

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

"Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else." - James M. Barrie

VOLUME LXIX NO. 40

Funding eyed for bridge fix

Additional report on Powder Point condition expected in Nov.

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER SENIOR REPORTER

The town is planning to spend at least \$125,000 next year for minor repairs to the Powder Point Bridge, in order to keep the timber-framed structure in good shape for the near future.

On Monday, Duxbury Town Manager René Read told the Board of Selectmen that he expects to include an article at the 2020 Annual Town Meet-

ing that will seek funding for multiple repairs, which were recommended recently by the town's engineering consultant, Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger.

"We want to carry a dollar amount in a separate (Town Meeting) article, not the capital budget, to cover the aspects of ongoing maintenance," said Read, adding that the initial

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100 years strong

Duxbury's American Legion Post 223 looks back, but also forward

By JONATHAN PAPPALARDO
CLIPPER REPORTER

The Duxbury American Legion is turning 100 in better shape than most centenarians. At a time when similar organizations are on life support, the Legion Post, number 233, is fit to last well into the future.

Adjutant General John

Magnarelli shared the excellent prognosis during an interview at the Legion's headquarters at 5 West St. on the hill overlooking the intersection policed by Duxbury's only single traffic light. He attributes the rise in member-

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WOOLY, NOT A BULLY: Jane Betti is happy to hold Panda at the Alden House's Sheep and Shawl Day on Saturday. See more photos on page 12.

Photo by Marilyn Quilty

Making a new path to history

Newly restored section of old trail to be dedicated this Sunday

By MATTHEW NADLER
CLIPPER EDITOR

It's hard to know how many feet trod the Green Harbor Path when the Wampanoag walked it thou-

sands of years ago, but it's easy to count the number of hands involved in restoring it today.

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These stairs were not in place when the Green Harbor Path was used, thousands of years ago.

Photo by Matthew Nadler



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Dux American Legion celebrates a century

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ship, which has grown steadily in the last four to five years, to the increase in Gulf War Veterans who are finally able to join the Legion now that they’ve come out of their military service, have established families of their own, and have more time to spend in the social atmosphere the Legion provides its members.

“It’s all the people who have been in town for ten generations. You’ll see Chandler, for which you have a street and a school, Wadsworth, for which you have a street and a field and Merry, which is a big name in town,” said Adjutant General John Magnarelli.

To celebrate the Legion’s good fortunes, and the 100th anniversary of the Duxbury Post, the Legion is sponsoring its fifth annual concert, this Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free and only available in advance at the Legion’s headquarters, the Senior Center or the Duxbury Free Library.

As Magnarelli explains,



What is now the American Legion Hall on West Street was once a schoolhouse.

Photo courtesy Carolyn Ravenscroft

concertgoers are in for a real treat. The US Airforce Band, which consists of a 13-person jazz and big Band ensemble with singers, will perform for 90 minutes without an intermission. “They tour the country and they’re all what we would consider professional musicians,” he says. “The members are all in the service. The guys are in the Air Force, the regular air force. They wear uniforms and do what everyone else does, except their job instead of carrying a rifle, is carrying a tuba.”

He adds the band members are recruited from mu-

sic schools. “They stay in the army, tour the world, get out of the army and go play with the Boston Pops or some city orchestra. They’re that good. You’re getting what would be like going into the Pops. That’s what you’re seeing here for free.”

The concert, which Magnarelli says always fills the PAC, comes on the heels of the Legion serving as the Grand Marshals of the Fourth of July Parade, just another way they’re celebrating or being honored for their 100 years in Duxbury. But that’s not all. The National Ameri-

can Legion is also turning 100 this year.

The organization was founded in March 1919 with its first post in Paris, France, the epicenter of the fighting during WWI. Although the war ended four months earlier on Nov. 11, which is now commemorated with Veteran’s Day, the American Occupation Force was still in Paris in March 1919. According to Magnarelli, the American Legion was established to provide employment opportunities, health benefits and

medical services to the GIs returning from the war.

Post 223’s charter, which hangs on a wall in the Legion to this day, has the names of the 15 men who founded the post seven months later on Oct. 7. As Magnarelli points out, the surnames of the men have been immortalized all over town. “Half the streets, buildings in town, and schools are named after them,” he says. “It’s all the people who have been in town for ten gen-

Continued on page 19

HARVEST HOMECOMING

All welcome...friends new and old

Free Event for all ages

Saturday, October 5

[rain date Oct 6 at 11:00am]

2:00-5:00

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American Legion Post 223 celebrates its centennial

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erations. You'll see Chandler, for which you have a street and a school, Wadsworth, for which you have a street and a field and Merry, which is a big name in town."

Looking around the hall, with the large bar and four big-screen televisions that greet guests as they step through the door, it's hard to imagine the building, which was constructed around 1890, originally housed The Millbrook School, a public grammar school for both boys and girls in the Millbrook district of town. The building was sold to the Legion for \$1 after a vote at Annual Town Meeting on March 5, 1927.

The vote meant the Legion has to continue in the building and use it to run their activities. Should they ever disband, Magnarelli cautions, the building reverts back to the town. By the 1950s they had 400 members, which Magnarelli says was every veteran at the time. Legionnaires would come for minstrel shows and monthly social dinners that would fill the hall.

"The Legion used to be the social center, not just of Duxbury but the whole area, the South Shore," he says. "If you think about it, going back 50 years, you didn't have all the development you have now. This was the place to come. We used to have dinners and dances. Legionnaires used to do musicals. The cast would be all Legionaries, their wives and spouses. They would put on plays and put on musicals. It started in 1949."

The Legion also ran Duxbury Days, held on the Third and Fourth of July each year, from 1935 to the late 1970s, when the Fourth of July Pa-



USAF Heritage of America Band's Jazz Ensemble Rhythm in Blue will be performing at the Duxbury Performing Arts Center on Oct. 5 as part of the Duxbury American Legion's centennial.

Photo courtesy Tech Sgt. Christopher Moore, USAF

rade Committee was formed. Magnarelli says they would have a carnival, a parade, a bonfire, kids games, pet shows, band concerts, a Ms. Duxbury pageant, and a softball championship. Duxbury Days ended when resident Margery Parcher left money to the town to sponsor the parade.

The Legion may no longer sponsor the parade, but they do lead it every year. They currently have 244 members, including 15 in the Woman's Auxiliary, nine WWII Veterans, 26 Korean War Veterans, 130 Vietnam Veterans, seven from the conflicts in Lebanon and Granada, 20 from the conflicts in Panama, and 52 from the Gulf War. They continue to sponsor the services on Memorial Day, host a ceremony and luncheon on Veterans Day,

partner with the Girl Scouts to send Girl Scout Cookies to our troops overseas, and award more than \$5,000 in scholarships to high school seniors every year.

But mostly it's the social atmosphere that keeps the blood pumping through the organization. They have a social club for non-veterans over the age of 21, weekly viewings of football games, including the Army and Navy game each December, pool tournaments and cribbage leagues.

"People love when there are sporting events here," Magnarelli says happily. "It opens it up to the public for a nice place to come. We have the lowest prices and the coldest beer in town."

Free film screening this Friday

Actress, author and advocate Marianne Leone will be at the Duxbury Senior Center on Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. to introduce the exclusive, free screening of "Intelligent Lives," a film she co-executive produced with her husband, Academy Award-winner Chris Cooper. To register, call 781-934-5774, ext. 5716. Free.

Duxbury Business Association

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Wednesday, October 9, 2019

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Hazardous waste collections

South Shore Recycling Cooperative will host household hazardous waste collections this fall. All will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents of Duxbury may attend any SSRC collection at town expense, with proof of residency.

Oct. 5 Hanover Transfer Station, 118 Rockland St.

Oct. 19 Plymouth DPW, 169 Camelot Dr.

Nov. 2 Weymouth DPW, 120 Winter St.

Nov. 16 Middleborough Town Hall lot, 10 Nickerson Ave.

For details, please go to southshorerecycling.org and click on "Hazardous Waste," go to Town Hall for a flyer, or call 781-329-8318.