

The Rec is Back!



The Rockland Recreation Center, a.k.a. Flanagan Community Center, long known simply as "The Rec," is back open for kids to play, and for adults too, and not just for organized activities, but for open play and pick-up games, just like the old days.

After some years experimenting with paying the YMCA to operate the facility, the City is back in charge. And the public mission is back too, thanks to the Rec's new director, Donald Prescott.

Donald grew up in Rockland and was a regular at the Rec during his adolescence. In 2007 he got a job helping at the Rec, and he stuck with it for nine years. Now he is back as the Director, and eager to bring back the open-to-all and lots-to-do spirit that he enjoyed as a boy.

The building has many fine facilities. The Tower Room on the second floor above the entrance is a great space for meetings of all



Donald Prescott at the front desk - call him at 594-0321

kinds, with its semicircular windowed wall that dominates the front of the building on Limerock Street, right in the center of town. The game room in the basement with its ping-pong, pool, foosball, and pinball tables, and its snack and soda bar, has been closed since the Y took over, but Prescott is eager to bring it back as a great hangout for kids. And of course there is the large gym with six baskets and plenty of seating for spectators.

The gym will be the scene of an interesting event this Saturday at 7 pm. The Midcoast Sternmen, a semi-pro basketball team that is one of just 57 teams nationwide in the Professional Basketball Association, are making the Rec their home court! They will be hosting the Buffalo Blaze, who will be travelling 600 miles to play here in Rockland. Tickets are just \$10, \$7 for kids and seniors.



day at the beach
photos Ron Tesler



Blues at the Grey Owl



Bees Deluxe, a modern blues band out of Boston & London, return to Rockland to play the "Monday Blues Night" at the Grey Owl Bar & Grille, 2 Park Drive in Rockland, Monday, July 19, from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

SAVE FIREFLY FIELD Opinion by Steve Carroll

Traveling on upper Talbot Ave and Broadway you may notice beautifully painted (suitable for framing) art posters with the message “ SAVE FIREFLY FIELD”

Referring to the proposed housing development on upper Talbot that seems to be stirring quite a controversy. A group of neighbors and friends of the fireflies have embarked on a mission to derail the construction of this in-town housing project sponsored by the Midcoast Homeless Coalition and Habitat for Humanity. Their passionate pleas to “save the fireflies” are reminiscent of other such causes like “save the Whales” “Save the spotted Owl”, the trees, the frogs, and other endangered species from extinction due to development, although I don’t believe the beautiful evening illumination of the little firefly has any chance of disappearing anytime soon.



Environmental causes seem to be quite fashionable these days, so if the fireflies were displaced by a field of solar panels or wind turbines no one would say a word. In such a scenario perhaps hundreds of fireflies could perch on the solar panels and help illuminate the power grid.

In my opinion, the endangered species here is more local people looking for an “affordable” place to live and perhaps enjoy the beauty of fireflies at night. Housing especially homes the average worker can afford are at a premium nowadays and I mean “premium price”. Because Rockland is quickly becoming Greenwich Conn., housing prices have been pushed beyond the reach of most people. This project is an effort, I feel, to provide an opportunity for individuals and families even retired folks on fixed incomes to enjoy the pleasures of in-town living in a rural setting. The feelings this group have expressed are designed to stir up emotions of fear. Fear their quiet neighborhood will be destroyed by rabble, fear of uncontrolled water runoff, fear the lovely fireflies will be buried under mounds of gravel and concrete. It is an ugly picture to say the least, but after-all that is the plan to implant doubt in the public that this project should proceed.

We cannot allow a small group of NIMBY (not in my back yard) protesters to deflate a development that could provide affordable housing for more families & individuals, and the ability for those to enjoy all the benefits of living in this beautiful oceanfront community.

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The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com

WEEK SEVENTY

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE by Phyllis Merriam

Sunny weather has finally returned after much needed rainy days. Went outside to see a pair of bi-planes from the Owls Head Transportation Museum air show fly over our house in tandem. It's hard to tell whether the planes are vintage or replicas.

The good weather should make patrons of Rockland's North Atlantic Blues Festival happy. We listen to the festival on WRKD to avoid crowds and baking in the sun.

Venues that have been closed or cancelled due to Covid are now fully functioning. The exception is the annual Lobster Festival, which was cancelled again due to the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus and advance planning needed for such a large event with thousands of locals and participants from distant places.

I have mixed feelings about the lobster fest. I know it brings revenue and local high school reunions are scheduled around it. My husband, his siblings, cousins and friends all couldn't wait for the annual festival that was so much fun growing up. In his teenage years, he volunteered at the festival for a free admission. He told me he'll never forget seeing tourists trying to eat their lobster by biting the carapace; or other tourists who, without guidance, would have eaten the lobsters' vein of poop and discarded the tomalley as "poop." Lobster fest tourists are generally well behaved. But we've found cars parked on our lawn, tourists walking through our yard and lounging in lawn chairs. I'm just an old broad who has outgrown carnivals, crowds and likes the shelter and privacy of her home with her husband.

I gave the crows a left over chicken carcass to pick apart. And indeed they did with gusto. Broken Wing always arrives first and stuffs her beak with so much food she can barely get aloft to eat somewhere privately. Then she's back for more. The younger crows still attempt to get her to feed them with their pleading, hoarse vocalizations. The other day I saw a flock of crows gathered to feast on whatever they had dragged out from Snow Marine Park's garbage bins. I think they nest in a nearby spruce.

A flock of crows are actually called "a murder of crows" based on folk tales and superstitions around crows favoring carrion or when they gather, an omen of impending death. Crows are actually very social and protective of their own and are one of nature's most intelligent species that can make useful tools from sticks and such and they mate for life. They also can recognize the characteristics of humans who are safe and those who pose a danger. I seem to be one of the safe humans to them as they gather close-by as I spread out their daily breakfast.

PenBay ED has been over run with emergency patients. This always happens during summer when many visitors arrive in our mid-coast. One of them was an adult male bicyclist who couldn't navigate the RR tracks in front of our house and suffered a head injury despite an up-to-date helmet and equipment. Two ambulances and two Rockland PD cars responded quickly and transported him and his bike to the ED. Over the years, I've seen any number of cycling adults suffer the same unfortunate outcomes because they don't know you need to cross RR tracks slowly, perpendicular to the rails at a 90-degree angle. Otherwise bicycle wheels get caught in the tracks and down you go. Maybe they never had the opportunity early in their lives to own a bicycle as kids and learn to safely navigate it.

