

FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

08/31/23 ISSUE DATE

Today (Monday as I write this) marks the First Day of School at the Sherman School and I'm sure there was plenty of joy and anxiety to go around as students K thru 8 were dropped off. I had the pleasure of attending the convocation of the faculty and staff last Friday and the enthusiasm in that room was palpable and contagious. I'm so proud of our Sherman School and I look forward to another fruitful year in our children's education. Mary Ann and I are so lucky that our three children (not children anymore!) experienced a Sherman School education.

A reminder here that the busses are now on the road again delivering our precious beings to and fro, and to please be respectable and patient as they do. I don't think I need to remind the readers of this column to stop for the red flashing lights on a school bus. You would never drive past a bus, its lights flashing, stopped while picking up or dropping off children. However, some drivers, inexplicably, still do this. I'm hoping and looking into getting cameras installed on our busses to help identify drivers that break this important law.

The first town forum on the Sherman School renovation project on Wednesday August 30 will have already happened by the time you read this column. If you missed it, no worries: there are also community forums on Saturday, September 9 (10am @ the school) and on Tuesday, September 19 (7pm @ Charter Hall). These are wonderful opportunities to learn more about this project including aspects of the comprehensive renovation, reasons for the need of the project, and the implications to taxpayers. These tax implications are slated to be put in straightforward terms such as annual dollar cost per every \$100,000 of your property assessment. Of course, that requires a bit of math so it will also be in terms of annual cost for the median home market value and you can compare your property values to that. I will also offer these important figures in subsequent columns.

I am pleased to announce that JodiAnn Eure will fill a newly created position by our Parks and Recreation Commission as part-time program director. This is an effort by the Town to offer, especially Seniors, more choices in terms of programs and activities. Several outstanding people applied for this position and it was not an easy choice. We welcome JodiAnn as part of the Sherman team!

It looks like Farm Day on October 7 up at Happy Acres is growing into a large scale celebration of the continued success of that spectacular Town property. The Sherman Arts Commission will be there with Happy Acres influenced art renderings, the Scouts are planning activities, there will be pumpkin painting, tractor rides, animal petting, food, music, and general tours of the farm by our amazing farmer, David Jellen. We could actually use a few hands as volunteers to help things move along better, so if you'd like to volunteer to be a "farm hand" for an afternoon, let me know. I can promise food and fun!



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN