

Clerks corner April 2018
Celebrating the 375th of Wenham

The year is 2018 and the Town of Wenham is 375 years old. There have been small events to commemorate this event since last fall; t-shirt design contest, writing contest, cocktail and silent auction evening, historic lectures and a series of articles on life in Wenham during World War II to name a few.

It is quite an accomplishment to be 375 years old and the 375th Committee has taken this to heart. We have worked hard to organize several different types of events to interest the varied population that we have here in Wenham. The “Happy Birthday Wenham” art contest is on-going. Art in any form (paintings, dioramas, photography, collages, sculpture, drawings) that identifies a place unique to Wenham captures the spirit of Wenham and/or shows excitement to be celebrating the 375th birthday are being solicited. The entries are due the first of May. More information can be found on the 375th page of www.wenhamma.gov. The judging committee will select the winners and then all entries will be part of the Town Hall’s installment during Art Grows Here 2018 in July.

On the horizon, we have a historic cemetery tour, Angels on 1A, scheduled for May 19th and a historic town meeting to take place in the First Church in Wenham on December 5th. Also this spring, the advanced placement history students will be presenting oral histories of five senior citizens whom they have interviewed and researched. We are in talks to schedule a historic tour and lecture at Gordon College this summer.

The big event, as the Committee is calling it, is the Parade and Community Day on Saturday September 8, 2018. We hope to have as many local people and organizations involved in the day as part of the parade and/or at the community day at Pingree Park. We are looking for organizations to register at <https://goo.gl/forms/z0JIFnP8N9ohLIP22> We are looking for performers, music groups, floats, marching groups, antique cars, educational booths as well as volunteers. If you want to participate in the “big event” in any way, please follow the link above or contact the Town Clerk at dbucco@wenhamma.gov for more information.

The annual town events are over and the results have been posted. Regardless of the outcome of these votes, the biggest concern is the voter turnout at both Town Meeting (11%) and Town Election (15%). We live in a community run by Town Meeting, the most direct form of democracy and we are allowing less than 20% of us to make decisions on financial matters, policies and procedures. All voters should chime in on these legislative matters and the time to chime is at Town Meeting and Election. For the benefit of our community to continue another 375 years, we can all try to make it more of a priority in our lives to be more mindful and attentive to these local events.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was first elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and has achieved the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk in 2017. For more information on the clerk’s office, please go to www.wenhamma.gov or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.