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Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

"Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got." – Art Buchwald

VOLUME LXIX NO. 28

Special Town Meeting set

Goal is to lower speed limits

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER SENIOR REPORTER

The Board of Selectmen has chosen Monday, Aug. 12, as the date for a Special Town Meeting, at which voters will consider a plan to lower speed limits on some Duxbury roads.

On Monday, the Board voted unanimously to open the Special Town Meeting warrant and place two articles on it. Both articles propose to adopt state laws that will allow

Selectmen to set lower speed limits for some town streets below the state-mandated 30 miles per hour.

The first article asks voters to accept the state law (Chapter 90, section 17C) that lets Selectmen to establish speed limits of 25 miles per hour in "thickly settled" or business districts within town. Thickly settled areas are defined as places where the distance be-

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Section of beach closed to vehicles

Piping Plovers near first cross-over the cause of the decision

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER SENIOR REPORTER

The drive-on section of Duxbury Beach has been closed to cars since July 1 and it may not reopen for at least

another month, officials announced this week.

Duxbury Town Manager René Read said the over-sand part of the beach had to be

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SMILES AND SUNSHINE: Chris and Erin Sherman and their kids enjoy the July 4 parade. See more photos on pages 8, 10 and 11.

Photo by Karen Wong

Senior Center will unveil new wing Friday morning

Addition already had soft opening in February

By JONATHAN PAPPALARDO
CLIPPER REPORTER

The 4,160-square-foot addition to the Duxbury Senior Center is ready for its close-up.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held this Friday, July

12, at 9 a.m. to officially open the new wing to the general public. In addition to refreshments and tours of the space, the Senior Center will also be unveiling its recently completed paved walking path, which makes a quarter mile

loop around the outside of the building.

Joanne Moore, director of the Duxbury Council on Aging, said the new addition had a soft opening back in February and since then everyone

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Senior Center set to unveil new wing Friday

Continued from page 1

has been getting used to the new space. Moore said the new addition turned out better than she ever could have imagined. “It’s amazing,” she said. “The rooms are a nice size and it’s really allowed us to expand our programs.”

Moore also gave the Clipper a tour of the new space, where she pointed out all the little touches that seamlessly blend the addition with the existing building. Moore said it all begins in main lobby, with new furniture, carpeting and paint that carries through the rest of the building. A dedicated area for printing and photocopying and a defined storage closet aid productivity, while three new digital display monitors continuously share information on upcoming programs to keep people informed throughout the day.

As she continued on the first floor, Moore pointed out the “bigger and larger fitness room,” equipped with brand new weights and a smart TV, which is already being used to download video exercise classes. Moore said the Senior Center just hooked up with SilverSneakers, so it will now offer classes through its exercise program as well.

An adjacent room has a full kitchen and is ideal for cooking classes, Moore said. She pointed out the furniture in the space is on wheels, which makes the room “pretty versatile” as well.



The new wing will continue to help the Senior Center expand its programs.

A big part of the addition, Moore said, is accommodations for social day programs for people suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. The programs are a chance for caregivers to get a break from providing around-the-clock care. As Moore explains, the programs run five days a week and feature everything from lunch with the community to exercise classes and field trips. To make it easier, and safer, the restrooms have been relocated to just outside the room



A close-up of the framing of the new addition at the Duxbury Senior Center.

Photos courtesy Brooke McDonough

they use for the social day program.

As Moore made her way to the second level, by taking the stairs, she said the yellow paint was chosen because it helps to facilitate memories. The acetate on the doorway windows, which has a leafy pattern, is carried throughout the whole building as another way the old and the new are seamlessly tied together.

Upstairs on the second level, a roughly 50-person classroom, equipped with a smart

observed the space was like being in the woods. Moore said she changed the roofline and created an upstairs deck ideal for yoga classes.

The town’s information technology department also has its offices on the second floor. As for the elevator, Moore said it hasn’t changed except for new carpeting.

The “Walk This Way” grant awarded through AARP funded the walking path, which is paved, 5 feet wide and handicap-accessible. The goal, Moore said, was to make the path as long as possible. Soon a bocce court, two Corn-hole games and two benches will accentuate it. Moore said the Duxbury Interfaith Council will donate one bench in honor of Harry Katz, and boy scouts are building the other. “Everybody’s involved. I



Construction of the new addition to the Duxbury Senior Center as seen from the back of the building.

think that’s the beauty of the Senior Center, everyone’s so willing to help,” Moore said. “We had 280 volunteers, 100 of them are students and they gave last year over 34,000 hours of service. When people say you can’t do it without volunteers, we really couldn’t.”

Some of the people involved, Moore said, are the inmates who were brought in by the sheriff to help paint walls. The Friends of the Duxbury Council on Aging, she added, helped fund some of the painting as well as the installation of new shades throughout the whole building to help with

continuity. They will be at the ribbon cutting ceremony, as will representatives from AARP, who helped fund the walking path.

Looking to the future, Moore is hopeful about the addition of an outside wood-working shed, as a way to increase male participation at the Senior Center. “If you want a man to be happy after he retires, put him to work,” Moore said. “A big part of their whole life has been working. They don’t necessarily want to work to get paid, they want to do things they enjoy.”

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