

# FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

05/11/23 ISSUE DATE

We are looking forward to another spectacular Memorial Day Parade this year on Sunday, May 28. As always, the parade steps off at 1pm starting south on Route 39 North and culminates at Veterans Field where we hold a ceremony to solemnly honor those soldiers who gave their lives fighting for us in wars.

I want to thank Richard Lenihan for organizing the amazing antique cars that grace this parade. If you have a car that you'd like to show off in the parade, we'd love to have you participate. You can contact Richard at [richardlenihan1@gmail.com](mailto:richardlenihan1@gmail.com) and he can direct you further.

The Conservation Commission's Environmental Fair on the Sherman Green was a huge success last weekend. We were blessed with a lovely warm and sunny day, and people strolled around the Green learning from the various local environmental groups and stakeholders who had tables set up. There was music, a magic show, and ice cream, and a lot of good comradery between people who care about keeping Sherman the beautiful place that it is. It truly is amazing what Sherman has to offer in the way of nature. I want to thank Bill McCann and the other members of the Conservation Commission for hosting this event. I hope we do this every year.

It is "National Teacher Appreciation Week" – May 8- 12. No matter how many years go by, we all remember a teacher who stood out and made a difference in our lives. In my opinion, teaching is, arguably, the most important job in the world. And sometimes it can feel, for those in the profession, a thankless one. Teachers not only work on site during the school day, but truly take their work home with them as they grade and make lesson plans. Without education and guidance, the world is a hopeless place. But while teachers are the most important cog in the education wheel, they are often the lowest paid people in the building. This is especially true in higher education where more than 50% of college faculty are adjuncts (part-time), paid on a per-class/no-benefits status, and earn below the poverty line. (One wonders how college got so expensive with such a great deal on labor...) But I digress. Please thank your teachers this week. We are extremely fortunate to have such wonderful teachers in our Sherman School!

Speaking of teachers, our music teacher, Chris Carlone at the Sherman School along with his amazingly talented students who participate in the Jazz Band put on a remarkable show at the Sherman JCC last weekend! Kudos to everyone involved. It was also fun to see a packed auditorium with excited and involved parents. We are very lucky here in Sherman to have the outstanding school that we have and it's nice to see such appreciation for music as an extracurricular activity. The arts are important!

I am grateful that I now have an excuse to offer my wife when she tells me that the yard is looking a bit unkempt: "NO MOW MAY" Apparently, this movement is catching on. By not mowing in May we give emerging bees a better opportunity for survival as the early plant and flower growth is critical for pollination and their longevity. Seriously, and just to be clear, I'm not making fun of this movement. Bees are an acute component for our good environmental health and, if you can, leave them some grass and flowers in your yard for pollination efforts for as long as you can stand it. And even better for me, now, I'm not a yard-care slacker; I'm an environmentalist!



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN