

LETTERS

EMAIL LETTERS to
editor@whitmanhanson
express.com.

THE DEADLINE is
Tuesday at noon.

EXPRESS YOURSELF!



SEND US YOUR LETTERS!

The Express welcomes all views. Preference will be given to letters from local residents or on local topics. Thank you letters will be accepted if concise. Anonymous letters or letters published in other publications will not be considered. **All letters may be edited for content or length.** Please email: editor@whitmanhansonexpress.com

Campaign announcement, election letters policy

We at the Express applaud announced candidates on your dedication to the community and invite you to submit an announcement in our paper. We have adopted a new election press release policy in the interest of fairness to all candidates. The policy is as follows:

- Candidates for office are allowed a one-time, maximum 400-word “kick off” press release, with a photo, to run free of charge. This release can be submitted any time except in the two issues prior to the election.
- Small press releases about fundraisers and community coffees can be accepted, but will run in a section of the paper marked by a “candidate’s corner” header. This applies even if we receive only one.
- Anything that is strictly a campaign/fundraising event will not be considered for the calendar. Current office holders seeking re-election who already hold open office hours can still be listed in the calendar so long as their campaign is not mentioned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- First-person letters from sitting officials or candidates may be considered as letters to the editor as long as they adhere to the existing letters to the editor policy.

- Letters to the editor should be no more than 350 words. Longer pieces may be considered as op/ed pieces at the editor’s discretion, but length may delay publication. All letters may be edited for clarity and length.

- All letters must include the letter writer’s full name (no initials), address and phone number. Only the street name (not the number) will be printed and the phone number is for verification only and will not be printed. Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be considered.

- There is no explicit rule prohibiting the same person from submitting a letter in successive weeks, but if space is at a premium repeat writers — especially if their letter is about the same subject — may not be printed.

- Letters previously printed in another publication — print or online — will not be considered.

- No election-related letters will be printed in the two issues prior to the election.

- Publication of all letters is at the editor’s discretion.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and we wish you well with your campaign.

Hanson receives Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has awarded Hanson a grant through the Sustainable Material Recovery Program.

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program works to reward cities and towns for recycling, composting and any efforts that work to increase diversion of municipal solid

waste and hazardous material from immediate disposal. The Town of Hanson will receive a grant in the amount of \$9,000.

“The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program provides increased incentives for our cities and towns to better dispose of their waste and I am pleased to see Hanson’s efforts to better protect their environ-

ment and efficiently dispose of waste being rewarded,” said state Sen. Michael D. Brady, D, Brockton.

In partnership with the executive office of Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, the Department of Environmental Protection created the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program under the Green Communities Act which works to direct portions of proceeds to recycling programs approved by MassDEP.

“The town of Hanson has made a commitment to responsible waste disposal and recycling,” said Rep. Josh Cutler, D-Duxbury. “This grant will reward Hanson for its steadfast commitment and help to spur further local initiatives to creating a more sustainable and clean South Shore”

To learn more about the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/> to see what you and your town can do to better protect the environment.

New 12-Worship service at All Saints

A new monthly “12-Step Worship Service” and Eucharist is being offered at All Saints Church in Whitman for those impacted by alcohol and drug addiction. The services are held at 7 p.m., the last Wednesday of the month, beginning Sept. 27.

Intended to be a time of hope and healing, the service welcomes people from any denomination who want to share in prayers and receive Holy Communion.

Whether in recovery, seeking help, mourning the loss of someone to addiction or sup-

porting someone you love who has addiction, the worship service uses the principals of the 12-step program within the content of worship. It is not, however, a product of or affiliated with any of the 12-step programs.

For information or details please call 781-447-6106. All Saints is located across from Whitman Town Park at 44 Park Ave.

Parking is available along the street with several spots available in the driveway for those with mobility concerns.

Life in plastic is fantastic ... or is it?

BY JULIE SULLIVAN

As South Shore Recycling Cooperative’s Recycling Education and Compliance Officer, I have been elbow deep in the recycling carts of thousands of South Shore residents on the hunt for various non-recyclable items. This journey has brought one particular set of problem material to my attention — plastic films and packaging, such as bubble wraps, air packs, and the plastic casing around bulk beverage packages.

Although recycling is a widely accepted practice of environmental and economic virtue, recycling incorrectly can wreak havoc on equipment and create hazards for sorters at materials recovery facilities (“MRFs”). Products and packaging have changed over the years, and many towns, including Hanson, mix recyclables together in a “single stream.” Our MRFs are designed to sort and sell clean paper, cardboard, bottles, jars, cans and rigid plastic containers.

While the message about “no plastic bags in the recycling” is somewhat understood, other kinds of plastic films and packaging must also be addressed because they present the same problem downstream that plastic bags do. Plastic bags get torn up and tangled in disc screens, a type of sorting machinery commonly used in MRFs. Every few hours, these disc screens get totally jammed up. MRF employees must shut down the whole facility and climb into the equipment to manually cut plastic bags and other tangles free, which poses an occupational risk for the workers.

Many of these plastic films are labeled with the chasing-arrow recycling symbol, which confuses and frustrates people who want to recycle them with their rigid plastic containers, but are told not to. However, these types of flimsy plastics are considered contaminants and can cause an entire recycling load to be rejected from the MRF and sent to the landfill.

Plastic bags, film, and packaging are recyclable — most supermarkets accept them — just not with your paper, bottles and containers. For more information on how to recycle your plastic films, bags, and wraps, visit the Recycling A-Z section of srcoop.info and click on “Plastic Film, Bags, and Wraps.”

The effort to recycle should be applauded. Recycling conserves raw materials like the trees used to make new paper, mined metal ores, and the petroleum that makes plastics and fuels the transformation of dirt and wood into products. At the end of a product’s useful life, recycling right prevents these valuable resources from ending up in landfills, where they pollute air, soil and groundwater as they degrade. According to MassDEP, recycling helps Massachusetts residents reduce their annual carbon footprint by 2 million metric tons, which equates to taking 1.6 million passenger cars off the road each year.

It costs the Town of Hanson about \$75 per ton to dispose of its trash. Recycling right costs Hanson residents and the Town less than disposing of rubbish. Recycling also supports a robust local economy - approximately 14,000 people are employed at about 2,000 recycling businesses in Massachusetts.

Over the next several weeks, friendly SSRC staff will be at the transfer station to ensure that our residents understand and comply with Hanson’s mandatory recycling regulations, and know where to take plastic bags, textiles and other discards that are still too good, or too bad, for the trash.

Nobody tries to be wasteful. To get the best results and benefits from our recycling programs, we must make it our priority to recycle right.

For more information on how to recycle right on the South Shore, visit the Town Program and Recycling A-Z sections of srcoop.info.

Julie Sullivan is the Recycling Education and Compliance Officer for the South Shore Recycling Cooperative.



BY EMERY MADDOCKS

Editor’s note: ‘Getting Real’ columnist Emery Maddocks is traveling this week. Look for his column to return to this space next week.

GETTING REAL

Free legal advice

Attorney Edward Conroy will be available to meet with elders for free 15-minute consultations at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 17 at the Hanson Senior Center. Call the center at 781-293-2683 to schedule an appointment.