



ATTLEBORO

100
1914 – 2014
100

THE
MAKING OF
a City

3 of 3

100
ATTLEBORO
100

INTRODUCTION

Celebrating a centennial, and a city

This is our third and final special commemorative section celebrating the 100th anniversary of Attleboro as a city. In it, you'll find a complete rundown on all the events the city has planned for Saturday, Sept. 6, as well as a kickoff party on Friday evening, Sept. 5. You'll also enjoy reading essays from some well known, and not so well known, Attleboroans conveying why they love the city they call home. We hope you enjoy them, and enjoy yourself at the celebration!

At right, Gilbert Perry Square in downtown Attleboro.
(Staff photo by Mark Stockwell)



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THE PARADE

A Grand Parade indeed

Centennial procession may be biggest city has ever seen

BY GEORGE W. RHODES
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

By numbers alone, the city's Centennial Parade, dubbed the "Grand Parade," is big — really big.

There are six divisions and 125 marching or rolling units, including 16 bands and 16 floats, as well as dignitaries such as Guatemalan Consul General Patricia Lavagnino, who works out of Providence, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy III, Mayor Kevin Dumas, state legislators, city councilors and school board members.

There'll be something for everyone in the Saturday parade, which is expected to be about a mile long and take two hours to cover the 2.2 mile route from Hayward Field to Capron Park, parade planner and Veterans Agent Carl Bradshaw said.

"The number of units doesn't represent the enormity of it," he said. "I think it's going to be the largest parade Attleboro has ever seen."

Each of the city's schools has entered a float and students will be marching alongside them.

And for those who missed seeing the "Kissing Sailor," George Mendonsa, in the Memorial Day Parade, he'll be back for an encore appearance.

Mendonsa is the sailor from the iconic Life magazine photo of a sailor celebrating the end of World War II in Times Square by kissing a nurse plucked at random out of a joyous crowd.

He'll be signing autographs in Veterans Triangle in Capron Park after the procession, so parade-goers are encouraged to bring books, photos, magazines or posters, Bradshaw said.

Another well known personality, The Dancing Cop, Tony Lepore of Providence, will entertain the crowd with his traffic directing routine.



Flag bearer Ed Stanton leads veterans down County Street during the Attleboro Memorial Day Parade in May. Look for an even bigger procession on Saturday. (Staff file photo)

Dumas is expecting big crowds along the route of the parade, which begins at 10 a.m.

From Hayward Field, marchers will proceed south on North Avenue to West Street and then to North Main Street.

From North Main, they will turn west on County Street and end at Capron Park.

After the parade, the crowd can enjoy live music, food from gourmet food trucks and numerous displays in the park all afternoon until a big fireworks show commencing at dark.

Dumas said the crowd at Capron Park could number 20,000 to 30,000 people throughout the day.

GATRA will shuttle people to the park from the MBTA lot off South Main Street.

"It's going to be fantastic," the mayor said.

The heart of any parade is the marching bands, and there'll be some

good ones, Bradshaw said.

The procession will include several fife and drum corps, such as Yankee Fife and Drum, Colchester Fife and Drum and the Kentish Guards.

At least one pipe band, Mystic Highland Pipe Band, is to march along with several high school bands, including the Attleboro High School Marching Band.

The Mexico Lindo Mariachi Band, the Hills Mills Clown Band, the Northeast Italian Band and the Hot Tamale Band, which specializes in New Orleans jazz, will provide a wide array of musical styles and performances, he said.

The parade's grand marshal will be Michael "Mickey" Zito, 87. He's a Navy veteran from World War II and is well known for his store, Zito's Market, which he ran for many years.

Zito is the husband of school board member Fran Zito.

As grand marshal, Zito will head the parade, along with a large contingent

of city police officers and the city's ceremonial birthday cake, which has been on display near Veterans Triangle. A real cake which will be shared by centennial celebrants is being prepared by the Attleboro High School culinary arts program.

Bradshaw said he is excited about the procession, now that the work of finding marchers has been done.

He said he went online to find groups who participated in other parades, and consulted with veteran parade organizers such as those in Bristol, R.I., who put together the much-heralded Fourth of July parade every year.

"I probably invited two-hundred groups," Bradshaw said. "I threw out a big net and systematically invited all of them. This parade's going to be good."

GEORGE W. RHODES can be reached at 508-236-0432, at grhodes@thesunchronicle.com and on Twitter @SCAttleboro.

Grand Parade,
unit by unit

HERE IS a rundown of the units that will be marching in the city's Centennial Parade on Saturday:

DIVISION A

ATTLEBORO POLICE Department
GRAND MARSHAL
BIRTHDAY CAKE float
MAYOR KEVIN Dumas
CITY COUNCIL and elected officials
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CITY BIRTHDAY parade float
COUNCILOR RONALD Churchill in car
COMMITTEE MEMBER Fran Zito in car
CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH Kennedy III
STATE SEN. James Timilty
STATE SEN. Richard Ross
STATE REP. Betty Poirier
STATE REP. Paul Heroux
DIGHTON-REHOBOTH MARCHING Band
AMERICAN FLAG honor guard
AWVC AND Post Commanders
VETERANS AND military flags
MARCHING VETERANS
VETERANS BIRTHDAY float
VETERANS TRANSPORTATION float
VETERANS VAN
BRISTOL LIMOUSINE — The Kissing Sailor
BLISS DAIRY horse-drawn milk wagon
ATTLEBORO ELKS float
ATTLEBORO COUNCIL on Aging
YANKEE FIFE and Drum
REHOBOTH MINUTEMEN
ATTLEBORO HISTORICAL Society
COLCHESTER FIFE and Drum
ATTLEBORO CHAPTER of the DAR
THE BOURBONNAIS
BREWSTER AMBULANCE
MEXICO LINDO Mariachi Band
FIRE DEPARTMENT vehicle

DIVISION B

FIRE HONOR Guard
ANTIQUÉ FIRE Truck
CHIEF SCOTT LaChance
HILLS MILLS Clown Band
WILLETT SCHOOL birthday float
WILLETT STUDENTS and faculty

SEE UNITS, PAGE 4 ►

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THE PARADE

UNITS: Here's rundown of Grand Parade participants

FROM PAGE 3

UNICYCLIST AND two clowns
GUATEMALAN FLOAT and Music
GUATEMALAN COUNSEL General to U.S.
GUATEMALAN AMERICANS of Attleboro
STUDLEY SCHOOL birthday float
STUDLEY STUDENTS and faculty
MYSTIC HYLAND Pipe Band
THACHER SCHOOL birthday float
THACHER STUDENTS and faculty
THE DANCING Cop
HILL-ROBERTS SCHOOL birthday float
HILL-ROBERTS STUDENTS and faculty
SHEPARD HILL Marching Band
HYMAN-FINE SCHOOL birthday float
HYMAN-FINE STUDENTS and Faculty
ATTLEBORO PUBLIC Library

2ND MASS. Regiment Fife and Drum
SOUTH ATTLEBORO Lions Club
SOUTH ATTLEBORO Village Lions Club
ATTLEBORO HIGH School Leos
LIONS FLOAT
KENTISH GUARDS
KENTISH GUARDS Fife and Drum
FIRE DEPARTMENT vehicle

DIVISION C

NORTON POLICE Department
HOT TAMALE Band (New Orleans)
COELHO MIDDLE School float
COELHO MIDDLE School students
ATTLEBORO ARTS Museum
BISHOP FEEHAN High School Band
BISHOP FEEHAN cheerleaders
BISHOP FEEHAN majorettes
BRENNAN MIDDLE School

BRENNAN MIDDLE School students
NEW HAMPSHIRE Police P and D
WARMISUTTA MIDDLE School float
WARMISUTTA MIDDLE School students
20TH MASS Volunteer Infantry
ATTLEBORO HIGH School float
ATTLEBORO HIGH School students
ATTLEBORO HIGH School cheerleaders
ATTLEBORO HIGH School band
ATTLEBORO HIGH School sports teams
FIRE DEPARTMENT vehicle

DIVISION D

PAWTUCKET POLICE Department
CRYAN LANDSCAPE
EZEKCKIEL BATES Lodge Masons

FEDERAL BLUES
GIRL SCOUTS
NEW HEART New Spirit Evangelical Church
NORWOOD COLONIAL Boys
THE BOY Scouts
GLOUCESTER LIGHT Infantry
ATTLEBORO YOUTH Council
AMJ DANCE Center
SECOND CONGREGATIONAL Church
SCORPIO'S ITALIAN Eatery
NORTHEAST ITALIAN Band
BUTLER'S GYMNASICS
GOOD SHEPHERD Lutheran Church
ATTLEBORO COMMUNITY Theater
FIRE DEPARTMENT vehicle

DIVISION E

CUMBERLAND POLICE Department
ATTLEBORO YMCA
YMCA SWIM team
CASE HIGH School (Swansea) band
MURRAY UNITARIAN Univer-

salist Church
ATTLEBORO ROTARY Club Float
ATTLEBORO POP Warner
CASE SNOW Removal
CENTENARY UNITED Methodist Church
ATTLEBORO AREA Council of Churches
ST. VINCENT de Paul Parish
PORTUGUESE GROUP
THE BREAKFAST Place
THE SUN Chronicle
THE ARC of Bristol County
JUMBALI FIFT Zumba
BRISTOL COMMUNITY College
WRNP 1320 AM Radio
U.S NAVY Sea Cadets
GIRL SCOUT Troop 4993
TROOP 15/PACK 33 Scouts
TAKE THIS Junk Removal Services
PLAINRIDGE RACECOURSE
FIRE DEPARTMENT vehicle

DIVISION F

NORTH ATTLEBORO Police



The Attleboro Memorial Day Parade proceeds down County Street to Capron Park last May. (Staff file photo)

Department
G.I. JOE'S of North Attleboro
ANTIQUE CARS
NEW LIBERTY Jazz Band
OLD COLONY Model T Club
W.H. RILEY and Son, Inc.

RHODE ISLAND Chapter Rolling Thunder
MILITARY VEHICLES — 338th Engineer Co
FIRE TRUCKS
ATTLEBORO POLICE car

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EVENT SCHEDULE

100th birthday schedule of events

September 5

YMCA ROOFTOP PARTY

6 TO 10 p.m.
LIVE MUSIC by James Foster Jazz, Dinner prepared by Matt Haist (Executive Chef of The Capital Grille, Providence), Raw Bar by Neil Thompson (Windfall Shellfish), Select beer and wine courtesy of City Spirits, Silent Auction
\$50/PERSON
PROCEEDS DONATED to "Attleboro YMCA: Best Friends Campaign" providing financial assistance for those in need.

September 6

GRAND PARADE

10 A.M. to 12:30 p.m.
ROUTE: THE parade will commence at Hayward Field on North Avenue, continuing to West Street, North Main Street, County Street, and conclude at Capron Park. The parade route is approximately 2 miles in length.

MAYOR KEVIN J. DUMAS
— WELCOME

12:30 P.M.
LARGE ENTERTAINMENT Stage at the Capron Park Flats (field behind the

Park Administration Building, 199 County St.)

CITYWIDE COMMUNITY PHOTO 12:45 P.M.
THE SUN Chronicle will be taking an aerial Citywide Community Photo at the Capron Park Flats

100TH BIRTHDAY CAKE CUTTING DIRECTLY FOLLOWING Citywide Community Photo

ENTERTAINMENT

CAPRON PARK Flats (field behind the Park Administration Building)
11:30 A.M.-12:15 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.-3 p.m.: Jojo Melina – Coordinated Dance Ensemble

1 P.M.-2:30 p.m.: The Simply Sinatra Rat Pack Show (Featuring Mike Dutra, Chuck Wansley, Steven Palumbo)
3 P.M.-3:45 p.m.: Jillian Jensen — Season 2 X-Factor, Season 13 American Idol

4 P.M.-4:45 p.m.: The Dixie Diehards
5 P.M.-5:45 p.m.: UMass Boston Jazz Ensemble
5:45 P.M.-6:15 p.m.: Mike Petit
6:30 P.M.-7:45 p.m.: Navy Band Northeast Pops Ensemble

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

1 P.M.-5 p.m., between the "Old Bandstand" and the Playground
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Face Painting
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Caricatures
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Craft Projects (Library)
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Tattoos (YMCA)
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Craft Projects (Oak Knoll Sanctuary)
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Craft Projects (Land Trust)
1 P.M.-4 p.m.: Touch a Truck (Fire and Police Departments)
1 P.M.-1:45 p.m.: Juggling Show
2 P.M.-2:45 p.m.: Clown Balloon Show
3 P.M.-3:45 p.m.: Puppet Show
4 P.M.-4:45 p.m.: Magic Show
BOUNCE HOUSE – O'Connell Field behind the Capron Park Zoo parking Lot.

FERRIS WHEEL – adjacent to the Park Administration Building at 199 County St.
2 P.M.-4 p.m. Ice Cream truck (Children's Area)

OLD FASHION FUN AT O'CONNELL FIELD

1 P.M.-4 p.m. (field behind the Capron Park Zoo parking lot)
— **ATTLEBORO** Public Library-Attleboro 1ABC, The Literacy Center, Recreation



The Dixie Diehards will be part of the entertainment at Capron Park Flats.

Commission & YMCA sponsored wiffle ball game and take home their "Big Read" book. All are welcome!
— **OLD** Fashioned Games & Races – YMCA & Attleboro Recreation Commission and Attleboro Rotary

COMMUNITY PARTNER EXHIBITIONS WITHIN CAPRON PARK 12:30 P.M.-4 p.m.
AVENUE OF Pin Oaks at WWI Veteran's

Memorial Avenue 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

— **WOMEN** at Work Museum
— **ATTLEBORO** Jewelry Markers
— **ATTLEBORO** Industrial Museum
— **ATTLEBORO** Arts Museum

WOLFENDEN FOUNTAIN 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
— **ATTLEBORO** Historical Commission will have historical house book for residents to look in to see if their house

SOARELLAS Summer Schedule
Tuesday - Friday 10 - 7
Saturday 10 - 4

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EVENT SCHEDULE

is a historical home, WARA microphone

- **ATTLEBORO** Historic Preservation Society will have book for residents to sign for the time capsule and time capsule
- **DAUGHTER'S** of the American Revolution (D.A.R.)
- **ATTLEBORO** Farmer's Market - History of Farming
- **MASONS** - 150 years of Freemason history in Attleboro

ANDERSON ROSE GARDEN

- 12:30 P.M.** - 4 p.m.
- **ATTLEBORO** Garden Club – Anderson Rose Garden
- CIVIL WAR** Monument 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- **CIVIL** War Reenactors will camp and present a living history
- VETERAN TRIANGLE** 12:30 - 4 p.m.
- **VETERANS** groups to recruit membership and answer questions

CAPRON PARK ZOO

10 A.M.-5 p.m.

- **FREE** Open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m..
- **CRAFT** Fair Exhibition – located inside Zoo
- **NON-PROFITS** - located inside Zoo

FIREWORKS

8 P.M.

A FIREWORKS show will be held at Capron Park and will also be seen in the surrounding neighborhoods to Capron Park. Please arrive early.

FOOD & HYDRATION

FOOD TRUCKS will be on-site to serve food and beverages to guests at market rate. They will be arranged in the Capron Park Zoo parking lot. Food Trucks will assemble at 11 a.m. and provide service until 10 p.m.

TWO HYDRATION Stations at Event - Operated by the Friends of Capron Park Zoo

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

— **THERE** will be no parking within Capron Park during the celebration.

However, GATRA shuttles will be provided to and from Capron Park from the MBTA parking facility at the Downtown Train Station off of Wall Street. From 12:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Use of public transportation encouraged.

- **ON-STREET** parking is allowed on all surrounding neighborhood streets in the vicinity of Capron Park unless specifically noted otherwise.
- **HANDICAPPED** parking available at the MBTA parking facility.

WEATHER HOTLINE

100TH BIRTHDAY Hotline: You can determine if the Birthday Celebration is being held by calling the Birthday Hotline at 774-203-1800 after 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. The rain date is Sunday, Sept. 7, if necessary, and the time for all events will remain the same. You can also check the city's website at www.cityofattleboro.us.

PETS

TO ENSURE the safety of your pet and



Capron Park Zoo will be open to the public for free from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the centennial celebration. (Staff file photo)

that of the public, we respectfully ask that you refrain from bringing any pets due to the large number of people expected at this event. Therefore,

pets will not be permitted within the park facility during the celebration.

SOURCE: City of Attleboro website, cityofattleboro.us.



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ROOFTOP PARTY

Celebration starts with Y's Rooftop Party

The Attleboro Y will kick off the city's 100th birthday weekend with its annual Rooftop Party atop the Y's Downtown Branch. The Y is inviting the community to enjoy an evening of food, music and friends under the stars on Friday, Sept. 5.

The fundraising event will feature a dinner prepared by Matt Haist, executive chef of The Capital Grille in Providence, a raw bar by Neil Thompson of Windfall Shellfish, and beer and wine courtesy of City Spirits.

Music will be provided by James Foster jazz and there will also be a silent auction. Philadelphia Insurance is once again the event sponsor.

"We're so proud that the Attleboro Y has been a part of our city's history for the past 100 years and even earlier, so we couldn't be happier to host the kickoff for this celebratory weekend," said Robin McDonald, CEO of the Attleboro YMCA. "Personally, I can't think of a better way to celebrate Attleboro's

birthday than an evening of music, great food, good friends and a panoramic view of the city."

All proceeds support the Attleboro Y's Best Friends Campaign, which helps fund the Y's scholarship programs, camp scholarships, subsidized memberships through Membership for All, subsidized child care programs, the Livestrong at the YMCA program, and more.

Tickets for the Rooftop Party are \$50 per person and are available at both Attleboro YMCA branches and online at attleboroymca.eventbrite.com.

For more information, contact McDonald at 508-409-0762 or rmcdonald@attleboroymca.org.

Guests enjoy food and socializing at the Attleboro Y's 2012 Rooftop Party. (Staff file photo)



Celebrating
100
YEARS

To the City of Attleboro,

It has been an honor representing you down in Washington over the past two years, and I am humbled to be a part of such a great community. I look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions with this wonderful city!

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COMMUNITY PHOTO

Everyone say cheese!

Community photo will be part of the festivities

BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

The city's 100th birthday celebration can't last forever, but the moment will live on in an aerial citywide community photo of the celebration.

A Sun Chronicle photographer stood on top of the former London's department store building in 1994 during a celebration marking Attleboro's 350th and snapped a photo of hundreds of residents gathered for the shot. A similar photo was taken at a millennium celebra-

tion in 2000 at Capron Park.

The city will continue the tradition at 12:45 p.m. Saturday at the Capron Park Flats, a field behind the administration building at 199 County St. A Sun Chronicle photographer will take an overhead community photo from a cherry picker.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity to capture all of those people who are in attendance and all of our schools and schoolchildren who are going to be involved," Mayor Kevin Dumas said.

"We have the community-wide photo for those who want

to be a part of history that only happens once every one hundred years."

The photo follows the parade, which runs from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and remarks by Dumas at 12:30. It precedes the birthday cake cutting.

City council administrative assistant Linda Alger said officials haven't decided what they'd do with the photo after it's taken, but added, "I'm sure we'll find a place for it in city hall," which is where the 1994 photo ended up.

That photo provides an opportunity for longtime residents

to look back and remember the day and gives new residents and visitors a sense of the community, officials said.

"It's nice to look back on the photo that we have and just see all the people that were there," said Alison Wood, the mayor's office legal secretary.

Living in the moment of a celebration can be a lot different than looking back at it, Alger said.

"I think when you're taking it at the time, it's nice and it's fun. Now when I look at (photo from 1994), it has a lot more meaning," she said.

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FIREWORKS



Fireworks explode over Hayward Field in Attleboro last 4th of July. (Staff photo by Martin Gavin)

A blast from the past

Capron Park fireworks will recall an earlier time

BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

The city will be bringing back an old tradition when it presents a fireworks display during the 100th birthday celebration.

The show will take place at Capron Park for the first time in more than 50 years.

“These are going to be very different because the area we’re going to be shooting in is a very populated area, so there are going to be much larger shells and they’re going to be shot a lot higher,” city council administrative as-

sistant Linda Alger said.

The show will start at 8 p.m. and will be viewable from the Capron Park Flats, the field behind the park administration building, and O’Connell Field between Attleboro High School and the park.

The ground show that is held during the Independence Day fireworks display will not be part of this show, however.

“We won’t be having that because people just won’t be able to see it,” Alger said.

Atlas PyroVision Productions, who has provided fireworks for the city for a number of years, will

be producing the fireworks for the centennial celebration.

In honor of the occasion, Atlas has donated \$2,500 in additional fireworks to the show.

Atlas Vice President Matt Shea said the unique location of Capron Park calls for bigger fireworks.

“We thought by enhancing it, it would make the show that much better,” Shea said.

Shea called the donation the company’s way of thanking the city for its loyalty throughout the years.

“Atlas has been producing fireworks for the city for at least the

past 15 to 20 years and they’ve always been loyal to us and they love us. They like our technicians, they like the quality of what we provide,” Shea said. “When you develop relationships with your customers and your communities over the years, if you have the opportunity to give back just even a little bit, you do. We feel that this is just a very small token of us saying thank you very much for working with us all of these years.”

Entertainment is expected to continue up until the fireworks display and the food trucks will be available throughout and after the display.

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FOOD AND DRINK

Food trucks return

Capron Park Zoo will again host hot dining trend for centennial party

BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

The city's 100th birthday will bring back a taste of one of the city's most popular — perhaps too popular — events of this year.

The 100th celebration will include about 15 food trucks including Got a QBBQ, veg-an ice cream truck Like No Udder and artisan pizza truck The Gilded Tomato, according to Capron Park Zoo curator of education Melanie Fernandes, who is organizing the food trucks.

"It's nice to be able to contribute to something as big as the centennial event," Fernandes said. "... it's kind of nice to be dealing with something I'm familiar with and to make it happen for the city."

The city had its first ever food truck festival at Capron Park Zoo in July. The event attracted a huge crowd of more than 2,000 people, some of whom waited 90 minutes to place their orders. Others weren't able to get into the food truck festival at all.

For the centennial celebration, food trucks will be in the Capron Park Zoo parking lot from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"Everyone's got to eat, right?" Fernandes said. "So we have to have something there for people to eat."

Food trucks, she added, have come a long way from the "silver coach with stale sandwiches" people once could expect.

"It's so different now. They are a completely new paradigm; they really are a full-service kitchen with some type of cuisine rather than just a quick hamburger or hot dog."

Gilded Tomato President and CEO Julie Sweet expressed excitement over taking part in the city's 100th birthday celebration.

"We're looking forward to just all the wonderful people who will be out there and cooking some wood-fired artisan pizzas for them and just seeing all of the happy faces of the children and the families," Sweet said.

Two hydration stations operated by the Friends of Capron Park Zoo will also be in the area with the food trucks.

The Capron Park Zoo Food Truck Festival attracted an overflow crowd in June. (Staff file photo by Mike George)



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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Fun for the young

Kids will be treated to juggling, Ferris wheel, ice cream and more

BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

Parents and children have an array of activities to choose from during the city's 100th birthday celebration.

The activities, sponsored by Comcast Xfinity, will be held between the old bandstand and the playground at Capron Park between 1 and 5 p.m.

They include caricatures, face painting, Touch a Truck with the fire and police departments, and various craft projects with the Attleboro Public Library, Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary and the Attleboro Land Trust.

There will also be a juggling show from 1 to 1:45 p.m. and a clown balloon show from 2 to 2:45 p.m. At 3 p.m., there will be a puppet show and at 4 p.m., a magic show.

Sturdy Memorial Hospital will be providing an ice cream truck from 2 to 4 p.m. in the children's area.

Parents and children can also take a break from the designated chil-

dren's area and take a ride on the Ferris wheel adjacent to the park administration building at 199 County St., or enjoy the bounce house at O'Connell Field behind Capron Park Zoo.

O'Connell Field will also host the Old Fashioned Games and Races being put on from 1 to 4 p.m. by the YMCA, the Attleboro Recreation Department and the Attleboro Rotary.

The library and Attleboro 1ABC, the literacy center, recreation commission and the YMCA will sponsor wiffle ball games from 1 to 4 p.m. on the O'Connell Field.

Attleboro Library Director Joan Pilkington-Smyth said it's important for the library to celebrate the city with the mayor, the city council and the community.

"The library has been in the city for 107 years, so it was started by the same town officials who got involved with this becoming a city," Pilkington-Smyth said. "We're pleased to be able to say we're part of Attleboro, we're a part of the city. We love being here and we want to be a part of the community and participate in such a big celebration for the city."

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Pops to the Rat Pack

Entertainment lineup an eclectic mix with plenty of local flavor



Among the entertainers at the centennial celebration will be, clockwise from above, comedian Mike Petit, the Northeast Navy Band Pops Ensemble and Frank Sinatra tribute artist Michael Dutra. (File photos)



**BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE**

Veterans' agent Carl Bradshaw said he did some research when putting together the live entertainment for the city's two-day 100th birthday celebration.

The fun begins Friday, Sept. 5 with a rooftop party hosted by the Attleboro YMCA from 6 to 10 p.m. and continues Saturday, Sept. 6 starting with the grand parade at 10 a.m. and ending with fireworks at 8 p.m.

Among the many other activities at the celebration will be the entertainers selected by Bradshaw, who said he combined the recommendations of others and his preferences when selecting the performers.

"We tried if possible to have some kind of Attleboro influence. Maybe they played here, some of the members lived here, or they're from the area," Bradshaw said. "Most of them have some kind of Attleboro flavor or history."

Live performances will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Capron Park Flats.

JoJo Melina, who has performed in the area in the past, will open up the program with a coordinated dance ensemble, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and will perform again from 2:30 to 3 p.m.

The headlining Navy Band Northeast Pops Ensemble will close out the performances. The Navy Band will be playing Attleboro for the third time in 14 months, Bradshaw said.

"We're fortunate enough to have them in Attleboro. They cover an extremely large area. They cover the entire Northeast of the United States," Bradshaw said.

The Navy Band will perform from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

The Simply Sinatra Rat Pack Show featuring Mike Dutra, Chuck Wansley and Steven Palumbo, will hit the stage between Melina's performances.

Jillian Jensen, who appeared on Season 2 of "The X-Factor" and Season 13 of "American Idol," will perform songs from her upcoming album as well as covers from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

The 21-year-old singer and songwriter said she performed in Attleboro often as a child and appeared on the former local television show "Curtain Call."

"When I was asked to do the 100th year celebration, I was like 'absolutely' because Attleboro was like a second home for me for a while," Jensen said.

The Rochester resident said she felt honored to be asked to perform at the 100th birthday celebration.

"I think for me, being a local person, it's just really cool being able to be a part of something community based and it is a big celebration," Jensen said. "It means a lot to me."

The Foxboro-based jazz band, the Dixie Diehards, will perform from 4 to 4:45 p.m. and the University of Massachusetts Boston Jazz Ensemble will follow.

At 5:45 p.m., local comedian Mike Petit will take the stage.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

Accent on community

Arts, history, gardening groups all part of celebration

BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

In an effort to capture a true picture of what Attleboro has to offer, the city's 100th birthday bash will highlight its community partners in a number of ways.

The organizations will be grouped in various areas throughout the park from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

The city is recreating its former Art in the Park event on the Avenue of Pin Oaks at World War I Veterans' Memorial Avenue. The area will feature the Attleboro Arts Museum, Women at Work Museum, Attleboro Indus-

trial Museum and Attleboro Jewelry Makers.

"This is the first time we've used the World War I Avenue of Pin Oaks and it's a great area," city council administrative assistant Linda Alger said. "We thought it was so important not to just display and sell work, but to demonstrate it."

The arts museum has 20 different artists working in different mediums who will be demonstrating their work in this area.

"It's going to be a whole range and it's very much a friendly opportunity for people who are in

SEE GROUPS, PAGE 18 ►



Attleboro Arts Museum Executive Director Mim Fawcett says the centennial party will be a great opportunity for the public to see artists working in different media. (Staff file photo by Martin Gavin)

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BIRTHDAY CAKE

GROUPS: Lots of variety in store

FROM PAGE 16

Capron Park to go up to a professional artist and to see them working live," Director Mim Fawcett said. "You get to ask questions and talk about their materials and their techniques, so it should be pretty engaging."

The Attleboro Historical Commission will be located at Wolfenden Fountain with a book for residents to look over to check if their home qualifies as "historical." The Attleboro Historic Preservation Society, the Daughter's of the American Revolution, the Attleboro Farmer's Market and the Masons will be in the area.

The Attleboro Garden Club, in year two of the three-year restoration of Anderson Memorial Rose Garden, will be at the garden with rose experts Mike and Angelina Chute, who have helped the club with the garden for the last two years.

The couple will be giving a presentation about the garden and the club will be updating attendees on the progress and recruiting new members.

"We're delighted with the opportunity to share with the community the work we have done in restoring the garden," Rose Committee co-chairwoman Lee Ghazil said.

Civil War re-enactors will camp and present a live re-enactment at the Civil War monument, and veterans groups will gather at the Veteran Triangle to recruit members and answer questions.

Sweet touch from AHS

Culinary arts program baking giant birthday cake for centennial

BY KASSMIN WILLIAMS
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

Attleboro High School culinary arts instructor Jeanne Shea and a group of seniors are taking on the big task of baking and decorating the city's large birthday cake for the 100th birthday celebration.

"We're donating the cake and we're thrilled to do it because the city of Attleboro has been very generous to Attleboro High School," Shea said.

The double-layered cake will be baked in two pans and will feed about 100 people, Shea said.

The bottom layer of the cake will be vanilla and the top will be chocolate. The cake will be covered in buttercream frosting.

The cake cutting is scheduled to take place at the birthday celebration after the citywide community photo, taking place behind the park adminis-

tration building at 199 County St.

Shea called Mayor Kevin Dumas "instrumental" in the program's Blue Pride Bistro, the dining area where students cook meals, bake goods and serve members of the school and public.

"They've been very supportive of the Career and Technical Education program at Attleboro High School, especially the culinary arts program," Shea said.

Due to the limited time between the start of school, Sept. 2, and the celebration, Shea said she would handle the baking portion of the cake project on her own, which includes mixing about 18 pounds of cake batter in total.

"I'll probably prepare the cake a couple of days before the kids come in. I'll make a sheet pan of chocolate cake and a sheet pan of vanilla cake



Right: A ceremonial cake marking Attleboro's 100th year as a city stands at Capron Park. (Staff photo)

SEE CAKE, PAGE 20 ►



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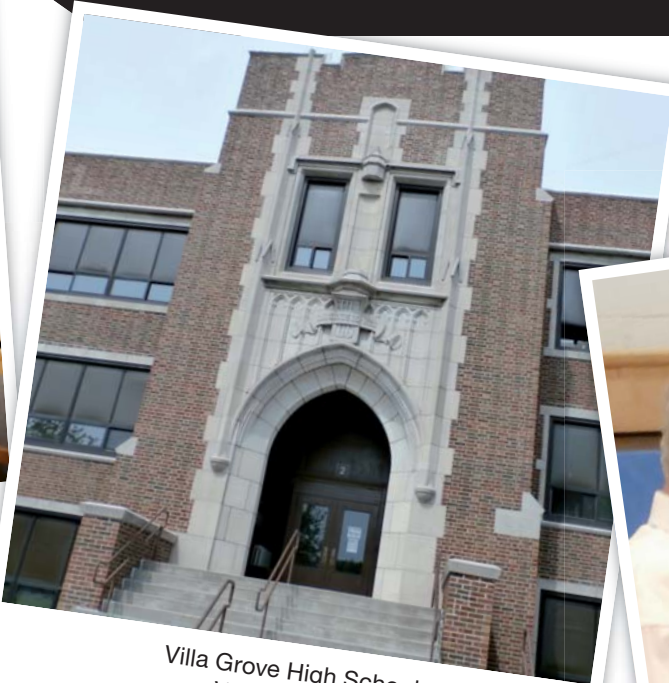


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BIRTHDAY CAKE

CAKE: Sweet tribute from AHS

FROM PAGE 18

and then I'll wrap it tight and I'll freeze it because I want it to be frozen if I have to carve it at all to get any excess," Shea said. "Then I'll crumb coat it, do a light layer of frosting when it's frozen to catch all of the crumbs, and then we can finish it off."

Shea said about 12 to 15 students will work with her to frost and decorate the cake, which will match the city's colors, royal blue with some gold, and read "Happy 100th Birthday."

The opportunity to partake in the birthday celebration through preparing the cake is viewed as a real-life lesson for students.

"It's really a teaching moment. It helps the students with everything," Shea said. "It shows them what we do professionally and teaches organization, what needs to



The AHS Culinary Arts program baked this cake for Mayor Dumas's inauguration in 2010, and is baking the centennial cake as well. (Staff file photo)

be done and how the process is. It's a great experience and they take a lot of pride in it."

The 100th birthday cake won't be the first significant cake that came from the high school's culinary arts program. Students in the program also baked the mayor's in-

auguration cake last January, Shea said. "It's a wonderful group in our culinary program. They're enthusiastic," Shea said. "They did such a super job on it so we're grateful to be able to do it because it teaches them and helps them grow in our industry."

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**MARK
FLANAGAN**

But, I was only 2 when I moved to Attleboro, too young to have formed any basis for comparison.

Immediately upon my arrival, the city — which is a far bigger thing than city government alone — would step into a special role: Call it “institutional mother.” Call it “third parent,” if you want to sidestep the gender issues. Call it

what you will, but the city of Attleboro took part, to my enduring benefit, in my upbringing.

City government, to be sure, was responsible for the biggest part of that — formal schooling from grades 1 to 12.

It was also responsible for the Attleboro Public Library, which nurtured my love of reading; the East Side and Lees Pond playgrounds, which offered summer and after-school refuges; Capron Park, where I fed the animals, ice skated and had my Easter-pictures-in-a-brand-new-suit taken.

City government was responsible for the cops on the beat who made me feel mostly safe on the streets, even if I always kept an eye out for the neighborhood bul-

lies.

But the bigger city as a whole included the privately run Little House Kindergarten, where my education began; the Lutheran church, which used to be on Union Street, where I went to Sunday school and junior choir and learned something about right and wrong; the Attleboro YMCA, which took me into its summer day camp and after-school swimming and gym programs; Boy Scout Troop 32, where I picked up a few skills and deepened a love of the outdoors; the VFW Drum & Bugle Corps, Sea Explorers and a few other organizations where I shared in At-

SEE **FLANAGAN**, PAGE 22 ►



Nydia Acevedo of Attleboro is among the many who find the quiet and beauty of the Attleboro Public Library an ideal place to get work done.

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

FROM PAGE 21

tleboro's strong sense of community.

The bigger city as a whole included storekeepers who would patiently take a boy's penny candy order, let him linger on the soda cooler, or set him straight when he got confused while doing an errand for grandma.

When you ask me what I love about Attleboro, I can give you a list of specifics from A for Attleboro Y to Z for zoo at Capron Park. But if I must narrow my answer to the one thing that I love the most about Attleboro, here it is: The city's heart.

When my Swedish immigrant grandfather and first generation Swedish-American grandmother moved here just a few years after World War I, it was as if they were entering a contract offered by the city: Come here, work hard and your needs — if not all your wants — will be met.

Attleboro upheld that implied contract with my grandparents and with their children — my mother and her two brothers, whose experiences of growing up in the city were quite like my own.

It has upheld it with me. And it has upheld that contract with my two children; their growing-up experiences were different from mine in the particulars, but not in quality.

The heart of Attleboro is not one that you would describe as "soft" and surely not as "bleeding."

As "third parent" or "institutional mother," she is a stern one, ever demanding that the chores be done before it's time to play. On this 100th anniversary of her chartering as a city, my wish would be for a renewed commitment to keep this heart beating for another century of demanding compassion.

MARK FLANAGAN is a retired Sun Chronicle editor.



Downtown Attleboro with the Balfour Riverwalk in the bottom right.

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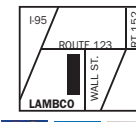
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Under the name of W. H. Riley & Son, is carried on the largest coal business in town and to it are added other lines, which make up one of the industrial features of North Attleboro. As W. H. Riley & Son, Mr. W. H. Riley and his son, E. I. Riley, commenced the business 26 years ago, and upon the death, 12 years ago, of Mr. W.H. Riley, another son, Mr. C. E. Riley, was taken into the firm and the two brothers have since continued the business under the original name. They do a large business in coal, wood, lime, cement, hair, drain pipe, fertilizers, hay and straw, and building material, and personal attention is given to furniture moving and jobbing of all kinds. In the business they find use for 12 men.

Formally incorporated in 1934, W.H. Riley's products and services have changed with the times so that fuel oil, heating and cooling equipment, diesel fuel and propane gas have replaced the coal, wood, hay and straw of 1873.

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When asked to articulate, "Why I Love Attleboro," in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the city, I reflected upon how community members might have responded to this question in September of 1914.

Without question, this city looked very different 100 years ago.

Neighborhoods now populated nightly by children at play were uninhabited woods; there were fewer schools; and the monuments to residents who sacrificed their lives so that commu-



David Murphy

nities like ours might reach their centennial were, like the names engraved on them, fewer in number.

Purportedly, it was a simpler time with fewer distractions and greater insulation between the city's population and the world's problems.

While the differences in the population, economy, and landscape of the city are pronounced, I feel a sense of irony in trying to

envision Attleboro through the eyes of a 1914 resident.

Despite the contrasts, I believe my answer to "Why I Love Attleboro" would have been the same then as it is now. What I love about Attleboro is its potential.

Attleboro should take great pride in the last 100 years for its achievements, and the challenges it withstood.

It is in light of that success that I chose my answer, but I do so while acknowledging that the formula for a city like Attleboro to reach its potential has changed signifi-

cantly since 1914. Then, the world was large enough to be thought of as inaccessible, allowing for an insular worldview that is untenable today.

The world in which Attleboro exists now is smaller, interdependent and increasingly competitive. More than ever, it is incumbent upon municipalities to understand the national and international context in which they exist.

In doing so, we should recognize the single variable, which more than any other, will distinguish communities from one another.

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

to future

er in the coming years: education.

In the 21st century, the effectiveness of all public policy endeavors — public safety, economic security, environmental conservation, downtown revitalization, and many others — will be determined by the community's commitment to education.

The quality of the Attleboro schools will have a direct impact on the quality of life available to all residents because a community's commitment to its school system is an articulation of its values. On both

a micro and macro level, we will be judged accordingly.

The potential that Attleboro now enjoys was evident this week in the hundreds of educators who returned to work, ready to prepare the city's 6,000 public school students for futures that, we hope, will be defined by opportunity and fulfillment.

They are supported by operational staff who work tirelessly to ensure our buildings are welcoming and conducive to educa-



Students walk to the first day of classes at Studley Elementary School in September 2012.
(Staff file photo by Mike George)

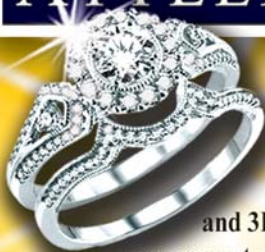
SEE MURPHY, PAGE 26 ►

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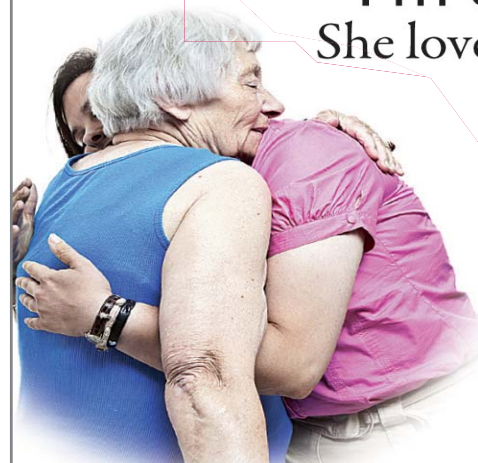
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WHY I LOVE

MURPHY: Education is key to future

FROM PAGE 25

tional progress. And importantly, they will partner with families — some with Attleboro roots predating 1914 and some who have been drawn here by the school system's well-documented and steady progress in recent years.

Realizing its full potential in its second century as a city will not be easy for Attleboro.

Some will view the school system as merely an expensive municipal department benefiting the demographic most directly connected to it. Others may jeopardize progress by perpetuating antiquated and inaccurate notions about the quality of opportunities available to Attleboro students.

But, these risks are not unique to Attleboro, and they can be offset through a community-wide recognition of the inextricable link between progress for the schools and progress for the city.



Children head to Studley School for their first day of classes in 2012.
(Staff file photo)

Citizens of the 21st century will hail from one of two types of communities, those that value education above all else and those that do not. It with this reality in mind that I choose the city's potential as my response to "Why I Love Attleboro."

DAVID MURPHY is chairman of the Attleboro School Committee.

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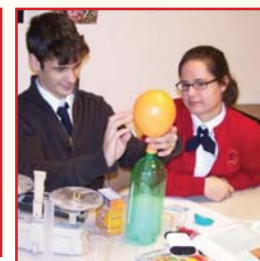


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1916
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1937
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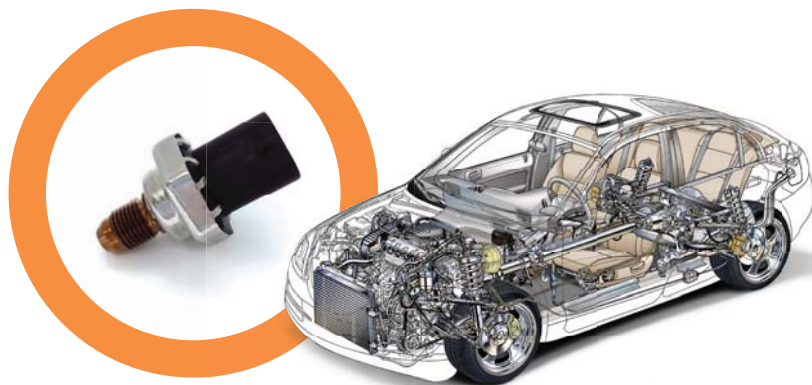
1965
Sensata begins designing and building all panel-control switches for the Apollo 11 moon mission

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

A true sense of community

If you were to talk to one of the friends I made at Bridgewater State College, they would likely recall me saying, "I love Attleboro!"

It was a phrase that I repeated hundreds of times while I was away from home and before I transferred to Bryant College as a commuter student and the reason I chuckled when Editor Mike Kirby asked me if I would write a column about why I love Attleboro.

I can honestly say I've never considered living anywhere else.

In fact, with the exception of my freshman year at Bridgewater, I've

had six different addresses — all within a 3 1/2-mile stretch from Bliss Avenue to Elizabeth Street.

It's as if the obstetrician at Sturdy Memorial Hospital replaced



Peter Gay

the umbilical cord with a bungee cord 55 years ago.

One of the main reasons I love Attleboro so much is the sense of community I've always felt.

People who have lived their entire lives in our city and others from throughout the world live as one. I've heard residents from neighboring towns describe that diversity as a negative, when the opposite is actually true.

I love meeting people who are new to our city and sometimes to our country. It certainly puts a bad day into perspective when I meet someone who has come to Attleboro after escaping political unrest or persecution in his or her homeland.

I also love Attleboro because we have a mayor. A good mayor can accomplish a great deal, and we have been blessed to have people like Kevin Dumas, Judy Robbins and others dedicate their lives to make our city a better place.



A mayor with vision and skill can get things done.

Mayor Dumas, for example, embraced the renovation of Tozier-Cassidy Field at Attleboro High School

and the project went from the planning stage to completion in a matter of months. No other community in these parts could have accomplished that feat. As a result, the home of the

ly, as well.

Former Superintendent of Schools' Pia Durkin might have rankled some feathers, but she got things done. Years from now, people will point to the work she did and the hiring of Bill Runey as the high school's principal as the turning point in our city's schools.

Growing up on Third Street and its proximity to Capron Park made it possible for my friends and I to often ride our bikes to see the animals and enjoy the playground. Although I regret not having the time to visit the park as much as I did as a child, when I do I am so proud of the beauty of the grounds and the many improvements made at the zoo. It's one of the places that make Attleboro a great place to live.

Let's not forget that Attleboro has its own hospital. I can't imagine how many lives have been saved because we have Sturdy Memorial Hospital and its skilled staff a short ride — in my case, only 1.28 miles — away.

And I can't forget Highland Country Club. Highland has been called one of the top nine-hole courses in the country, but the thing that makes the club special is the people.

It's no coincidence that the sense of community one feels in our city is also present at Highland. It's also no coincidence that our house on Berwick Road is a short par 3, less than 130 yards, away. The arches in the downtown, the Portuguese-American Club and the Elks' barbecues, Eli's Pizza, Morin's Diner, the Blackinton Inn, the Lyons Den, Locust Valley Golf Course, Bliss Brothers Dairy, the commuter rail, the many churches, LaSalette Shrine, St. John the Evangelist School, Bishop Feehan High School ... I could go on and on about our city, but I'll conclude by simply saying, "I LOVE ATTLEBORO!"

PETER GAY is the executive director of North Attleborough Community Television Inc.: North TV.

The new Tozier-Cassidy Field at Attleboro High School was completed in 100 days. Volunteers later teamed up to build the field's concession stand.

Blue Bombardiers is now a showpiece and the envy of other area schools.

When quotes for the field's concession stand and restrooms came in higher than expected, the community responded. Student-athletes, members of the school committee, school administrators, teachers, residents, skilled laborers and even the mayor have donated their Saturday mornings to make the project a reality.

Thanks to Mayor Robbins' dedication to the school system, Attleboro has some of the finest educational facilities in the area and now those schools are on the rise academical-

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

Yes, Attleboro, I DO love you

Wait, some longtime readers must be saying. Kirby is a North guy. He HATES Attleboro. Why is he writing this?

Sure, I'm a North guy — 02760 is the only zip code I've used my whole

life — but you can't spend as much time in Attleboro without loving it too.

Four of my most enjoyable years were spent at Bishop Feehan

High School.

It was the place where I first learned I had at least a little ability to write, and the faculty there nurtured it.

Friday night basketball games were fun and intense, and I always looked forward to baseball season, if for no other reason than it was great to be young and your biggest worry is to track down that long fly ball.

Most of all, many of the friendships that began on Holcott Drive



Bishop Feehan High School is where Mike Kirby made lifetime friends and where he came to love Attleboro.

continue nearly 40 years later, and I'm truly grateful for that.

For the last six years, I've been

fortunate to be a member of Highland Country Club, one of my favorite places on Earth.

I've met so many great people there, many of whom I now call friends.

The pristine beauty of the fourth hole, the challenge of the #\$\$%&*@* fifth hole and the quiet serenity of watching the sun set on the patio near the first all keep me coming back.

Most of all, though, I've called 34 South Main St., Attleboro, my place of employment for nearly 34 years, and that's not counting the more than two years before that when I worked at The Sun Chronicle as an intern and a freelancer.

As a reporter, I covered City Hall and have gotten to know every mayor from the late Tom Piggott to Kevin Dumas.

I covered the schools and learned about how deeply Attleboro's citizens care about their public education. I got to know and enjoy the city's characters.

As an editor, I've been able to witness Attleboro's evolution from manufacturing mecca to bedroom town.

Our entire staff has worked hard to provide a full, balanced view of

what's going on in Attleboro because its citizens deserve that of their newspaper.

As a columnist, I have tried to serve as a firm but fair critic of the city and its leaders, because that's what readers expect and deserve.

And just because I'm from North doesn't mean I haven't taken advantage of some of the things that make Attleboro Attleboro.

I've played golf at Locust Valley and Stone-E-Lea, not to mention pitch-and-putt in South Attleboro. I've enjoyed an ice cream cone with jimmies at Bliss Bros. and a blade meat sandwich with a draft at the old Park Tavern.

I've stretched out on the grass and had lunch at Capron Park and played softball under the lights at Hebronville Field.

So, yes, I love my hometown — but I love Attleboro too.

MIKE KIRBY is editor of The Sun Chronicle. He can be reached at 508-236-0344 or at mkirby@thesunchronicle.com.



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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

Finding a place to call home

When I arrived in Attleboro 13 years ago, someone told me a story about how the first Jewish families arrived in town. One story stood out and forever shaped my perception of this city.



Rabbi Elyse Wechterman

In 1898, at the end of the Spanish-American War, a young veteran from Boston named Max London used his discharge pay to purchase a "peddler's pack."

This was something young

men (often Jews) did from time to time to earn a living. They would buy the pack, hop on a train and try to sell all their goods in a distant town.

Max bought his pack and took what little change he had left to South Station, handed it over to the ticket window and said, "Where will this take me?"

The clerk handed him a ticket to Attleboro. Max came down, sold all his goods and returned to Boston. He purchased a pack the next week, and the week after did the same thing, earning a nice living as a traveling peddler.

Soon it was time for Max to marry, which he did, and he traded in his peddler's pack for a

horse and wagon. He and his new wife came to Attleboro with the intention of setting up a small store.

At the time, many boarding houses had signs that said "No Jews," so the young couple slept in the stable in the back of the wagon.

A woman in town, the wife of a noted doctor, heard about this and decided it would not do.

The story I heard says she took the young couple, in the middle of the night, around until they found a boarding house that would rent them a room. And so the London family came to town and opened a small store which grew into London's Department

store, Attleboro's largest retail establishment for many years.

And, I understand that the grandsons of both Max London and the doctor and his wife are still close friends today.

Fast forward about 100 years. A new rabbi comes to town, and she is embraced with the same kind of enthusiasm, support and respect that the London's experienced all those years ago.

So much so, that she is quickly invited to join in interfaith activities, to speak to other religious communities and become part of the broader religious community of Attleboro. So much so, that when the synagogue celebrates its centennial, the community turns

out in force to celebrate with it, and members of the local churches line our parade route and wave banners when we welcomed our new Torah to the congregation.

Attleboro, like all of America, has lived through its share of dark times and periods of bigotry, racism and small-mindedness.

But throughout its history, there have always been people, like that doctor's wife, like the members of the council of churches, like regular readers of my column, who have bucked those trends, reached out to others and demanded that Attleboro be a place of welcome, friendliness and appreciation for all who come through its borders.

The Jewish community has not only been "tolerated," but we have been made to feel welcome and have become part of the fabric of the entire Attleboro community, and this is why I love Attleboro.

RABBI ELYSE

WECHTERMAN, the former spiritual leader of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro, is still involved with the Attleboro interfaith group. Her columns are published monthly on The Sun Chronicle's religion pages as part of our Voices series featuring members of the area clergy. You may contact her at ewechterman@gmail.com.

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2. When was the first bandstand at Capron Park built?
3. How many elementary schools are there in Attleboro?
4. How many middle schools are there in Attleboro?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 40



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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

A place we still call home

After college and getting some experience at a couple of newspapers, I answered an ad in the back of Editor & Publisher for a reporter opening at a brand new newspaper, The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro, Mass.



NED BRISTOL

I didn't get the job, but I was a finalist. A couple months later, I got a call from Managing Editor Doug Reed. There was another opening for a full-time reporter.

I took the job, which was covering Wrentham.

My wife and I got a U-Haul and moved up from Pennsylvania. We rented a tiny house in Norfolk. After a year there, we moved to a bigger, older house in Plainville next to Heather Hill Golf Course. Before long, we had two daughters, two years apart.

Until that dramatic change in our lives, we both worked in Attleboro, Karen as a dental assistant and me mostly covering town government meetings.

I'd pick her up for lunch and we'd go to the park to have our ham and Swiss sandwiches, along with unshelled peanuts. That was

in the day when Frosty the polar bear was the signature attraction at the Capron Park Zoo.

As our girls grew up, we naturally turned to Attleboro for just about all our shopping and entertainment — entertainment being of the family variety. Highlights were Art in the Park, the fireworks at Hayward Field and the lights at LaSalette.

We got clothes at Floyd's and London's, doing most of our shopping in the London's children's department downstairs.

We bought Christmas presents at Kid's Town, did our banking at Attleboro Trust and got our shoes at Sillman's. I took



A crowd waits for a rock concert to begin at Capron Park in June 1970.



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The ability to maintain this leadership position against world-wide competition is a tribute to the contributions and resiliency of its employees, many of whom are 2nd generation employees and the history of metals expertise in the Attleboro area.

EMS would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Attleboro on reaching the 100-year milestone in 2014 (EMS will reach 100 years in 2016)!

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my film to the Camera Shop. I picked up the out-of-town newspapers at Cooper's and occasionally had lunch at Morin's.

Once in a while, I went to Tex Barry's Coney Island for a hotdog or three, with the works.

I insured the house and car at Richardson's. We bought furniture at Atherton's. I played basketball at the Y, got the car serviced at New England Tire and bought homeowner stuff at Eastern Plumbing Supply.

All these places were in downtown Attleboro. There wasn't much we couldn't do there. That was before the mall and big box stores, when a small city could prosper on its own.

Moving to the area in the early '70s turned out to suit the Bristol family well.

Inspired by the Whole Earth Catalogue (first published in 1968, the year I graduated from UConn), we turned our acre-lot into a haphazard farm with vegetable gardens, Nubian goats, runner ducks and various other an-



The Attleboro City Council in the mid 1970s. From left: Bill Crowley, Gary Wheelock, Hewitt Carlson and John Parker.

imals and pets, including at one point a dozen cats. We got our hay at Conlon & Donnelly and made fences out of pallets.

Of necessity and by inclination, I was a do-it-yourselfer. Just about every weekend I went to the hardware store and bought a new tool for some project. My specialty was trial and error. Many errors made for many trials. I can't deny that we were homebodies.

I never expected it, but I

stayed at The Sun Chronicle for the rest of my career. My assignments kept changing and that kept it interesting. After 15 years in Plainville, we moved to Wrentham.

No, I never lived in Attleboro; I just spent a lot of time there. Looking back I think I appreciate more than ever what the city offered.

NED BRISTOL is the retired editor of The Sun Chronicle.

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ATTLEBORO

LOVING ATTLEBORO

‘Standoffish?’ Not in Attleboro

BY SUSAN H.B. SINGER

We're recent transplants from Maryland's eastern shore and have heard 'Welcome to New England' with hearty sincerity uttered several times.

We've had the pleasure of living in and discovering Attleboro.

Engaging in several conversations with local folks we've noticed that not too far into it they mention — 'the way people are' here (suggesting that folks here are unfriendly).

Anyone we speak with would never actually BE one of those "Standoffish New Englanders" that we've heard about. Every one, every single person, has been helpful, engaging, interesting and friendly.

So, we have our doubts about the reputation. We have made several great friends in this town of great people.

We love all the parks and access to properties run by Attleboro and the Land Trust. There are so many chances to BE in nature right here.

In addition, there are YMCAs, numerous camps, family-friendly events and activities which provide a vehicle to mold youth into civic-minded members of the community.

Everywhere you look, community is very important here.

A few things we're still getting used to are motorists who INSIST on yielding THEIR right-of-way, which more often than not just blocks traffic and creates other issues.

The dropping and adding of Rs at the end of words still confounds us. We'd never heard of a selectman, quahog, or an excise tax.

The first time I saw chorizo on the menu I thought it was a cheese. Obtaining fresh, cheap lobster is always a good thing, and they are decidedly easier to eat than a blue crab.

One of the first questions we're asked is: 'Have you been here during winter?' followed by a hearty, 'Well you're really in for it.'

SEE TRANSPLANTS, PAGE 36 ►

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

FROM PAGE 36

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The winters can be bad in Maryland, too. It is not a tropical region.

However, up here handling the piles of snow is all in a day's work. What an awesome job Attleboro does in removal. We'd never seen a sidewalk removed of snow by what looked like a lawn mower. Fascinating.

Folks in Attleboro seem, well, more 'civilized' than where we come from in many ways.

You sure don't see a lot of public pajama wearing. Family-oriented activities and community happenings are plentiful. Attleboro is well kempt. Folks running the infrastructure are quick to respond.

The farmer's market, library, riverwalk and too many wonderful restaurants to mention have become some favorite place to go.

We're now involved in Boy Scouting, Capron Park Zoo and have a plot in the Community Garden. We've toured the Masonic Lodge, the D.A.R. building, industrial museum, Dodgeville Mill, art museum and been involved in the parades and visited the festivals.

We love it here. What a wonderful supportive community. Longtime residents owe it to themselves to uncover the gems available to them just around the corner.

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SUSAN H.B. SINGER, Attleboro



The many activities for children at the YMCA is one of the great things about living in Attleboro



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Bristow Electric working on the newly renovated Attleboro Sun building in 1964.

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

A city and its people

Its people and its history — especially when they go together — is what I like best about Attleboro.



LARRY
KESSLER

Upon the centennial of the Town of Attleborough becoming the City of Attleboro, I find myself thinking a lot about the year-long Tricentennial celebration two decades ago, and the long-lasting friendships that evolved from working with the committee as I wrote regular updates of that celebration.

Velma Cook, who was aptly named because dear Velma was the chief cook and bottle washer of the entire celebration, stayed in touch with me for years after.

The Birthday Bash co-chairwomen, Lee Ghazail and Jan Hanson, have remained active in Attleboro in different capacities.

On a personal note, they're directly responsible for my dedication to New Hope's Gourmet Guys, as they talked me into being a chef in 1994. I haven't missed year since, and can't wait to cook for the 25th anniversary event on Nov. 21.

People no longer with us also are not forgotten.

Harold Berberian, whose blood was Attleboro High School blue and blue throughout, was someone who could needle you, but who also brought a lot of good-natured laughter every time he walked into The Sun Chronicle newsroom.

Bill Hannan, a retired manag-

ing editor and columnist for The Sun Chronicle, revered history and would enjoy telling me about the Little World Series, games when Babe Ruth and other Major Leaguers played hardball in Attleboro.

And, of course, Mr. South Attleboro, Don Leedham, who died earlier this month, was a prince among men.

The spirit of the people here also should be noted.

One of the most uplifting victories in Attleboro High School history came in 1998, when just a few weeks after an unspeakable tragedy, the gas line explosion on March 4, 1998, that killed city workers Lawrence Poncin and Bernard Hewitt, the AHS basketball team fought hard and won a state championship.

So, as we celebrate a city, take



Kessler started cooking for New Hope's annual Gourmet Guys in 1994 and hasn't missed a year since.

time to savor its rich history — and be thankful for so many people — from the mayors profiled earlier this summer in The Sun Chronicle to the educators in the schools and the men and women who volunteer to make a difference through charitable events

such as Soup for HEAT, Gourmet Guys and the Relay For Life.

They're what has helped Attleboro thrive for 220 years as a town and for another 100 years as a city.

LARRY KESSLER is a news editor for The Sun Chronicle.

Happy 100th Anniversary Attleboro



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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

Blessings to Attleboro

BY MEGHAN SWEENEY

Parishioners of All Saints' Episcopal Church
LOVE ATTLEBORO because...

- ... it's a great place for families
- ... we have an enthusiastic mayor
- ... it's the home of all my friends and my beloved church
- ... people come out for parades and festivals and special events
- ... it's where I was born, graduated from AHS in 1949, enjoyed the stores downtown, and made great lasting friends.
- ... we have an amazing public school system
- ... it's the home of my church, which has from day one welcomed me and been there when I needed it
- ... there is a friend everywhere you go; you are never alone
- of Cub and Boy Scouts Troop 25

- ... of community support groups, like Al-Anon
- ... the hard work of the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee reminds us of what's important and the promise of our future
- ... it's such a warm, friendly city where everyone supports each other
- ... there's civic participation and pride
- ... we are One Family
- ... people are involved
- ... religious communities and the Attleboro Area Council of Churches care for our neighbors
- ... although a quiet city, it's full of wonderful people ready to help one another out

Many blessings upon Attleboro and its residents.
Happy 100th Birthday!
Congratulations and continuing prayers.

MEGHAN SWEENEY is the priest-in-charge at All Saints' Episcopal Church



The leadership team at All Saints Episcopal Church in Attleboro includes, from left, Deacon Ron Tibbetts and the Revs. Billie Mae Gordon and Meghan Sweeney. Sweeney is the priest-in-charge and Gordon is the pastoral associate.

Congratulations, Attleboro!



Welcome to the "over 100 club!"

Like the City of Attleboro, we've been serving residents in the local area for a long time (168 years, to be exact). Over all of these years, we have maintained an unwavering commitment to supporting our local communities. As the City celebrates its proud past, we look forward to a promising future serving the banking needs of the people, businesses and organizations that make Attleboro such a vibrant community.

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

A place to grow

I love the city of Attleboro because it is my hometown, the place where I grew up and spent the formative years of my life. Just the mention of Attleboro makes me think of home and the love of family.



THE REV. KELLY THIBEAULT

Though I no longer live in Attleboro, I will never forget the pride that I felt when my daughters, now in their 20s, first started to attend school at the brand new Thatcher Elementary School in Attleboro.

It brought back memories of the year I was in second grade and attended the brand new Hill-Roberts

School in South Attleboro.

My girls were the fourth generation of our family to at least begin their education in the Attleboro school system.

My grandmother, Alice Kingman, started it all. She graduated from Attleboro High school (which was the old Brennan School) in 1932.

She started working at the Attleboro library in 1930, making 10 cents an hour. She loved the library, and worked there for 31 years until she decided to run for public office.

Winning the election, she became the tax collector of Attleboro, where she served for 21 years.

My dad, Dave Kingman, graduated from Attleboro High School in 1960. He worked as a paperboy de-



The Rev. Kelly Thibeault remembers going to see Santa at London's department store when she was a child.

living The Sun Chronicle for many years while he was in school, then he worked for the Attleboro Public Works Department for several years.

After graduating from college, he came back to Attleboro to be a shop teacher at Brennan Middle School. He was the first shop teacher in Attleboro to allow female students in his class.

He also built houses in town as Kingman Construction, and then bought Attleboro Roofing and Construction, which he ran for many

years. Some of my favorite memories growing up in Attleboro were: going to Kidstown, where they had every toy you could ever imagine. Visiting Santa at London's Department store. Going up the creaky elevator to see my grandmother at the old City Hall on the 3rd floor over the old Federal Bank. Going to the Camera Shoppe to have our yearly pictures taken.

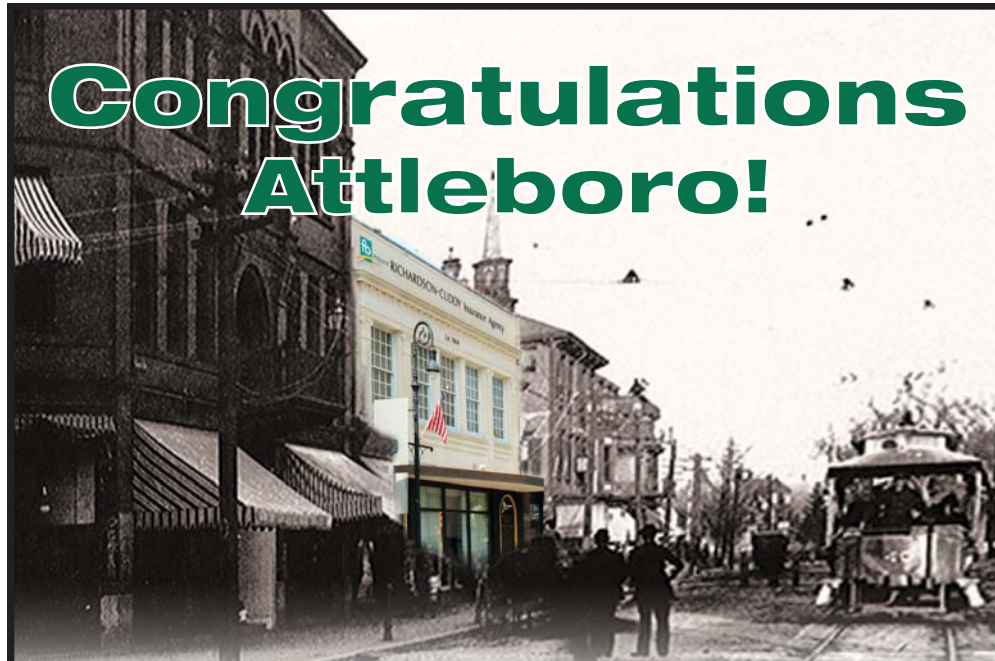
Having the bookmobile come to my neighborhood and getting to check

out books with my very own library card. Going to Tommy's Spa to buy penny candy and then to the Union Theater to see a movie. Swimming on the Bluefish Swim Team and going to the YMCA, where they always sold giant pretzels at the front desk. Going with my dad to Bob's Barber Shop to get his hair cut, but more importantly to get the scoop about what was going on in town. Shopping with my mom at Fernandes Supermarket and Mars Bargainland. And sliding down the old metal slides and swinging from the big metal rings at Capron Park while listening to the roar of the lion in the background.

Attleboro was an amazing place to grow up, and I am blessed to call it hometown.

KELLY THIBEAULT is pastor at First Congregational Church in North Attleboro.

Congratulations Attleboro!



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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

Simply stated, it is home

Asked to sum up “Why I love Attleboro” in a single thought, it could only be this simple declaration: It is home.

Whenever returning home after an extended time away from Attleboro, it’s feeling that reflexive smile which broke over my face the moment I spied the late, lamented Balfour sign. Those secular shrines to which we made pilgrimages as boys: Hayward Field and the Pine Street Armory (now Bartek Recreation Center).



THOMAS J. McAVOY

Bowling a few lines at Willy’s on a Saturday morning, followed by a quick stop at Flynn’s or Jack n’ Harry’s for a small can of Red Devil paint to put the finishing touches on the soap-box racer in the cellar.

It was the weekend go-cart races at the M&C/TI parking lot Sunday mornings.

Hometown + family & friends + time = memories of a life lived full measure — the sounds and smells of a time gone by, when we were Attleboro kids growing up.

The shuffling cadence of the painter’s palette of the fallen leaves on the sidewalk, the aroma (Yes!) of leaves burning as you took a

noontime hike with your buddies up to Hayward Field for a football game.

The three-digit blast of the fire station horn would send us scrambling to the cardboard tacked to the door of the kitchen closet to read the call box numbers for the location of the fire.

The factory whistle on Maynard Street that marked off segments in the lives of thousands of workers who were the driving wheel of Attleboro’s economic engine.

The fireworks display that annually split the sky over Capron Park and Hayward field, and the purchase and possession of our own firecrackers purchased from “one of the big guys.”

The chatter and shouts of any Little League baseball (or football) game over the years.

The military parades, kids scrambling for M-1 shells following the volley of salutes on Veterans Common on the holidays of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Yet another scramble over and under the Hayward Field fence as the playing of the national anthem temporarily had all the policemen frozen in salute.

I can say I never participated in these incursions for several reasons: I rather considered it cheating to force an officer to choose between patriotism and nabbing a 50 cent ticket scoff-

law. And, due to my fantastic mother, I never lacked half a rock for a ticket.

The sound of the sliding avalanche as a coal delivery rumbled down the chute, through the cellar window and into the coal bin.

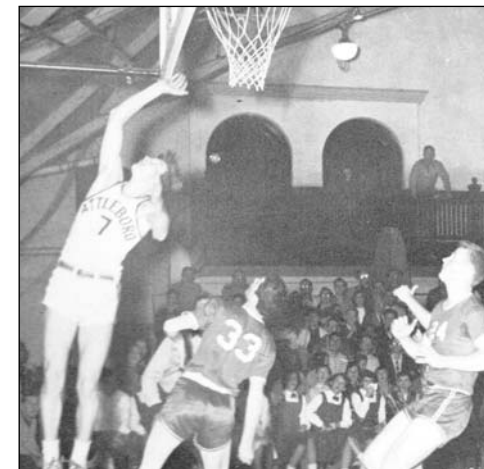
My daily friends I had to connect with each morning: Harry Smith, Devine’s milkman (the sound of his milk truck brakes heralded his early morning delivery); the ice man, who let me ride around the block with him, crunching ice chips; Pick, who delivered our mail and always had a few minutes to spend with me in conversation.

And we can’t forget the crown jewel of the city, Capron Park, and its attractions 50 years ago and more: sundown was met by the familiar roar of the King of the Park, Leo the lion and ice skating on the old duck pond on winter evenings.

On June 21, 1961, the city of Attleboro dedicated Rathbun Willard Drive, a boulevard running from Dennis Street around the new Attleboro High School, and soon, Studley Elementary School to intersect with Thacher Street.

The plaque on the gates at the Dennis Street end of the drive is inscribed: Rathbun Willard Drive — named in honor of Rathbun Willard, founder of Metals & Controls Corporation — civic leader, humanitarian and philanthropist.

At the dedication ceremonies Mayor Bren-



Attleboro students play basketball at the Armory on Pine Street in the 1970s.

nan honored Willard with some lofty praise, but he deflected any personal praise for these accomplishments, responding:

“When I went into business, I was told that Attleboro was a good site because of the high level of the people living there, and they are the source of any success. Let us remember that it is the people who staff the plants and shops, performing daily duties of running a city, who are the greatest asset to the city. Let us seek to provide these things which make for their betterment.”

Or, as a wise old sage once told me, “It’s the people, stupid!”

THOMAS McAVOY is a columnist for The Sun Chronicle.

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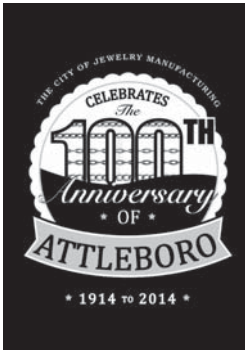
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ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUESTIONS from page 33

1. The Ten Mile River; source: The Bungay River, The Seven Mile River and several brooks.
2. 1908
3. Five: Hill-Roberts, Hyman Fine, Studley, Thacher and Willett.
4. Three: Brennan, Coelho and Wamsutta.



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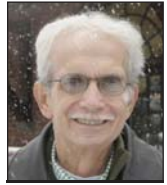
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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

Attleboro has many jewels

I have had the pleasure of calling Attleboro my home for over 65 years.

My wife Janine and I have raised our family here in this beautiful community.



TONY VIVEIROS

Our children and those in the community always had vast opportunity with the multiple recreation areas, such as ballfields for soccer, football and baseball, and tennis courts, swimming pools and golf courses.

This city has always had a lot to offer for the enjoyment of its citizens.

For instance, Attleboro has many fine museums, such as the Attleboro Arts Museum, the Woman at Work Museum, the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum,



The Attleboro Arts Museum is one of the many fine museums in the city. Here, patrons at the annual "8 Visions" exhibit.

along with others.

A great and wonderful community hospital, Sturdy Memorial Hospital, recently celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Attleboro also has a local access TV station called Double ACS, a radio sta-

tion, WRNP 1320 AM, and an excellent award-winning newspaper, The Sun Chronicle.

Centerpiece of the city

But what I consider the centerpiece of Attleboro is Capron Park.

The zoo is fully accredited, and the park grounds are enjoyed by many people: joggers, walkers, children and families having picnics, wedding ceremonies and musical concerts, just to name a few.

Whenever people ask us where we are from, we are proud to answer with Attleboro.

TONY VIVEIROS is a former Attleboro city councilor and now serves on the commission that oversees Capron Park.

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ANOTHER *100th* CELEBRATION

Happy Birthday Attleboro!

1914-2014

A 100th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect.

Attleboro, a city of passionate, hard-working, and civic-minded people, has a rich history and bright future that Sturdy Memorial Hospital is proud to be a part of. Having celebrated our own centennial just last year, we at Sturdy know the magnitude of a milestone like this.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish residents good health and happiness for the next 100 years and beyond.

And to say Happy Birthday, Attleboro.



Sincerely,

Bruce Auerbach, MD
President & Chief Executive Officer



Sturdy Memorial Hospital

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

All the city offers

Besides all the great people who constantly volunteer to help their neighbors and the city, I like Attleboro because of all the city offers.



ORESTE D'ARCONTE

From my house, I can walk — walk, mind you — to a historical inn, the Y, churches, a pond, a river, a doughnut shop, a place to see plays, the senior center, banks, the library, a literacy center, an art museum, an industrial museum, restaurants, a bus stop, schools, a commuter train station, a swimming pool, at least three parks, a zoo, parade routes, a hardware store, a drug store, a veterinarian, a massage salon, a barber and a hair stylist, a soccer field, flower shops, baseball diamonds, nature trails, several historic homes and buildings, a dance studio, and on and on.

ORESTE P. D'ARCONTE is a retired publisher of The Sun Chronicle and an Attleboro resident for more than 40 years.



There are many places within walking distance of downtown Attleboro. Here, walkers at the Balfour Riverwalk Park in 2008.

Attleboro has it all

Why do I love Attleboro? I love this city because after moving here four years ago, I immediately recognized that Attleboro has everything.



WILLIAM J. FLORENTINO

Attleboro was once the jewelry capital of the world and there are still a few gems here, including Capron Park and the zoo.

Attleboro has fantastic restaurants, wonderful museums, a thriving business community, an amazing community hospital, a recognized school system and a local government that cares about its people.

Having Sturdy Memorial Hospital right here taking care of Attleboro's residents and our surrounding communities is special to me, not only because I work at Sturdy, but because I am a patient of the hospital, as well.

Additionally, the people of Attleboro are extremely welcoming and friendly.

All this joined together makes Attleboro a top-notch city, and I am proud to call it home.

WILLIAM J. FLORENTINO is chief development officer at Sturdy Memorial Foundation Inc.



Sturdy Memorial Hospital

HAPPY 100th ANNIVERSARY ATTLEBORO

Having grown up in the restaurant business, owners Antony Canova and his wife Kimberly knew at an early age that this was what they wanted for a career.

Antony's father, Luciano Canova of Luciano's Restaurant in Wrentham, was the driving force in rejuvenating The Colonel Blackinton Inn in 2003. Luciano instilled in his son the importance of cleanliness, upkeep of the gardens and the inn and staff commitment to an exclusive dining experience.

The Inn, created from a historic landmark known as the Blackinton Double House (circa 1850), currently has 11 rooms to accommodate overnight guests and a carriage house, which holds up to 55 guests for exclusive gatherings. The historic, colonial charm provides a comfort-

able, cozy atmosphere for guests seeking a pleasant alternative to large hotels.

In the dining room almost everything is made from scratch, including sauces and dressings. The Canovas use local companies and farmers delivering fresh produce whenever possible, and all ground beef is prepared right here daily.

This past October, Antony and Kimberly celebrated their 10th anniversary as owners and they would like to thank the community for their support. The Colonel Blackinton Inn is a historical building and they feel it is an honor and an obligation to preserve its appearance and its integrity.

So whether you're coming in for a meal or an overnight stay, the Canovas will be more than happy to make you feel at home here at the Colonel Blackinton Inn.



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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

The city we love

Readers share why they adore Attleboro

The Sun Chronicle asked readers to share their reasons why they love Attleboro. From memories in Capron Park to teachers who served them well, they gave a number of reasons. Here are some of the responses:

I had never heard of Attleboro when I moved here as a young bride. How would it become “home?” What treasures lay undiscovered?

Wonderful friends and neighbors lay the foundation, active participation in our local church and schools built strong walls and then we opened the gates to take advantage the many gifts the city of Attleboro offers:

Arts and culture

The Attleboro Arts Museum with national exhibitions, local “arts for everyone,” including a four-day flower show, summer and winter

art festivals. The Industrial Museum, housing precious Attleboro historical artifacts. The architectural-ly stunning and always lively public library, a model Big Read site, with books, computers and enticing programs for all ages. Capron Park Zoo — a cherished adventure land that just keeps getting better. An award-winning newspaper whose writers are top notch and a local bookstore. How lucky are we?

Beauty

Lovely Audubon walking trails and Land Trust sites; lakes, ponds and pools, golf courses, neighborhoods glittering with lights at

Christmas time and a young, vibrant mayor who continues to beautify and improve our city. LaSalette Shrine and its retreat house provide contemplative settings and at Christmas, a Festival of Lights.

Health

It’s our rare good fortune to have Sturdy Memorial Hospital and its large cadre of extraordinary doctors at our fingertips, as well as a nationally recognized Community Visiting Nurse Association. We boast a bustling YMCA with a myriad of programs, road races and activities for all. I can access alternative therapies like massage and acupuncture,



Attleboro school department employee Thomas Bodge, left, and Jeff Badger of Badger Welding, North Attleboro, work on the Attleboro sign at Tozier-Cassidy Field.

and feast with bounty at our Farmers Market.

And more

From downtown we can hop a train to Boston or Providence and beyond; excellent restaurants abound, volunteer opportunities and service organizations create strong bonds — and I have run out of room to show you why I love the Attleboro that has become my home.

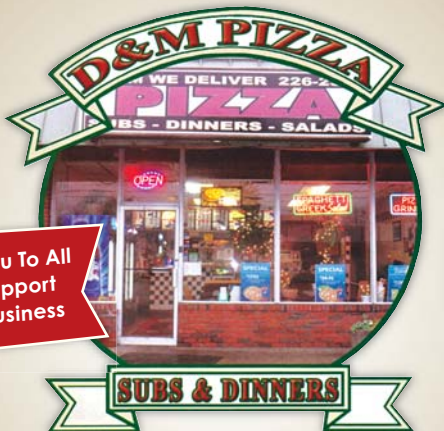
— Kathy Hickman, Attleboro

I’m a transplant many times removed. Growing up in New Bedford, Attleboro was very far away. It was a place to go once a year for LaSalette, or (through) for a pilgrimage to G. Fox at Emerald Square.

Through my adulthood, my husband and I moved from our college lives in Boston to a number of towns

SEE READERS, PAGE 45 ►

Happy 100th Anniversary Attleboro



Thank You To All
Who Support
Local Business

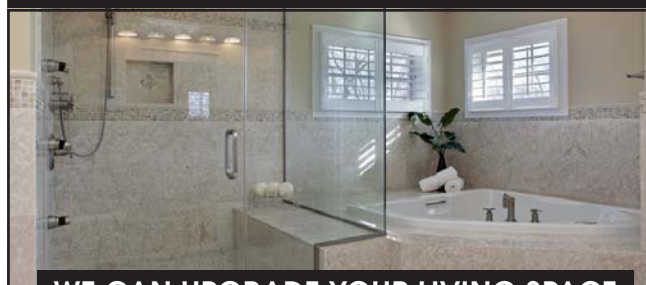
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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

FROM PAGE 44

along the commuter rail. We bought our first house in 2000 in Rhode Island, and I got a bit better acquainted with shopping on Route 1 in Attleboro (otherwise known as not really Attleboro).

It wasn't until that neighborhood started to "go south" in 2006, and we learned more about Attleboro that we settled on a house here.

Our eastern neighbor's wife had the same name as me, and our western neighbor's husband had the same moniker as mine. It seemed like we literally were in the right place.

Our son was 20 months old at the time, but he later was playing or riding bikes on our loop, safe from traffic and with trusted neighbors. It reminded me of my hometown in some ways, and I quickly felt at home.

Now, my son has worked and played at Thacher School, has learned skills and teamwork in the



Tammi Miller says she and her family have enjoyed the Kids' 4th Fun Days the city has held at Poncin Hewitt Field on the Fourth of July. Here, a bicycle parade at the event in 2013.

city's summer programs, basketball and soccer town leagues.

We've enjoyed the fun and lavish hospitality of the city at Kids' 4th Day and golf clinics, and enjoyed parades and festivals.

We feel safe and happy, and part of a city that respects and protects its residents.

Our neighbors are awesome, our son's friends true, his teachers concerned and attentive and our leaders

responsive.

I am so glad my son will count Attleboro as his true hometown, where he learned what community is all about.

After living in many Massachusetts towns, I'm glad I ended up here, as well.

— **Tammi Miller, Attleboro**

Attleboro boasts all the advantages of city living, yet has a close knit community with a small town feel.

We have an art and an industrial museum. The history in this city is impressive. Industry leaders and inventors helped shape Attleboro into the community it is today.

We have winter festivals, summer expos and LaSalette's lights.

Attleboro has one of the finest, results-oriented, compassionate group of volunteers known as Friends of Attleboro Animal Shelter.

We have a mayor that is accessible and responsive. He cares about Attleboro and gets big things done. We have a city full of leaders that get big things done.

We have active scouting and youth sports programs.

We have a beautifully manicured park and a zoo.

We are lucky to have a hospital in our city. Late-night emergency visits would be a heck of a lot worse if we had to drive to another city.

Our city is attractive with a new look to downtown, beautiful gardens and Victorian houses lining our streets.

The education our kids receive is ranked among the best on national lists. Our students shine on college applications.

I could venture to say that I am Attleboro's biggest fan, but I know this isn't true.

SEE READERS, PAGE 46 ►

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WHY I LOVE ATTLEBORO

I know this because I've witnessed the same city pride from so many others. For example, citizens coming together to build the Attleboro High School concession stand, helping find a family's lost dog like it was their own, filling the stands on Friday nights in the fall cheering on our team, helping clean the Ten Mile River, donating to the many scholarships our own Attleboro Scholarship Foundation gives the graduating seniors each year and consistent volunteering of time and talent for the good of Attleboro.

I love Attleboro and I know I'm in good company.

— **Janice McKearney, Attleboro**

Do you know what the tongueless lion on the Attleboro city seal represents? Or why Mrs. Wolfenden gave us the Capron Park fountain? Did you know that when it opened in 1963, the Capron Park Rain Forest was one of only three in the United States? I do!

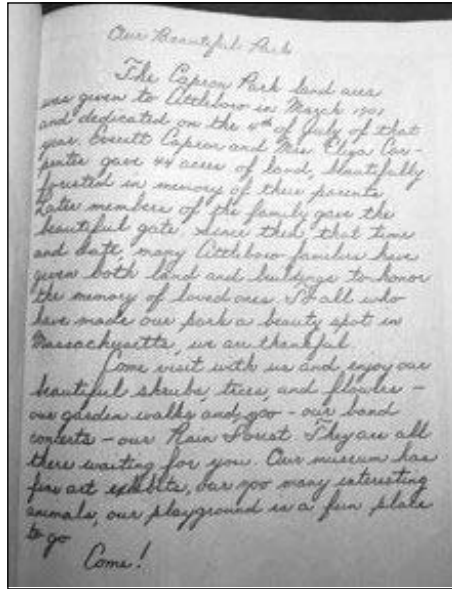
And so do you if you were lucky enough to be a student in Mrs. Alice Nimiroski's fourth-grade class at Tiffany School on Thacher Street in the 1960s.



Katheryn LaPorte Viens' booklet about Attleboro, complete with Mrs. Alice Nimiroski's essay written in cursive on Capron Park, right.

Using nothing more than a blackboard, a ditto machine, Bombardier blue construction paper, scissors and paste, Mrs. Nimiroski taught us 275 years of city history.

I still have the booklet we made together. We drew city maps, road maps and topographical maps showing Rattlesnake Hill. Mrs. Nimiroski wrote essays for us in beautiful cursive on The Jewelry City and Our Beautiful Park. We wrote essays and drew pictures of the Capron Park gate and our school.



Weeks later, after we had finished our booklets, we climbed on a school bus and took a local tour that included the Powder House and the Angle Tree Stone in North Attleboro.

Of course we learned more than history from Mrs. Nimiroski.

We learned civic pride and civic values. We learned the importance of place. We learned to be grateful for the generosity of others who in today's jargon "paid it forward."

In writing about Capron Park,

Mrs. Nimiroski said it best: "To all who have made our park a beauty spot in Massachusetts, we are thankful ... Come visit with us and enjoy ... our garden walks and zoo, our band concerts, our rain forest. They are all there waiting for you. Our museum has fine art exhibits, our zoo many interesting animals, our playground is a fun place to go. Come!"

Mrs. Nimiroski is why I love Attleboro.

— **Katheryn LaPorte Viens, Attleboro**

I was born and raised in Attleboro in the 1950s and 1960s. Although I haven't lived there in over 40 years, Attleboro is so total in my heart, and has made me the person I am today.

My memories are so many — Wednesday night gatherings uptown, ice skating at Capron Park with so many friends, great years and teachers at Attleboro High School, the superb library and so much more.

I get the paper sent to me each day and hope to move back home soon. I also miss and love the lovely Victorian homes and federal-style public buildings.

— **Catherine Young, Sagamore Beach**

When I was in elementary school in the 1950s, I used to go to Capron Park every day, weather permitting, to play on the swings and slide.

Before I went home, I visited the animals, especially Frosty the polar bear and Leo the lion. I could hear Leo roar every day from my house.

I remember going swimming in the pool and having so much fun in the water.

In the winter, I went ice skating at night with friends and bought hot chocolate at Lajack's concession stand. When it closed for the night, we walked home. I remember going shopping with my mom, buying Christmas gifts, school clothes and shoes — and sometimes, a toy.

My favorite memory is watching the fireworks when they were at Capron Park from my porch and having relatives and friends over for a cookout.

I remember going to the band concerts when they were at the shell near the playground and rollerskating in the shelter house. Before I went home, I always got a drink from the water fountain.

These are some of my memories of my childhood living in Attleboro.

— **Joanie Fontaine, Attleboro**

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The Next 100 Years

GROWTH • SUSTAINABILITY • INNOVATION

Here at the City of Attleboro,
*we take our responsibilities very seriously.
It's with vision, passion and love for the City
that we strive to improve our great community
for the people and industries that help make
this a great place to live and work in.*

The many changes and improvements over the last 100 years have served us well. As we forge ahead with projects like the Intermodal Transportation Transit Center,

Riverfront Park & River Restoration and Renaissance Station (to name a few) we are poised to position Attleboro as an even better option for people to live and work in into the next 100 years.

We'd like to thank the many patrons who volunteer their time and efforts through love and devotion to our beloved City in an effort to make this an even better place for generations to come!

It takes more than a village to make things happen. It takes vision, commitment and a city of people who care.



▲ Looking across our beautiful downtown landscaping to Attleboro Common



Attleboro High School Stadium ▲

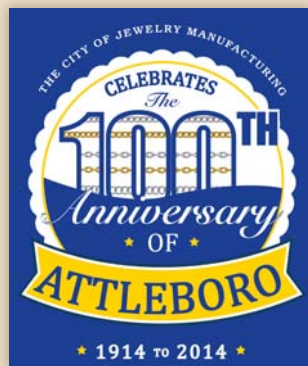
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*We Thank You All
and Look Forward
to the Next 100
Years of Challenges!*

MASTER PLAN

Future Riverfront Drive | Riverfront Park
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