

Editorial

Bright future

This week we are taking space in our newspaper to recognize students in our community who appear ready to step up and lead.

These six young adults stand out as future leaders of our community and world. They are practicing their leadership methods and learning how to successfully inspire people.

The students participate in mock governments and compete for offices in clubs and organizations. Through these programs, they will learn about themselves, figure out who they are, what their goals are and become powerful leaders in a world that is yet to be determined.

No one knows what type of future this next generation will face. But those who are coming of age now will be the ones who create and define the 21st Century. These young adults were born about 1990 and are expected to live well into the 2060s and 2070s.

To have an idea of who these young adults will become take a look at the world through their eyes. The World Wide Web was born (1992) shortly after they were, and by the time they hit middle school more than 1 billion people were connected.

For these young people, Ronald Reagan has always been a former president, the Cold War has only been part of the history books and AIDS has always existed.

Before they hit their teens, the federal building in Oklahoma City had been bombed, President Bill Clinton had been impeached, school shootings were making the news nearly every year and the World Trade Center had been attacked twice.

These facts neither make the world an easier place nor a harder place to exist, just simply a different place.

But look at these students. They represent a larger group of our future leaders both in these four towns as well as in the state and in the world.

They believe in helping others. They believe in problem solving. And they believe in succeeding. By doing all those things, they set an example worth following.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks to Westminster EMTs

To the Editor:

Friday night about 10 p.m. I received a call that my daughter had been in a sledding accident and had been knocked unconscious. I grabbed the car keys and rushed to the scene. There I found six or eight Westminster Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) hauling my daughter, strapped onto a body sled, several hundred yards through the snow. They put her into the ambulance, checked her vital signs and gave her an IV. They then drove her to the hospital in Leominster. I did not get any of their names or even thank them at the time, as I was focused on my daughter's condition. So I just want to offer a belated thanks all you Westminster EMTs for helping my daughter. I am happy to report that despite a head laceration, she seems to be doing very well. And while some residents of Westminster have been complaining lately about the increasing costs of town government, including fire and rescue services, I assure you that I am not among them, even before you saved my daughter. Thank you. Thank you.

Walter Haney
Westminster

Litter dirties town and environment

To the Editor:

There is too much litter being thrown or dropped along the edges of roads in Ashburnham. Cigarette butts have been determined through surveys elsewhere to be the greatest percentage of litter. Butts are the most polluting to the environment. Don't vehicles have ashtrays? Why are there cigarette packs and sometimes just plastic wrapping thrown on the road most every day?

There are non-winning lottery scratch tickets along the sidewalks everyday that I pass by. The Massachusetts Lottery Commission even has a second chance drawing to help alleviate this problem. Why are there beer cans and water bottles by the side of the road? And cups from Cumberland Farms? Why do people throw their receipts into the dirt outside Ashburnham Market Place? Don't people care? Litter can hurt wildlife too.

Also look at the Ashburnham General By-Laws in Chapter IX: Use of Public Ways and Places, Section 5: "No person shall place rubbish, garbage, bottles, cans, nails or any substances dangerous to persons or vehicles on any public way." I have found many nails and other metal items while walking and running along the edge of the roads in Ashburnham. At least the trails in the woods where I run most often are much cleaner.

For more information you can see the following Web sites: cigarettelitter.com and nobutts.com; massachusetts.secondchancebonuszone.com and masslottery.com/about/instantreplaytotals2006.pdf; chintiminiwildlife.org and planetark.org.

Sherisa Sterling
Ashburnham

Letters to the Editor Policy

All letters should be no more than 500 words in length, and should include the writer's name, address and phone number.

We will not publish street address, e-mail address or phone number.

Please avoid handwritten letters if at all possible.

The editor reserves the right to reject letters or edit for clarity, brevity, good taste and accuracy, and to prevent libel. No poetry, attacks on private individuals, or letter-writing campaigns, please. Due to the volume of mail, writers are asked to limit submissions to one letter every 30 days.

- The Community Journal reserves the right to refuse or hold any submission.
- All submissions become the property of The Community Journal and cannot be returned.
- Opinions expressed in letters or columns, as well as any other opinion piece are solely the opinion of that author and not necessarily the opinion of the staff or editors of The Community Journal.
- Publication of an opinion does not imply an endorsement by The Community Journal.
- Anonymous Letters to the Editor will be automatically rejected.

You can send us letters to the editor by e-mail, fax or mailing to:
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Thank you, we look forward to hearing from you.

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COMMUNITY JOURNAL QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you think there is enough types of leadership training?

Yes No There is no such thing as leadership training.

Cast your vote online at www.thecommunityjournal.com

Results of last week's question:

Did this week's snowstorm satisfy your desire for snow this season?

Yes, it was more than enough. — 100 percent

Maybe one more storm, but not more than that. — 0 percent

No, I want a lot more snow because we've been jipped so far. — 0 percent

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