

OPINION

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Duxbury Clipper

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WHAT'S YOURS? SHARE YOUR VIEWS IN OUR SOUNDING OFF SECTION

Reader's View: Railroad Ave. neighbor appreciates Millbrook area's transformation

As someone who has worked on Railroad Avenue for over 17 years, I want to publicly express my gratitude to Dermot Loftus and Mike Juliano for revitalizing the Millbrook neighborhood with the addition of The Oysterman restaurant. Over the years, the building had fallen into disrepair and became a bit of an eyesore, so to witness the transformation into an attractive eating establishment is incredibly exciting. I know I speak

for all of my colleagues in commending these gentlemen for investing in the community and beautifying our little corner of town. We look forward to frequenting The Oysterman and wish them much success in this new venture.

Debbie Tortorella
William Raveis Real Estate
Railroad Ave.

One vote matters

Former Clipper Editor Justin Graeber wrote an editorial in which he enumerated the importance of voting. The date is lost to the archives but I thank Town Clerk Susan Kelley for sending me a copy, the text of which is printed below. Titled "Voting is a fundamental American right," the editorial ran before an election that Graeber called "one of the most hotly contested elections in years" – words that could be aptly applied to the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 8.

"If you've ever wondered if your vote really does matter, check out these facts from some extremely close elections," he wrote. I would encourage all registered Duxbury voters to go to town hall and vote early this week (until Nov. 4) or take the traditional route and vote at the polls on Election Day next Tuesday. No matter where you vote, your one vote really does matter.
- Susanna Sheehan

1800 – ONE VOTE in the electoral college made Thomas Jefferson President over Aaron Burr.

1845 – ONE VOTE brought Texas into the Union.

1847 – ONE VOTE elected Whig candidate George G. Dunn over Democratic candidate David M. Dobson for the U.S. House of Representatives in Indiana.

1867 – ONE VOTE decided the purchase of the Alaskan territory.

1868 – ONE VOTE prevented President Andrew Johnson from being impeached.

1955 – ONE VOTE elected the mayor of Huron, Ohio.

1916 – ONE VOTE in each California precinct re-elected Woodrow Wilson to the Presidency over Charles E. Hughes.

1948 – 87 votes elected Lyndon B. Johnson to the Senate.

1960 – ONE VOTE per precinct made John F. Kennedy the President over contender Richard Nixon.

1962 – ONE VOTE per precinct determined the winners for governor in the states of Maine, Rhode Island and North Dakota.

1977 – ONE VOTE, determined in a recount, decided that Robert Emond won the seat for Vermont State Representative over Sydney Nixon.

1999 – ONE VOTE per precinct elected Leslie Byrne to the Virginia Senate.

2000 – 237 votes in Florida resulted in the election of George W. Bush to the Presidency.

2002 – 5 votes elected Dan Sparks to the Minnesota State Senate.

2004 – 129 votes declared Christine Gregoire the Governor of Washington in a third and final hand recount.

- J. Graeber

Reader's View: Parent Connection say consider the research when voting on Question 4

On Nov. 8, 2016, voters in Massachusetts will be asked to support or oppose a binding ballot question on the legalization of recreational marijuana. The executive board of The Parent Connection, a group of parents committed to providing programs and resources that build healthy connections among children, parents and teachers, would like to remind readers of facts presented by various experts in recent years at parent education events hosted by The Parent Connection.

- The amount of THC (the ingredient that produces the "high") in marijuana today is four times as potent as it was in marijuana during the 1960s and 1970s. It is also often laced with other substances.

- An estimated 17 percent of those who start using marijuana as teenagers will become addicted.

- Edible marijuana products, such as gummy bears, lollipops and cookies are often indistinguishable from regular candy and snacks and can contain THC levels as high as 95 percent.

- The effects of marijuana remain in the adult body for 30 days; they stay in an adolescent's body for 60 days.

- Marijuana is the third most common cause of drug dependence in the U.S. after tobacco and alcohol.

The Parent Connection's programs have included professionals in the fields of medicine, psychology, and education on the topic of substance use among youth and young adults. Please take the time to make an informed decision and be sure to vote on Nov. 8.

More information and resources can be found at our website theparentconnection.org.

Kim Curley
President, The Parent Connection

To enlarge the Senior Center?

By DAVID A. MITTELL, Jr.

At selectmen's meeting on Oct. 17, Council on Aging Director Joanne Moore presented the results of the Senior Center Feasibility Study, which calls for a 3,500-square-foot addition to the Senior Center. A lot of people have already put a lot of toil into the proposal. It therefore behooves those of us in what might be called the debunking class to remember that it's always easier to criticize something than it is to build something.

On the other hand, capital projects have a way of slipping seamlessly from the feasibility stage to the unstoppable stage. There is usually more intensity on the part of those who want to spend taxpayers' money than there is on the part of taxpayers who – not to their credit – tend to be slow awoken. This, then, will ask some questions about the study on behalf of the public interest, but without either supporting or opposing it. That's the voters' job.

The feasibility study anticipates steep growth in the senior population in coming years. This is undoubtedly correct. Seniors, as a percentage of the population, are rising in most of North America and Europe, but probably faster here in Duxbury. We rarely see people selling a Duxbury cottage in order to retire to a domicile closer to Boston. It is almost always the other way around; and for increasing numbers of people who come from anywhere, Duxbury is a very attractive place to retire.

The anticipated cost of the proposed addition is \$2.273 million. According to the current plan, most of that is to come before Town Meeting in 2018 – but with \$182,000 for architectural drawings in the 2017 warrant. Finance Direc-

tor John Madden stated that this article would not need a Proposition 2 ½ override. (He didn't mention that that figure is higher than the current rate of inflation.)

Has the town looked for state funding for at least part of the project? Apparently not yet. The 3,500-foot addition is the maximum the site was authorized to handle when the land for a senior center was taken out of Mayflower Cemetery. When asked how many years this addition is expected to meet the Senior Center's needs, Moore did not have a ready answer. That's a red flag in that if it is known that more cemetery or conservation land is going to be demanded a few years' down the road, voters should be told about it now.

It is "ends and means" that it seems to me is missing from the current discussion. If we accept the argument that a growing senior population is going to need more public services, is there a way these could be provided without another costly capital project? Duxbury Free Library is a wonderful facility. (I love working there!) One sees seniors reading, as seniors will. But to the untrained eye the library doesn't look to be close to capacity.

Spending other people's money doesn't hurt a bit. But a real discussion about ends and means is essential before all capital outlays.

I will close with a factor tending to favor the addition – the Senior Center's location across Mayflower Cemetery from Town Hall. Built in 1975, Town Hall serves its mission well. But as the town grows, and with it the need for more meeting spaces for all the boards and committees it takes to guide the town's affairs, the Senior Center has turned into a convenient alternative to Town Hall. No one objects when a hearing is moved to the Senior Center, even at the last minute.



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