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ANDOVER COACHES OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FALL SEASON PAGE 11



CELTICS AWARD LOCAL WOMAN AS 'HERO AMONG US.' PAGE 3



OUR 130<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 43

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## Diversity group head steps down Flanagan: Move prompted by 'aggressive resistance'

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

After receiving what he calls a number of "attacks," Sobhan Namvar, who was tasked with heading up Andover's newly formed DIVERSE Division, has "stepped back" into his former role as community support coordinator for the Police Department. Namvar's decision to

step down from Andover DIVERSE, a newly formed division designed to enhance diversity and inclusion in town, was announced in a press release to the community signed by Town Manager Andrew Flanagan last week. "I am disappointed to report that Sobhan's efforts were met with aggressive resistance by some in our community calling into question

Sobhan's own ethnicity, religion and credibility," Flanagan wrote in the Aug. 17 statement. "While prepared and willing to forge ahead, Sobhan and I concluded that the only way for the community to move forward was for him to step back." Since taking on his new role, Namvar said he has received at least 15 threatening emails from residents who

are largely white and "privileged" telling him to step down. He said he received harassing emails even on the weekend and at odd hours of night. "As soon as the position was released, a number of different emails came in saying how I was the wrong person for the position and how I needed to identify a different

See NAMVAR, Page 2



Sobhan Namvar, shown here in 2019 in his capacity of Andover community support coordinator, has stepped down from his most recent position heading up the new DIVERSE Division amid what he says was harassment from other members and a lack of cooperation from some town employees.

## 'We've been at this a long time'



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

From left, Janet Nicosia, director of the department of facilities for the town of Andover; Paul MacKay, chairman of the Council on Aging advisory board and chairman of the capital campaign for the Robb Center; Jane Burns, town of Andover elder services director; Joseph Sgrosso, department of facilities for the town of Andover; and Brian DeFillippis, director of PMA consultants, all check out renovations

## Renovated senior center, first proposed in 1993, expected to be done in April 2021

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

While the pandemic derailed the schedules of many people, businesses and projects, the renovations at Andover's senior center are expected to be finished on time in April, 2021.

Andover Director of Elder Services Jane Burns said the town should receive an occupancy permit for the center in March and move-in is expected to take place the following month.

In May, she said, the center is likely to have its grand-opening ceremony.

That has been a long time coming.

"It was first presented to Town Meeting in 1993. It was defeated. It was then brought forward at the Town Meeting in 1996 and also defeated," said Paul MacKay, chairman of the Council

See CENTER, Page 2

## Most Andover parents select hybrid model

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

About 78% of Andover parents have opted to send their children back to school utilizing a hybrid model in the fall.

Parents were required to register their children for either a hybrid or remote model of learning by Aug.

18. On Aug. 19, School Committee members discussed the results of that process, which overwhelmingly leaned toward in-person classes.

The hybrid model is effectively a schedule of combined in-person and online learning, through which all students will be divided

See HYBRID, Page 2

## Doherty school field renamed for Tucker family

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

The track and field area behind the Doherty Middle School and within the World War I Memorial Playstead has been named The Tucker Family Field after longtime community advocates Susan and Michael Tucker and their sons, who were star athletes during their time in the Andover Public School

system. Susan spent more than two decades in the state Legislature, first as a state representative, then as a state senator. Her husband, Michael, was a commissioned ROTC 2nd Lieutenant in the Army who later began a therapy program for veterans suffering from PTSD.

"Senator Tucker's reputation as a trailblazer for the Andover Public School

See FIELD, Page 2

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## Shawsheen River volunteers to tackle 2nd round of rubbish



Courtesy photo

Volunteers clean up part of the Shawsheen River on July 17. A similar event at the same location is scheduled for this weekend.

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

When Alice Friedenson and a handful of volunteers from the Shawsheen River Watershed Association waded into the murky water last month to retrieve a couple of tires from a stretch of river that runs through the Sacred Heart Reservation, they were astonished at what else they found.

"All we could see (from shore) was one or two tires,"

said Friedenson, a member of SRWA. "The place looked immaculate."

But upon closer inspection, once they entered the water in waders, they realized the river bottom was clogged with debris.

"We were shocked at what we found," she said.

Their haul July 17 included "11 tires, a chair, a bucket, a metal sheet, a pillow, a toy boat and much more," she said.

There is still more there,

she added, which is what led to another cleanup in the same place, scheduled for this Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Anyone wanting to take part in the event should show up ready to immerse themselves in the river, wearing appropriate attire to haul out debris. The Department of Public Works is planning on hauling away the trash, as it did following the first cleanup, Friedenson said.

See CLEANUP, Page 2



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**REGISTRATION RESULTS**

- \* All APS students: 77.5% hybrid; 22.5% remote
- \* Andover High School: 82.9% hybrid; 17.1% remote
- \* Middle School students: 77.7% hybrid; 22.3% remote
- \* Preschool and elementary: hybrid 73.6% and remote 26.4%

**HYBRID**

Continued from Page 1

into two cohorts — called cohorts A and B.

Cohort A will attend school Monday and Tuesday and Cohort B will attend school Thursday and Friday. Meanwhile on Wednesday, there will be online learning for both cohorts A and B. School officials say that having both groups home on Wednesday will allow for deep cleaning of the schools to take place.

A “Remote Academy” is also available for parents who’ve decided that their children will study from home.

Students whose parents didn’t register for whatever reason were automatically placed in the hybrid program.

The higher the grade level, the more likely parents selected the hybrid model for their children. Parents opted for the remote option more when their children were in preschool or elementary school.

Superintendent Sheldon Berman said at last Wednesday’s meeting that the numbers are congruous with the results of a survey the school system recently conducted that assessed which model parents would prefer.

“It looks pretty much in line with our earlier information,” Berman said. “A little bit less at the high school than we anticipated and more at the elementary. And it varies by school.”

During the online meeting, a parent submitted a question asking whether the committee would consider surveying people on their opinion of

*“It looks pretty much in line with our earlier information. A little bit less at the high school than we anticipated and more at the elementary. And it varies by school.”*

**Superintendent Sheldon Berman**

a phased-in hybrid model of returning to school.

“The committee could consider that,” Chairperson Shannon Scully responded. “I just want to point out that the phase-in hybrid is a new concept that was not one of the three that DESE (The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education) explicitly told us to put together.”

The School Committee recently submitted a report to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education detailing back-to-school plans. DESE required all schools in the state to come up with in-person, hybrid and entirely online options.

“Further, to my understanding, it wasn’t suggested by any members of the task force as a path to pursue,” added Scully. “So, a solidified phased-in approach was never presented to the committee or the community.”

In addition to discussing the back-to-school models, school officials added that all students must return to school with their immunizations up to date, and by Dec. 31, all students — even though taking classes remotely— must get a flu shot.

**NAMVAR**

Continued from Page 1

way as far as my religion and my ethnicity and belonging to a minority group goes,” said Namvar, a brown-skinned Muslim who came to the United States from Iran 17 years ago. “And then the attacks changed to every word I said was scrutinized.”

He claims some town employees refused to work with him, which made it difficult for him to do his job.

“Some key members were just not willing to work with me and it was just really hard,” he said.

Flanagan, who appointed Namvar to head up

DIVERSE, said Namvar wasn’t required to step down. He simply did so out of interest for the community, Flanagan said.

“He decided it was in his personal best interest and in the best interest of the community based on how people reacted,” Flanagan said. “I respect his decision.”

In his role as the Police Department’s community support coordinator, Namvar, a licensed social worker, helped 911 callers with mental health or substance abuse problems find treatment.

He said after taking the helm at Andover DIVERSE, some residents took issue with his prior position at the Police Department, saying

it is inappropriate to have someone who worked for the police heading up the new division.

Others, he said, complained that the goals Namvar outlined for DIVERSE were racist because of the special emphasis he placed on addiction and recovery services for the division. As it stands, DIVERSE is part of the pre-existing Office of Wellness and Recovery.

“The accusation was because I highlighted some of the initiatives that we started at the Police Department, like making Narcan available to families in town who needed it,” said Namvar. “Or some of the social services we started at the

police station from our ‘Public Safety Snowman Saddle,’ which anonymously brings gift cards to families we know are in need.”

Namvar said it was the backlash that prompted him to step down.

“If I am not the right person, people need to be involved,” Namvar said. “If I am not the right person then great, let me not continue to be part of the problem, be in an argument, and fight with people justifying why I need to be in this role.”

In his release, Flanagan said Jemma Lambert, the town’s director of community services, is going to “manage the next steps” for Andover DIVERSE.

**CENTER**

Continued from Page 1

on Aging. “So, we got this approved in the 2019 Town Meeting. We’ve been at this a long time.”

The project began last March, right before the pandemic hit.

“The construction has moved forward,” Burns said. “We did have a two-week shutdown because one of the workers had tested positive. ... But then (it) has proceeded along as scheduled.”

The renovation, with a price tag of roughly \$6 million dollars, involves a 40% expansion. The center is also being renamed “The Robb Center.”

The Select Board voted to change the name from The Center at Punchard to The Robb Center in November of 2019.

According to MacKay, chairman of the Council on Aging, Don and Vicky Robb were a couple who dedicated themselves to the town for five decades before their recent passing.

Don served on many town boards and committees and fought for the expansion and renovation of the senior center for decades before it was approved, MacKay said. Vicky was an



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

The rear of The Robb Center appears on the left, with the Doherty Middle School auditorium on the right. A tour of the former Andover Senior Center, now called The Robb Center, which is under construction was given Aug. 20 by officials to show the progress being made.

influential member of the Andover/North Andover YMCA and managed Poms Pond for years.

MacKay said the added space allows for more continuity of programming for the center, which only had one dedicated room for adult day care prior to the renovation.

The renovated center

will be 14,000 square feet; the old center was approximately 10,000 square feet in size.

“Amazingly with just 40% more space, every one of those rooms can become dedicated,” said MacKay. “We can have a stream of activities all day long.”

When finished, there will be a game room, recreation

room, wellness room, a lifelong learning center, and more.

In addition, the center will have a reception area that opens into a lounge complete with a fire place.

“All these things wouldn’t be there if we didn’t expand by the 40%,” McKay said. “It would be helter-skelter.”

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**CLEANUP**

Continued from Page 1

“Chris Cronin, director of the Department of Public Works, is amazing,” she said, noting that he and Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, along with Conservation Commission member Alix Driscoll, have all been very supportive of the organization’s efforts.

Friedenson added that the cleanups are the result of coordination among a number of different organizations from a variety of communities.

The first event was prompted by Peggy Rambach, a resident of Arundel Street who reported that she walks along the river

quite often.

“I was hoping you might remove a tire that is clearly exposed where the river flows between the upper and lower (the oval) soccer fields,” Rambach said in an email to the SRWA. “I walk there all the time and I’m so tired of looking at that tire, along with some other junk you will likely find there

**JOIN THE EFFORT**

- What:** Shawsheen River cleanup at Sacred Heart Reservation;
- When:** 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Aug. 29;
- Where:** A stretch of Shawsheen River located in the Sacred Heart Reservation;
- Where to park:** On Balmoral or surrounding streets, or in the soccer field parking lot, which is a three-minute walk to the river;
- Important information:** Be prepared to wade – wear water shoes/boots;
- Questions:** Contact Laurie at hartwicklaurie@yahoo.com;
- Perk:** Pizza will be served at the end of the event.

– square pillow-like things that are caught up in fallen logs and branches.”

Friedenson said she got a small team of SRWA volunteers together, including Laurie Hartwick of Tewksbury, Mike Dempsey of Andover and Justin Damon of Billerica. They represent groups such as the Shawsheen River

Greenway, based in Andover, and Boat Beautiful of Billerica.

Friedenson added that most river enthusiasts are kayakers, but that the stretch that needed to be cleaned is not one that can be paddled.

“It’s not an area where you can kayak, so none of us were familiar with it,” she said. “But it will end up downstream where we do kayak, so we were happy to do this.”

She said that during the cleanup last month, a resident watched as the group cleaned and became so enthusiastic he said he would put together a large group of teenagers to help during the coming cleanup Saturday.

“There is unbelievable involvement from so many people coming from so many places,” she said.

**FIELD**

Continued from Page 1

women in elected office was known to me previously, and I have appreciated learning more about the entire Tucker family through this process,” School Committee

Chair Shannon Scully said in a statement from Andover Public Schools that announced the dedication of the field.

According to the statement, Susan’s “important work included chairing the Senate Committee concerned with Veteran Affairs, and

passage of a 2003 bill that enabled thousands of Massachusetts veterans to access state veterans’ benefits.”

Susan was named an Andover Veteran Honoree for her diligence on behalf of veterans across Massachusetts.

The naming of the field is especially significant for the

Tucker family because their sons, David and Mark, were star athletes during their time in the Andover Public Schools. Mark died in 2017 and David is currently battling Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The School Committee voted to name the field after the Tucker Family during the Aug. 19 meeting. Members came to this decision after receiving much public input.

“The feedback from the community received by the committee on this naming proposal made it clear that the Tucker family has extensive and meaningful connections with generations of people across Andover and a legacy deserving of this recognition,” Scully said.

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# Celtics name Andover's Melissa Marrama as 2020's 'Hero Among Us'

By JILL HARMACINSKI  
jharmacinski@eagletribune.com



**Melissa Marrama**  
a wife and mother who works professionally as a financial planner, "has made an ongoing effort to support frontline workers and those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic," according to a statement the Celtics released about her honor.

serves meals to homeless shelters, veterans' homes and more.

Marrama, a wife and mother who works professionally as a financial planner, "has made an ongoing effort to support frontline workers and those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic," according to a statement the Celtics released about her honor.

"She has secured donations from businesses for local efforts, delivered flowers and candy to nurses, sewed homemade protective cloth masks

and more," according to the statement.

Locally, Marrama was nominated as a Hometown Hero for similar reasons. She was instrumental in organizing local residents to support healthcare workers and others on the front lines of the pandemic.

However, she stressed she was not alone and this was part of a larger community effort.

Through her professional work, Marrama said she became very passionate about helping the elderly, those in nursing homes and veterans. She and others in Andover

and North Andover have dedicated their front porches as donation drop-off sites as well as places where people can pick up homemade masks and other items they may need. Most recently, as the first day of school approaches, teachers have been picking up masks from Marrama.

Some of her charitable work also involves the Islamic Center of Andover, which was founded by Marrama's husband Faisal Ahmed. The couple has a daughter, Sophia, 13, who attends the Pike School.

Anyone interested in helping with charitable efforts or

making a donation can text Marrama directly at 978-996-2620. Marrama and others are also directly involved with the Facebook page "Andover/North Andover COVID-19 Preparedness & Support."

The Boston Celtics established "Heroes Among Us" in 1997.

The program recognizes "outstanding individuals who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to their communities."

Follow staff reporter Jill Harmacinski on Twitter @EagleTribJill.

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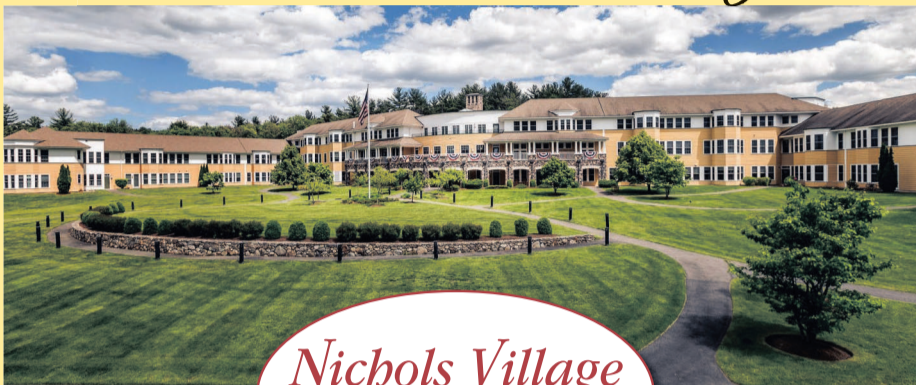
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**ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES**

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**Cheryl A. Bonitz, 64**

January 20, 1956 - August 13, 2020

HAVERHILL, MA — Miss Cheryl A. Bonitz, 64, of Haverhill passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at her home. Born in Stoneham, Mass. and raised in Medford she had been an area resident all her life. Cheryl graduated from Medford High School in 1974. She worked at Commercial Union Assurance in Boston and Canton. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Cheryl enjoyed reading, making crafts, and going to craft shows. Cheryl loved to spend time with her family and friends and her cat Dusty and enjoyed spending time in Maine. Cheryl is predeceased by her parents Frank and Marie (Tanner) Bonitz, and her nephews Daniel Everbeck and Ronald Bonitz Jr. She is survived by her sister Bonnie and her husband Gary Everbeck of Wells, Maine, her brother Ronald Bonitz Sr. of Omaha, Neb., nephew, Adam Everbeck; great-nephews, Ronald Bonitz III and Daniel, and great-niece, Madison. She

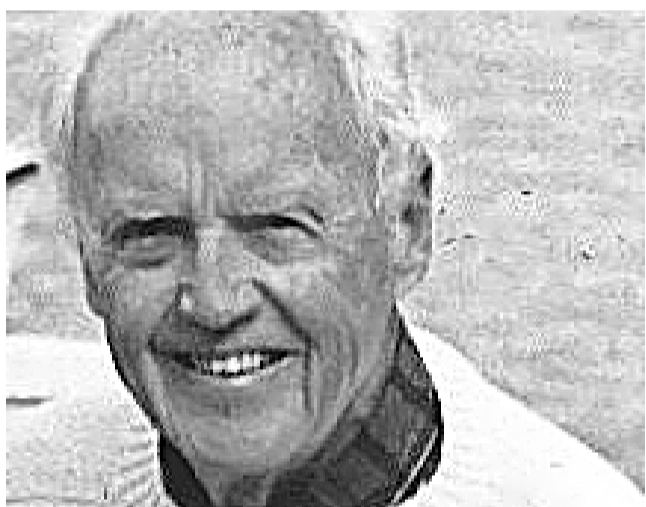


will also be missed by her best friend, Marie Krug.

**ARRANGEMENTS: Family and friends are invited to call on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. at Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main Street, Andover. There will be a graveside service on Saturday at 12 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett. Online condolences may be shared at [www.burkemagliozi-funeralhome.com](http://www.burkemagliozi-funeralhome.com).**

**Louis M Warlick, 99**

May 9, 1921 - August 17, 2020



STUART, FL — Louis M. Warlick, 99 years old, of Exeter, N.H. and Stuart, Fla. passed away peacefully at his home in Mariner Sands in Stuart on August 17th, 2020. He was born in Durham, N.C. on May 9th, 1921 to Louis F. and Kathryn Warlick.

Louis grew up in Durham and as a young boy worked on his grandfather Charlie Maynard's farm in Morrisville several towns over. His grandfather was Postmaster, owned the General Store, a saw mill, and ran a farm; all of which greatly influenced Louis especially in terms of learning the value of hard work.

Louis attended Durham High School where he finished top of his class and received the state of North Carolina's Science Award. From high school, he moved to Macon, Georgia where he ran his Uncle's insurance agency while attending Mercer University. After graduating from Mercer, he joined the Navy and served on a Destroyer Escort in the South Pacific during World War II.

After the war, at the Officers Club in Boston, he met Dorothy Garry from Methuen, and they were married shortly thereafter. He then attended Harvard Business School where he got his MBA and entered the investment business with Loomis Sayles & Company in Boston. Later in his

career he joined State Street Research & Management as a partner and retired from there in 1984.

Louis and Dorothy raised their family in Andover, Massachusetts, spent summers in Rye Beach, N.H., weekends skiing out of their home in Jackson, New Hampshire, and later in their retirement spent winters in Stuart, Fla.

He is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Garry Warlick and survived by his brother Pat Warlick of Chester, N.J., his daughter, Nancy Warlick Powell and husband Michael of Darien, Conn.; son, Louis Garry Warlick and wife Patricia of Randolph Center, VT., son, David Banigan Warlick and wife Mary Beth of Jackson, N.H., seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and long-time beloved companion Jean Eldridge of Stuart, Fla.

Donations in the memory of Louis may be made to his favorite charitable cause; the Piarist School, PO Box 369, Hager Hill, Kentucky 41222. The Piarist School is a tuition free preparatory school in Appalachia.

Louis, known to his family as "Poppy", lived a long and beautiful life and set a great example for his children, grandchildren and friends all of whom he touched so greatly. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. A Memorial Service is planned for next summer in Rye Beach.

**Library buys passes with CARES grant**

The Friends of Andover Memorial Hall Library recently received a \$2,500 CARES grant to buy passes to area cultural institutions.

These passes will allow free or reduced admission and provide an opportunity for residents to enjoy an array of experiences.

With more places opening up to the public again, the

grant enabled the Friends to purchase passes to the Discovery Museums in Acton, The Trustees GO Pass, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, the New England Aquarium, Old Sturbridge Village, and Zoo New England.

Passes can be reserved by visiting <https://mhl.org/museum-passes>.



**Gail Ralston**

Andover Center for History & Culture

Thomas Cochran, Phillips Academy class of 1890, had a vision. Successful in business but with his wife having died, Cochran turned his financial attention to his beloved high school.

Deciding on the importance of "investing in young manhood," he set about, from 1925 to 1932, modernizing the campus, stating, "we're building here for a thousand years."

Working with architect Charles Platt, Cochran fully or partially funded many new buildings, often moving existing buildings to create a symmetry still seen today. Buildings suggesting the Victorian era were removed.

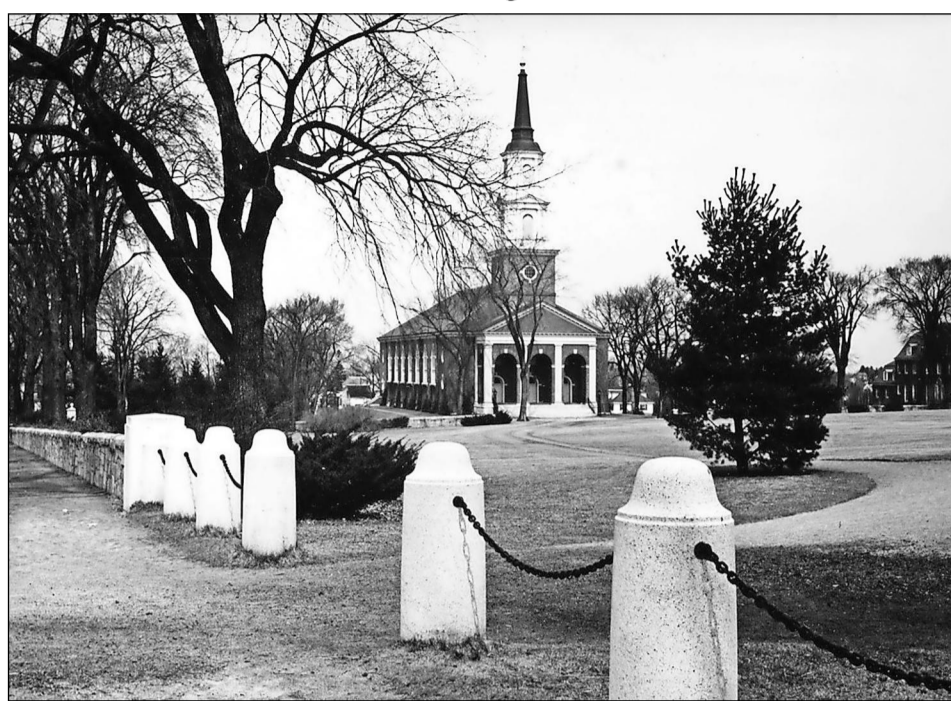
Cochran's final vision was a chapel, to be rich in architecture and history.

Academy trustees approved the project, hearing that Platt intended for the chapel to be a building "not only of outward beauty but one which in its interior will preserve and enhance a spirit of reverence and worship."

During this period of construction, Cochran insisted that no building on campus bear his name and no image of him hung in any location. When it came to naming the chapel, Cochran initially wanted to name it America Chapel, in honor of Samuel Francis Smith, who had written the hymn "America" while a Seminary student. On this, he was overruled.

When Cochran refused to have the chapel named after him, as the trustees suggested the chapel became

**Cochran Chapel: The heart of Phillips Academy campus**



Andover Center for History & Culture / Phillips Academy Archives photos

The exterior of Phillips Academy's Cochran Chapel. The building is both a center of campus life and a tribute to Thomas Cochran, who invested deeply in his alma mater and oversaw the chapel's construction.



Thomas Cochran

known simply as the "Academy Church." Once the name was decided, many decisions had to be made. Foremost was the chapel's location. Originally intended for the site of today's Addison Gallery, gallery plans forced the change to the current site.

To accommodate this, Samaritan House, then located on that spot and home to the headmaster, was moved across the street. The Woods Home, facing Wheeler, was moved to Judson Avenue, and another small home torn down.

Bartlett Street, which at the time continued through campus, was closed at Wheeler Street.

A section of the stone wall was removed to create an open view of the chapel that had been placed in

alignment with the Bell Tower. And not liking stained glass, Platt insisted that all windows were to be clear glass.

At one point, Cochran was made aware that the Bell Tower was taller than the church steeple. Cochran was allegedly appalled at the height disparity, saying, "Nothing can be closer to God than the church."

Plans were altered; the steeple was raised, and the chapel, indeed, is the tallest building on campus.

The day before the chapel's dedication, made to the memory of Cochran's parents, the campus newspaper described the building: The architecture is neo-Georgian, "red brick trimmed with white Indiana limestone. The steeple is of pine wood, covered on the topmost section with soft copper. The window panes are known as English antique glass. Acoustics, due to the arched ceilings, are special Gustavian akoustolith plaster."

"The interior paneling

suggests the late 17th century English Baroque style of Christopher Wren."

The chapel bell previously hung in the old Stone Chapel (demolished). The bell was cast in 1876 by the Amesbury foundry as a memorial to Josiah Bartlett, first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

On that bell, the same as the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, are etched the words, "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land and to all Inhabitants thereof."

On May 9, 1932, the chapel was dedicated, Cochran handing the ceremonial keys to James Hardy Ropes, trustees president. Regrettably, that was the last day Cochran was to set foot on campus, as he soon became ill and was unable to travel. He died in 1936.

Upon this death, in honor of the man who had done so much for the Academy, the trustees changed the official name to "Cochran Chapel," which stands today as the very center and heart of campus life.

**ALL THOSE YEARS AGO**

**Susan McKelliget**

Andover Center for History and Culture

**100 Years Ago: Aug. 27, 1920**

Mrs. Catherine O'Connell of Ridge street passed away at her home about midnight last night as a result of injuries sustained from a fall. Mrs. O'Connell went out on the roof of the kitchen her house to hang up some clothes. She slipped and fell about 10 feet to the ground, breaking both legs and suffering severe internal injuries. Her death was no doubt hastened by the shock of the fall.

**75 Years Ago: Aug. 23, 1945**

A 25-year-old garage worker was seriously burned about the face and

body around noon Thursday when a pail of gasoline became ignited and burst into flame in the repair room of an Andover garage where he was working. William Ward, Andover Street, was rushed to Lawrence General Hospital, where his condition was found to be critical. (Mr. Ward died less than a week later from his injuries which occurred at a garage behind Park Street.)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Deyermond had a gala celebration of their silver wedding anniversary last Wednesday. They are visiting in New York City and spent three hours in Times Square during the riotous celebration held when Japan's surrender in WWII was announced. "A more democratic demonstration

was never witnessed," says Mr. Deyermond.

At 7 o'clock on Tuesday, Aug. 14, when most of us were hearing the news of the Japanese surrender, Lt. Kerr A. Sparks, Jr., alighted from a train at the railroad station, home from overseas service.

**50 Years Ago: Sept. 3, 1970**

Raytheon Company today announced receipt of contracts from the U.S. Army totaling \$50 million for fiscal 1970 production of improved Hawk missiles and ground support equipment.

New supports and a temporary roof have been installed by workmen at the Musgrove Building in Elm Square. A group, headed by attorney Michael J. Batal, Jr., of Lawrence recently purchased the 75-year-old structure and is planning renovations.

Owner Donald Pepin of Andover Sales and Services surveys damage caused by a fire in his shop last Thursday night. The business was located in the former Boston and Maine depot. Intense heat melted machinery and motors in the building.

On Thursday, Aug. 27 a successful carnival was held for the children of Arundel Street in Liz Carr's backyard for the benefit of the Jimmy Fund. There were many games of skill managed by Michael Hart, Peter Lemieux, and Tim Shea. Michael Shea and William Rogers were helpers. Eileen Hart ran the fun games and rides. Pamela Lemieux took charge of the tickets. Mary Hart headed the food table laden with pop-corn, brownies, cup cakes, cookies and cold drinks.

**POLICE LOG**

**TUESDAY, AUG. 18**

**Recreational Vehicle Violation:** Caller from 397 River Road reports about 14 dirt bikes going up and down River Road and one of the bikes didn't have headlights on it, River Road, 8:16 p.m.

**Well Being Check:** A call was received from an employee who works at Doctor's Park saying there is a female in her 40s who can barely walk, sitting at a picnic table. Officers responded to the scene and requested an ambulance for her, Haverhill Street, 7:30 p.m.

**Dog Complaint:** A resident reported that a rescue dog he adopted from a shelter down South just bit him and he's concerned because there's a child in his house. An officer helped the man contact the shelter, Juliette Street, 5:13 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19**

**Gathering:** Report of a gathering by the entrance of Deer Jump. An officer found seven teens sitting on a bench and sent them on their way, Brundrett Avenue, 8:37 p.m.

**Crash:** Report of a motor

cycle hit by a vehicle. The police and fire departments searched the area and found nothing, Frontage Road, 5:10 p.m.

**Fraud/Bad Check:** A caller reported her company had several fraud checks cashed in different locations, Burt Road, 2:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 20**

**Vandalism:** A caller from the front desk of The Andover Country Club said that a silver Honda circled the building before egging the front entrance, Canterbury Street, 11:10 p.m.

**Identity Fraud:** A caller reported unemployment fraud, Haggetts Pond Road, 6:19 p.m.

**Anonymous Phone Calls/Texts:** Someone called in to report a past guest at the Residence Inn keeps calling the hotel nonstop, Minuteman Road, 2:29 p.m.

**Crash-Hit and Run:** Report of a hit-and-run by a large Ryder truck, River Road, 12:25 p.m.

**Suspicious Activity:** A caller reported a man with a "rifle type gun" in their yard. The caller said they feared for their life. Police responded

to the scene, multiple items were confiscated and the party was spoken to, Whittier Street, 9:09 a.m.

**FRIDAY, AUG. 21**

**Suspicious Activity:** A caller reports that she returned home and found some items in her house broken, although nothing was stolen. She said she's letting a man stay at her home and she thinks his ex-girlfriend may be involved, Punchard Avenue, 6:43 p.m.

**Crash-Personal Injury:** A 911 caller reported a car accident involving a pregnant woman, Elm Street, 5:34 p.m.

**Suspicious Activity:** A caller reports that two men who he believes are drug dealers are following him in a silver Infinity two-door sedan and he thinks they have weapons, Minuteman Road, 4:08 p.m.

**Crash-Motor Vehicle vs. Bike:** A caller reports a bicyclist ran into his vehicle, Frontage Road, 3:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUG. 22**

**Vandalism:** A caller reported a couple broken windows on the snack shack, Blanchard Street, 2:46 p.m.

**Suspicious Activity:** A caller reports hearing gunshots in the area, Shattuck Road, 9:44 p.m.

**SUNDAY, Aug. 23**

**Suspicious Activity:** A 911 caller reports that he saw a man in his 20s park his car and head into a store while acting erratically, yelling to himself. The caller said he also noticed the man place an empty bottle into the trunk of his vehicle. An officer spoke to the man who lives close by. He walked home and left the car for the night, Railroad Street, 6:15 p.m.

**Service Request:** A caller reported a tree fell into some electrical wires, Gray Road, 4:39 p.m.

**Scam:** A 911 caller from the pharmacy said that a woman in her 20s came up and mouthed "call 911." An officer reports that this is a possible scam situation. This happened in North Andover recently when an individual drove there to purchase a money card, Main Street, 2:29 p.m.

**Fire Assist:** Car fire in the parking lot, Red Spring Road, 11:31 a.m.

Please recycle this newspaper.

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# Talk therapy can be a life-changer

## Family Matters

Larry Larsen



**Dear Dr. Larsen,**  
My doctor has suggested I see a therapist. I have been thinking it over, and I am a little

doubtful about it helping me. The idea of just talking to someone is a bit much. You are a therapist, so I would like to know what you think.

**Doubting**

**Dear Doubting,**

The right therapy, at the right time, can change your life.

Let me explain with two thoughts. The first is to think of the brain as a changing and developing organ. Until fairly recently in the history of neuroscience, the brain was seen as a fixed organ, with different

plug-ins or areas. Now, we know the brain has a capacity termed "neuroplasticity," which refers to its response to the world and experiences. If you will, one is able to change one's mind. Literally, it is possible to see the world and ourselves differently.

How does this happen? In simple terms, we think. We feel. We behave. When we focus and speak about our lives and thoughts with another neutral person who has our best interests at heart, the brain is able to respond with actual change.

Thinking is the source of change. For example, changing from thinking "I am an awful person" to the idea that "I have faults, but I am a good person" is a life-changing notion. Behavior is also able to be the source of change. One discovers how to do things differently.

Thus, a complex of ideas, behaviors and feelings is able to guide choices and

new directions emotionally. Shop around. Interview a few therapists and look

for a "fit." Then, open your mind to possibilities. Surprises await you!

Dr. Larry Larsen is an Andover psychologist. If you would like to ask a

question, or respond to one, email him at lrryllrsn@CS.com.

## Town Meeting is officially scheduled for Sept. 12

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

After being postponed several times, Town Meeting has officially been set for 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, under a large tent on the field adjacent to the West Middle School.

In a statement, Town Moderator Sheila Doherty said she feels the conditions at that time will be safe enough to accommodate all those who wish to attend.

"I believe the downward trends in the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Massachusetts, and change in anticipated weather conditions, render the public health risk to voters low enough to hold the meeting at that time," Doherty said.

Town Meeting has been delayed four times because of the pandemic. Initially, the Select Board postponed it, which then placed the decision into Doherty's hands. She has postponed it three

times since.

"Scheduling and planning for Town Meeting has been a challenge," Flanagan said. "I think we have a solid plan that will allow residents with the necessary accommodations to participate safely."

The law only allows for Town Meeting to be delayed in 30-day increments. According to Doherty's statement, Sept. 12 was selected as the final date for Town Meeting because the law "does not give me authority to continue the Annual Town Meeting for longer than 30 days from the posted date of Aug. 22, 2020, but I do have the authority to issue further continuances."

Flanagan said the Sept. 12 date is final.



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# Opinion

## Flu vaccine decision belongs to Legislature

Everyone should get a flu shot this season who can get one without risking their health. The Baker administration's urgency in advocating for shots in Massachusetts is appreciated, given the similarities between influenza and COVID-19, and the potential of a bad flu season to seriously complicate efforts to contain a pandemic.

But last week's decision by state health officials to require every school student in the state to get a flu shot, as well as every child over 6 months attending a daycare, merits more discussion than a memo from the Department of Public Health. If Massachusetts is to become the first state in the country to require flu vaccines for nearly all of its children, the people's representatives in the state House and Senate should be the ones to make that call.

Let's be clear from the outset: We are strong advocates for vaccinating children for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, chicken pox and the range of other communicable but nearly eradicated diseases that stay on the fringes of our society only because of rigid public health standards. State laws, written by legislators, set those requirements. Families of every kid going to public school, preschool, camp or college must prove they've met them.

We are also strong advocates for the flu vaccine — and we aren't alone. During the 2018-19 flu season, 4 in 5 children in Massachusetts were vaccinated for the flu — the highest rate of any state in the country, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adults didn't do nearly as well — 53.5% were vaccinated — but that was the second-highest vaccination rate in the country, behind Rhode Island. In a place where so many people get vaccinated willingly, one wonders why the state felt the urge to issue last week's directive.

Mandating flu shots is different than stepping up a public education effort to encourage everyone to get one. Health officials are leaning on broad powers to issue such rulings in a public emergency. Yet, the Baker administration clearly views this as something other than a one-time precaution. Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders said last Thursday the requirement would be implemented every year going forward. One prays this public health emergency doesn't outlast the oncoming flu season.

The scope of the rule is also questionable. The requirement applies to all K-12 students, college and university students, as well as kids in daycare and preschool. Homeschool students are exempted, as are college students studying remotely, and those children whose families have gotten a medical or religious exemption. Students in school districts using a remote learning model are not exempt, however, and they must get the vaccine by the end of the year just like everyone else. Even if those kids never leave their houses, they must have the flu vaccine.

The flu vaccine is a different protection than the panel of other shots required of school-age children. It's adjusted seasonally in anticipation of common strands of flu, and its effectiveness varies from year to year. A report on last season's vaccine published by the CDC put its effectiveness at about 45%.

That's not to diminish the importance of flu shots to the public health. Taken by enough people, they offer protection to the entire population, even if not bulletproof. Graft onto that an urgent need to keep flu patients out of emergency rooms, lest our hospitals be overwhelmed treating for both COVID-19 and influenza, and the argument for everyone to get one is seriously compelling.

Mandating it for students may be smart public health policy — or it may not. A discussion should happen fast, to be sure. It just so happens that lawmakers on Beacon Hill continue to work during a session that's been extended in light of the impact of COVID-19.

Implementing this directive without public input — including from a group of parents who are protesting the decision — does a disservice to what's generally been a capable, thoughtful response by the state to the challenges presented by a pandemic.

We'll be getting our flu shots, for sure. Everyone else should as well. Instead of issuing edicts, the state Legislature should deliberate over whether this should be required of all children and students. If so, let them change the law accordingly.

## Rivera has the leadership, integrity to advocate for 17th Essex

Editor, Townsman:

The Democratic primary race for the 17th Essex District is between two people with very different visions for government transparency and public education.

Dr. Marianela Rivera, who was a two-term Lawrence School Committee member and vice chairwoman, has tirelessly fought to strengthen our public schools.

She knocked on doors against the expansion of private charter schools. Her opponent, Rep. Frank Moran, advocated for them in the 2016 ballot Question 2.

Private charter schools siphon money away from public schools, and they are not accountable to our elected officials. Even more incredible is that Moran is receiving campaign funds from Democrats for Education Reform, which is a front group for venture capitalists including the Arkansas-based Walton Family Foundation. We do not need a Massachusetts state representative who is beholden to out-of-state interests.

Rivera continues her education advocacy work as the coordinator of the Greater Lawrence Education Justice Alliance. In this capacity she is able to amplify the voices of parents, teachers, students and citizens concerning education issues.

She also testified publicly at the Statehouse and in numerous forums in favor of the Student Opportunity Act, which will bring hundreds of millions of additional dollars to public schools in our district. She is endorsed by the two state teachers unions and the AFL-CIO of Massachusetts.

Another critical issue that separates Rivera from her opponent is transparency in government.

She supports ending the cronyism which occurs between the House speaker and his loyal acolytes and wishes to see members' votes published so that citizens can actually see how our elected officials vote.

Rivera has a doctorate degree from Northeastern University, and she is a member of the special education department in the Peabody School District. She possesses the leadership skills, talent and integrity to advocate for everyone in the 17th Essex District.

I hope your readers vote for her in the Democratic Primary on Sept. 1.

**MATTHEW J. BACH**  
President, Andover Education Association

## Moran is reliable supporter of Andover's schools and children

Editor, Townsman:

In this day and age, when we find ourselves fighting against each other instead of uniting to help each other, my choice for state representative in the 17th Essex District is Rep. Frank Moran.

As a member of the Andover School Committee and the Andover West Elementary School Building Committee, with family roots that reach deeply into both Lawrence and Andover, I have found that Moran's commitment to people, and especially to children, speaks louder than any political fanfare.

He is not about fanfare. He is about community. He is about partnership. He is about collaborating to get the job done.

■ As a proud and successful graduate of the Greater Lawrence Technical School, Moran is a role model for students in the communities that GLTS serves, including Andover.

■ He supported Andover's successful bid to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to partner on the building of a new West Elementary School.

■ Moran fought for full funding of the Massachusetts Special Education Circuit Breaker, bringing \$500,000 in state funding to Andover's highest need students.

■ He co-sponsored the Student Opportunity Act, in support of a strong public education for all children regardless of their zip code.

Moran has supported the Andover Public Schools, the Andover School Committee and, most importantly, Andover's children when we needed him most.

I hope your readers join me in supporting Rep. Frank Moran on Sept. 1 to continue the advocacy for public education and our children in the 17th Essex District.

**SUSAN K. MCCREADY**  
Vice Chairperson  
Andover School Committee

## Rivera is unwavering in support for schools

Editor, Townsman:

While there are myriad important distinctions between the two candidates running for state representative in the 17th Essex District, one stands above the rest: public education.

In 2016, education privatizers from across the country set their sights on Massachusetts hoping to raise the cap for charter schools in our state. While progressives throughout Massachusetts stepped up to defend and protect our public schools, Rep. Frank Moran joined with Republicans like Gov. Charlie Baker and former

state Rep. Jim Lyons to support their privatization.

Moran gave the privatizers his support in 2016, and now that he's facing a formidable opponent for reelection, they're reciprocating with theirs. Democrats for Education Reform, an organization devoted to charter schools and bankrolled by the Walton family of Walmart fame, has been running ads in support of Moran's candidacy, hoping to keep him fighting for charter schools and privatization for another term.

While Moran is at best a part-time advocate for our public schools, Marianela Rivera will fight for our students and educators every single day.

Rivera herself is an educator, and she understands what our schools need to improve and flourish. This is why she's been endorsed by both major teachers unions here in the state, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

In challenging times such as these, we need a strong and unwavering advocate for our schools. There's only one of those in this race, and it's Marianela Rivera.

I ask your readers to give her their vote either by mail or in-person on Sept. 1.

**MATTHEW ALLEN**  
Andover

## Moran is a champion of Andover's youth

Editor, Townsman:

I would like to take this opportunity to both support and thank state Rep. Frank Moran.

I met Moran in my role as chairwoman of the Andover Youth Foundation. In conjunction with our other local legislators, Moran helped to spearhead an initiative to bring state support for both the Cormier Youth Center and Andover Youth Services.

This support is and will be crucial as AYS continues to expand programming that engages young people. This engagement is especially important as the COVID-19 situation has caused feelings of loneliness, anxiety and isolation. Through the efforts of Moran, this support helps AYS continue its work.

When I met Moran and observed him during his visit to the Youth Center, I was impressed with his understanding that Andover Youth Service was not just a place of recreation for young people but a place that fosters creativity, encourages both social and civic engagement, is a haven for those who feel out of place, and is a safety net for those who need emotional support.

Moran saw through the surface and understood right away the needs of the young people, and he was supportive of informal programs that help our youth with issues of loss, grief and substance abuse. He was extremely intuitive and grasped the huge impact

that Andover Youth Services makes on the community as it subtly deals with many social issues that impact not just Andover but the country as well.

He immediately understood that simple actions make a huge difference in the lives of these young people.

I thank Moran for realizing the importance of supporting Andover Youth Services and the Andover Youth Foundation in their joint mission to make a difference in the lives of the youth of Andover. It is comforting to have a state representative like him who understands the needs and knows it is important to demonstrate that support, even in a community like Andover.

I encourage your readers to support Rep. Frank Moran in the state primary on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

**DIANE COSTAGLIOLA**  
Andover

## Systemic racism warrants task force of its own

Editor, Townsman:

We are living during two pandemics — systemic racism and COVID-19.

At the state and national level, COVID-19 task forces have been created to stop the spread of the coronavirus, understand the many effects of it, find medications to fight it and vaccines to prevent it. Other major sources of death, such as heart disease and cancer, are not addressed.

A new diversity and inclusion office was created in Andover — named the Andover DIVERSE, for Diversity, Inclusion, Values, Respect, Support and Education. The office was announced in June in response to the Black Lives Matter movement as well as racist incidents in Andover. It will be charged with leading anti-racism efforts in town.

Based on the community forum for race, diversity and inclusion in Andover on July 29, the purpose of the new office appears to address the prejudice against and the issues of many disadvantaged groups. It will give an opportunity for many different groups, minority and majority, in the community to be heard.

This is comparable to a COVID-19 task force addressing many other major medical problems.

It is not laser focused on ending systemic racism and improving the lives of Black people. Violence against Black people nationally and racist events locally were the impetus for creating the office.

Now it would be great to have a task force dedicated to addressing systemic racism in Andover and addressing the most pressing needs of Black people as defined by Black people.

**KATHLEEN GRANT**  
Andover

## WEB QUESTION

What do you think of the new flu shot mandate?

State health officials last week announced new rules for this season's vaccinations: College students, students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and children ages 6 months and older in daycare or preschool must have flu shots by Dec. 31. (Families may opt out children with medical exemptions.)

Health officials say shots are needed to contain the spread of flu, a respiratory infection similar to COVID-19 that could frustrate efforts to control the pandemic. But some parents are accusing the state of overreach, especially with a vaccine that

worked about half the time last year.

What do you think?

**GET THE SHOT:** Flu vaccines are standard fare. Two seasons ago 4 in 5 children in Massachusetts had one — the highest vaccination rate in the country. This rule will ensure even wider adoption — hopefully among adults too — at a time when it's desperately needed. The more people who get a flu shot, the better.

**NOT SO FAST:** A flu shot may or may not be right for you and your kids. Parents and guardians, not the state, should be the ones to make that decision, even in the middle of a pandemic.

Last week's question

Which part of redeveloping the old town yard will bring the biggest benefit to Andover?

Town Meeting is expected to decide next month on a plan seeking proposals to buy and redevelop the property adjacent to the commuter rail station. Many residents have made suggestions for what they'd like to see on the property, and the consensus calls on a blend of housing, business and recreational space. What most interests you?

**HOUSING:** Ask anyone who has tried to find a place to live lately: Andover needs more housing. It's a good fit for the location, which is next to a residential district. (4 votes)

**RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS:** The area has so much potential as an extension of Main Street. This is a great opportunity to build on the assortment of restaurants and commercial space that already occupy the Historic Mill District. (18 votes)

**TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS:** Say what you will about more places to live and charming places to eat. This is a great opportunity to improve the traffic design in an area with one of the most unique (and potentially dangerous) intersections in town. (10 votes)

**ALL OF THE ABOVE:** The town yard truly is a "keystone" property, and the right project could mean a lot of things to a lot of people. (23 votes)

## READER ACCESS

### EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

**EDITOR TRACEY RAUH** for comments on overall editorial content and quality;  
978-946-2242, trauh@andovertownsmen.com

**REPORTER JUDY WAKEFIELD** at 978-691-8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

**SPORTS WRITER DAVE WILLIS** at 978-946-2473;  
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# Townspeople



A family walks down a trail from the summit of Holt Hill at the Charles W. Ward Reservation in Andover. The hill is the highest point in Essex County.

## EXPLORING THE RESERVATION

### Nature is a fine respite in town

PHOTOS BY TIM JEAN/Staff photographer

Hiking the Charles W. Ward Reservation is a popular sport for locals, especially in the times of social distancing. The

694-acre property in Andover and North Andover is maintained by The Trustees of Reservations and was founded in 1891.

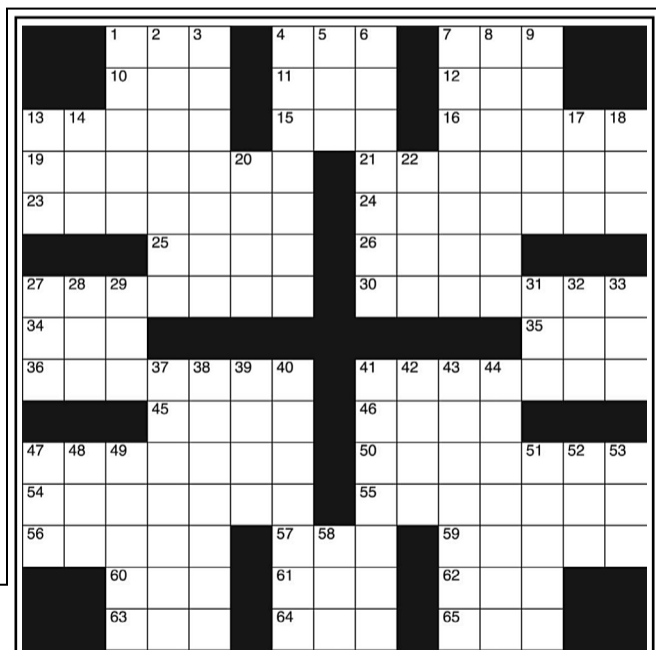
Steve Cortner of Andover and his wife, Ann Marie Cortner, walk with their dog Febi near the summit of Holt Hill.



Stephen Dickie of Andover walks with the family dog, Virginia, a black lab, followed by his daughter Mae, 9, and wife, Dani, along the boardwalk that leads toward the Pine Hole Bog.



The Bergeron family from Melrose – Lindsay, Liam, 2, and Steve – walk toward the summit of Holt Hill. The hill is the highest point in Essex County.



#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Chop with an ax
4. Where a bachelor lives
7. Indicates near
10. Doctors' group
11. It's just a number
12. Type of bread
13. Lively ballroom dance
15. Charles S. Dutton TV series
16. A way to use up
19. Singular event
21. Home of Disney World
23. Minerals
24. Most insightful
25. Consult
26. In addition
27. Agents of downfall
30. Organizations
34. Supervises flying

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Czech monetary unit
2. Arousing intense feeling
3. Elks
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Before the present
6. Figures out
7. Infinite
8. A low wall
9. Silly
13. Political organization
14. Used of a number or amount not specified
17. Divisions of the psyche
18. Denial
20. Ancient Iranian person
22. Count on
27. Popular sports league
28. Water (French)
29. Partner to cheese
31. When you hope to get there
32. Angry

#### Solution in Classified Section

35. Bar bill
36. Alfalfa
41. Dish soap
45. Witnesses
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Newspaper bigwigs
50. Discuss again
54. Small group with shared interests
55. Support
56. Popular sportcoat fabric
57. Take hold of
59. Pre-Mayan civilization
60. Woman (French)
61. Wheeled vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. Cold War player (abbr.)
64. Pitching stat
65. Attempt
33. One point east of due south
37. Respects
38. Organize anew
39. French wine grape
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships take on cargo
44. Holiday season singer
47. Shock treatment
48. Popular average
49. Products
51. A type of bear
52. Utilize
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river



Just off the trail are two bird houses well below a fire tower at the summit of Holt Hill Reservation in Andover.

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**Save on every door!**

**Must call by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

1

**SAVE \$330**  
on every window<sup>1</sup>

**SAVE \$725**  
on every patio and entry door<sup>1</sup>

Minimum purchase of four.

AND

2

**6.25% OFF**  
your entire project<sup>1</sup>

No minimum purchase required.

WITH

3

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Down Monthly Interest  
Payments

**FOR 1 YEAR<sup>1</sup>**

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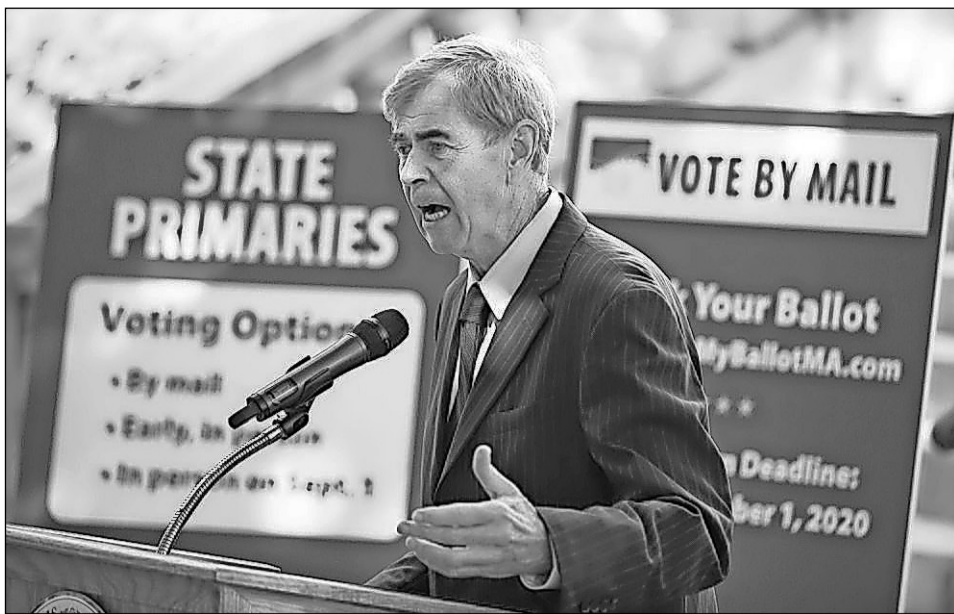
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State House News Service photo  
Secretary of State Bill Galvin speaks Tuesday at a press conference on mail-in voting.

# Galvin touts vote-by-mail amid post office warnings

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Secretary of State Bill Galvin is defending the state's vote-by-mail system as the U.S. Postal Service warns Massachusetts and other states that it cannot guarantee all ballots cast by mail for the November election will arrive in time to be counted.

The state's 4.5 million voters were sent applications they may use to request ballots for the Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general elections. The mass mailing of applications is required under a new state law that expanded vote-by-mail options amid lingering concerns about the coronavirus.

Galvin said more than 1 million people have requested absentee ballots, and state elections officials have mailed out 940,000.

As of Tuesday, at least 149,000 people have already voted in the primary.

"We're quite delighted with this response," Galvin told reporters at a Statehouse briefing. "We certainly think it's going to help

increase the turnout but also give people the option to cast a ballot without concerning themselves about their health."

Galvin also reminded voters that they can still cast ballots in person at the polls on Election Day.

"In fact, I would suggest to you that it'll be safer than going to many supermarkets," he said.

Galvin's comments come as elections officials and the Postal Service brace for an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Massachusetts is one of 46 states that was warned by the post office that it cannot ensure all ballots cast by mail for the November election will arrive in time.

In a letter to Galvin's office, Postal Service general counsel Thomas Marshall wrote that the state's deadlines for requesting and casting mail-in ballots are "incongruous" with the agency's delivery standards.

"This mismatch creates a risk that ballots requested near the deadline under state law will not be

returned by mail in time to be counted," Marshall wrote.

Galvin called the claims "inappropriate" and questioned why the Trump administration is raising the issue.

"The Postal Service has been able to provide ballots delivery during wars, so I don't understand why this would be such a problem," he said.

Democrats suggest the warning from the Postal Service and other cost-cutting policies are an attempt by the Trump administration to derail mail-in balloting and sway the election. The dispute has been stoked by Republican President Donald Trump, who has stepped up his criticism of wide-scale voting by mail.

On Tuesday, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy issued a statement saying he was putting the brakes on any cost-cutting initiatives that could affect service.

"To avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail, I am suspending these initiatives until after the election is concluded," he said.

# Groups seek greater access to police records

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — As lawmakers huddle over a proposed overhaul of policing in Massachusetts, open government advocates are pressing for greater access to records of law enforcement misconduct.

A bipartisan committee of six lawmakers is trying to work out differences between two bills that would ban the use of chokeholds and tear gas by police, and create a state commission to certify police officers. The Legislature passed the sweeping proposals in response to widespread protests over the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis.

But open government advocates say a key element of policing reform is prying open disciplinary records that are often shrouded in secrecy.

"There's been a lot of talk about increasing

accountability but not a lot about reforming the state's public records law, which has been the most significant obstacle to police transparency," said Bob Ambrogi, executive director of the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association. "Police departments routinely rely on exemptions in the public records law to refuse to provide information about allegations of police misconduct."

Among the changes advocates want is a requirement that "all records related to a law enforcement misconduct investigation" be made available to the public detailing the allegations and what actions, if any, police departments took in response.

Advocates also are pushing for a publicly accessible database of police misconduct allegations, investigations and outcomes.

"We believe this is necessary to ensure public

accountability of disciplinary decisions and to promote public confidence in law enforcement officers," Ambrogi said.

Another provision would require police departments to keep records of disciplinary actions for at least 40 years. Advocates say police departments routinely destroy records of investigations, sometimes in as little as seven years.

Police records are subject to the state's public records law. While many are open to public scrutiny, the law makes a number of exceptions, including to shield documents related to personnel issues or ongoing police investigations.

The push for more access is part of a broader effort by advocates to shed more sunlight on government documents. The state's restrictive records law consistently earns Massachusetts failing grades from First Amendment groups.

# Workers approved for extended jobless benefits

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Hundreds of thousands of jobless workers in Massachusetts will be getting a little extra money in their weekly payments.

On Monday, the Baker administration said it has received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to distribute \$300 per week on top of regular unemployment benefits to those who qualify.

The federal emergency employment benefits will be retroactive to Aug. 1. Those already receiving unemployment benefits don't have to reapply, the state Office of Labor and Workforce Development said in a statement.

The agency said it expects to "quickly deliver retroactive funds to eligible claimants in

the coming weeks."

The additional payments were authorized by an executive order by President Donald Trump more than two weeks ago. He directed \$44 billion in FEMA funds to extend unemployment aid and called on states to kick in roughly \$15 billion.

Congress approved an enhanced unemployment benefit of \$600 per week at the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, but those payments were last issued on July 25. The federal aid was added to state unemployment benefits for those who qualify.

Trump issued his order as debate in Congress over whether to extend the benefits stalled amid partisan bickering over another coronavirus relief package.

Gov. Charlie Baker applied for the additional federal

benefits for Massachusetts, but he remains critical of using FEMA funds, saying it diverts money that the state and local governments were already counting on to cover pandemic-related costs such as testing for COVID-19 and personal protective equipment.

The state's 17.4% unemployment rate is highest in the nation, according to federal data. More than 1 million jobless workers are collecting regular state unemployment benefits, as well as federal pandemic-related benefits intended to help those who cannot draw traditional unemployment.

Demand for benefits has nearly tapped out the state's unemployment fund, which totaled \$1.7 billion last year, forcing the Baker administration to borrow money.

# Race for vaccine raises ethical dilemmas

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
Statehouse Reporter

The race for a coronavirus vaccine is showing positive results, but medical experts say when it becomes available drug makers won't be able to produce enough doses for the entire country, creating difficult questions about who gets it first.

Large-scale trials of vaccines developed by companies including Pfizer and Cambridge-based Moderna are underway, involving tens of thousands of people, with scientists tracking the rates of infection among people who get the vaccines versus those who don't. Results are expected in the next several months.

Meanwhile, the National Academies of Sciences is developing a vaccine distribution plan under direction of the federal government, which is expected to be released in October.

Medical experts say an effective vaccine is crucial to ending the pandemic, which has sickened nearly 5.5 million and killed more than 170,000 nationwide. But getting to that point will mean resolving a host of complicated ethical issues about how a vaccine is developed — and who should be first in line to get it.

"The supply will probably not meet the demand initially, which happens with any new vaccine that's developed," Dr. Howard Koh, a professor at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School for Public Health. "There will have to be priority groups, and some difficult decisions will have to be made."

Dr. David A. Rosman, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, says the general consensus in the medical community is that workers on the front lines of the battle against

COVID-19 should be the initial round of vaccinations.

"That doesn't mean just doctors and nurses but workers who stock shelves and clean the floors," he said. "It means people who work in grocery stores, deliver our food and other front-line workers who keep society running while others are able to work from home."

Rosman said equally important is ensuring that the development of a vaccine accounts for racial and ethnic groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the virus. He said early human trials of vaccines have been made up of predominately of white participants.

"We need to make sure that the trials are done in an ethical way, and that there's diversity in who is getting it," he said.

Experts said another big question is whether the initial goal of a wide-scale vaccination program is to minimize coronavirus cases or deaths.

Giving the vaccine to those transmitting the disease, such as younger adults, would help create herd immunity more quickly and prevent the spread of coronavirus. Providing it to older adults first will likely save more lives, but the elderly are often have a weaker response to vaccines.

Koh, a former assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said once a vaccine is available there has to be robust public outreach to assuage any public fears about taking a new drug.

"The public messaging will be extremely important," he said. "People need to be assured that it's something that will improve their health and not hurt them."

The global race for a coronavirus vaccine has dramatically shortened a development and trial process that generally takes years, if not decades, experts say.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said recently he is confident that a coronavirus vaccine will be ready by early next year.

But even if the most optimistic projections hold true and a COVID-19 vaccine is cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration late this year, the vast majority of Americans won't be able to get the shots until spring or summer next year at the earliest, Fauci said.

The federal government has signed deals with at least six vaccine makers to produce coronavirus shots when approved and clear the way for wide-scale production.

The Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed program is pledging to deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine by January 2021.

To date, the program has handed out almost \$10 billion to companies developing vaccines.

Rosman said the federal government needs to do a much better job with vaccine distribution than it did with distributing personal protective equipment and other supplies to states battling the virus, which he called a "failure."

"We have to get this better when it comes to vaccines," he said. "It's a matter of life and death, and the key to reopening our society."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for North of Boston Media Group's newspapers and websites. Email him at cwade@cnhi.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Michelle Cross, 21 Lincoln St., Andover, MA for a special permit under Art. VIII, §3.1.3.F.4 for a Family Dwelling Unit & for a variance from Art. VIII, §4.1.2 for an addition that won't meet the minimum rear yard depth requirement.

Premises affected are located at 21 Lincoln St., Andover, MA in an SRA District & are shown on Assessor Map 71 as Lot 19. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 8/20, 8/27/2020

TOWN OF ANDOVER OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Merrimack Valley Real Estate, 11 Lenox Circ. Lawrence, MA for a special permit under Art. VIII, §3.3.5 &/or for variances from Art. VIII, §4.1.2 & 4.2.2 to reconstruct a porch & a deck that won't meet the minimum front yard depth requirement and will render a detached garage more non-conforming.

Premises affected are located at 13 Webster St., Andover, MA in an SRC District & are shown on Assessor Map 128 as Lot 26. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 8/20, 8/27/2020

TOWN OF ANDOVER ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for furnishing the following will be received at the Office of Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, Massachusetts 01810 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time, the time stamp clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining time.

ITEM BID OPENING IFB No. September 10, 2020 011/09-20/301 2:00 PM 2020 Chandler Road Water Improvements

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained on the Central Purchasing Department webpage located at www.andoverma.gov/bids.

A Bid Security in the amount of 5% of the total bid will be required. Andover is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids or take whatever, other action may be deemed necessary to be in the best interest of the Town.

Theresa Peznola Purchasing Agent AT - 8/27/2020

TOWN OF ANDOVER MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT - COOPERATIVE BID

ANDOVER, BEDFORD, BURLINGTON, LAWRENCE, LEXINGTON, LYNN, MELROSE, METHUEN, NORTH ANDOVER, NORTH READING, READING, STONEHAM, WAKEFIELD, WILMINGTON, WINCHESTER, AND WOBURN

Sealed bids for furnishing Highway Rock Salt, Solar Salt, and Liquid Calcium Chloride 32% to the following municipalities: Andover, Bedford, Burlington, Lawrence, Lexington, Lynn, Melrose, Methuen, North Andover, North Reading, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, Wilmington, Winchester and Woburn, will be received at the Office of Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street, Andover, Massachusetts 01810, until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. The time received will be stamped on each bid and for a consistency of time the time stamp clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining time.

ITEM BID OPENING IFB No. 010/08-20/301 Highway Rock Salt, Solar Salt, and Liquid Calcium Chloride 32%

Bid Documents and bid forms may be obtained on the Central Purchasing Department webpage located at www.andoverma.gov/bids. NO SECURITY IS REQUIRED ON THIS BID. Andover is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser. The right is reserved by each of the municipalities to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality in the bids, if it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.

Theresa Peznola Purchasing Agent AT - 8/27/20

MEDICAL

ATTENTION CAREGIVERS! If you are a PCA, CNA, Nurse or offer personal care services please go to the business and service directory and check out the category for Adult Care. Your services are needed!

PROFESSIONAL

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This safety-sensitive position is responsible for ensuring the safe and timely delivery of home heating oil, diesel and kerosene to our residential & commercial customers on a daily basis.

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See full job descriptions for all our available positions at http://www.facebook.com/hiltonoilcompany or on our website at: www.hiltonoil.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF ANDOVER OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Ralph M. Arabian, 34 Linwood St., Andover, MA for variances from Art. VIII, §4.1.2 & 4.2.2 to construct a deck that won't meet the minimum rear yard depth requirement and will render a detached garage non-conforming.

Premises affected are located at 34 Linwood St., Andover, MA in an SRA District & are shown on Assessor Map 19 as Lot 82. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS DATE OF ISSUE: AT - 8/20, 8/27/2020

TOWN OF ANDOVER OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of K. Dalphond & J. Bombaci, 165 Thorn-dike St., #511, Lowell, MA for a special permit under Art. VIII, §3.1.3.F.4 to use an existing Family Dwelling Unit created by Decision #3680.

Premises affected are located at 38 Wild Rose Dr., Andover, MA in an SRB District & are shown on Assessor Map 111 as Lot 63. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 8/20, 8/27/2020

TOWN OF ANDOVER OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Robert Castro, 117 Chestnut St., Andover, MA for a special permit under Art. VIII, §3.3.5 &/or for a variance from Art. VIII, §4.1.2 to enclose an existing non-conforming porch.

Premises affected are located at 117 Chestnut St., Andover, MA in an SRA District & are shown on Assessor Map 22 as Lot 126. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.

ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 8/20, 8/27/2020

TRADES/INDUSTRIAL

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FUEL ATTENTION FUEL CONSUMERS: All ads in this classification run in our 10 paper "Classified Connection" that covers the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire.

Ads appearing in this section may or may not deliver to this entire market. Prices may reflect a "Local" delivery area only and may be higher for an extended delivery area.

FURNITURE

BEDROOM FURNITURE - Herndon Offices Chest Collection; triple dresser & mirror, nightstand and bureau, 2 Danish modern teak bureaus. Modern glastop dining table with 6 black leather chairs. Best offer: 781-710-6828

Instant dining room set with Chandelier. 60 inch glass table with 8 chairs and crystal chandelier. Very good condition as set was used for occasional dining. \$1100.00 Please call 617.699.0404.

LAZY BOY RECLINER (2) Brown fabric, like new paid \$800 each Asking \$300each Call (603) 893-1974

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METHUEN, 29 MAPLE ST. Moving Sale. Saturday, August 29, 9A-3P. Sunday, 9A-2P. Furniture, Household, Garden, Power tools/Band Saw, new mower engines, bikes, canoe, pavers/used brick, ladders etc.

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PANDORA SS open cuff bracelet has 3 SS charms with CZs, paid \$280 selling for \$150. Judith Ripka SS charm bracelet has 1 heart charm with CZs all over \$80. 978-895-5503

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2 McCabe Court Hours 10 am - 6 pm EVERYTHING FROM A TO Z! ALL MUST GO! (508) 662-6391

WARNING

If you get an email or cashiers check for more than the asking price for your pet, vehicle or merchandise asking you to refund the difference it is likely a scam. Seller Beware!

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classified marketplace Be included in this section by calling 800.927.9200 fax: 978.685.1588

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SPORTING GOODS BOAT 2007 Starcraft SL14 aluminum boat with Band-it trailer oars and jack. Excellent condition. 1500 Call 978-500-9711.

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AUTOS HONDA Accord 2010, 8960 miles. UNDER 9,000 MILES, all original, not a rebuild. 2010 Honda Accord EX, heated leather seats, sun roof, 4 door, AC, 6 CD player, new battery, new tires. As far as I know there is not another one like in the entire country. \$12,500. 978-683-9914

HYUNDAI 2009 GENESIS 1 Owner, well maintained. 6 cylinder automatic, beige metallic, 45k miles. Premium plus and technology packages. \$11,500. Gloucester area (978) 281-4898

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1976 BMW MOTORCYCLE MODEL R75/6 with only 45,000 miles. Service records available. Call 603-580-5361

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# Sports

## SPORTS NEAR RETURN

Andover fall coaches optimistic as MIAA approves high school sports plan, football moved to spring

By DAVID WILLIS  
Staff Writer

If all goes well, sports will return to Andover High this fall, but without football and cheer.

Last week, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) board of directors voted unanimously — by a 23-0 margin — to approve a modified fall season, as the state continues to deal with fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fall sports season will include boys and girls soccer and cross country, golf, field hockey and girls swimming. It is planned to run from Sept. 18 to Nov. 20, and will not include a state tournament.

"I'm thrilled there is a possibility of a season," said Golden Warrior field hockey coach Maureen Noone. "But I realize there are many steps that need to be cleared to get to play. Whatever form of playing or practicing will be great, especially for the girls planning on playing in college, and of course the seniors."

Football and fall cheer, however, have been moved to a "floating" season, called Fall II, that is planned to run from Feb. 22 to April 25 — between the winter and spring seasons.

"It has been a difficult five month, and as the summer moved on, there was a lot of optimism that we would be playing football," said Andover head coach E.J. Perry. "Even up until the second week of August, there were signs that we might be able to play. The numbers in Massachusetts have dropped drastically, and bordering states were making decisions to play."

Last week's MIAA vote came after the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released joint guidance on how to handle sports and COVID-19, and months of speculation since spring high school sports were cancelled.

"We're thrilled," said Andover cross country coach Susanne Kiley. "There is no easy answer to athletics during the coronavirus pandemic) and it looks like they got creative did the best that they could in our current situation. We tried to keep positive, as it felt like cross country had a better shot than most of having some form of a season."

Few in the state are more excited for a return than Noone. Her Golden



Hanna Medwar, right, is one of the most dangerous field hockey players in the state. She will have a shot at a senior year thanks to the MIAA's ruling.

STAFF FILE PHOTO



Anthony Previte, center, and Andover will look to follow up last fall's surprise playoff run.

STAFF FILE PHOTO

Warriors return plenty of firepower from a squad that went 16-3-4 and advanced to the Division 1 semifinals last fall. Unfortunately, the MIAA ruled there will be no state tournament this season. Any postseason would be left up to the league or district.

"We have a talented and veteran group of student-athletes who have put in a great deal of effort even while the season was completely up in the air," said Noone. "The captains,

Paige Gillette, Alana Miller, Hanna Medwar and Heather Graham, are all very excited and willing to make any modifications or adjustments that need to for the opportunity to compete. At this point no state tournament is a disappointment, but we completely understandable, as safety is most important."

No postseason will likely mean Andover girls swimming will not have its shot at a seventh straight Division 1 state title. The

Golden Warriors once again return a dominant group that includes sophomore Michaela Chokureva, who set state records in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle last fall, and Ashley Grover, who was second in the 100 butterfly at Division 1s.

Andover boys soccer delivered a major turnaround last fall, advancing to the Division 1 North semifinals. In his 10th season as Golden Warriors coach, Jim Saalfrank was named MVC Large Coach of



CARL RUSSO/Staff file photo

Lincoln Beal and the rest of the Andover High football team will have to wait until February for their shot at a season.

### MIAA SPORTS SEASONS

Here is the breakdown of sports seasons in Massachusetts for the 2020-21 school year:

**FALL I:** Sept 18 to Nov. 20 – Boys and girls soccer, gymnastics, boys and girls cross country, field hockey, girls volleyball, girls swimming, golf.

**WINTER:** Nov. 30 to Feb. 21 – Boys and girls basketball, boys and girls hockey, wrestling, gymnastic, boys and girls indoor track, skiing, winter cheer, boys swimming.

**FALL II:** Feb. 22 to April 25 – Football, fall cheer, unified basketball, any sports not played in fall season because of remote learning or other COVID-19 issues.

**SPRING:** April 26 to July 3 – Baseball, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls tennis, boys volleyball boys and girls outdoor track, rugby, crew.

of the Year.

"I'm really excited that they are going to allow us to play," said Saalfrank. "These athletes need to be back on the field doing what makes them happy. It sounds like the athletic directors are working on modifications to keep everyone as safe as possible."

The girls soccer team is also coming off a banner year, going 14-4-3 and advancing to the Division 1 North final for the first time since 2001.

"I'm excited for everyone, especially our seniors," said coach Meghan Matson, who also won MVC Large Coach of the Year. "Undeniably there will be changes made to tryouts, roster numbers and even game rules to assure safety for all. Planning and organization will be vital. No state tournament is a bummer, but I'm looking forward to using this season to focus on skill development and have fun."

Also looking for strong seasons will be Dave

Fazio's golf team, led by returners Cade Cedorchuk, Evan Giggey and Nick Ventura, and the girls volleyball team coached by Jane Bergin.

The football team, however, will have to wait until February. Whenever they do play, they should return an impressive crew including lineman A.J. Heidtke, QB Scott Brown and running back Lincoln Beal.

"The Andover High athletes are committed to playing in February and are excited about the prospects and newness to the game," said Perry. "They have worked hard drilling and lifting all offseason and they are hopeful."

"We in Andover promote all the safety guidelines and understand the difficulty of this decision and the importance. The Andover football program as a whole will support all the teams that are allowed to compete this fall."



TWITTER: @DWillisET

## PHILLIPS' ANDOVER TANDEM

Mahoney, O'Connor excited for chance to display pitching prowess

By DAVE DYER  
Staff Writer

Although Phillips Academy rising sophomore pitchers Fallon O'Connor and Lauren Mahoney are both from Andover, and in the same grade, they had never played on the same softball team.

And, because of the coronavirus pandemic, they still haven't.

Yet, O'Connor and Mahoney were very familiar with the other, having played against each other on AAU summer travel teams.

"We pitched against each other last year," said O'Connor. "My team (East Coast Firecrackers) won the game and I got a hit off her."

Mahoney, who played for the Hurricanes out of Salisbury, remembers the game even more, and not in a good way.

"It was a close game — we lost 3-2 — and she struck me out," said Mahoney. "It's the only



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Andover's Lauren Mahoney, left, and Fallon O'Connor were finally going to be teammates this spring, at Phillips Academy, until the coronavirus got in the way.

time I struck out in a game all year."

That was an accomplishment because, besides being a pitcher, Mahoney is a strong hitter. She batted cleanup for the Hurricanes, hit well over .300 and led the team in RBIs,

playing first base when not pitching.

Similarly, O'Connor also plays first base when not hurling and swings a mean bat, hitting .398 last year for the Firecrackers. It's a skill she takes pride in.

Still, both O'Connor

and Mahoney consider themselves primarily as pitchers.

"If I could, I would pitch every game," said Mahoney. "It all starts in the circle."

Mahoney probably won't ever pitch every game for Phillips, not with O'Connor around. And, if there had been a season this year, they would have shared time in the circle with senior Emma Slibeck.

"We all have our strengths," said Mahoney. "Emma had the experience and might have been the fastest. I use the fastball to set up the batter and then use a spin pitch and Fallon likes the fastball and then get you with her drop pitch."

Both were fine with sharing time in the circle this year, hoping to play in the field when not pitching, and they had prepared for their first high school season with due diligence.

In addition to regular winter workouts and running indoor track, O'Connor pitched in her

basement, where she has a net, and took pitching lessons from former UConn great Megan Biddle. Mahoney feels like, in addition to pitching workouts, she used a strength and conditioning course to her benefit.

"I feel like I definitely got stronger, which will help my hitting and my pitching," she said.

Both freshmen came with strong resumes. O'Connor was the top pitcher for the Firecrackers last summer, posting a 2.68 ERA. Mahoney led the Hurricanes in victories and had a strong late-season performance for the MXB Bears in a tournament in Lowell, going 2-0 with 10 strikeouts in nine innings.

"We were excited about both of them," said Phillips head coach Lindsay Maroney. "I know they would have complemented each other well — Fallon has some nice pop while Lauren generates a ton of spin."

"They were definitely going to make an impact for us. They would have created a formidable starting rotation and, even when not in the circle, would have found homes in our starting lineup."

That the season didn't happen, the freshmen — both of whom employ four pitches and would love to compete in college one day — were more than a little disappointed.

"It was so sad to see the season go," said Mahoney, who is also a talented musician and singer. "I was really looking forward to playing with experienced players. More than three-fourths of our team played on tournament teams."

Both played summer softball with new teams, O'Connor with the Rhode Island Thunder and Mahoney with the MXB Bears. So it's possible that they'll face each other once again in tournament action.

They'll just have to wait until 2021 to play together.

# WALKING TOWARD THE GOLDEN ARCHES

## Hiker to stop at every McDonald's along 1,000-mile trek to raise \$250K for charity

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Hiking 1,000 miles in 56 days would be hard enough. But then having to raise \$250,000 while doing it? That's taking it to another level.

That's just what retired New Hampshire businessman Dwight Barnes, 65, set off to do last week. He left Boston on Monday and his first official stop was Tuesday, when he sauntered into the McDonald's restaurant on Route 28/North Main Street in Andover at about 11 a.m.

A colorful array of balloons and a big contingent of McDonald's employees were waiting for his arrival. He strode up wearing a fully loaded backpack, festooned with an American flag and the McDonald's logo. On his feet he wore a pair of red-and-white striped Ronald McDonald socks.

That's no coincidence. Barnes, former owner of two McDonald's restaurants in New Hampshire, retired three years ago from the business he had been in for nearly 40 years.

Now he's giving back. The money he raises from his 1,000-mile journey through every New England state will go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England, an organization that operates two homes for the families of hospitalized pediatric patients, two mobile care vehicles and two in-hospital facilities, also for the families of pediatric patients.

"After I retired, I went from 60 to 0 overnight," Barnes said during a telephone interview from the Andover McDonald's. "It was a lot less activity and I started gaining weight. So I started walking and after a while I



Celebrating the start of a 1,000-mile fundraising walk at the Andover McDonald's are, from left, store owner Carissa Haley, hiker and retired owner Dwight Barnes, General Manager Robin Papkey, GM Odalis Garcia and, in back, Supervisor Allan Chinn.

realized I could walk a good distance."

As a former franchise owner, Barnes had always been involved in the charity, so he combined his support of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England with his newfound love of walking and came up with a bold plan.

He mapped out a route that started at the Ronald McDonald House in Boston, a facility with 11 apartments for families whose children are in a local hospital for treatment of any affliction that may require an extended stay.

His plan was to head north, stopping along the way at as many McDonald's restaurants as possible, along with Ronald McDonald houses across New England. He will also stop at any hospital that houses one of the family support facilities funded by the charity.

### First stop along the way

On what is being called the Journey Home RMHCNE, Barnes made it to the Andover McDonald's on Tuesday morning, then hiked his way up Route 28 to the Lawrence store by around 1 p.m.

At both restaurants, he met with the owners, who were happy to see him.

"I've known him 20-plus years," said Carissa Haley, owner/operator of the Andover McDonald's. "I feel like we're the kickoff store since we are the first restaurant he's stopped at. It's such an honor to host him. This is so amazing. My whole team is here to meet him."

The visit paid off for Barnes, who picked up a surprise check for \$1,500 — a donation that should help him reach his lofty goal of \$250,000.

"I hadn't seen Carissa in a long time," said Barnes, noting that they used to speak often as fellow store

owners. "It was great to catch up with her. They had balloons on the front of the store and the whole team was here to greet me."

He added that Haley's donation was "very generous."

According to Nicole Anderson, chief advancement officer of the New England charity, Barnes is well on his way to reaching the fundraising goal.

"He was already over \$60,000 in sponsorships and donations before starting his walk just yesterday (Monday)," she said. "He's amazing and we are confident the community will get behind his efforts and get him to the \$250,000 goal."

### Relief during a hard year

When Barnes first approached her about his fundraising idea, she couldn't believe her good luck.

The organization has had to make major adjustments



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Dwight Barnes gives the thumbs-up after visiting the Broadway Lawrence McDonald's restaurant. Barnes is a retired owner of two McDonald's restaurants who is hiking 1,000 miles to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of New England.

to its fundraising plan due to COVID-19, and she was beginning to fear that this year could result in a big financial hit.

"We had to cancel and alter all our fund-raising events," said Anderson, who is based in Providence, where another Ronald McDonald House is located with 28 bedrooms for families. "We are seeing significant revenue loss."

At first, pre-COVID, the idea was for Barnes to do the 1,000-mile hike to raise \$100,000, which was intended to be used to help build a new facility in the Boston area with capacity for 120 families.

After the pandemic struck, however, Barnes' fund-raising hike took on added importance as the focus shifted.

Instead of \$100,000, his fund-raising goal jumped to \$250,000. And instead of using the money for a new facility, the money is now going to help with operating expenses.

The result is that Barnes has become somewhat of a knight in shining armor to the charity.

"Dwight has a lot on

his shoulders right now," Anderson said.

While Anderson and her team credit Barnes for his hike, he credits them for undertaking a lot of the logistical work necessary to make it possible, like booking hotel or motel rooms along the route and coordinating with a different region of the charity to help get the word out.

"I set up the route and identified the hotels, and they take the ball from there and make all the arrangements," he said. "They've been a huge, huge help."

Anderson said many hotels and motels have offered to provide free lodging, understanding it's for a good cause.

She added that in the years she's been working for the charity, she's never seen or worked with anyone like Barnes.

"This is a first," she said. "We have people coming to us with ideas, but nothing of this magnitude."

To read more about Dwight's journey and to donate, go to: [www.rmhcne.org/rmhcne-events/join-the-journey-home-rmhcne/](http://www.rmhcne.org/rmhcne-events/join-the-journey-home-rmhcne/)



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