

## Medfield Cultural Council Chair Jean Mineo's remarks to Medfield Town Meeting

Thank you Mr. Moderator. I'm Jean Mineo, Chairman of the Medfield Cultural Council. The MASS Cultural Council provides the funding for the local cultural councils in every community in MA. Medfield – like many other towns - gets the minimum amount allowable which is determined by a formula applied to every town based on population, median income, and other factors. These funds are held in the town account, are monitored by town personnel, and are provided as reimbursements to applicants only after they meet established criteria.

The Medfield Council is run by volunteers, appointed by the Selectmen so all of our funding from the state goes to support programs in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. We fund only programs that happen in Medfield, for the benefit of our residents and to attract visitors.

We know there's a positive return when you invest in culture because “Unlike most industries, cultural programs leverage a significant amount of event-related spending by their audiences. For example, when patrons attend a play or concert, they may buy dinner nearby or pay a babysitter. This spending generates dependable, sustainable commerce for local businesses. It also brings life to our streets and highlights our assets whether living or historic - and these are the things that make Medfield special and different from other towns.

The MA Cultural Council funds are the only state monies flowing to Medfield for cultural programs. And we are only able to support about 25% of the requests that we've received over the past few years – it's a highly competitive program and there are significant, unmet needs. Especially when you consider that 2/3 of Medfield's cultural organizations are run by volunteers, this support is critical and it funds the programs, not staff.

The request for \$4,250 comes out to about 35 cents a person and it will allow us to double our support for more programs to town like Medfield Farmer's Market, Dwight Derby House, concerts in the schools and elsewhere in town, Vine Lake Cemetery, Woodland Theater, Zullo Gallery, Gazebo Players, Jazz Night. We are asking residents to invest their 35 cents in culture in Medfield and vote in favor of Article 29.

Town Meeting: April 28, 2014

Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money and determine in what manner said sum shall be raised, to provide funding to the Medfield Cultural Council to enable it to expend funds' for public purposes including but not limited to organizing, presenting, sponsoring and supporting artistic and cultural exhibitions, performances and events and to authorize the Medfield Cultural Council to contract with individuals and organizations for any of said purposes and to create a new Town account with a separate line item in the Town's annual operating budget to reflect this vote, or do or act anything in relation thereto.

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen