



Maple Shade Messenger

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A Free Local Publication from Main Street Maple Shade, Inc.

Main Street at a glance..

Givnish Funeral Home

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Givnish Funeral Home Evolves Anew

Thomas Givnish and family have a long history in the funeral home business going back to the 1920's. Tom's father had six children and all of them remain in the family business to this day, running funeral homes in various locations in the Delaware Valley. He and his brother Michael run their current locations along with their daughter/managers Maureen and Megan. Whew, talk about all in the family!

The Givnish commitment to

the community of Maple Shade has been long and mutually rewarding. They sponsor multiple community organizations, churches and youth athletic teams in our township. Having what some might rightfully call an "anchor" location along our Main Street, Givnish has always maintained a dignified presence in the neighborhood. To use Tom's own words, "You can't be in a community and just take - it's not fair. Your business includes what you can give back." So it is little

wonder why Tom is currently the president-elect of the Maple Shade Rotary.

Ask Tom, "What's new now?" and the answer may surprise you. The well-known practice of families sticking with the same funeral home for many generations has now been completely transformed. While the expense of a funeral has remained relatively the same, customers are now much more open to jumping to different funeral providers to find what they want.

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The Maple Shade Police Chaplains Association is here to help



Pastor Vince McDonald, "We are there to help the police do their jobs while we deal with folks in difficult situations."

The Maple Shade Police Chaplains Program (MSPCA) is modeled on a statewide initiative started by Rev. Gary Holden, which was founded to be "a partnership with various faith-based leaders of a community to respond and assist police and other law enforcement agencies providing an overall better quality to the citizens of cities and communities."

According to the statewide program's website, its intent is that "by having the Police and Clergy working together during times of crisis or incidents, a more comprehensive response will be given to those in need."

While the State chaplain program has been in existence for many years, Maple Shade's Chaplain organization was formed just a year ago. Though fairly

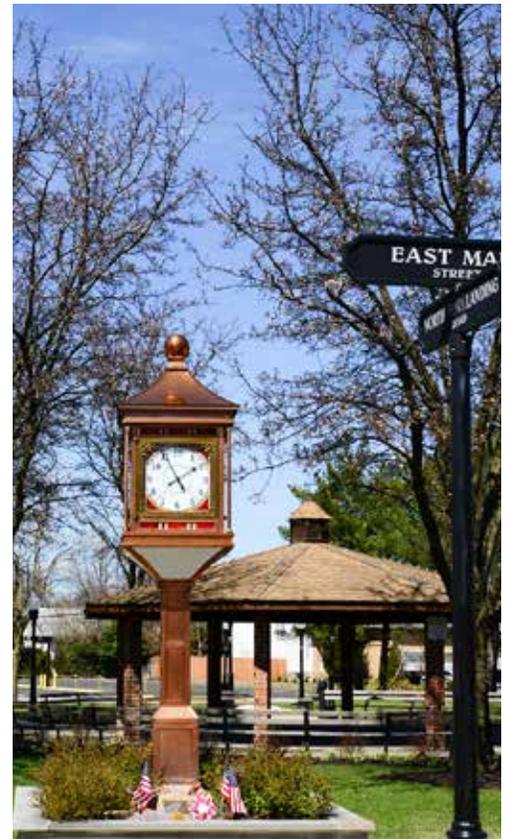
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The commemoration is still desired, but when it comes to the type of memorial they want and how they want loved ones laid to rest, new customers are now willing to do some shopping. A decade ago, 70% of a funeral home's business was from returning same-families, but not anymore. Family allegiance no longer applies in the funeral business.

Which now leads to a rather rare happening in the funeral biz. While most funeral homes are resold or handed down to the next owner, the Givnish family is building a brand **new** funeral home over in Marlton. And Tom is quick to explain that there will be nothing inside his locations that people typically identify with the inside of a funeral home. The usual scheme of heavy drapes and large, iconic religious symbols are gone. The décor is lighter and includes amenities like coffee and tea. "There will be nothing that gives away the fact that you are in a funeral home until the funeral is actually happening."

A licensed funeral director must always be involved, but Tom admits that people generally want to spend as little time as possible inside a typical funeral home. They tend to be dark and depressing, and that view is hurting the industry. So before people start taking all their remembrance celebrations to stylish coffee shops or country clubs, Givnish is making those changes at their locations right now.

To paraphrase Tom, "By changing the public's attitude of where a life celebration can and should be held, we are enabling people to feel comfortable in staying at our home to host that celebratory experience."



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new, already it has been an enormous help to many Maple Shade residents.

Examples of this important work includes comforting senior citizens after a nursing home fire, consoling survivors of people who have lost loved ones, and even accompanying police officers who have the enormously difficult task of notifying families of their family member's unexpected death.

Members of the MSPCA also attended a school drill in which the Police Department instructed students and teachers about how to react in a terrorist attack. According to MSPCA Vice President and Maple Shade Police Captain Chris Fletcher, one of the teachers who had experienced an assault years earlier suffered a bout of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder during the drill, and having the chaplains there to counsel her was "invaluable."

MSPCA chaplains go through extensive training so that they are prepared to work with the police department. In fact, Captain Fletcher is teaching advanced chaplain training this month on a county-wide basis. Captain Fletcher says that all of Maple Shade's chaplains are scheduled to attend this training, and he is expecting between 100 and 110 participants.

Although the MSPCA has members representing almost every faith practiced in town, only one member is on call at any given time, and town people in need may find themselves being consoled by a minister of a different faith than theirs. But the goal of the MSPCA is not to bring religion to a person in need, according to President Pastor Vincent McDonald, it is to bring comfort.

Captain Fletcher says that chaplains have been called on to do a variety of tasks, including disaster counselling and even crowd control. In one situation a chaplain was asked to go into a crowd of angry residents and convince them not to resort to violence. Chaplain said, "He understood their anger but that he would not allow them to make the situation worse by starting a fight." Fletcher said, "Within minutes the crowd dispersed."

With luck Maple Shade will never have to deal with a situation like that one, but rest assured that the Police Department and the MSPCA are prepared if there any kind of crisis. Not only does the town have the best police protection, but now it has trained, compassionate counsellors as well.



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Shader Shouts

APRIL 2017

Maple Shade Advisory Board Meeting

12:00 Noon

APR 06

Autism Walk and Baseball Game

Steinhauer School, (at High School)

APR 11



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Maple Shade Fire Department

We are asking that any residents that have solar panels on their home, please email the Fire Marshal at firemarshal@mapleshadefiredept.com with the address and exact location of the panels.

We are updating our response grids and knowing this information in advance helps us tremendously. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter!



In-person registration for the Fall 2017 Soccer League will be

Wed: April 26th, 6-8 pm or
Sat: May 6th, 11-1 pm

at the Main Street Clubhouse
Or register online anytime
before June 15th. Info at:
www.mapleshadesoccer.net



Main Street Maple Shade is working on final plans for a Food Truck night! We expect to have all details ready in the coming days. Watch our Facebook page for the date, time and a list of trucks that will participate!

“All I’m askin’ is for a little respect.” – Otis Redding, as sung by Aretha Franklin.

“I think we can all agree that the world is different today than it was a year ago. Twelve months ago there was division in our country, but I don’t think anyone would disagree that the political discourse has gone from bad to worse in a very short time. We are polarized to an extent never seen in most of our lifetimes.

What has changed? Why is there a sense that the differences between us are not capable of being bridged?

In this writer’s opinion, the issue is that the old-fashioned notion that we should treat each other with basic human dignity and respect is rapidly fading away.

Think about it: Trump derides the man appointed by President George W. Bush to the federal bench in Washington State as a “so-called” Judge. Clinton calls Trump supporters “a basket of deplorables.”

Those are just two obvious examples of many instances where our political leaders speak of fellow human beings as if they are not deserving of our respect.

One way in which the world has not changed is that none of us is 100% right or 100% wrong. Even

the person that you disagree with most in life occasionally has a good idea that you can agree with. And even if you cannot agree with anything that someone else says or does, that person is still a person who deserves to be treated with courtesy, not disdain.

In my observations, most people I encounter still adhere to this most basic human instinct to be kind and considerate to those around them, even if they do not agree with them. But I am finding that more and more people are becoming emboldened to lash out at others as being undeserving of our understanding or, again, respect.

On Facebook, you can find many examples of otherwise intelligent people calling members of the opposition party “criminals,” “liars,” and “thieves.” Is it because they don’t have to say these things to the face of the person they are insulting that it is easy to dismiss the other half of the country’s population?

Even in our local lives, it is becoming more common to find people behaving as if the people they feel to be “wrong” are not worthy of respect. Certain organizations ignore the work that others do

and simply act as if their views are unimportant. Volunteers are told what they can and cannot do by members of other organizations who have no authority to dictate to them. People unselfishly giving of their time are labeled publicly as incompetent, even though we all share the same goals and objectives. Where has our basic human concern for others gone?

If we are to make our world a better place, we must reverse this trend. Respect for others, even if we disagree with them, is essential to preserving our way of life as Americans. How to fix this? It will not happen through protests or marches.

It will only happen through one-on-one interaction. The next time you hear someone gratuitously speak badly of another person or group of people, don’t be afraid to say, “that’s uncalled for. Please have some respect.” If enough of us speak up, who knows how the world might change? We need that change here and now, both for our nation and for our community.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Sing it Aretha!