



The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings on the 3rd Thursday at 6 p.m., Portside Restaurant

August 8, 2023

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

President-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Steve Di Camillo, President Elect-Open
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

The news: A new member, a speaker and an award

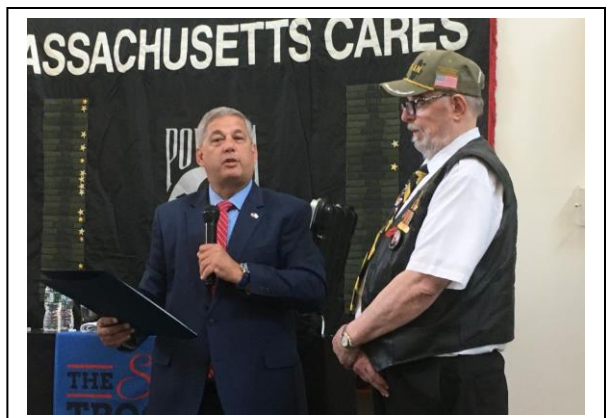
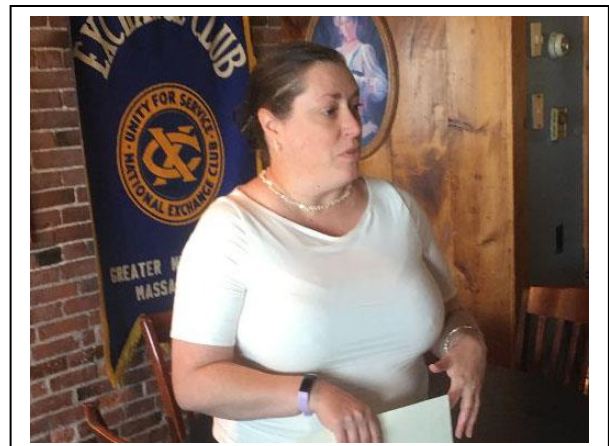
By Stuart Deane

August 1 was a busy day for the Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport. We added new member Brian Seeley of West Newbury, sponsored by Jim Noyes. We heard a speaker describe how clean new diapers can help prevent child abuse. And while all this was going on, member Dudley Farquhar was receiving an award from State Senator Bruce Tarr at the Veterans Luncheon at Hope Church, where yours truly arrived on time to witness the presentation. Meanwhile, the rest of the crew loaded our stored gear at Dugan Supply for Kids Day in the Park the following morning.

Representing the Anchor of Hope diaper bank, based in Haverhill, was Newburyport resident and former Jeopardy Champion Jill Santopietro Panall. We were alerted to this organization by new member Amanda Kelcourse.

Said Jill: "Keeping a child in unsanitary conditions, due to a lack of clean diaper supply, can increase health issues for the child and increase discomfort, both of which lead to excessive crying, which is a risk factor for child abuse.

"It's not the most obvious connection but, once you're aware of it, it makes so much sense. A parent struggling with poverty and the stress that accompanies trying to get their basic needs met, while tending to a child who is in a very needy stage of life, may be at the end of their rope already, and excessive crying can push them over the edge into unsafe behaviors such as abuse and shaking a baby. If we can help someone meet some of their basic needs and reduce their stress, their chance of parenting safely rises."







Exchange Club presents Kids Day in the Park

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport once again offered a day of fun activities with Kids Day in the Park at Atkinson Common on Wednesday, Aug. 2, during Yankee Homecoming.

Events kicked off at 10 a.m. with a judged carriage and bicycle parade around the Civil War monument. Prizes were awarded in each category for the best-decorated carriage and bicycle.

Local musician Steve Swochak conducted his usual sing-along, and the Newburyport Public Library offered an activity, as did the YWCA and Mrs. Murray's Nursery School.

Vehicles from the Newburyport Fire, Police and DPW departments were open for inspection.

The Essex County Sheriff's Department K-9 unit demonstrated the use of trained dogs in police work.

Newburyport High School art students painted faces right up to closing time at 2 p.m.

Some 300 each of complementary hamburgers and hot dogs were handed out by the club at noontime. Polar Seltzer of Worcester supplied the drinks.

Dropping in at the event were Yankee Homecoming co-chairs Jason and Jen LaCroix, Newburyport Mayor Sean Reardon and New England District President and President-Elect Jen (Cantwell) Eastman and Sarah Westcott (bottom left with new members Cam Shaut and Kishan Joseph).

Seventeen members of the club put in an appearance throughout the day, plus spouse Maria Chanin.

The very next day we were the top story on the front page of the Daily News (see next two pages).

Schedule

Aug. 15: Regular Meeting

Aug. 22: Board of Directors

Sept. 5: Regular Meeting cancelled as we will be in the midst of setting up the Field of Honor that day

Sept. 5-12: Field of Honor, with the ceremony itself on Sunday, the 10th, at noon on the Bartlet Mall

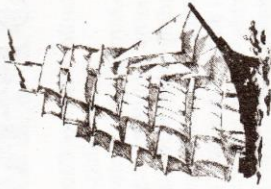


GOVERNOR PLANS TO SIGN TRANSPORTATION BILL IN AMESBURY Page A3

WEATHER

Today:
Periods of clouds
and sunshine;
High of 77.
Tonight:
Low of 66.

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Kids Day in the Park draws hundreds of families

By **MATT PETRY**
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NEWBURYPORT — With Yankee Homecoming continuing its stretch of near-perfect weather, hundreds of families flooded Atkinson Common on Wednesday for Kids Day in the Park.

The free event put on by the Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport offered face painting, cornhole, storytime, juggling and many other activities.

Children played throughout the park, with many gathering with their parents to watch the K-9 demonstration put on by the Essex County Sheriff's Department, while others explored a police car and fire trucks under the watchful eye of first responders.

Among those popping around enjoying the fun was Mayor Sean Reardon, who grew up close by and said how Kids Day was a "big deal" for him while growing up.

"It's nice to have this event still going on strong here," Reardon said.

The mayor thanked the Exchange Club for making the day special.

"The Exchange Club has been a part of this every single year. This is their event," he said. "And so they're the ones supplying the hot dogs and hamburgers for this at no charge, which is great, too. It's just so much fun."

Exchange Club President Stuart Deane explained why the club holds the event each year as part of Yankee Homecoming.

"Look at the faces of the little kids



Theo Haire, 4, and his brother, Jonas, 2, of Newburyport brought their antique fire truck to Kids Day in the Park at Atkinson Common on Wednesday.

KEITH SULLIVAN/
Staff photo

See **KIDS DAY**, Page A2



Exchange Club volunteers help out during Kids Day in the Park.

KEITH SULLIVAN/
Staff photo

KIDS DAY

■ *Continued from Page A1*

smaller kids and the parents and the interaction between them both. And we were able to tailor the demo to both crowds," he said.

Newburyport resident

Mary Elizabeth Pritchard attended with her two daughters, 3-year-old Reagan and 1-year-old Riley. Pritchard said she grew up going to Kids Day and now enjoys bringing her own children.

"We love the dog show. They are very into the face painting, which is great,"

Pritchard said. "We run into a lot of old friends and just enjoy the beautiful day outside."

She praised the city for making events such as this available to the community.

"I think that's why people who grow up here come back and want to raise their

own families here because it's just an incredible spot to raise your kids and having traditions is really important," Pritchard said.

Matt Petry covers Amesbury and Salisbury for The Daily News of Newburyport. Email him at: mpetry@northofboston.com.

