

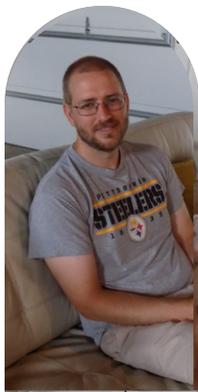
#ReconnectTuesdays



Hello,

MY NAME
IS
ANDREW
SHARP.

I am a Freelance
Journalist, former
owner of the Delaware
Independent



#ReconnectTuesdays

*with Andrew, former owner of
the Delaware Independent*

What do you love about Greenwood?

This is gonna sound weird but I love the way it's kinda stayed the same for years. I know a lot of people like to see booming growth and change. I'm not saying I'm opposed to that I certainly like all the things that growth has brought but I can still drive down this main street and it feels a lot like the trip did when I was a kid. There's a lot going on here though it's not like it's a small town where it seems like it's stuck and people are kind of just wanting to be somewhere else. It doesn't feel like that here I mean there's Tamburellis, we've got Amity, we've got plans for this new diner that's coming in. I just sometimes marvel at how much a town this size has. It's still very rural here, that's one thing I enjoy about western Sussex, not just Greenwood in particular, that it's also got that rural feel with woods and fields.



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*with Andrew, former owner
of the Delaware Independent*

What makes Greenwood a good home?

This is coming from someone who lives right outside Greenwood so I have to give you my impressions from outside town but I think that sense of community where it's a small community and you can know a lot of the people. You could live here and just anonymously blend in, but if you want to plug into the community you can do that and learn to know a lot of the people. I think that's cool, nothing against bigger size communities. I've lived in a city I enjoyed the city but there is really something to be said for being able to get to know people and if you do fall on hard times and you need something your neighbors can pick you up. Again I think there's a lot going on here for a town this size with all the restaurants and businesses and, not to kiss up but the Library, you've got a really nice library here. I don't think we should take that for granted.



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If you had the ability to make any improvement to the town, what would it be?

Well, that's a good question. Just wave a magic wand and poof? Better communication. Ya know I think we saw that with the whole Pitstop thing where there got to be a lot of gossip going around. People can in a sense have too good of a communication but not the right kind. I think people being willing to talk and meet with each other more and give each other grace. I see signs of that certainly, like making an effort to really push the farmers market and get out the town newsletter. More of that, I don't know what shape it would take.

There certainly is strong community here, like the fire department, we obviously have a strong community built up around that. I would say finding more ways to do that, where we have people coming together. There are a lot of businesses and you certainly can meet people for breakfast. But more, always a fan of more community. You've got the VFW, I don't want to insult anyone and say that this is not being done, but I don't think more would hurt.

Build that sense of community and get people connecting, and just talking. Building that sense of neighborliness and wanting to be on the same side, the same team.



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of the Delaware Independent*

*What is your current job or hobby? We're librarians so we'd love to know,
does reading enhance this job/hobby?*

Reading definitely enhances my job, I am a big reader. I'm a writer. Right now I'm a soon to be unemployed writer. I'm looking to get into freelancing. I'm not sure what, that could be anything at this point. If another newspaper came calling with a good offer, I'm listening, but the plan is to keep being a writer. I'd like to find freelance writing work. The thing that really drives me is writing. I love the news, I love journalism. I love both writing it and reading it. A good long form read is the New Yorker, I'm a big fan. It might sound snooty but the New Yorker has really solid journalism, just good stuff, well written about people and places. Reading helps with that, that's one of the biggest things I'd recommend to young writers is just read, read, read.



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of the Delaware Independent*

What are you reading?

I've been on an Agatha Christie kick for the last 3 months. I had never read her, and now I'm just reading one after the other. I know it's not highbrow but it's just great relaxation reading. You can just sit down, unplug and get in another world.

What formats do you prefer? (ebook, newspaper, magazines, etc)

I mostly read ebooks, I have the Libby app on my phone and I read a ton of books on there. The New Yorker is an exception I like to read the actual magazine for that. I think phone is an underestimated way to read, desktop is hard because it's so wide it's not a natural reading experience. Your phone actually condenses that down to be very similar to a page.

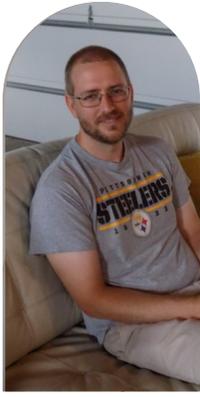


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*with Andrew, former owner
of the Delaware Independent*

Do you have a favorite book or series?

These questions always stump me, I don't know if I do. I have authors that I love, but there's so many of them I'm not good at picking out one and saying, "this is the top." I really like some of Ray Bradbury's work, like The Martian Chronicles and some of those, wouldn't say they're my favorite. They're like meat and drink, solid writing that makes you go "wow!" I wouldn't say I have a favorite specific author but just Science Fiction in general. It's held up as poplit and not taken seriously by serious writers but it tackles some of the biggest questions in life and does it in a way that's incredibly entertaining. There are trashy scifi novels but there are a ton more that are high-quality. Sci-fi is where it's at for writing that's both good and entertaining. Unfortunately a lot of really good writers today have decided that entertainment is like a cheap thing, they don't wanna be entertaining that's "for the masses", they want to write the next great American novel but it's just gonna be really hard to get through.



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What was your favorite childhood book?

Winnie the Pooh, the original books by A.A. Milne. My mom read us those, and recorded it, so we could listen to it over and over, which was brilliant of her. We just loved it.

What actor would play you in a movie?

Keep in mind I've been an actor in homemade movies and we sort of look alike. I mean obviously you, right? I have no idea, the contingency as Jeeves would say, is a remote one.

If you wrote a memoir, and you should, what would the title be?

"Working for nothing" or "2 kids, a dog and a pretty nice house: The riveting Andrew Sharp story", If you want something darker, there's always, "They said it couldn't be done, and they were right" or "Watching a loved one die: My front row seat for the demise of local journalism".



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Do you have any ideas for how Greenwood could be a stronger and more connected community?

Nothing specific, I'm kinda sad to see some of the civic organizations have sort of become...like people connect through social media, and they feel like that's connected but it's this sort of counterfeit connectedness. I feel like civic organizations that are sort of old fashioned are dying out, the moose lodges and whatever, and I feel like those are critical for rural communities. So I don't have a specific idea but I would like to see some kind of civic organization in town where people really meet face to face and I would like to see people quit social media. Send each other letters instead, and email, email's easy. Send a personal message, historians doing research on this generation are gonna have almost nothing. I think social media has impoverished our community and our records.
