

# Community

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## The band plays on

The Music Revitalization Project the last few years has been supporting the Attleboro Summer Band Program. **LEFT:** Maggie Oliver, 14, of Attleboro, plays the flute during the program-ending concert at Capron Park in Attleboro. **ABOVE:** Denise Laferriere conducts the concert.



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## Sounds of summer

Alyson Roberts plays the mellophone during the finale to Attleboro's Summer Band Program — a concert at Capron Park. The concert is among the activities supported by the Music Revitalization Project to promote interest in music in local communities.

## ► MUSIC: Group nurtures interest by students, adults

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And, over the years, Doreen has provided an extra bit of help to many students."

The MRP also supports young musicians through its Student Scholarship Program and its Music Lending Library, which supports both adults and children in their music endeavors.

As part of the Student Scholarship Program, the MRP, every spring, awards a minimum of \$250 in music scholarship to a graduating high school senior from the Southeastern Massachusetts or Rhode Island area who will be pursuing a college degree in a music-related field.

Noting that it is very difficult to pick only one winner from all the applicants, however, Rolince says, "Our goal for the future is to be able to increase the amount and the number of awards."

One of the factors considered in selecting a scholarship winner is the student's school transcript, although Rolince notes that it is not the most important factor.

"In choosing a winner, it is not always the student with the highest grades," Rolince said. "An enthusiastic, well-written essay and good recommendations are major factors in the selection process."

The Music Lending Library is a collection of sheet music that MRP is continually expanding both through its own purchases and through donations.

The music available in the lending library is offered free of charge to any area band, community or scholastic organization, within a 50-mile radius of Norton.

In addition to the Summer Band Program, organizations such as the Metropolitan Wind Symphony and the Southeastern Massachusetts Wind Symphony have made use of the lending library.

The MRP also purchases new scores for organizations that are unable to buy the music for themselves, and then lends it to them.

"Our lending library is meant to provide a variety of music at a wide range of levels to music directors in schools and in community bands," Rolince said. "Music scores can be expensive and are often dropped from school budgets for that reason. The MRP lending library is there to fill the gap."

In further carrying out the group's mission, Rolince notes that there are several other ways the MRP hopes to keep music alive in the area.

For one thing, he says the MRP encourages collaboration with other groups on music related events and would like to be part of a venue for summer concerts or festivals.

# For love of music

## Revitalization Project nurtures area musicians

BY JANETTE SEARS  
SUN CHRONICLE STAFF

The Music Revitalization Project has had a simple, but overriding, goal for the past decade: "Keeping music alive in our communities."

"The MRP is an organization that was created in 1995 to encourage and nurture the art of music performance and study to youth and adults alike at a time when our society places more importance, and resources, on the quantitative and technical aspects of our lives," said Dave Rolince, the president of the Music Revitalization Project.

Most recently, the MRP focused its efforts on the younger musicians of the area by providing support for the Attleboro Summer Band Program, as it has done for the past few years.

The band is made up of area students in grades 4 and up, and is sponsored by the Attleboro YMCA. As the grand finale of the band program each year, the students perform in a concert, which was partially funded this year by the Attleboro Cultural Council.

"The MRP's primary role in the summer band program at Capron Park is to work with the conductor and help provide the music selections for the series," Rolince said. "These can be scores we already have in our library, or new selections that we purchase for the season, then hold in the library for use by other music organizations."

In addition to providing music selections, Doreen Velmer, secretary and treasurer of MRP, who is also a local music teacher, plays bass clarinet in the band and assists the young musicians, who include her 15-year-old daughter Natalie

**'I realized that first year what an important program this was, as I knew firsthand that there was little, if any, opportunity for young musicians to get band experience outside of school.'**

Music Revitalization Project secretary and treasurer Doreen Velmer



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Robert Coolidge, 12, of Rehoboth, plays the clarinet during the summer program's concert.

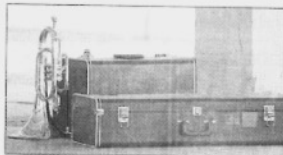
## Music Revitalization Project

**PURPOSE:** To keep concert band music alive in the Southeastern New England area.

**MEETINGS:** The group encourages interested individuals to attend one of its regular meetings, held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of every month, or its annual meeting, held on the second Monday of October at a time to be determined.

**LENDING LIBRARY:** This is a collection of more than 800 concert band, orchestra, and brass quintet sheet music scores, offered free to any area band, community or scholastic organization, within a 50-mile radius of Norton. A list of selections can be viewed at [www.musicrevitalizationproject.org/library.html](http://www.musicrevitalizationproject.org/library.html).

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** Scholarship applications are mailed out to area school guidance and music departments in March or April. Applications also can be requested via e-mail at [mro\\_0rg@comcast.net](mailto:mro_0rg@comcast.net) or downloaded via the MRP Web site. Completed applications must be received by MRP no later than May 31.



**DONATIONS:** To contribute musical instruments or music to the project, call 508-226-6897. Tax-deductible cash donations can be mailed to the Music Revitalization Project, P.O. Box 709, Norton, MA 02766.

**INSTRUCTORS:** An instructor list is being compiled of area musicians who offer lessons in wind instrumentation. Call 508-226-6897 for more information.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Call Dave Rolince at 508-226-6897 or visit [www.musicrevitalizationproject.org](http://www.musicrevitalizationproject.org).

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The summer band plays at Capron Park.