



**Provincetown Board of Selectmen**  
**AGENDA ACTION REQUEST**  
**May 29, 2007**

**5C**

## Proclamation Declaration

Josephine C. Del Deo Day, June 14, 2007

**Requested by:**

**BOLT, Library Director, Town Clerk, 5/22/07**

**Action Sought: Proclamation declaration**

### Proposed Motion(s)

MOVE that the Board of Selectmen vote to declare June 14, 2007 as Josephine C. Del Deo Day in recognition of her dedication to recognizing and celebrating Provincetown's heritage, and her tireless contributions to the preservation of Provincetown's history for nearly half a century.

### Additional Information

See attached request from the Board of Library Trustees, Library Director, and the Town Clerk. Draft text of the proclamation provided. Proclamation to be prepared by Shankpainter Printing for the Selectmen's signatures should request be approved. Proclamation will be incorporated into June 14, 2007 Heritage Day celebration to be held at the Provincetown Public Library, 356 Commercial Street.

### Board Action

<i>Motion</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>In favor</i>	<i>Opposed</i>	<i>Disposition</i>

# Memo

**To:** Sharon Lynn, Town Manager

**From:** Board of Library Trustees, Debra DeJonker-Berry, Library Director, Doug Johnstone, Town Clerk

**cc:** Vernon Porter, Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

**Date:** 5/22/2007

**Re:** Proclamation Request

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The Provincetown Public Library will be hosting the second annual Heritage Day celebration on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at 11:30 am. Last year the event focused on the Rose Dorothea and the Lipton Cup. This year the focus will be on the importance of preserving Provincetown's history, and highlighting local efforts in this regard. This celebration of the Town's incorporation on June 14, 1727 and the Town's unique heritage is an excellent opportunity to honor the work of Josephine Del Deo and her contributions to the preservation of Provincetown's history for nearly half a century.

Examples of Josephine's commitment to Provincetown's heritage include active membership on the Emergency Committee for the Preservation of Province Lands; completion of lengthy and detailed Massachusetts Historic District inventories; key documents leading to the establishment of the Provincetown Historic District, and writing many books, articles and documentaries on Provincetown history including the historical property narratives and descriptions in the Provincetown Historic District Studies, *Beginnings: the History of the Fine Arts Work Center, 1964-1969*, *Compass Grass Anthology: A Collection of Provincetown Portraits and Figures in a Landscape: The Life and Times of the American Painter, Ross Moffett, 1888-1971*.

Josephine was responsible for not only the Town acquisition and National Register Listing of the building that presently houses the Provincetown Public Library, but also for the Preservation Deed Restriction that will protect this property in the future.

She continues to offer her valuable time and extensive expertise as a volunteer to the Town, especially her generous help in working with the volunteers of the Provincetown History Preservation Project, a volunteer-driven, grass roots community effort to scan, digitize and document the paper and photographic material from the Provincetown Heritage Collection so that this rich historical information can be available to all via the Internet.

Indeed, without Josephine's perseverance in founding the Heritage Museum in the 1970's and becoming a tireless advocate for the preservation of significant

documents related to the Town's history, there would be no Library at 357 Commercial Street, no half model of the Rose Dorothea, and no History Preservation Project in it's current incarnation, for those documents would likely be forever lost and/or destroyed.

We respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen proclaim June 14, 2007 as Josephine C. Del Deo Day, to honor her stewardship of the Town's history and community life. A draft of the text for the proclamation is provided for revision as needed. The approved text will than be provided to Shankpainter Printing, who will prepare the Proclamation for the Selectmen's signatures, should they approve this request.

Thank you.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007

JOSEPHINE C. DEL DEO DAY

in the Town of Provincetown

# Draft Text for Proclamation

WHEREAS, the heritage of Provincetown, incorporated in 1727 as a community governed by the rule of law, can be traced back to the Mayflower Compact which was signed here by the Pilgrims and Strangers who first set foot in the New World in Provincetown Nov 11, 1620; and

WHEREAS, the heritage of Provincetown has been magnified and enhanced by the contributions of succeeding immigrants who, in turn, embraced those who followed, thereby creating a rich diversity of human endeavor, culture and community life; and

WHEREAS, the heritage of Provincetown has benefited from the dedication and devotion of individuals who recognized its value to this community and the nation and sought to preserve the record of this heritage for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Josephine C. Del Deo had the vision to fight for a home for the records and artifacts of Provincetown's heritage worthy of their historic value and significance to succeeding generations, and in the process of finding a home for Provincetown's heritage, preserved the 'crown jewel of Provincetown's skyline, the 1860 Methodist Center Church, and brought it almost single-handedly into the perpetual ownership and stewardship of the people of Provincetown; and

WHEREAS, Josephine C. Del Deo has volunteered her time and expertise to the Provincetown History Preservation Project, dedicated to the creation a digital library and searchable website housing significant historical information in the Town's care, and thereby becoming known as the 'Rosetta Stone' of said Provincetown History Preservation Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, to honor this steward of the Town's history and community life, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Provincetown does hereby proclaim

**THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2007**

as

**JOSEPHINE C. DEL DEO DAY**  
*in the Town of Provincetown.*

In witness whereof, we hereunto set our hands and cause the seal of Provincetown to be affixed on this twenty-ninth day May, in the year 2007.

# PROVINCETOWN ADVOCATE

Vol. CIV, No. 22, 15 Cents

The Outer Cape Newspaper for 104 Years

Thursday, July 5, 1973

## Mr. Chrysler Says: 'Tear It Down'

By William M. Kutik

Walter P. Chrysler is planning to tear down the former United Methodist Church on Commercial Street in Provincetown that once housed his art museum.

Chrysler called his building contractor in North Truro last week and said that when he gets his household goods out of the nineteenth-century structure he wants it torn down. No date has been set for demolition.

The Provincetown Selectmen two weeks ago refused to grant a prospective buyer a liquor license to open a bar-and-restaurant complex in the old museum after the neighbors objected.

The conditional sales agreement that William "Sonny" Tobin, a New York City bar owner, had with Chrysler depended on the license being granted. Tobin's attorney John Snow said the sale has been cancelled.

Contractor Sebastian E. Rose emphasized in an interview that the demolition order is tentative and that no definite starting time has been set.

"I've worked for Walter Chrysler for 14 or 15 years," Rose said, "and he could change his mind in 14 minutes. A lot of things could happen. Someone could make him an offer tomorrow. But I do have the go-ahead tentative on a couple of items."

Rose said demolition could not start until the fall as summer crowds make it impossible to bring cranes onto the site.

Other buyers are interested in the property. Realtor Ruslyn Garfield said that she had several but no offer has been accepted yet.

None of her clients, she added, is interested in tearing down the building. Real estate broker John Quinn, who was handling the sale to Tobin, said another buyer has made an offer. Quinn said he was startled to hear of Chrysler's plans.

"It's not good business sense to tear it down," Quinn said. "The building goes right up to the property lines on two sides. Any new building would have to be set back from the boundaries, losing a lot of valuable footage."

Attempts to contact Chrysler at his new art museum in Norfolk, Virginia, were unsuccessful. His secretary said he could not be reached for comment.



An aerial view of the former United Methodist Church on Commercial Street back when Walter P. Chrysler housed his art collection there. Attorney John Snow calls it "a jewel in the crown of our waterfront." Now Chrysler wants to tear it down.

## CELEBRATE HERITAGE DAY 2007

See some of the digitized images and articles  
from the Heritage Collection

Learn about the work of  
the Provincetown History Project volunteers

Join us as we honor Josephine Del Deo

Thursday, June 14th, 2007 11:30 AM

PROVINCETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

You are cordially invited  
to the  
Celebration of  
Provincetown Heritage Day  
at the  
Provincetown Public Library  
356 Commercial Street

Thursday, June 14th, 2007  
11:30 AM

Join us as we celebrate, honor  
and take possession  
of our Heritage.

Reception follows

Supporters of the  
Provincetown Public Library  
356 Commercial Street  
Provincetown, MA 02657  
(508)487-7094  
[www.ptownlib.com](http://www.ptownlib.com)

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