

CHESTNUT STREET  
CONSTRUCTION TO  
BE FINISHED NEXT  
YEAR



GREEK  
FESTIVAL TO  
BE A PICK-UP  
AND GO  
AFFAIR  
PAGE 5



REMEMBERING  
COACHING  
LEGEND  
WIL HIXON



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OUR 130<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 46

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

\$1.00



Residents vote during Town Meeting with their red-and-green sided paddles. In the background is Town Moderator Sheila Doherty on a projector.

GENEVIEVE DINATALE/Staff photos

## Andover residents approve \$197M budget

### Redevelopment of Old Town Yard also gets a nod at Town Meeting

BY GENEVIEVE DINATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

Gathered under a large tent months after they'd planned to, residents stayed 6 feet apart while approving a host of warrant articles, including the \$197,825,031 budget and the sale of the Old Town Yard property.

Participants sat holding voting paddles colored in red on one side and green on the other in socially distant chairs outside the high school for the meeting presided over by Town Moderator Sheila Doherty. A small section of the tent was cordoned off with caution tape for anyone not wearing a mask.

Opposed to the budget was



A man sits in the "maskless section" of Andover's Town Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 12. The 20-by-20 foot section was cordoned off by caution tape. Those who wore masks could sit in the general audience.

Select Board Member Alex Vispoli, the only dissenter before it was presented for on the board when members

See MEETING, Page 2

## Outside and distanced, residents approve of setup

BY GENEVIEVE DINATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

One man sat cordoned off by caution tape in the 20-by-20 foot "maskless section" of the Town Meeting tent Saturday.

The rest of those seated under the large tent on a field outside the high school wore masks in chairs set up 6 feet apart.

"I think they have adopted very well. I have gone to previous ones and I think that they are doing a good job considering the circumstances," said Mark Rumson, who attended Town Meeting with his sons, Erich, 14, and Robert, also 14.

See RESIDENTS, Page 2

## Union may appeal labor board decision

BY GENEVIEVE DINATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsman.com

The president of the Andover Education Association says the union is considering an appeal of the state labor board's ruling that a "workplace safety action" Aug. 31 was an illegal strike.

"We are exploring options regarding the appeal process, and are continuing to bargain in good faith with the district in an attempt to resolve the many questions and concerns around reopening," said Matthew Bach, AEA president.

"We still don't believe the district is adequately prepared," he said, although teachers are back in classrooms.

On their first day of professional development Aug. 31, school officials report that nearly 45% of teachers refused to enter the buildings to work, as assigned. Just days before, Aug. 26, union members voted to hold the

workplace safety action — and not enter buildings — citing safety concerns over the coronavirus.

The union is opposed to the School Committee's Aug. 10 decision to start the year with a hybrid learning model — a mix of classroom and remote learning. The union wanted to start the year remotely.

On the afternoon following the union's workplace safety action, the School Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to authorize the district's legal counsel to petition the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations to conduct a strike investigation.

Then, Tuesday, Sept. 8, the state Department of Labor Relations issued a 35-page ruling concluding that the AEA had conducted an illegal strike Aug. 31. In the ruling, the Department of Labor Relations ordered the AEA and its officers to

See AEA, Page 2

## Construction co. hits Andover gas main

### St. Augustine School students, others evacuated

BY GENEVIEVE DINATALE  
AND ALLISON CORNEAU  
Staff writers

A school, homes and businesses were evacuated Tuesday morning on Chestnut Street after a construction company hit a gas main two days after the two-year anniversary of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster, according to Andover police.

According to Lt. Edward Guy, Revoli Construction was working on a water main outside St. Augustine's School around 11 a.m. when they struck the gas main.

Guy said no one was injured and the gas main has since been shut off.

Andover police and fire responded to help teachers and students evacuate.

According to St. Augustine School Facilities Manager Mike O'Dea, 350 people inside the building got out safely. He said he heard a "whoosh" during the evacuation, describing it "like a tornado."

Local businesses and residents also were evacuated, but have since returned.

Students and teachers were staying home for the day,

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## Communities join together for 9/11 ceremony

Andover fire Chief Michael Mansfield, wearing a white shirt, and members of veterans groups place wreaths for Andover residents killed 19 years ago in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

TERRY DATE/Staff photo



BY TERRY DATE  
Staff Writer

Andover participated in a group observance of the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States this year, due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Friday, those from Andover joined representatives from Wilmington, Billerica and Tewksbury for a ceremony on Wilmington Common.

They solemnly recalled the tragic day of Sept. 11, 2001, when a series

of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamist terrorist group al-Qaeda

took place.

The United States death toll was 2,977, including four people from Andover.

Those people were: Christopher Morrison at the World Trade Center; Millie Naiman on American Airlines Flight 11; Betty Ong, a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11; and Len Taylor on American Airlines Flight 77.

More photos  
Page 12.



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## MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Saturday's Town Meeting. "The Select Board is the tax-setting authority in the town of Andover," Vispoli said. "We had several years ago looked at trying to... keep the tax rate increase at the 10-year average. This budget reflects a 4.66% average increase in your average tax bill for the next year. That's why I voted against it."

Residents also voted to permit the sale of the Old Town Yard property and a portion of Lewis Street. The Old Town Yard is currently vacant and was most recently used by the Department of Public Works. The approval of this article allows the Select Board to sell the property for mixed-use development "in conformity with a community authored" request for proposal.

According to this year's Finance Committee's Report for the annual Town Meeting, "Drawing on five years of community input, the RFP (request for proposal) seeks development that provides restaurants and retail, housing for seniors and young professionals, traffic improvements, adequate parking, 'place-making' opportunities for residents, community spaces ... etc."

While the proposal's approval was met with

applause, at least one resident was skeptical about the redevelopment.

"It's a large project with a big impact on the town," said John Murphy of Willard Circle. "If it's done well it would be great. If not, it could be a disaster."

Murphy voiced concern that a mixed-use development could damage the character of Andover.

"If we wound up with some large apartment complex in the heart of town, it could potentially change the feel of the center of town," he said.

Joe Albuquerque, a former candidate for Select Board, asked Town Manager Andrew Flanagan whether the mixed-use development would contribute to trains idling in town, which has been a concern raised by residents in the past.

Flanagan said that issue was largely resolved. In the past his office used to get two to three complaints a week.

"We hadn't got a single complaint about idling trains for three years and neither has the health division and that has been alleviated as an issue," said Flanagan.

Residents also voted to allow the town to take by eminent domain the Old Town Yard property and a portion of Lewis Street. Flanagan said the article would allow the town to turn the two separate properties into one parcel that would make the conveyance of a plan to a



GENEVIEVE DINATALE/Staff photo

This year Andover held its annual Town Meeting under a tent on a field outside the high school in order to accommodate social distancing guidelines that couldn't be met inside any of the town's buildings.

developer easier.

Also approved was Article 24, which, according to the Finance Committee's Annual Town Meeting Report, would transfer \$3,660,000 to pay for the cost of purchasing capital equipment, infrastructure and other services related to capital improvements. One of the projects, worth \$510,000, would create a Merrimack River Access point, which according to Andover fire Chief Michael Mansfield would provide year-round emergency and public safety access to the Merrimack

River. "The town of Andover has the longest stretch of river shoreline than any other community in the Merrimack Valley and we don't have a boat launch to launch marine units in an efficient way," Mansfield said. "We basically have to drive the vehicle towing the boat into Lawrence or Methuen to get access to the river."

Another capital project from free cash includes \$625,000 for town office meeting room expansions and public access improvements

to town buildings in order to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, which Flanagan said weren't being met at the present time. The improvements include widening the entrance to town offices, installing ADA compliant counters and adding four conference rooms for public meetings.

"This project, if approved, will have no impact on the taxpayer but will allow us to avoid liability," Flanagan said.

In addition, the winner

of this year's Virginia Cole Community Service Award, Charlie Kendrick, was announced about halfway through the meeting at which a total of 37 articles were considered.

Kendrik who was the chair of the Historic Mill District Task Force, is moving out of town after living in the area with his wife for many years.

"He has touched the lives of an untold number of Andover residents with his wisdom, vision, gentle manner and openness to all," Doherty said.

## RESIDENTS

Continued from Page 1

Generally, Town Meeting is held in the Collins Center at the high school over a three-day period. This year, however, due to the pandemic it was held outside in

one day to prevent spread of coronavirus.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said Town Meeting needed to be held outside to follow social distancing protocols because there wasn't any inside space large enough.

"I think everything was

very good," said John Murphy of Willard Circle. "If I had to say anything, the orientation, the stage in the middle, the edges [of the tent] were a little far from the stage."

To Murphy, this year's Town Meeting looked rather sparse in attendance.

"I didn't know what to expect — it was sparse. I was surprised when I came in to find parking, how easy it was," said Murphy.

A little less than 300 people attended. Thirty-seven articles were considered ranging from the approval of a \$197,825,031

FY '21 budget, to an article that would allow the Select Board to sell the Old Town Yard to a third-party developer in order to turn the now-vacant property into a mix-use residential/commercial development.

Murphy said he wasn't prompted to attend Town

Meeting by any particular issue.

"I just come to every meeting," he said.

He did have something to say to those who chose to attend without a mask.

"I think that people who don't wear a mask these days are crazy," he said.

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## GAS MAIN

Continued from Page 1

according to Guy.

The gas main that was struck is owned by Columbia Gas, the company responsible for the 2018 Merrimack Valley gas explosions that killed one person, injured 22 and caused more than \$1 billion in damages.

According to Kelly Merritt, a spokesperson for Columbia Gas, Revoli Construction was hired by the town to work on the water main and during the excavation this morning the construction team struck the gas main.

"We were notified immediately and we came immediately and we shut off the flow of natural gas," he said.

Merritt said that the gas main should be repaired by 6:30 p.m. Tuesday evening.

None of Columbia Gas' customers lost service, he said.



ALLISON CORNEAU/Staff photo

According to Andover police spokesman Lt. Edward Guy, a construction company working outside St. Augustine's School in Andover around 11 a.m. Tuesday struck a gas main while working on a water main.

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## AEA

Continued from Page 1

immediately "cease and

desist from engaging in any strike, work stoppage, slowdown or other withholding of services."

By the time the ruling was

issued, teachers had returned to school. The AEA ended the safety action after Aug. 31 and teachers were back in their classrooms Sept. 1.

When asked whether any further action has been taken against the AEA since the ruling was issued, School Committee Chairperson Shannon Scully said, "The union was ordered to take the steps outlined in the ruling from the DLR. I don't know if they have taken those steps."

Bach said the union has been abiding by the orders.

He did add, however, that he doesn't feel the public schools are prepared for the upcoming school year.

"The district is continuing to drag its feet in negotiations and they're not prepared instructionally, or health and safety-wise, to open the schools," Bach said. "There's high levels of inconsistency in terms of what is occurring at each building, what the administration at each building is telling teachers they're

expected to do in terms of instruction, and in terms of how the buildings are prepared in terms of health and safety."

The union's website displays a reopening negotiation document that stipulates proposed health and safety standards for the district to meet "for a safe return to school."

Before teachers return to school in the hybrid learning model, the union said it wants "a two-week period of decline in the COVID-19 virus as measured by testing positivity rate, and average daily case count based on a two-week rolling average (for Essex County)."

In its ruling, the labor board cited data from The Massachusetts Department of Public Health which indicated that the positivity rate of the coronavirus in Andover was low.

"The Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard for the week ending August 26, 2020 reflected that within the past 14 days, Andover was rated 'green,' which meant it had an average daily case rate of less than four cases per 100,000 residents," reads the report.

Bach added that if the union decides to appeal the labor board's decision, the AEA, which is affiliated with the Massachusetts Teachers Association, will use the MTA's legal counsel to move forward.

"I disagree with the decision. We all abided by what we were ordered to do but I don't think it's a good decision. I think we had worked a complete day and I believe we were productive and we presented our case already," said Bach.

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# Andrew Betts is named president of Andover Rotary

Andrew "Andy" Betts, a resident of Andover since 2015, has been named president of the Rotary of Andover for 2020-21.



Andrew Betts

Committee. An avid sportsman, he coaches his son's soccer team and plays in the Over the Hill Soccer League.

and families. Founded in 1984 and located in Lexington, Bickling acts as a fiduciary in managing client accounts. Betts lives in Andover with his wife, Sara; their two children, Leito and Mirabelle; and their boxer dog, Marvin, named after Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

Betts is the chief financial and investment officer of Bickling Financial Services, which provides financial advisory and asset management services to individuals

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### FRIDAY, Sept. 25

ANDOVER – Rotary of Andover weekly 7:30 a.m. meeting features hypnotist Tommy Lee presentation including Q&A, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.; conclusion/networking, 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Meetings are also virtual on Zoom; guests and new members welcome – call Amy Salant, 781-964-6397. RotaryAndover.com

### FRIDAY, Oct. 2

ANDOVER – Rotary of Andover weekly 7:30 a.m. meeting features Derek Mitchell, executive director of the Lawrence Partnership presentation including Q&A, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.; conclusion/networking, 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Meetings are also virtual on Zoom; guests and new members welcome – call Amy Salant, 781-964-6397. Rotary-Andover.com

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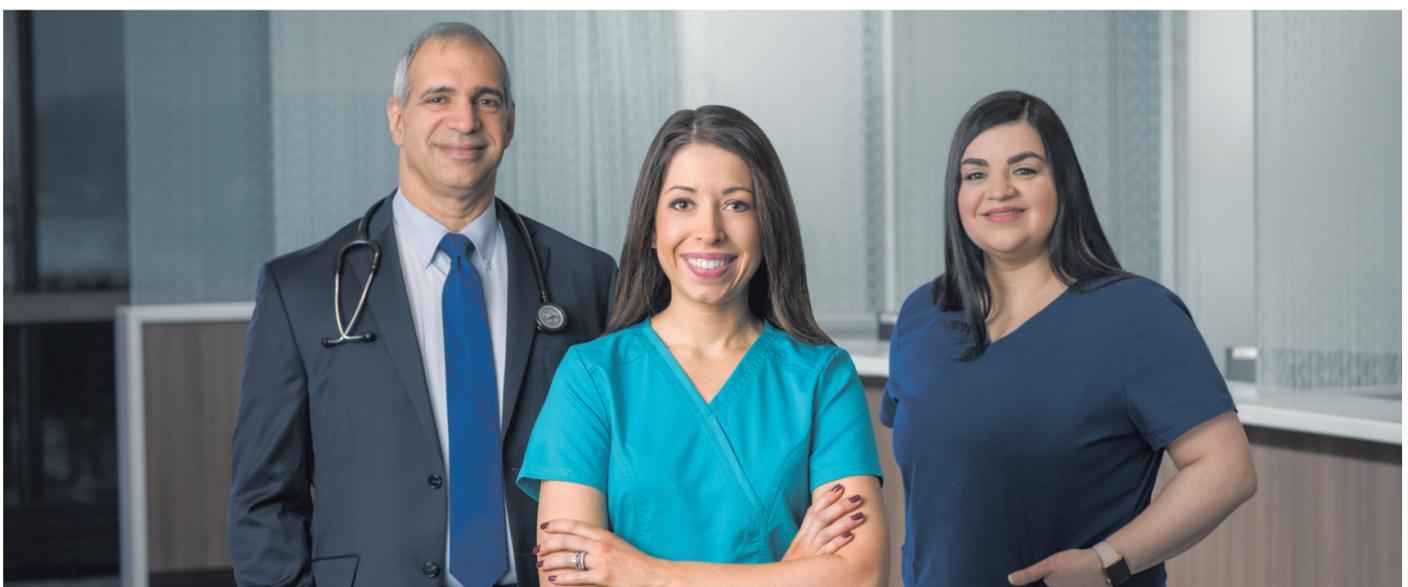
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# Opinion

## Bad news from the kitchen

Keeping a restaurant open, even in good times, can be as daunting as balancing a full platter of glassware. The forced closure of every dining room in the land last spring was a complication beyond imagination, and it spelled the end of thousands of small businesses.

Several popular restaurants and bars in Boston recently announced they won't be reopening even after a COVID-19 vaccine is widely available and we see the other side of this pandemic. The Cheers bar at Faneuil Hall and Fours on Canal Street were among the casualties. Nationally, the Texas company that owns Fuddrucker's tried in vain to sell off its restaurants over the summer. It has since started a liquidation. Hence empty storefronts — including in North Andover — where popular burger joints were open just a few months ago.

The overall impact of COVID-19 on the restaurant business is immense. The Massachusetts Restaurant Association said last week about 3,600 establishments in the state are gone for good. The group expects that number could reach as many as 4,000.

Gov. Charlie Baker said of the pandemic's damage, "It's heartbreaking to see some of this, the way it plays out. But if the customers aren't there, then the rules, on some level, at the end of the day, aren't going to solve the problem."

The rules are onerous, to be sure. After forced closures that came with the state's emergency orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, restaurants in Massachusetts were allowed to reopen to outdoor diners, then to serve a limited number of people indoors. The state has since allowed beer, wine and cocktail sales along with takeout menus — all in the name of salvaging a sliver of revenue.

There is something that can be done to help restaurants survive this pandemic, and as Baker suggests it is beyond the state's reach. That is to patronize them. One family's resolve to go out for dinner an extra night certainly won't be enough to keep a restaurant afloat. But if everyone who can afford it does so, maybe we can stop the list of closures from growing any longer.

## Apartment hunters beware

With every new crisis, it seems, comes a new scheme aimed at defrauding unsuspecting consumers. Earlier in the coronavirus pandemic, we learned how scammers were targeting seniors by offering offer unsolicited COVID-19 tests to Medicare recipients. There were no tests, of course — it was a ruse to gain access to personal medical and financial information.

Now, the scammers are coming after the younger generations. Strict social distancing requirements and other efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus have forced apartment seekers online. Days of in-person inspections have given way to virtual tours. With a little luck, an apartment seeker can find a place to live without getting up from the couch at their current digs.

Or, as an increasing number of shoppers are learning, you can shell out thousands of dollars in deposits, show up at the front door of your new place on move-in day and find someone else already living there. And they're there legally because the unit was never actually on the market.

Scammers are copying and pasting real estate ads and photos from listings and giving them a different address, often pricing them below market value to lure apartment shoppers into making a deposit without seeing the property in person.

It is difficult to track and prosecute apartment scammers, who can hide in the anonymity of the internet. Craigslist posts warnings about scams and removes fraudulent listings when it finds them. But as soon as one is taken down, another pops up.

The best advice for apartment seekers? Use common sense. Don't send in a large deposit without fully vetting the property. If it's too good to be true in this overheated housing market, it probably is.

## WEB QUESTION

Should Town Meeting be held on Saturdays in the future?

Andover's annual Town Meeting was held this past Saturday under an expansive tent behind West Middle School as part of the precautions taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A meeting that usually stretches for three nights at the Collins Center was instead contained to a morning and part of an afternoon.

Does this suggest a new approach?

**MORE CONVENIENT:** Yes, holding Town Meeting on Saturday makes it more accessible for people who work. There's no need to scramble to get home, make sure everyone finishes their homework, eat dinner and get to the Collins Center in time to debate the school budget.

**ONE TIME ONLY:** No, a marathon session of Town Meeting on a Saturday is just as impractical. Besides, when the weather's as nice as it was this past Saturday, it's the last place anyone wants to spend their weekend. Let's keep Town Meeting to the evenings of the work week.

## Last week's question

Did the School Department deal fairly with teachers during last week's work action?

A week ago Monday, hundreds of teachers chose not to enter school buildings and instead spent their first work day of the year outside, huddled over their laptops, in protest of building conditions they say are insufficient to prevent spread of COVID-19. Matt Bach, president of the Andover Education Association, says teachers were told not to use the building's wireless internet service, were not allowed to use port-a-potties provided by the union, and were not allowed inside the buildings to use the restrooms. He has said some teachers were docked a day's pay.

Was the School Department's response fair?

**MORE THAN FAIR:** The teachers' demonstration amounted to an illegal action, since a strike by teachers is illegal under state law. The schools have gone to great lengths to make the buildings safe, and the teachers should return to work. If they don't — and sitting on the lawn doesn't count — they face the consequences. (182 votes)

**TOO HARSH:** The teachers didn't strike, they showed up for work. The School Department's response to their demonstration, reflecting serious concerns for their own safety, was overly aggressive. (1,331 votes)



Susan McKelliget

## Andover Center for History & Culture

Imagine stepping out onto Main Street in the early 1900s while taking care not to twist an ankle in the trolley tracks lining the unpaved "Route 28." The tracks stretched as far as the shops in Lawrence and beyond, and in the opposite direction, up the hill toward Phillips Academy and into Boston.

At Elm Street the tracks veered off to Haverhill. If you had 10 cents in your pocket, hopping on and off a trolley car might certainly be a better choice than a dusty and slow horse and buggy ride to get you where you were going.

The few automobiles that honked and spluttered through Andover then were luxury vehicles, playthings of the very rich, until Henry Ford rolled out his mass-produced Model Ts and As. Trolleys ruled the road, and The Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway Company, in particular, ruled tracks in over 70 communities.

For the most part, trolley cars were reliable if not always comfortable, such as when they were open to the sleeting rain or snow piles on the tracks. There were plenty of daily accidents with trolleys as people jumped on and off the often-crowded cars.

## Clang, clang, clang went the trolley



Photo courtesy Andover Center for History & Culture

### A trolley on Main Street in Andover

Delays caused no end of griping.

But the trolleys were also a source of great enjoyment.

One of these enjoyments was called the "Big Ride." This trolley left South Main Street, traveling through Reading, Wakefield and ending up in Haymarket Square.

Its cars were more elegant than the ordinary street cars, "closed" with plush seats and electric heaters. Passengers could read or relax on the one-and-a-half-hour trip into the city.

Trolleys were also famous for summer excursions to places like Salisbury Beach, Salem Willows and Nantasket Beach, as the open-air sides were a welcome relief from hot summer days.

The Railway Company made sure to entice summer business, even to the point of developing Canobie Lake Park in Salem N.H.

Canobie Lake became one of the best-known summer resorts of the time. Families, and young and older couples alike would grab a

trolley ride up to Canobie for dancing to big-name bands at the pavilion, lit up against the lake and night sky among the pines.

Taking the trolley back home could also be entertaining, traveling through (wet) Lawrence into (dry) Andover.

But trolley cars soon went the way of the horse and buggy, starting with competition among "jitney" drivers.

As automobiles became more widely available, some entrepreneurial men hired their own automobiles out, much like Uber or Lyft drivers of today. The term jitney was slang for "five cents," and this was the standard fare charged to deliver people from point A to B, undercutting the streetcars by half while often doubling the speed it took for delivery.

This competition was not going to be suffered lightly by the Railway Company, and calls to revoke the jitney drivers' licenses soon filled Lawrence City Council

meetings, trickling over to the Andover powers-that-be at the time.

The jitney drivers responded by replacing their "usual signs" with signs to throw authorities off, such as "Fine shoe repairing at Andover shoe-shine parlor."

The trolley service was stopped in reaction to the jitney activity.

It took a Lawrence city ordinance to get the trolleys running again, but this time without the jitney competition, which was so saddled with new restrictions as to be "practically killed."

The outcome was a victory for trolley travelers, as one of the things the Railway Company agreed to was a reduction in basic fares from 10 cents to 6 cents.

Trolleys were on their last wheels by the early 1930s when buses and autos were becoming the new kings of the road.

Streets were paved, tracks pulled up, and the rest as they say, "is history."

## Rosh Hashanah in a pandemic

### Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein



Last April as I witnessed my Christian colleagues quickly alter their plans for their Easter observance,

I marveled at how nimbly they adapted their services. I have to admit I was relieved thinking the pandemic would soon end and we would not have to make such draconian adjustments come our own sacred High Holy Days in the fall.

Alas, as poet Robert Burns so aptly wrote, "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men often go awry."

This year, on our High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah begins Friday night, Sept. 18, and continues on Saturday and

Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20, followed by Yom Kippur on Monday, Sept. 28) my congregation, like the majority of synagogues, will offer mostly virtual High Holy Day services. At Temple Emanuel, we are planning to use a hybrid model, a combination of pre-recorded, Zoom and in-person observances.

My Christian colleagues tell me that attendance at Sunday morning virtual church services has risen. I can happily say that our turnout has increased as well.

Some suggest the pandemic is a reminder of our mortality and our yearning for the kind of reassurance and comfort found in our religious communities.

Others suggest the higher numbers are a function of convenience. When worshipping at home there is no need to drive or dress for

church or synagogue.

Though I look forward to a time when I can greet my congregants in person, the adjustments the pandemic has forced us to make have taught us some important lessons.

In ancient times, the Israelites worshipped at one Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Two thousand years ago, when the Temple was destroyed, worship shifted to a number of small emerging synagogues. At the same time, the holiness of the home was elevated and the table around which the family gathered to celebrate the Sabbath and holidays became the altar.

We have spent a lot more time at home in recent months. Many of us have done much of our work from home, our children have greeted their teachers from the kitchen table, and we have attended Sabbath

services from the comfort of our living rooms (sometimes in sweat pants).

Though these adjustments are imperfect, we have found that we can be more flexible than we imagined.

Nothing can justify the pain the pandemic has caused; the illness, the loss of life, the family celebrations delayed or cancelled, and the students kept from in-person learning. However, when it all ends, I hope we will remember the lessons we have learned.

Home is a sacred place, gathering around the table with loved ones is an act of holiness, our health is to be cherished, and mostly, just being able to step outside and breathe in the clear crisp autumn air is itself a blessing.

Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein is spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Andover.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Praise for a well-run Town Meeting

Editor, Townsman:

Andover's town officials and the various boards don't often get the praise they deserve. So, here goes:

This year's Town Meeting was very special. I cannot credit them for the green fields and fresh air and sunshine, but kudos to the town clerk and his super-efficient and dedicated staff for the hard work that delivered a meeting that hummed like a well-oiled machine.

They missed nothing, from COVID-19 precautions to delivering the vote count promptly. The great tent and music were such a nice

break from COVID-19 isolation, almost festive.

I appreciate the work of several members of the community whose efforts bore fruit for Andover in the form of the historic mill district, the opening up of space for more outside seating for restaurants, and a vote for a greener Andover.

I appreciate the people who came with some good questions about the budget, expenditures and process. The board members and Town Manger had responses to the concerns that reflected deep thought and sound reasoning based on data.

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty was masterful in the smooth conduct of the

meeting.

Andover has some deep and ugly race problems. As a town we have work to do in assuring the safety and comfort of Black and Brown residents, both adults and children.

But I have hope in the people of our town that we will find solutions together. We must.

**BILWAKESH CHAMPA**  
Andover

### Head of Andover DIVERSE division deserved better

Editor, Townsman:

It is with great disappointment that I read of Sobhan Namvar's decision to step

down from the newly formed Andover DIVERSE division in the town.

As a 17-year former school Nurse at Doherty Middle School and former colleague of Namvar, I knew him to be a dedicated, kind, soft spoken advocate for all of our students. He provided a safe space and willing ear to all.

He was a problem solver. He was a great asset to our school and is a great asset for our town.

Threatening emails from town residents are never appropriate. Discussion is. What does this say about our town?

**Laurie Wallace**  
Andover

## READER ACCESS

### EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

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### CUSTOMER SERVICE

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Chefs who prepared baklava and koulourakia (pictured) are, from left, Christiana Souhleris, Desi Souhleris, Concetta Archambault, Ariana Karafilidis, Demetra Danas, Voula Danas, Katerina Makiej, Marina Wallinford, Effie Kambouras, Niko Wallingford, Eleni Xifaras.

COURTESY PHOTO

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## Greek fest a drive-thru event this year

By BREANNA EDELSTEIN  
bedelstein@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — A 35-year fundraising tradition at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church is adapting to the times.

This Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. the annual Greek food popup will feature the same cultural meals in a drive-thru event, not the typical multi-day gathering.

"It's always been full days at the church with dining indoors, outdoors, music, a big tent, all of that," said Parish Council President Buzz Stapeczynski.

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic forced a change in plans, not only for this event, but even the most basic church functions.

"We've been having our liturgy on Facebook and YouTube," Stapeczynski said. "We're doing all that we can to get the community activated. And by keeping with these types of events that bring people together, we're trying to create excitement."

A limited menu will feature gyro and french fry plates, chicken or beef souvlaki dinners with rice and green beans, baklava and koulourakia pastry for desert.

Folks will pull into the church at 71 Chandler Road and head around back to place an order, Stapeczynski explained. Plastic payment — credit or debit cards — are preferred, but cash will also be accepted.

Food will be delivered to each car, meaning no one will need to exit their vehicle.

"Everything is happening in line with safety guidelines and precautions," said The Rev. Chris Makiej.

He said money from the event will benefit various ministries at Sts. Constantine and Helen, including youth and the elderly, as well as the parish budget that took a hit when attendance dipped at the onset of the pandemic.



COURTESY PHOTO

Preparing chicken and beef souvlakia are, from left, Jeanette Alexandrou, Jay Karamourtopoulos, Bob Goodwin, Chris Alexandrou, and Bill Budd.



COURTESY PHOTO

This longtime Andover tradition is taking a very different form during the pandemic.



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OBITUARIES

# Katherine (Stirling) Dow, 83

July 12, 1937 - September 2, 2020

ANDOVER, MA — Katherine (Stirling) Dow, 83, died Wednesday, September 2, at her home on Hidden Road in Andover, Mass., from complications of Parkinson's disease. Mrs. Dow is survived by her son Michael of Easthampton, Mass.; her brother Thomas Stirling and niece Laura Stirling, both of Honolulu; her cousin William Ranger Clark of Natick; Mrs. James Welch of Louisville, Ky.; and many other cousins and in-laws. She was predeceased by her husband and her son, James K. Dow Jr. and David S. Dow, both of Andover.



and devoted fan of British history, mythology, and L. Frank Baum's Oz books. She devoured all sorts of fantasy literature for the rest of her life, particularly J.R.R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Mary Renault, Charles Williams, Phillip Pullman, George R. R. Martin, and Ursula K. LeGuin.

Growing up in an immediate family which encouraged emotional reserve and considered action, Katherine developed a keen empathy for the marginalized and voiceless and also the maturity to not vent adult frustrations on her children. She passed these interests and sympathies onto her sons, who both adored her, and supported charities such as NAACP, ACLU, Amnesty International, the International Rescue Fund, the American Indian College Fund, and Planned Parenthood. (Donations to any of these charities in her honor would be welcomed.)

Diagnosed with Parkinson's in her 50s, Katherine remained active until a back injury limited her using wheelchair. She nevertheless maintained a good quality of life and a positive attitude, thanks to the support of friends and family and the care of over a dozen home health aides over the years.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 11, at 11 a.m., at Christ Church in Andover, Mass. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis there will not be a reception following the service. The family is limited to 50 people in total in the church, so please contact the family if you are planning to attend. The memorial service will be live streamed on the church's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Bb84nEMZKpwIm-HuXZ3bqQ>.

**Dewhirst & Boles Funeral Home, 80 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844 is entrusted with Mrs. Dow's arrangements. Please visit [www.dewhirstbolesfuneral.com](http://www.dewhirstbolesfuneral.com) to sign the online guestbook.**

# Nancy Pearson McKiniry, 76

September 7, 2020

LEESBURG, FLORIDA — Nancy Pearson McKiniry, 76, of Leesburg, Fla., died Sept. 7 after a long illness. She was the daughter of Walter and Marion (Coutts) Pearson of Andover.

Nancy was raised in Andover and was a graduate of Andover High School, class of 1961.

Nancy and her husband Jim lived in New Hampshire before Jim's retirement from the real estate development busi-

ness. Jim and Nancy were a team dedicated to each other, and their family. Nancy enjoyed gardening and watching sports.

Nancy leaves two sons, Mark and wife, Susan of Amesbury, Mass., and Guy of Anahola, Hawaii; and brother, Richard and wife, Karen of Pembroke, N.H. She was predeceased by husband, James and brother, David.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

# Devlin recalled as state trooper with a profound local impact

By JILL HARMACINSKI  
jharmacinski@andovertownsmen.com

In his 35-year state police career, Trooper Thomas Devlin patrolled every highway in eastern Massachusetts.

In the Merrimack Valley, the late Devlin is also fondly remembered for trying to keep new drivers safe.

In uniform and on his own time, Devlin visited classes at the Methuen Auto School and talked to prospective teen drivers about the rules of the road.

"He spoke about the

need to watch out for first responders in the road ... to move over," recalled Nancy Reardon of Methuen, a driving school instructor.

She also worked with Devlin at the Lawrence Registry of Motor Vehicles, where he gave new drivers their licensing road tests.

Reardon struggles with Devlin's sad, tragic death. The trooper, 58, died last week from injuries he suffered in July 2018 when he was hit by an oncoming car after making a traffic stop on Route 3 in Billerica.

"How ironic is it he was hit by someone? ... It is just horrible," said Reardon, who described Devlin as a devoted husband and father, and an all-around great person.

"He was very by the book but kind and compassionate. He always talked about his family," said Reardon.

In addition to his wife, Nancy, Devlin is survived by his four children, Matthew, Rachel, Paul and Hannah.

"I remember when Hannah was born. He couldn't wait to show me the pictures of her," Reardon recalled.

Linda Lavallee of Methuen previously owned Methuen Auto School with her husband, Ron. She said Devlin "talked to every class we had."

"I knew him as one of the good guys — respectful to everyone no matter the situation when you found

## ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

Obituaries in the Andover Townsman are paid notices. To place an obituary, please visit [andovertownsmen.com/submitobit](http://andovertownsmen.com/submitobit). Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any questions.

# Mrs. Mary Claire (Weshonko) Barry, 76 Years

November 7, 1943 - September 9, 2020  
Beloved Mother, Grandmother

ANDOVER — Mrs. Mary Claire (Weshonko) Barry, a resident of Andover and beloved wife of the late John J. Barry, passed away at her home on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. She was 76 years old.

Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, on November 7, 1943, she was the beloved daughter of the late Peter and Evelyn (Aughtigan) Weshonko. Mary Claire was a graduate of Merrimack College. She was a dedicated kindergarten teacher for many years and later enjoyed retirement with her husband John. She was a very devoted wife, mother and friend. Her pride and joy were her grandchildren whom she loved deeply. She will be dearly missed.

Mary Claire is survived by her loving sons and daughters-in-law: John J. and his wife Caryl A. Barry of Andover and Peter M. and his wife Danielle R. Barry of Holden, brother and sister-in-law; Peter and his wife Sheila Weshonko of Methuen, brother-in-law; Charles McLaughlin of Pelham, New Hampshire, grandchildren; John K., Jessica R., Peter M. and Julia L. Barry and several nieces and



Mrs. Mary Claire (Weshonko) Barry

nephews. Mary Claire was also the sister of the late Jean McLaughlin.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Her Funeral Service will be celebrated in the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main Street, Andover on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends are most welcome to attend. Calling hours will be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home in Andover. Interment will be held in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Andover. For additional information, please visit, [www.burkemagliozi.com](http://www.burkemagliozi.com).

# Lucy P. (Jasilewicz) Sosnowski, 90

November 13, 1929 - May 21, 2020

ANDOVER — died Thursday, May 21, 2020 at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

Lucy was born in Cambridge, on November 13, 1929, to the late Boleslaw and Josephine (Gellen) Jasilewicz.

Lucy was raised in Tewksbury and was a graduate of Tewksbury High School. She met her late husband, Henry J. Sosnowski, shortly before WWII, in Cambridge. After returning from the war, he and Lucy married and lived in Wilmington before building their house in Andover where they raised their family there. Lucy enjoyed gardening, oil painting, knitting, sewing, and reading. She also loved animals, taking in many stray cats during her life. She was an active member of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover.

The widow of the late Henry J. Sosnowski, Lucy is survived by her daughters, Janet Bangs and her husband David of Hudson N.H., Carol Norris, and her husband Thomas of Haverhill, Pamela Sosnowski of Andover, her son Henry R. Sosnowski of Hudson N.H., and her sister, Marion Sanborn of Spring Hill, Florida, as well as several nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Lucy was predeceased by two sons, Richard and Steven Sosnowski.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A Funeral Mass will be offered on September 22 at 11 a.m. at St. Robert Bellarmine in Andover. A private family burial will take place at a later date in Spring Grove Cemetery, Andover. For online condolences please visit, [www.confefuneralhomes.com](http://www.confefuneralhomes.com).

Request Officer: A caller reports her husband is having a verbal argument with a driver OF MA REG 6EWA10 and it is escalating. Officer reports vehicle gone on arrival and he will follow up with driver of the vehicle, Talylho Lane, 8:16 p.m.



# Former IRS worker pleads guilty to filing false tax returns

## Pleads guilty to at least 70; investigators found hundreds

By BREANNA EDELSTEIN  
bedelstein@andovertownsmen.com

A former employee of the IRS Service Center in Andover pleaded guilty last week to helping prepare and file at least 70 false tax returns for herself and others, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling.

Beth True, 44, of Lawrence, worked for the IRS for over 22 years before her arrest in January, according to court documents. At the time, investigators said they identified at least 591 returns likely prepared by her between 2012 and 2017.

Court documents show that True pleaded guilty in federal court to four counts of aiding and assisting the filing of a false tax return, and four counts of filing a fraudulent tax return by an employee of the United States.

In her position as a lead contact representative, True is said to have assisted team members in responding to "difficult and complex taxpayer inquiries."

Records show that she was trained in tax law, ethics, information protection and disclosure, privacy, identity theft and identity

protection before she went on to violate IRS rules prohibiting employees from "engaging in the preparation of tax returns for compensation, gift, or favor."

According to Lelling, True admitted that between approximately February 2012 and April 2018, she prepared or assisted in preparing and filing at least 70 IRS Forms 1040 — U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns — for herself and other taxpayers that True knew contained materially false information.

Some returns also included false child and dependent care credits, Lelling said. The charge of aiding and assisting the filing of a false tax return provides for a sentence of up to three years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000 and restitution.

Filing a fraudulent tax return by an employee of the United States provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000 and restitution.

Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

## POLICE LOG

### MONDAY, SEPT. 14

Noise Complaint: A caller reported a party since 8 p.m. last night. An officer spoke with the resident and they are going to keep it down for the night, Shattuck Road, 1:38 a.m.

Identity Fraud: An individual made a report of identity theft, Andover Country Club Lane, 10:49 a.m.

Illegal Dumping: There was a report of an illegal dumping from a blue Chevy Silverado, River Street, 11:26 a.m.

Crash-Hit and Run: There was a report of a hit-and-run that occurred on Saturday. Officer to file. Detectives dispatched for photos, Lowell Street, 11:32 a.m.

Disabled Motor Vehicle: A caller reported that a vehicle just broke free from a tow truck and rolled into the woods Elm Street, Haverhill Street, 4:35 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

Request Officer: A caller reports her husband is having a verbal argument with a driver OF MA REG 6EWA10 and it is escalating. Officer reports vehicle gone on arrival and he will follow up with driver of the vehicle, Talylho Lane, 8:16 p.m.

Gathering: A caller reports a large gathering. Officer spoke to resident and reminded them of the COVID guidelines, Pine Street, 5:08 p.m.

Neighbor Issue: A caller reports an issue with youths cutting through his yard. An officer reports — advice was given, North Main Street, 2:57 p.m.

Vandalism to Mailbox: A walk-in reports her mailbox was vandalized yesterday. An officer reports — advice was given, Ballardvale Road, 12:28 p.m.

Mental Health: A caller reports her boyfriend wants to harm himself with a Glock 19 firearm that he has with him. The caller also reports that he has undiagnosed mental health issues. The caller said she is not at the home with him, but is in building 600. He drives a grey Infinity with S.C. plates. Subject's cell phone was pinged and officers were able to gain custody of the male. He was transported to Lowell General Hospital, Bullfinch Drive, 12:18 a.m.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

Noise/Gathering Complaint: A caller reports her neighbor is having several people at their home and they have several cars on the street. An officer reports only one vehicle is on the street and all is quiet, Meadowbrook Drive, 9:17 p.m.

Mischief Activity: A caller reports kids on the roof of the Abandon Building. An officer then checked the area with negative results. Building also appears secure. Officer did note a lot of water build up on the roof and

gutter. Property owner notified regarding water, Tantalion Road, 5:56 p.m.

Crash: A 911 caller reported two-car crash no physical injuries, air bags did deploy, River Road, 4:32 p.m.

Animal Complaint: A caller reported a raccoon stuck in the garbage bin. An officer reports - the raccoon was freed, Haverhill Street, 3:32 p.m.

Theft: A resident reports his vehicle was stolen by his daughter, Starwood Cg, 12:04 p.m.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

Service Request: There was a report of a tree down across the road. An officer was able to remove the branch. The road is open, Juniper Road, 9:33 p.m.

Community Policing: Officers were flagged down by a female. The officers report the female's vehicle had broken down in Lawrence and she was looking for a ride to the Residence Inn. The female is accompanied by a pit bull, she will continue to walk, North Street, 9:12 p.m.

Suspicious Activity: A walk-in reports a vehicle was following her from the highway into a parking lot. The gentleman approached her vehicle and was yelling at her and taking pictures of her vehicle. She was too nervous to speak to the gentleman or get any vehicle information. Officer to file, Pleasant Street, 9:02 p.m.

Erratic Operator/Road Rage: A 911 caller reports a vehicle following him. Officer out with the caller at the River Road Mobil. Officer reports no vehicles in the area at this time following him and no description, Chandler Road, 8:52 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9

Suspicious Activity: A caller reports she thinks someone may have been in her apartment today. Officer will file, Brookside Drive, 11:23 p.m.

Neighbor Issue: A caller reported his neighbor tied a rope to a telephone pole on his property to hold up his fence, Farrwood Drive, 10:48 a.m.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

Recreational Vehicle Violation: A caller reports someone driving an ATV around the complex with plates MA 1FGJ882. An officer reports they were spoken to and advised they can't ride in the area, Shattuck Road, 8:52 p.m.

Motor Vehicle Complaint: A caller reports four dirt bikes pulling in to the mobile. Caller reports they were doing wheelies down River Road. An officer reports checking the area with negative results, River Road, 5:21 p.m.

Crash-Pedestrian: A caller states his son was hit by a mv while riding his bicycle. Caller is at the Express Care walk-in, Lowell Street, 3:35 p.m.



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January 7, 1944 - September 13, 2014

Time slips by and life goes on, but from our hearts you're never gone. We think about you always, we talk about you too. We have so many memories but we wish we still had you.

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# Townspeople



Lower Elementary students in grades 1 to 3.

TIM JEAN/Staff photos



Children's House students – preschoolers and kindergartners.

## Getting a kick out of back-to-school days

Students returned to Andover School of Montessori on Aug. 31 — the same day that would have been the 150th birthday of Maria Montessori, founder of the Montessori philosophy of education. To celebrate, each student received a growing kit with seeds for flowers and herbs. “This week our faculty and staff have been busy getting ready for students’ return while implementing health and safety protocols,” the school said in a Facebook post. “ASM is well prepared to welcome students back to campus on Monday for our first day of school.” ASM serves children from preschool through grade 8. Its policy for the media is to name children by first initial and last name only.



Third-year student A. Njoroge.



N. Warner, third-year student.



L. Ronkin, a kindergartner.



A. Huang, a kindergartner.



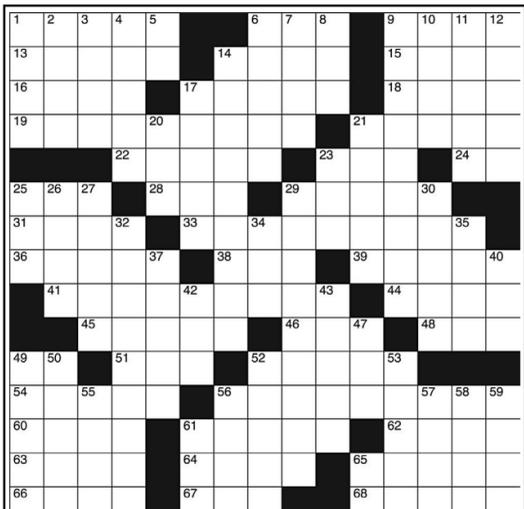
G. Hartford, a third-year student.



R. Yu, first-year student.



J. Huffer, third-year student.



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Emaciation
6. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
9. Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
13. Anatomical term
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
15. Jewish calendar month
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Western Pacific republic
18. List of foods
19. It can strike the ground
21. Drenches
22. Some are cole
23. \_\_\_ Squad
24. Expresses emotion
25. One point east of due south
28. Satisfaction
29. Holds nothing back
31. Top of the body
33. Not well-liked
36. Did slowly
38. Greek goddess of the dawn

### CLUES DOWN

1. Not us
2. Helper
3. Bleat
4. Type of chair
5. Jr.'s father
6. Necessary for certain beverages
7. Hillside
8. Dutch painter Gerrit \_\_\_
9. Gave a new look
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Confidence trick
12. Type of fund
14. From an Asian island
17. Malay boat
20. Western Australia indigenous people
21. Cluster on underside of fern frond
23. You need it to get somewhere
25. The woman
26. It may be green
27. Makes less severe
29. One from Beantown
30. Cavalry sword
32. Metric linear unit

### Solution in Classified Section

39. Gland secretion
41. Vital to existence
44. Aristocratic young women
45. Erik \_\_\_, composer
46. Not young
48. Jewish term for “Sir”
49. Secondary school
51. \_\_\_ student: learns to heal
52. Regarding
54. Highly excited
56. Mainly
60. Thin, narrow piece of wood
61. Cakes
62. Biomedical nonprofit
63. Dried-up
64. One who is symbolic of something
65. Body part
66. Muslim ruler
67. Women from Mayflower
68. Notes

34. Hawaiian dish
35. Yokel
37. Dissuade
40. Mutual savings bank
42. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
43. Primordial matters
47. We all have it
49. Hermann \_\_\_, author of “Siddhartha”
50. Historic MA coastal city
52. Shady garden alcove
53. Small amount
55. Horse-drawn cart
56. Nocturnal rodent
57. Spiritual leader
58. Air mattress
59. Speaks incessantly
61. Auction term
65. Atomic #62

9/17/20

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## We want your photos and stories

Do you have an upcoming event that should be featured on the Townspeople page or elsewhere in the Townsman? We want to feature it, too.

To get your story and photos into the paper, contact Editor Tracey Rauh at trauh@andovertownsmen.com.

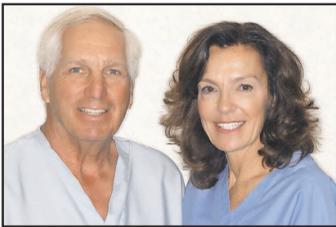
Attached hi-resolution photos with detailed captions — two photos per email and up to eight photos — along with a short write-up about your submission. Captions should include first and last names, with photo subjects listed from left.

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# Opening weekend weirdness at Gillette



JAIME CAMPOS/Staff photos

The stands at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough were virtually empty for game between the Patriots and the Miami Dolphins Sunday afternoon.

## Patriots win, but football without fans is not normal

**Bill Burt**



directly behind the uprights, among 360 seats in the section.

Absolutely nobody was on the field other than two ball boys for the Dolphins and three staff members for the Patriots.

No fans in the 68,000 seats. It was 19 minutes before kickoff of an NFL game, Patriots hosting the Dolphins.

Was there really going to be a game? Where the heck is everybody?

It was weird, as in *Weird 101*. Probably a lot like the first day of virtual school.

We've all been to football games where we hear nearly everything, including players or coaches cussing. I heard cussing yesterday.

But after watching the NFL become the full-fledged force it has become on the national sports landscape, America's favored sport, these were uncharted waters at 1 Patriot

Place in Foxborough.

The Dolphins fourth and 1 to open the fourth quarter? Normally, fans are losing their voices and the opposition can't hear itself think.

Instead, there was the sound of silence. I actually heard, from 50 yards away, Dolphins quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick yell out "Number 51 is the mike (middle linebacker)!" and then, "Watch number 50!"

This particular tilt warranted 68,000 spectators that usually fill Gillette Stadium on Sundays.

First-time Patriots quarterback Cam Newton is a world-class entertainer. (Did you see the yellow suit he wore to work on Sunday?)

And entertainers need an audience. They just do.

Newton's first running play, called by offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, deserved a standing ovation. We knew it was coming, but it was a baton-passing event. A new era of Patriot Way football had begun; Tom Brady never did that!

Other than the reactions of a few of his teammates, it was received like just any other run.

This was the entire day. About 20 minutes before the opening kickoff, there was nobody on the field. There was no music blaring.

"Is there really a game in 20 minutes?" I said to myself.

There was. And it was, as expected, pretty boring. Was it the teams, both predicted to be near the .500 mark when all things are said and done in late December?

Maybe a little. But it was more the "quiet."

Like the first touchdown run by Newton: We were waiting for something funny, wild, like his pregame suit. Instead there was a little celebration, a few teammates jumping up, but then it was over.

The second touchdown run by Newton would've warranted a joyous, one-minute standing ovation peppered with yells like "How ya doin' now Brady?"

The Patriots won the game

in ugly fashion with an ugly score, 21-11.

It was unlike anything Julian Edelman had seen ... since junior college.

"It reminded me at times of my time at College of San Mateo," said Edelman, who had five receptions for 57 yards and a huge 23-yard run for a first down (also a 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalty) on the last scoring drive for the Patriots.

"It was a full love-of-the-game-type mentality out there," he added. "You could hear the other guys. They could hear you. ... It was obviously unfortunate that we don't have any fans, that energy, (which is) amazing. It brought me back to high school, junior college."

Patriots coach Bill Belichick wasn't complaining or really concerned about fan participation.

It was all about getting the "W" and finally playing real, rock 'em, sock 'em football.

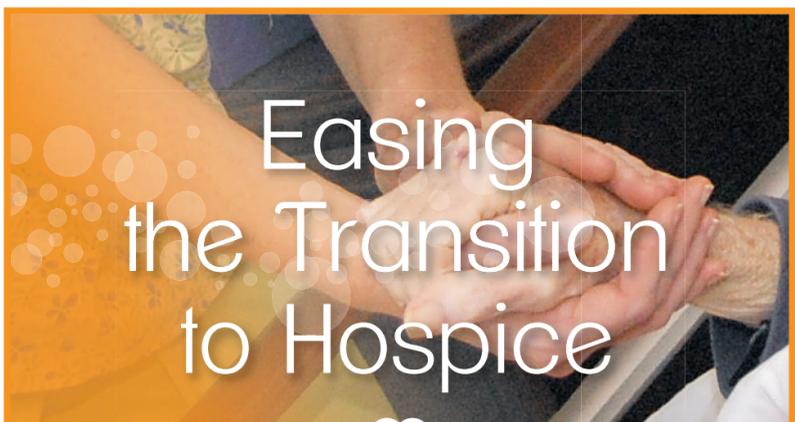
"After all of what we have been through for the last whatever it's been, however many months, it's good to actually get out on the field and coach and play," Belichick said. "And the environment was different than what it has ever been before, but the opportunity to get out there and play and compete was good. Proud of the way these guys have handled everything."

Newton and the fans lost an opportunity to form a bond. Newton did everything as advertised, completing 15 of 19 passes, and rushing for 75 yards.

He deserved the cheers — and the fans deserved his usual show in the end zone. That will have to wait, though. Maybe, it'll happen a month from now, or maybe two months. But the wait's going to be difficult, not only for Patriots fans but all fans to watch.

Football is about adjustments. We — players, coaches, media, fans, etc. — are going to have figure this all out on the fly. Wish us luck.

You can email Bill Burt at [bburt@andovertownsm.com](mailto:bburt@andovertownsm.com).



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# Cursive is pretty, but is it practical?

## Family Matters

Larry Larsen



**Dear Doctor,**  
I am of an age when we had to learn cursive writing. If I recall, it was in the fourth grade. My grandchildren do not know

how to write in cursive, and their printing is very sloppy and hard to read. Is there some reason why it is not taught and does learning cursive help children?

**Dear Grandma,**  
Cursive has been replaced with the keyboard. Blame technology.

The jury, in my opinion, is still out as to whether it is helpful for youngsters to learn.

For example, there is a school of thought that argues children with dyslexia (reading problems) are helped by learning cursive. The argument insists the brain responds neuroplastically to the flow and rhythm of the cursive experience. In my opinion, this is simply not sustained with solid research.

Then, others have argued brain development, in general, improves with cursive as

opposed to printing. Studies at the University of Indiana have not sustained this notion either.

The computer is here to stay, and most children by age 10 can fly over the keyboard.

Speaking personally, I see writing samples from evaluating numerous teens. They print and it is variable as to spatial control and being readable. Usually, they print as rapidly as cursive would likely allow them to write.

I confess my handwriting is terrible, but it always has been. It was horrid in the fourth grade when Miss Ingraham was instructing us in cursive. My wife writes with a lovely cursive, so she gets to address the Christmas cards.

*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.*



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

Construction crews work on replacing utility pipes on Chestnut Street between Central and Main streets.

# Chestnut Street construction to finish in 2021

By GENEVIEVE DiNATALE  
gdinatale@andovertownsmen.com

Select Board member Alex Vispoli said the roadwork that's being done on Chestnut Street between Central and Main streets is expected to be complete during next year's "paving season," which he says is between May 1 and Oct. 31.

A water main is being installed on Chestnut Street.

Vispoli said the street will temporarily be paved after the water main construction is complete, then the final paving is expected to be complete after that.



Construction crews work on replacing utility pipes, a project that is expected to be done next paving season.



A water main is being installed on Chestnut Street.

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The road is blocked as construction crews work on replacing utility pipes.

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A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Kirkshire Condominium Trust, c/o J. Sarkis, 2 Elm Sq., Andover, MA for a modification of Decision Z-18-106 to allow the continued use of a driveway on Lowell St.  
Premises affected are located at 174 Lowell St., Andover, MA in an SRB District & are shown on Assessor Map 89 as Lot 13. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.  
ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 9/17, 9/24/20

**ANDOVER ZONING BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Barron's Condominium Trust, c/o J. Sarkis, 2 Elm Sq., Andover, MA for a modification of Decision #2125 to allow the continued use of 6 outdoor picnic tables.  
Premises affected are located at 429 Lowell St., Andover, MA in an SRC District & are shown on Assessor Map 196 as Lot 9. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.  
ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS AT - 9/17, 9/24/20

**ANDOVER ZONING BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING**  
A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, MA or virtually at www.andover.org on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of One Connector Road LLC, 1 Connector Rd., Andover, MA for variances from Art. VIII, §§3.3.4 &/or 4.1.2to construct an addition that won't meet the minimum side or rear depth requirements.  
Premises affected are located at 1 Connector Rd., Andover, MA in an IA District & are shown on Assessor Map 160 as Lot 1. The petition may be viewed by request to zoning@andoverma.gov or 978-623-8627.  
ELIZABETH OLTMAN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS  
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All ads in this classification run in our 10 page "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.

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HARLEY DAVIDSON FAT BOY 2009 Custom paint job sand camel color, detachable

# Sports

## FAREWELL TO A HOOPS LEGEND

### Andover's Hixon hailed as a great coach and educator

By MICHAEL MULDOON  
Staff Writer

Wil Hixon put Andover High basketball on the map. Including six years in New Hampshire, he had a brilliant 464-146 overall mark including a spectacular 21-2 record in the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney.

He, of course, was one of the 46th annual tourney's founding fathers along with John Kelleher and Bob Licare Sr.

Hixon, who retired from coaching in 1983, died on Aug. 26 at age 91. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Dawn.

For an undersized point guard from tiny Beebe River, N.H., Hixon did pretty well for himself.

His family included his son, the legendary Amherst College basketball coach Dave Hixon (826-293 record, 7 Final 4s, 2 national titles), and his grandson, 2016 Olympic silver medal-winning synchronized diver Michael Hixon.

Several of his former players and students talked about Hixon the great coach and great educator. He was a history teacher, assistant principal and principal at Andover High.

#### Arthur Yancy (AHS '64)

"He really helped me an awful lot. I had a lot of problems in school. He helped me get into college. He did an awful lot to inspire me," said the highly-successful former Greater Lawrence Tech coach, who starred at powerhouse Oklahoma City University.

"My senior year, I was not allowed to play. It was a bad scene. He went out of his way and spoke to the Lawrence Merchants and I played in a semipro league. Otherwise, I probably wouldn't have played in college. I was voted MVP of the playoffs.

"Senior year, he had me at his house one time a week and I'd study and then we'd watch Providence College play. Then he'd drive me home late at night. He helped a lot of people."

#### Ted Kelley (AHS '82):

"I remember my father saying, 'His practices are just like college practices.' My father was right," said the 6-foot-5 Andover Hall of Famer.

"Playing for Mr. Hixon really prepared me well for



Former Andover High basketball coach Wil Hixon is in a pensive mood during a game in the

my time playing at BC. His advance scouting, which was somewhat unknown in those days, was ahead of its time.

"I remember before we played Cambridge in 1981. We were undefeated and they were No. 1 in the country. Mr. Hixon said, 'Cambridge center Pat Ewing, you will be watching on TV in the NBA. So go play hard and have fun. That put us all at ease and we almost pulled it off!'"

#### Marilyn Fitzgerald (AHS '60)

"As phenomenal as Wil Hixon's coaching skills were, I believe

his greatest impact on Andover education was as an administrator," said Fitzgerald, Andover's legendary former swim coach.

"He was a fabulous principal and personally helped so many students find the right path."

#### Mike McVeigh, North Andover High coach

"Wil was a tremendous mentor for many young coaches like myself," said McVeigh, the winningest basketball coach in region history. "I had met him several times the past 10 years, this was our first

encounter in a game.

"In warm-ups, I went to his bench area expecting to have a short conversation. He shook my hand politely and said, 'Good luck, Mike.' And he turned around and was back to his bench. I just stood there on a deserted island.

"I look back now and smile because there was a lesson there. He was all business for every game, every opponent, every coach.

"I came to know him as an engaging, brilliant and interesting coach who would take the time to encourage young coaches.

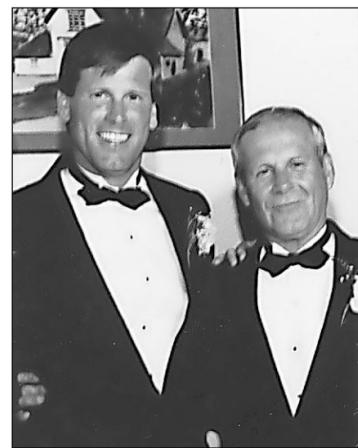
"Just don't talk to him before the game!"



Andover High legends Dick Collins (left) and Wil Hixon were honored during a 2012 football game.



Former Andover High coach Will Hixon (right) and his longtime assistant Bill Vickers enjoy the 2013 NCAA Division 3 title game in Atlanta. Hixon's son, Dave, coached Amherst to the national championship.



Dave Hixon, left, and father, Wil, combined for a remarkable 1,290 wins.

#### Carmen Scarpa (AHS '82)

"The best coach I played for at any level. He was a stickler for details," said Scarpa, who later played point guard for Harvard. "More important than a great coach, he was a great mentor. He always understood sports was a means to an end and education was the most important thing.

"My first week at the high school, he saw me in the cafeteria during a free period. He walked me to the library and told me in no uncertain terms that I should use my free time to study.

"He was one of a kind and very influential in my life. He was the best."

TWITTER: @MullyET

## High school field hockey, soccer to look very different this fall

By DAVE DYER  
Staff Writer

Andover High field hockey and boys and girls soccer are set to return in the coming weeks. But while those teams were given the go-ahead for a fall season by the MIAA — unlike football and cheer — both sports will look quite different due to rule changes necessitated by the coronavirus.

The main changes for field hockey are the elimination of penalty corners near the goal and making the game 7 vs. 7 rather than 11 vs. 11. The latter change could actually mean more scoring chances.

State championship-winning Andover coach Maureen Noone, who should have one of the deeper teams in the state as usual, doesn't have many issues with the changes. She thinks that teams with depth like the Warriors could be in good shape.

"The modifications of a 7 vs. 7 game creates more opportunities for subbing, and quicker play," said Noone. "We have a veteran team, returning 15 or more players who are anxious to get started in any way possible.



Andover's Heather Graham, here playing defense against North Andover last year, and her Golden Warrior field hockey team should be just fine despite rule changes this fall.

"We will look at combinations of line subbing, instead of individual subbing. I think it will be fine for us."

But could the 7 vs. 7 format be a boon to smaller teams?

"I think a team with eight good players can compete if they rotate properly," said Noone. "The game will definitely require great

speed and stamina to win the field."

Noone is also okay with the elimination of penalty corners, which are often the determining factor in who wins a hotly contested game.

"Without corners, the game may have more flow to it and cut down injuries — especially with the flyer or other defenders on

the corner," said Noone. "I'm okay with it.

"I think if you asked if this is perfect — of course it is not and I would rather not have all the restrictions .... but knowing this will not be a 'normal' season, I'm happy to get the girls playing and back to some normalcy. I know none of our coaches or players complained when the

modifications were released because they feel the same way."

If there is a negative for Andover, it's that there will unfortunately not be a state tournament. With almost everyone back, including standout captains Paige Gillette, Hanna Medwar, Heather Graham and Alana Miller, from a 16-3-4 North championship squad, the Warriors were sure to make noise in the postseason.

"With no state tournament run as a goal, we will have to find other incentives to work toward," said Noone. "I am just happy we are doing something with our kids."

#### SOCCER CHANGES

All sports have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. But many in Massachusetts high school soccer think their beloved sport has been impacted the most.

Safety measures adopted by the MIAA include: No heading, no throw-ins, no defensive walls on free kicks, no slide tackling, and no deliberate body contact.

Also, athletes have to wear masks during the games. And there will be no Mass. state tournaments this fall. The start of

practice has been pushed all the way back to Sept. 18. The Cape Ann League and the Commonwealth Conference have not even finalized if they will have a fall season.

As you might expect, almost every Merrimack Valley Conference coach said: "It's better than not playing at all" and "Player safety has to be the primary focus."

Andover boys head coach Jim Saalfrank, while not thrilled with the changes, is happy there will at last be a season.

"When people change rules and take away the spirit of competition, it definitely takes something away from the game," said Saalfrank. "If this is what it is going to take to get these students back on the field, court or whatever it may be, that's what we will have to do."

Added Andover girls coach Meghan Matson: "Planning and organization will be a vital component to creating a safe environment. I'm just looking forward to a good season, and I'm excited for the seniors that have worked so hard."

Michael Muldoon and David Willis contributed to this story.

# 9/11 service honors those who died, served

This year, due to health concerns, Andover was part of a group 9/11 memorial ceremony on the Wilmington Common. Billerica, Tewksbury and Wilmington also took part.



TERRY DATE/Staff photos  
From left are Andover's Veterans' Services Director Mark Comeiro, police Chief Patrick Keefe, Town Manager Andrew Flanagan and fire Chief Michael Mansfield. Others participating or in attendance included members of the fire and police guards, firefighters and Select Board representatives Annie Gilbert, Christian Huntress and Alexander Vispoli.



Mark Comeiro, Andover's director of Veterans' Services, reads the names of four Andover residents who perished 19 years ago in 9/11 terror attacks.



Bagpiper Amy McGlothlin plays "Amazing Grace." She has played 18 of Andover's 19 memorial service for 9/11.



To help us all stay safe and healthy in this unsettling time, we are offering private showings via Facetime, Virtual Tours and seller-approved one-on-one visits. In addition, all our agents are available by phone, text, email and Zoom.



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