaced. Columbia Gas responded in agreement 29 minutes later.

Columbia Gas confirmed publicly Monday what Maylor was told last week: that all appliances — even those that could potentially be repaired — will be fully replaced in the interest of efficiency.

“Things have to move so quickly, that just in the interest of time, I think by the time you try to repair

something, its just easier to replace it with something of the same quality,” said Scott Ferson, spokesman for Columbia Gas.

Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera tweeted a similar sentiment to Maylor’s, in support of the replacement plan, on behalf of himself and Fire Chief Brian Moriarty.

Maylor said he was pleased with the change, noting that it will hopefully mean fewer visits by Columbia Gas to individual customers and increased speed and efficiency as the company works to meet its Nov. 19 deadline to restore gas service to all customers.

“I think what we’ve learned through this process ... is some things went well and some not so well, and they’ve retooled,” Maylor said. “I appreciate that. I think it’s the right way to be in an unusual circumstance.”

“I’m very supportive and I do appreciate the fact that

they’re listening to residents and they’re listening to people like myself,” when pointing out inefficiencies, he added.

Steve Naru, another spokesman for Columbia Gas, said Friday the company will “offer a selection of quality new appliances to replace damaged gas-fueled boilers, furnaces, heaters, ranges and/or dryers” for residents to choose from. If the homeowner is not satisfied with those options, they can either handle the replacement themselves through the claims center or the company will “find a like-quality replacement for your current gas-fueled appliance.”

Naru cautioned, however, that “that scenario will likely take six to eight weeks longer for installation.” Residents who choose to replace the appliances on their own with a more expensive model will receive reimbursement only for the cost of the appliance that was damaged in the disaster.

Columbia Gas reported on Monday that 18 miles of pipeline have now been replaced, with another 30 miles to go. The company has also replaced 917 service lines, 652 of which are “gas ready.”

Hotels fill, trailers arrive, shelter opens under gas housing plan

By Jill Harmacinski
jharmacinski@eagletribune.com

The number of local residents staying in hotel rooms paid for by Columbia Gas more than doubled over the long holiday weekend.

On Monday, Columbia Gas reported 1,105 hotel rooms were now occupied by Merrimack Valley residents who lost gas service after area explosions and fires on Sept. 13.

On Friday, 340 local families were staying in the hotels as part of an alternative housing program. On Monday, however, Columbia Gas reported 888 families are now in the hotel rooms, all located within 30 miles of the area, under the specifications of the plan.

A total of 4,256 hotel rooms are available locally for displaced residents.

Some 400 travel trailers are also being brought into Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, and 164 apartments of various sizes are also available, officials said.

So far, no one affected by the gas disaster is staying in the trailers or the apartments, according to Columbia Gas.

On Monday, dozens of trailers were lined up alongside each other in Lawrence’s South Common under the watchful eye of both police and firefighters stationed in the area.

Meanwhile, throughout South Lawrence, crews continued working on gas line repair.

As of Monday, some 18 miles of gas line was replaced. Roughly 48 miles of gas line needs to be replaced.

In a daily briefing sent to

town officials, Columbia Gas said to date 912 service lines have been repaired and 652 are ready to carry gas again.

And, some 19,297 damage claims totaling \$9.51 million have been filed to date, according to Columbia Gas.

Also, on Monday, as part of the alternative housing plan, a temporary shelter opened at IndusPad, a business innovation hub at the former site of Malden Mills.

The shelter, which can accommodate between 250 to 1,000 people overnight, can also be used as a warming center. Hot showers, which were being set up there late Monday morning in the parking lot, will also be available. IndusPad is at 46 Stafford St. in Lawrence.

The alternative housing was developed by the Baker-Polito administration, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Columbia Gas and local officials as a disaster response plan for residents who have no gas heat with the cold weather coming.

Gas service, used for cooking and heating, has been shut off for more than two weeks now after dozens of explosions and fires on Sept. 13.

In addition to the South Common, three travel trailer sites have been established in the area; Pemberton Park in Lawrence, Grogan Field in North Andover and Andover’s Recreation Park.

A total of 400 trailers will be available in addition to hotel rooms and one, two and three bedroom apartments, officials said.

Columbia Gas representatives and community leaders said they hope gas service will be restored permanently in the area by Nov. 19.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Roughly 100 trailers sit on the Lawrence O’Connell South Common on Monday, being prepared for residents who are still without gas heat as a result of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster.

Ash asks business leaders for help after gas disaster

By Ethan Forman
Staff Writer

WAKEFIELD — The state secretary of housing and economic development Wednesday called on the North Shore business community to reach out and help their counterparts in Greater Lawrence still reeling from last month’s natural gas explosions.

Many small businesses in the A have been unable to reopen since the Sept. 13 disaster because they still do not have heat and hot water, Jay Ash told the crowd at the North Shore Chamber of Commerce’s monthly breakfast meeting.

“We see a path forward,” Ash said. “So, there are going to be some difficult times ahead, still. If you are a developer, if you are a property owner, if you have vacant units, contact us. And we need some temporary housing. If you help out by employing some people while they are not employed, that’s great.”

“We all have a responsibility and a role to help those who have been affected,” Ash said.

Ash said Gov. Charlie Baker has been spending a lot of time in the Merrimack Valley. Baker’s chief of staff, Kristen Lepore, who lives in Danvers, has been embedded

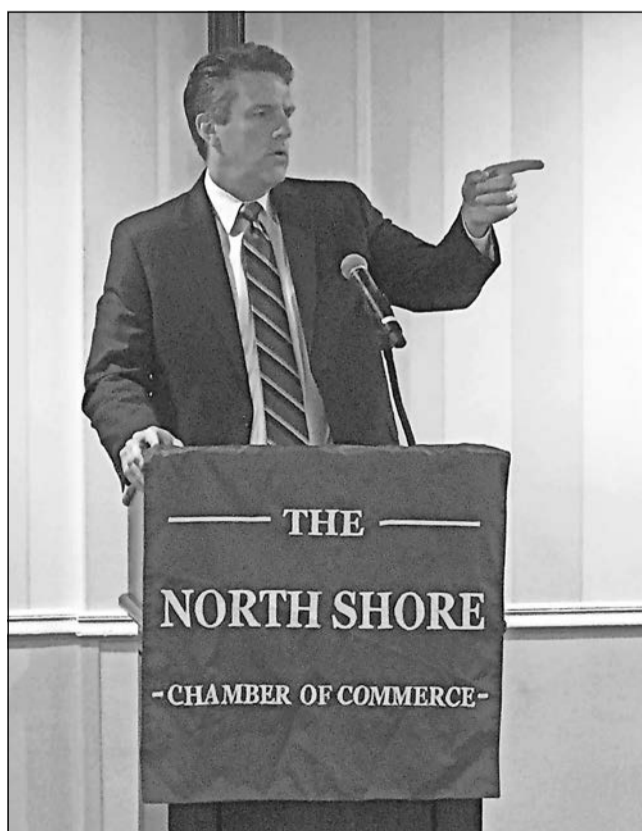
in Lawrence, he said.

“He’s called us up,” Ash said of Baker, “to be up there. I have been up there a half dozen times and my team, I’ve probably had ... six of my agencies up there in various capacities, and we are working with businesses. ... I also have housing responsibilities, and my housing director is up there as well.”

“We are doing things like providing loan programs,” Ash said. “We are organizing efforts to make sure businesses are connected with insurance and are filing the appropriate claims, and helping them figure out business plans for after they get back up and running again, so, it’s a really important thing. We all need to pull together as a region, as a commonwealth just now for businesses and residents of that district.”

Ash visited Lawrence last Friday with the governor, Larry Andrews, the president of CEO of the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, and representatives of 10 financial institutions to announce a \$1 million loan program for businesses designed “to get them to the point where the claims start to get paid,” Ash said.

The fund will help small business with no-interest



ETHAN FORMAN/Staff photo

Jay Ash, the state Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, gestures during a Legislative Breakfast held by the North Shore Chamber of Commerce at a hotel in Wakefield Wednesday morning, Oct. 3, 2018. Ash resides on the North Shore in Danvers.

loans of \$5,000 to \$50,000 for six months “as a chance to just get them to be able to reopen.”

Ash recalled speaking with the owner of a bodega

in downtown Lawrence, who Ash described as “the most optimistic business owner I have every met.” The owner had to put out a fire in the basement to keep the

business from burning down. “Hasn’t been able to open,” Ash said, “is going to lose most or all his stock, and was just the most optimistic, hopeful person in the world. It just reminded me again about the spirit that small business owners have.”

Housing crisis

Noting a lack of housing in the Bay State, Ash spoke about ways to spur housing in communities such as Peabody, which has been working to revitalize its downtown.

He touted changes to the state’s housing development incentive program, which provides tax incentives for developers of new or rehabbed market rate housing. Peabody is eligible for such incentives as a Gateway City.

Before the recent changes, only five projects had taken place in the state, Ash said. Now there are 42 in the pipeline.

“What this program does is it provides a subsidy to build market-rate housing in a downtown,” Ash said. “So, we are fortunate that we have a \$1.8 billion bill

that helps us build affordable housing, and that is happening in communities around the state. And we are also prioritizing market-rate housing in downtowns

because market-rate housing brings disposable income.”

Ash also spoke about success working with Mayor Ken Gray in Amesbury on some major projects, including the construction of a hotel on former Massachusetts Department of Transportation land just off the highway.

He also gave a short update on the status of Amazon’s search for a site for a second North American headquarters. Boston has been named as one of 20 finalists.

“We are waiting,” Ash said. “We haven’t heard much from them of late. They are doing their due diligence on those 20 opportunities.” Ash said he does not know if Amazon is going to narrow the list down to five cities or if they are going to announce the location, which could bring with it 50,000 jobs. In the meantime, Amazon is opening a regional hub in the Seaport District of Boston, hiring 2,000 employees, with the possibility the number could grow to as many as 5,000.

“We are in a good place because if Amazon comes, that’s great,” Ash said. “If Amazon doesn’t come, it’s also OK because we have so many other businesses that are growing.”

Officials mum on cause of gas disaster

By LISA KASHINSKY
lkashinsky@eagletribune.com

Rivera, Maylor want focus to be on recovery efforts

Three weeks after a natural gas disaster disrupted life in the Merrimack Valley, speculation is running rampant about what caused the Sept. 13 explosions and fires. It's become a common refrain that over-pressurization of gas lines triggered the tragedy, which left a teenager dead, injured several others, damaged dozens of homes and has now left thousands without gas service. But local, state and federal officials have remained silent on the specifics, largely deferring to the ongoing National Transportation Safety Board investigation as rumors persist. Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera said he has "not had any verifiable proof of anything" relating to the cause of the disaster. "I've heard what everybody else has heard," Rivera said. "Some way the line was allowed to be over-pressurized when they were doing work. That's all I know. Whatever mechanisms they used to signal the line was being over-pressurized were either not

employed, or just not present, or didn't work." Rivera did not say who he thought was doing the work. Pressure in pipelines before the explosions began was 12 times higher than it should have been, according to a letter sent to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, the utility that operates the pipelines, by Massachusetts Democratic Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey. NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt, who traveled to the area in the wake of the disaster, said the pressure buildup occurred in a Lawrence neighborhood and was detected in a control room in Columbus, Ohio. But NTSB investigations can take months, if not years, to complete. Spokesman Keith Holloway said last week the investigation was "still in its early stages." The NTSB typically issues a preliminary report on an incident within a few weeks of completion of the on-site investigation. However, those reports "do not provide any

discussion of cause, rather, they provide factual information we've been able to verify at that point of the investigation," Holloway said in an email. In the meantime, that's left residents in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover to wonder what went wrong. It's a conversation that's cropped up over the past few weeks from sidewalks to coffee shops, as residents and business owners look for answers not only about the ruptures, but also when they'll be able to resume their daily routines. Andover resident Barry Finegold, a former state senator currently running for office in the 2nd Essex and Middlesex District, is among those still without gas service. While Finegold has heard several notions about the cause, he said the focus right now is on getting businesses back up and running and returning gas to people's homes. "Everyone's been very hush on this whole issue and

hyper-focused on trying to get (gas) back," he said. State Rep. Diana DiZoglio, a Methuen Democrat whose district includes portions of Lawrence and North Andover, said legislators have been pushing Columbia Gas for information to little avail. "Columbia isn't exactly offering us as legislators additional information willingly at the moment," she said. Andover police Lt. Edward Guy cautioned residents against speculating. "We all have questions as to how and why this occurred," he said. "This has been devastating for the residents who are directly impacted, the businesses that are directly impacted. Their lives have been changed because of it and they have to deal with the uncertainty of when they can get back into their homes and businesses." The rumors floating around town are just that, he said. "I think it's not a good idea

for anybody to speculate on how this occurred without really having any knowledge of it," Guy said. "We're going to let the NTSB do their investigation and the other teams are investigating how this occurred. Let them do this job. When they're complete, they'll let the community know how it occurred and why it occurred." Rivera said Lawrence residents aren't approaching him about what caused the disaster. Instead, they want to know how officials intend to fix it. "There will be plenty of time for people to do the rigmarole of what happened," he said. "People are more concerned about what's happening to them right now, which is, 'How do I get my heat? How do I get hot water? How do I open my business?' So we're focused on that." North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor said he's in "half a dozen meetings" or more a day focusing on recovery efforts. "One hundred percent of

the time we spend in those meetings is on restoration. Not one minute is spent on what is the responsibility of the federal government and probably the (Department of Public Utilities) eventually to talk about what happened," Maylor said. The state Department of Public Utilities deferred comment to the NTSB. Maylor doesn't feel he's "dodging" questions about the cause because figuring that out is "someone else's responsibility." However, until the cause is clear, Maylor said he won't be authorizing any gas work permits in town other than for the areas that are part of the restoration efforts. Columbia Gas is working to replace roughly 45 miles of affected pipeline, and is targeting Nov. 19 to have gas service restored to the nearly 8,600 affected meters, the majority of which are residential. By not testing the gas infrastructure with additional work, Maylor said: "I feel like we're protecting the community." Follow Lisa Kashinsky on Twitter @lisakashinsky.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos

Tom Haynes stands by the "sale pending" real estate sign on the front yard of his childhood home on Mt. Auburn Street in Lawrence. With gas still cut off for heating and cooking in South Lawrence, Haynes was unable to close on the sale on September 27 as planned.

State officials order National Grid work moratorium after Woburn gas incident

By MICHAEL P. NORTON
State House News Service

WOBURN — After fielding dozens of safety complaints filed in recent weeks by locked out National Grid workers, state officials on Monday announced that a natural gas pressurization incident in Woburn had spurred them to impose a moratorium on all non-emergency and non-compliance work across the utility's service territory. In a statement, an Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs spokesman said that the Department of Public Utilities moratorium order will remain in effect pending the results of the department's review of National Grid's safety practices. The department is also requiring National Grid to have an inspector on location for "all work that could lead to abnormal pressurization until this review is complete," spokesman Peter Lorenz said. According to the company, "a National Grid gas technician inadvertently introduced excess gas into a portion of our system" while performing routine maintenance on a regulator station at Wyman Street and Hart Street in Woburn at about 11:30 a.m. Monday. "The crew quickly recognized the error and within minutes, reduced the system to normal operating pressures," National Grid spokeswoman Christine Milligan said in a statement. "There is no apparent damage to the system, which feeds approximately 300 homes through three miles of pipe," Milligan said. "In addition, pressure-control devices at each property function as an extra safety measure to limit the flow of gas to safe and normal levels. As a precaution, and to confirm that there is no damage to the system, gas has been shut off to these 300 properties. Service technicians will be turning off meters and assessing the system before starting the relief process. National Grid apologizes for the inconvenience." During a briefing posted to Twitter by WBZ-TV, National Grid Massachusetts President Marcy Reed said workers were going door to door visiting affected homes in Woburn. She said she expected gas service to be restored to affected customers "no later than Thursday," following assessments and testing. "It's important for everyone to know that no one here in Woburn is in danger," Reed said in a briefing where her voice was nearly drowned out by the

"It's important for everyone to know that no one here in Woburn is in danger. The situation is under control and we currently have engineers working on a restoration plan to bring the gas back to the 330 or so customers who are currently out."

National Grid Massachusetts President Marcy Reed

shouts of locked out workers. "The situation is under control and we currently have engineers working on a restoration plan to bring the gas back to the 330 or so customers who are currently out." Last week, the DPU reported that it had found 29 instances in which National Grid may have violated federal gas pipeline safety regulations since early July, and regulators said further investigation or other action may be necessary. The DPU said the "information and evidence" of the alleged violations came from "concerned citizens," though the claims overlap with a list of roughly 100 alleged violations that the unions representing locked-out National Grid gas workers have submitted to the DPU. On Sept. 26, two weeks after gas explosions devastated Columbia Gas customers in the Merrimack Valley, the DPU said it planned to hire an evaluator to examine natural gas infrastructure across Massachusetts. Gov. Charlie Baker described the evaluator's inquiry as "sort of a soup to nuts review of both current physical state of the infrastructure as well as the protocols that are being used by the companies and by DPU to oversee that physical infrastructure." Lorenz said Monday that the DPU is still in the process of hiring that independent evaluator. Since late June, about 1,250 National Grid gas workers represented by United Steelworkers Locals 12003 and 12012 have been locked out of work by National Grid amid contract negotiations. The unions have since argued that customers are less safe with National Grid's replacement workers on the job. National Grid said last week that its contingency workforce has completed 25,000 jobs since the lockout began on June 25.

A REAL DILEMMA

Regional gas disaster ruffles local real estate market

By KIERA BLESSING
kblessing@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — As the Merrimack Valley gas disaster enters its fourth week, the lingering effects run the gamut — from residents who are still forced to take cold showers to businesses that are still unable to open. Still more effects of the disaster seem to be cropping up as the lack of gas service drags on, including the toll it has taken on the real estate market. Thomas Haynes had finally found a qualified buyer for his mother's home on Mt. Auburn Street, the place he'd grown up. He lives in Salem, New Hampshire now and was coordinating the sale with his brother in Ohio. He planned to use the money he kept from the sale to invest in a vacation home. Haynes was set to close on the sale on Sept. 28 — two weeks after the over-pressurized Columbia Gas lines caused three explosions and sparked some 80 fires across Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. But the closing never happened. "The buyer's bank was unwilling to close because the gas was out," Haynes said. "In order to close, a house needs to have heat as well as cooking capability. I had neither because we have a gas stove ... gas dryer, gas furnace." And it's not just Haynes who has been inconvenienced: the buyers had already sold their North Andover condo and planned to move in the weekend after closing. Now, they've been forced to stay with family until they figure out what to do. "This is unprecedented,"



The furnace in the basement of Tom Haynes' childhood home on Mt. Auburn Street has been condemned by Columbia Gas due to damage from the September 13th Merrimack Valley gas disaster.

said Abigail Harris, the real estate agent for the North Andover buyers. "It's a total nightmare for us realtors, and for buyers and sellers, everybody involved." Both Harris and Jennifer Hamilton, Haynes' agent, said the sale of 28 Mt. Auburn St. was the only property they have had this problem with, but both said they know other realtors dealing with the same issue. "We're at the mercy of the repair crews out there and there's no set timeline," Harris said. "I think it's going to end up derailing a lot of deals." Vinny Pesce, a real estate attorney in Methuen, said the banks are doing their "due diligence" by not closing on a home without gas, given the risks involved with the disaster. "They're just doing their due diligence and by doing their due diligence, they're actually protecting the buyer as well," he said. "I would never close on the property. How could you close on the property knowing it's not habitable?" Harris said her clients

wanted to move forward with the closing, but were held up when their lender, Leader Bank, declined to close on the property. Harris said it came down to a "safety issue." Her clients did not respond to a request for comment. Sushil Tuli, Leader Bank's president and chief executive, said in a statement that while the bank's goal is to get all borrowers "into their new homes as quickly as possible," it may delay closings to protect customers and the bank. "In order to help protect our customers as well as the bank, however, we do need to verify that all gas related equipment and service are in good working order to ensure that the homes are fully habitable," Tuli said in the statement. "Unfortunately, we cannot do that until Columbia Gas as completed their repairs and gas service has been restored to any affected homes." Regardless of the bank's reasoning, Haynes and his buyers are still paying the price. The Lawrence homeowner said inspectors from

Columbia Gas condemned all of his appliances on Thursday, and has no idea if he'll still have a buyer when the gas is turned back on. Haynes said he's considered replacing all of his appliances with electric to the tune of \$26,000, but he's not confident in the reimbursement process because he's already had such a difficult time dealing with Columbia Gas and Worley Claims Services, the insurer Columbia Gas is using. "I was going to get \$289,900," Haynes said. "Now I've got legal fees because I'm extending the closing, I've got a buyer now who's damaged. ... I don't know if the buyer is going to extend their offer or walk away." Hamilton, Haynes' real estate agent, said the costs will add up for the buyers, too. "These poor people have a pre-approval that's only good for so long, so now it's going to cost them money," she said. The cost of extending that approval could range from \$1,500 to \$3,500 per month, according to Hamilton. She added that this could affect those even outside of the Merrimack Valley in a "domino effect" if sellers, unable to claim their money from the effected homes, cannot then buy houses elsewhere. "It's frustrating because now it's kind of making a statement that anyone in the effected area can't sell their house. It's not just me, it's everybody in the Merrimack Valley in this position of trying to sell their house," Haynes said. "It's really much worse than I thought."

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TOWN OF ANDOVER PUBLIC NOTICE - EARLY VOTING The Town of Andover will hold Early Voting sessions for the November 6, 2018 State Election from Monday, October 22nd through Friday, November 2nd during normal business hours on weekdays 8:30AM to 4:30PM at the Town Office Building, 36 Bartlet Street, Andover.

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD Notice is hereby given that two public hearings will be convened on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 7:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, 36 Bartlet Street, on applications submitted by AJM Construction, LLC for a 4-lot Definitive Subdivision Plan and a Special Permit for Earth Movement under Section 9.4.8 of the Andover Zoning Bylaw.

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Sports



Andover's Joel family, from left: Emma, mother Lisa, Jolly and Hope. Soccer is a huge part of their lives, and they wouldn't want it any other way.



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Hope Joel is a standout for Andover High, and part of a passionate soccer family that includes her two sisters and mother.

A SOCCER LIFE

Joel soccer family has stars at Andover High and Brooks, coach at Phillip Academy

BY KYLE GAUDETTE
Staff Writer

The story of the Joel family is almost playing out like the start to a corny bar joke.

What happens when a coach at Phillips Academy, two twins at Andover High, a sophomore at Brooks, an exchange coach from Wales and one poor husband all live under the same roof?

Welcome to the wacky, wonderful soccer life of the Joel family.

It starts with mother Lisa, who is in her 20th season as the head girls soccer coach at Phillips. A three-sport standout at Amherst College (Class of '93), she has found even greater success on the PA sidelines, coming into the season with a 185-93-51 record and four Class A Prep School Championships (1998, 2009, 2011, 2015).

When she and husband Chris — who previously served as an assistant soccer coach at PA — had their three daughters, Emma, Hope and Jolly, one thing was made clear.

"I think the important thing is they have their own lives and make their own choices," said Lisa. "I never wanted to force them to play soccer."

To her delight, her daughters all took to the sport and are hooked.

The oldest are identical twins Emma and Hope, who are seniors and both three-year starters for Andover High — although, if you want to get technical, Emma is older by four minutes. It has taken Warriors' coach Meghan Matson four years to tell them apart, but she can't imagine this year's team without two of her quad-captains.

"They're awesome kids, super hard workers," said Matson. "They're both tremendous leaders. They lead by example, but they both bring a little comedic relief to the team whenever we need it."

For the twins, even though their mother coached at Phillips, it was never a question of where they wanted to go.

"We definitely wanted to go to Andover High," said Emma. "We just wanted to do our own thing. Plus, all of our friends were going there."

The two have not only been successful soccer players — Hope was one of the team's top returning goal scorers (3) this year — but they've also been successful runners.

Hope has a personal

best of 13.35 in the outdoor 100 meters, but is more importantly a member of The Eagle-Tribune area's fastest-ever 4x100 relay team (48.01). Emma had both the third-fastest outdoor 300 hurdle (48.72) and 400 hurdle (67.24) times in the area last spring, and was also part of the area's fastest 4x400 relay team (4:05.01).

But track, however, has always played second fiddle to soccer.

"I've always loved to play soccer," said Hope. "We all love the game. We'll wake up early every Saturday to watch the Premier League. We're always talking about soccer."

Then there's the youngest, Jolly, who is a sophomore and starting midfielder at Brooks.

"I've always been really close with my sisters," said Jolly. "As we've gotten older we've definitely gotten a lot closer. We always do homework together, and this summer we did the same workouts together."

While at different schools, the three sisters have had the opportunity to play together with their club team, Global Premier Soccer.

And while they've always had their mother to turn to for guidance, they've also had

a second coach living under the same roof!

Sam Griffiths, 25, the Metro North Director of Coaching at GPS, has been living with the Joel family ever since coming over from Wales three years ago. He was the girls' club coach through middle school.

"He's become like an older brother to us," laughed Hope.

Basically, the Joels are always thinking about soccer. And don't feel bad for father Chris, either. According to his daughters, he likes to wake up early on Saturdays with Griffiths to watch the Premier League, too. The family's favorite team is Manchester United.

"We're definitely a soccer family," said Emma.

The girls have enjoyed the freedom their mother has given them to explore soccer in their own way. But they know they'll always have a respected, loving resource to turn to.

"She's been huge in giving me tips," said Jolly. "It's good because obviously I can get a more brutally honest perspective from her. She's respected in the game. Sometimes, I want space, especially if I play bad, and she knows that. But whenever I need her, she's always there."

Gress, boys soccer break through

BOYS SOCCER

Evan Arpin and Jackson Gress each scored a goal and Andover earned its first victory of the season, beating Lawrence 2-1 last Tuesday. Joe Atwood (6 saves) and Wilson Stetcher (5 saves) combined for the win in net.

Jackson Gress scored a pair of goals as Andover picked up its second straight victory, a 3-0 win over Methuen last Thursday. Evan Arpin added the other Golden Warrior goal.

Connor Nusky scored a goal as Andover played Somerville to a 1-1 tie on Saturday.

GOLF

ROWE COMES UP CLUTCH

Andover's John Rowe came up huge from the No. 8 spot,

winning 1-up to help clinch the Golden Warriors' wins over Haverhill (4.5-3.5) and Chelmsford (5-3) in a tri-meet last Thursday. Josh Gruenberg (3-and-1) and Nick Ventura (3-and-2) added wins for the Golden Warriors.

Stephen Ingram scored a 2-to-1 victory and Andover edged Lowell 11-9 last Monday. Mac Lee, Teddy Gorrie and Matt Antone added victories for the Golden Warriors.

Mac Lee took a 2-and-1 win and Andover rolled past Methuen 19-1 last Tuesday. Josh Gruenberg (3-and-2), Cade Cederchuk (1-up) and Tyler Trapp (3-and-2) each scored wins for the Warriors.

Andover fell to North Andover 11-8 last Wednesday.

FIELD HOCKEY

MEDWAY KEEP SURGING

Hanna Medwar stayed red hot with two goals and Andover beat Lowell 5-0 on Friday. Sydney Gregory, Kate Gemmell and Lily Farnham each added a single goal for the winners.

Lindsey Parziale scored twice and Andover topped rival Central Catholic 3-0 last Monday. Hanna Medwar added a goal and Allison Gasperoni made six saves for the victory.

Sydney Gregory scored twice and Andover rolled past Rhode Island power Moses Brown 4-2 last Wednesday. Kate Gemmell and Anna Zdzunczyk each added a goal for the winners.

VOLLEYBALL

Fraser leads the way

Caroline Fraser scored team-highs in service points (23) and assists (17) as Andover held on to beat fellow MVC power Haverhill 3-2 last Monday, winning the deciding set 21-19. Alexis Mancha added 13 kills and 15 digs and Sophia Martinez had seven blocks for the winners.

Alexis Mancha notched 12 kills and 18 digs and Andover beat Lowell 3-1 last Wednesday. Hailey Halverson added three blocks and Jenny McNaughton had 18 service points and four aces.

Emily Nason had 27 digs, but Andover lost to Tewksbury 3-1 on Friday. Alexis Mancha had 14 kills and Caroline Fraser had 17 service points for the Golden Warriors.

GIRLS SOCCER

Billings nets two

Katherine Billings scored twice and Andover rolled past Lawrence 5-0 last Tuesday. Samantha Sylvester, Ellie Yates and Ashley Kendrigan each added a goal and the Golden Warrior defense did not allow a shot in net.

Hope Joel, Ava Trapp, Nicole Blanchard, Rachel Souza and Katherine Billings all scored a goal as Andover topped Methuen 5-1 last Thursday.

SWIMMING

Reck rocks

Ella Reck won the 100 freestyle (1:00.56), Emily Ma took the 50 freestyle (26.50) and they teamed with Emily Chen and Emily Clements to win the 200 freestyle relay as Andover beat North Andover

99-78 on Friday. Sydney Ho took the diving, Dreea Zetee won the 100 backstroke and Maddie Kessel took the 500 freestyle for the winners.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Jayasinghe first in for Andover

TJ Jayasinghe (12th, 17:47) and Charlie McCarthy (15th, 18:11) were the first two in for Andover as the Golden Warriors fell to North Andover (15-49) and Chelmsford (15-46) last Wednesday.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Cain leads Warriors

Sara Cain took fifth overall (20:54) and Sophia Couto was sixth (21:11) as Andover beat Chelmsford (22-36) but lost to North Andover (22-33) last Wednesday. Emma Griffin was seventh in 21:15.

Andover falls despite three INTs

BY DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — Andover football was on the verge of its biggest win so far in 2018.

The Golden Warriors led 14-0 at halftime, and 17-14 with under a minute to play in regulation against a Methuen team that entered the game 3-1.

But Rangers QB Connor Bryant hit receiver Wesley Correa for a 45-yard touchdown with 40 seconds left in the game to beat Andover 20-17 on Friday.

The Golden Warriors were in control at halftime.

Tommy Duncan gave Andover the lead with 16 seconds left in the first with a 15-yard touchdown plunge.

The Warriors added to the lead in the second, as QB Victor Harrington found speedster Brendon Moody

for a 59-yard touchdown with 3:15 left in the half.

Andover's defense was also flexing its muscle.

Duncan had a career day, intercepting three passes before halftime. Kelvin Davila added another pick and Ethan Coyle had a sack.

Shamus Florio added to Andover's lead nine seconds into the fourth quarter, booming a 39-yard field goal to make it 17-7. Florio also had a huge day punting and made eight tackles.

But the Golden Warriors could not hold the lead, as Methuen scored twice in the fourth for the win.

It was another impressive day for Andover freshman QB Victor Harrington. He completed 15 of 27 passes for 247 yard and a score.

Receiver Nick Zalanskas had a big day, catching seven passes for 133 yards.

Methuen 20, Andover 17

Methuen (4-1): 0 0 7 13 — 20
Andover (1-3): 7 7 3 0 — 17

First Quarter
A — Tommy Duncan 15 run (Shamus Florio kick), 0:16

Second Quarter
A — Brendon Moody 59 pass from Victor Harrington (Florio kick), 3:15

Third Quarter
M — Caleb Adams 21 pass from Connor Bryant (Justin Sheehan kick), 4:01

Fourth Quarter
A — Florio 39 field goal, 10:51
M — Kareem Coleman 78 pass from Bryant (Sheehan kick), 10:32

M — Wesley Correa 45 pass from Bryant (kick failed), 0:40

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING: Methuen (33-145) — Connor Bryant 17-93, Ricky Brutus 14-56, Kareem Coleman 2(-4); Andover (31-47) — Tommy Duncan 19-52, Josh Ramos 6-20, Elias Maita 1-3, Victor Harrington 6(-28)

PASSING: Methuen — Bryant 9-28-4, 233; Andover — Harrington 15-27-0, 247

RECEIVING: Methuen — Wesley Correa 5-115, Coleman 3-97, Caleb Adams 1-21; Andover — Nick Zalanskas 7-133, John Gemmell 2-11, Brendon Moody 2-51, Nic Silva 3-46, Duncan 1-6

...
Contact David Willis at @DWillisET or DWillis@eagletribune.com.

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

Andover High School Field House

5th GRADE - 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

6th GRADE - 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

7th GRADE - 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

8th GRADE - 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

ADDITIONAL TRYOUT DATE

Monday, November 5th

5th and 6th GRADE - 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

7th and 8th GRADE - 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Cooler with rain	Periods of sun	Partly sunny	Partial sunshine	Overcast	Rain possible	Mostly cloudy
High: 69° Low: 61°	High: 65° Low: 44°	High: 58° Low: 37°	High: 58° Low: 43°	High: 60° Low: 49°	High: 57° Low: 42°	High: 58° Low: 40°

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The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

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55 Argilla Road: R. Colombosian 2009 RET and Karen L. Colombosian to Robin B. Colombosian, \$10,000

27 Buttonwood Drive: Thomas R. and Marianne E. Carabine to Debra J. McQuaide 2004 RET and Debra J. McQuaide, \$1,300,000

3 Colonial Drive, Unit 6D: William S. Fullilove to 1457 T. and John S. Freitas, \$129,000

9 Farrwood Drive: Zheng Zhang and Qingqing Liu to Robert G. Mullally and Viktoria Korman, \$660,000

7 Fosters Pond Road: Stephen P. and Lauren B. Vallarelli to Carrie S. Vooght and Dana B. Loud, \$949,000

1 Francis Drive, Unit 304: Pulte Homes of New England to Marie A. Swain, \$367,200

1 Francis Drive, Unit 312: Pulte Homes of New England to George and Paula K. Goldberg, \$511,190

8 Laurel Lane: Laurel RT and Adele Lafrenier to Michael Romano, \$330,000

197 Lowell St.: Mark and Anne M. Sutton to Patrick McNally-Hughes and Stephanie Leigh-Hughes, \$684,500

12 Nollet Drive: Eileen M. Hunt RET 2016 and Eileen M. Hunt to Manoj Kumar-Vajhallya and Vibha Vajhallya, \$722,500

22 Powers Road: Bruno FT 2002 and Kristan J. Bruno to Liwei Zhou and Weinan Qiu, \$1,180,000

22 Railroad St., Unit 413: George L. Lewis Estate and Deborah Haverty to Jeffrey E. and Mary A. Kaplan, \$327,000

3 Reynolds St.: Frank Zavrli to Stephen P. and Lauren P. Vallarelli, \$2,150,000

11 Starwood Crossing: Nichols 2014 FT and Arthur A. Nichols to Jonathan and Antoniette Dean, \$590,000

29 Stirling St.: J&J FT and Jeffrey Wang to Sankar Ardhani, \$859,000

31 Webster St.: H.J. Brooks LLC to 200 Bridge Street RT and Thomas Carnevale, \$3,000,000

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