



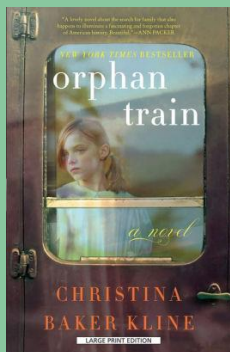
A Message from your Town Administrator

April 2019

WHO WAS FREDERICK C. ANDERSON?

Frederick Anderson grew up in Boston. As an orphan, he was taken on the Orphan Train and was selected by a farming family, ultimately growing up in Raynham. He enlisted in the Union Army, becoming part of the 18th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Army.

Pvt. Anderson captured the 27th South Carolina Infantry Regiment flag, and the flag bearer, during the Battle of Globe Tavern, earning him the Medal of Honor.



Never heard of the Orphan Train? Check out this great historical fiction novel by Christina Baker Kline, available at the Dighton Public Library!

This month, one of the most exciting things occurred. The Town of Dighton has been selected by the ancestors of Civil War Hero Frederick C. Anderson, buried in the cemetery adjacent to Dighton Community Church, to receive his Medal of Honor. We are extremely grateful to have been chosen to hold this priceless piece of history! Veterans Agent Don Hirschy, myself and Mr. Tim Rhines are planning a very special ceremony to not only recognize the receipt of this incredible piece of history. The ceremony will take place in Spring 2020. Be on the lookout for updates!

Speaking of special residents, myself and the Selectmen had the distinct pleasure of meeting Molly Barr, a boy scout and the first girl in the boy scouts to earn the Arrow of Light. Molly is certainly an inspiration and a trailblazer. It was very nice to meet her and I look forward to seeing what else she will accomplish. Congratulations on your accomplishment, Molly!



Molly is certainly an inspiration and a trailblazer. It was a pleasure meeting her!

TOWN UPDATES

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Congratulations to our newly elected officials! The Town reelected most of the elected officials whose terms were up this year. Congratulations to all who were reelected and special congratulations to Mr. Timothy Rhines, the newest member of the Planning Board. And, with a reelection, the Selectmen reorganize! Congratulations to Mr. Kenneth Pacheco who was voted Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Brett Zografos, who won reelection, will serve as Clerk. Selectman Nancy Goulart is the third member of the Board.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, JUNE 3, 2019

The Town will once again assemble together on Monday, June 3, 2019 to set the Fiscal Year 2020 budget and to discuss various items, including by law amendments and spending articles. The Warrant will be posted in mid May.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 8 and May 22 – Selectmen's Meetings

May 27 – Memorial Day, Town offices Closed

June 3 – Annual Town Meeting, DRHS Auditorium

TRAINING

Thank you to the many employees and town board/committee members that attended our Anti-harassment Training. It's never easy to block off 90 minutes during the day, but our employees made it happen to ensure that Dighton will serve as a healthy, happy workplace for all. Thank you to Mr. Jonathan Gale for his assistance in organizing the training.

DIGHTON 101

Library Director Jocelyn Tavares hosted a special event this month, Dighton 101. Public officials and local organizations attended for residents to ask their questions about what role they play in the Town. It was an open house of sorts for residents, new and long-time, to learn about services available to them and to get to know their local officials. Thank you Jocelyn for thinking of new, creative ways to engage with the public!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passports (renewal and new applications) are no longer processed at Town Hall. If you need a passport application, please call the library and make an appointment with the staff. Photos for the passports can still be taken at Town Hall – no appointment necessary.

The Board of Health's new Curbside Textile Recycling Program is underway! Pink bags have been mailed to all households. Fill this bag with textiles: clothes, blankets, stuffed animals, drapes, curtains, shoes, coats, and more. Items do not need to be in good condition. Leave your bag(s) out on trash day and receive a new pink bag to fill up later! This initiative aims to keep textiles out of household trash as items can be resold or recycled. Textiles, which can be heavy, contribute to the Town's weight for trash hauling, thus driving up the Town's costs for rubbish disposal. The benefits to the Town, outside of this being an environmentally sound initiative, are two-fold: The Town saves money by removing these items from the weight and the town receives \$20 for each ton of textiles collected.

We need your help! We have various committees with vacancies, including the Dighton Trails Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical Commission, Land Use Committee, By Law Review Committee, and the newly created Town Governance Study Committee. The Governance Study Committee will be charged with examining various aspects of our current governmental set up. The Board of Selectmen will vote in early May on a set of items for the committee to study and report back to the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation. If interested in serving, fill out a volunteer information form or email boardofselectmen@townofdighton.com. We look forward to working with you!

THE BIG CHEESE

The Big Cheese Award went to the Fire Department and Fire Chief Chris Maguy this month, making him the first employee to receive this award twice! Chief Maguy is always conscientious about his work for the Town, striving continuously to improve efficiencies and ease the flow of work to benefit the Town. He continually brings new initiatives and ideas for services. Under Chief Maguy's leadership, younger members of the department have begun training in specialized areas of work, such as fire arson investigator. Chief Maguy and EMS Director John Gauthier have also successfully launched in-house ambulance billing. Ambulance Billing Clerk Rebecca Moss has done yeoman's work in creating a process and protocol for such work which has already yielded great results. The Chief is also rolling out promotional appointments, restoring a command structure. Last but not least, members of the department are reaching out to other town departments. They are teaching a training program for Town Hall employees called "Stop the Bleed" so that we would be able to react in an emergency to help someone in need. The Department is also working closely with the Police Department to place Alice Training kits in each police cruiser. Thank you to Chief Maguy and the Fire Department for thinking of the whole town in emergency preparedness and first response. We have a great group of personnel and I'm excited for what will come out of this department next.

