



# NORTH ANDOVER CITIZEN

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(c. 2,827)



Mary Ellen Osgood, left, Tina Messina, Kay Olenio and Irene O'Brien stand for a picture in the parking lot next to the original quilts from which the new plaza banners are designed.

WICKED LOCAL PHOTO BY MARK TEIWES

## New banners bring North Andover's history to light at downtown shopping

Banners depicting a dozen historic scenes from North Andover's storied past — including "Dizzy Bridge" and "Glennie's Milk Wagon" — were unveiled at First & Main Marketplace last Thursday as part of the continued revitalization of the shopping center and downtown.

The banners, which measure 4-by-5-feet, are replicas of handcrafted quilt squares made by past and present members of the North Andover Council on Aging's Senior Center, dating back to the early 1990s. A ceremony was held in the shopping center parking lot before local officials, family members, senior citizens and others.

"These banners represent the lifeblood of the town of North Andover," said Tina Messina, a principal for NA Realty Group Inc., which owns First & Main Marketplace. "We felt there was no better way to showcase North Andover than through the priceless scenes on these banners."

In addition to Dizzy Bridge and Glennie's Milk Wagon, the other banners show North Andover's first mill on Sutton Street, the General Store in the Old Center, Hardcourt Barn, the Hay Scales, a prototypical mill worker, Mrs. Coolidge's cows, a typical town farmyard, North Parish Church, Parson Barnard House and the Boston & Maine Warehouse.

Longtime North Andover resident Amy Olenio, who turns 99 on Aug. 6, created two banners: Glennie's Milk Wagon and North Andover Farmyard. The Glennie family closed their milk business in 1978, nearly 88 years to the day the business started. Meanwhile, the farmyard scene harkens back to a

more rural North Andover, complete with large hay barns near rolling meadows.

"North Andover belongs to me and I belong to North Andover," said Olenio in summing up her feelings about the town.

Olenio is a well-known local artist and has created many drawings and artwork that grace town facilities. Olenio's sketch of North Andover's Stevens Memorial Library, for instance, appears on town library cards.

Mary Ellen Osgood, a retired history teacher from North Andover High School, edited passages for a booklet that bears the images and descriptions of the banners. The booklet is called "Impressions of North Andover."

Osgood is especially fond of the town.

"I don't think there can be a better place to make a life and to raise a family than North Andover," said Osgood. "The town has grown but it still retains that small-town, community feeling."

The unveiling of the banners came five weeks after the Messina family announced the completion and renaming of the shopping center. The Messinas spent nearly \$7 million on the newly constructed 52,000-square-foot shopping center, which was last overhauled in 1985.

"The continued efforts of the Messina family in redefining and beautifying the downtown is much appreciated," said North Andover Town Manager Mark Rees prior to the event. "With the unveiling of these spectacular banners from North Andover's past, residents will have an even deeper connection to the town and all it has to offer."