



Buoyed Among The Branches

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

“The creative adult is the child who has survived.”

The source of that quote is hard to pin down, but many of us can likely call to mind some-one it suits.

Natick’s Jason Cheeseman-Meyer might qualify.

Recall the story of the fictional Swiss Family Robinson, that 19th-century clan stranded on a deserted island when their ship is wrecked. The Robinsons

built a home (and a life) out of the flotsam and jetsam of their doomed vessel, and whatever else they could glean from their envi-

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A Refuge For Reading

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

It seems a summer of seeking refuge.

June meant refuge from the rain, and July from the heat. That was weather, then there was the weird. Smoke migrated south from burning forests in Canada, creating acute air quality conditions that rivaled the world’s worst.

In such times, setting aside or finding affirmative sanctuaries is a good strategy for somewhat balancing the scales. That’s been one aim of Natick’s “outdoor reading rooms” this summer.

The project is in part a nod to the Morse Institute Library’s 150th anniversary, which the community is currently celebrating.

Natick has long been a faithful patron of local art, said Jane Ellen Newman, but the library sought with this project to branch out a bit beyond the town’s borders. She is Community Relations Coordinator for the Morse Institute Library, and worked to bring the project to fruition.

Funding (\$10,000) came from a grant provided by the New England Foundation for the Arts,

part of the “Making it Public” art initiative. That gift was matched by Natick’s Cognex Corporation.

“The grant opportunity was really great,” said Newman.

Natick commissioned three installations in the town, imagined, designed and built by local creatives. The aim was that each “encourages people to gather and read a book,” said Newman.

“Summer reading is really a staple for public libraries. It’s really a collaboration.”

To that end, students of Framingham’s Keefe Technical School were chosen as one group of creatives charged with bringing an outdoor reading room to life. Theirs is entitled “POP!” and is located on the grounds of Natick’s Cole Center. Graphic novels and the “limitlessness of space” inspired the room, and is the work of Keefe Tech students involved in design and communications, carpentry and metal fabrication studies.

Located on the lawn of the Morse Institute Library itself is “Under the Trees,” a reading room created by artist Paul

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ronment.

The family sought to salvage some semblance of civilization from their situation. They repurposed the ribs and rigging of their dashed ship, transplanting the components from sea to tree. The result, as the story goes, was an elevated refuge woven among the trunks and boughs.

Disney capitalized on (and greatly embellished) the legend, building vast tree houses in its theme parks that visitors could explore for hours. The attractions featured many intricate levels and ornate rooms, all interconnected by a crisscrossing web of rope bridges.

The Robinson's story was one of resourcefulness, of seeking to build a home in the wilderness with what they had at hand. Like the Robinsons, Cheeseman-Meyer and his family built a haven among the trees from a salvaged boat.

But the Natick family's aim was the opposite. They built their fort among the fauna not as an oasis of civilization on some de-

serted island, but as a sanctuary of simplicity amidst the trappings of suburbia.

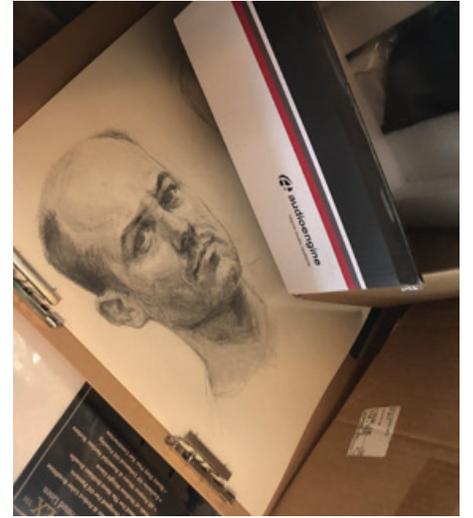
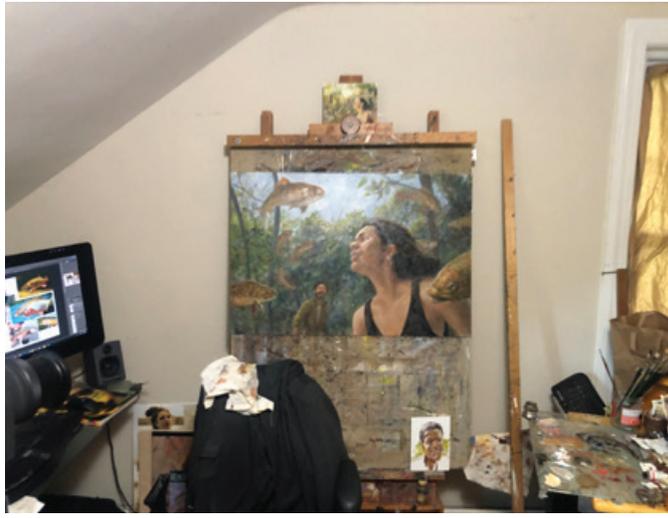
Jason Cheeseman-Meyer is an artist, and such a shelter can be conducive to creativity. He has been teaching at Natick's Walnut Hill School for the Arts for nearly 6 years, currently as an adjunct professor.

His art can be found in unlikely places around town – adorning the bricked façade along Adams Street, for example. That piece depicts a fish-out-of-water theme, a recurring subject in Cheeseman-Meyer's art.

To any sharp set of eyes passing on Oak Street below, his boat sanctuary would likely seem a restoration project. That assumption wouldn't be too far off the mark.

The wooden vessel was among the "kit boats" popular during the middle of last century. They would arrive via mail order, and require assembly by would-be lake and seafarers. Owing to that and the wooden boat's age, Cheeseman-Meyer's new aquatic acquisition was in need of some TLC.

He acquired it for free from an acquaintance, someone who had given up trying to restore the boat



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to some semblance of its former water-worthy self. Too expensive an enterprise, Cheeseman-Meyer had been told.

Yet for the Natick artist's purposes, the wizened wooden craft served just fine. He ran the idea by his wife, happy to find that she did not torpedo the plan out of hand.

"I come up with crazy ideas like this on a weekly basis," he said. "So, I was amazed she said yes to this."

Cheeseman-Meyer soon fastened some lumber between tall trees on the slope behind his house, and with some helping hands and a block and tackle hoisted the boat to its current resting place below the branches.

In the heat of summer, a high and dense canopy of trees saturates the boat in shade. The ample greenery on three sides also acts as somewhat of a sanctuary from the sounds of civilization, most notably the humming of motorists below. The artist says the area is ten degrees cooler than any spot around.

Those conditions also bring

biting bugs, hence a can of insect repellent located in the boat's stern section. That's where a wooden ladder leads up from the steep hill that the Cheeseman-Meyer family might consider their backyard. Their home sits high atop that hill, overlooking Oak Street below.



The family's "tree boat," as the artist calls it, was a pandemic project – built during the shutdowns a few years ago. When most everyone was in the same boat of Covid closures and restrictions, the family's tree-borne vessel served as an engaging outdoor gathering space for family and friends.

"I've been meaning to build a tree house for the kids for ages," said the artist. Though the craft's stern is a just a few ladder rungs from the ground, sitting inside imparts an authentic tree-fort

experience. The level boat's bow overlooks the hill's downward slope, giving forward-looking occupants the impression of sailing through the high trees.

A waterproof tarp serves as a shelter, draped over a stretch of lumber fastened between trees lengthwise of and above the boat.

It slants down past the vessel's edges, acting as an overhang against the weather.

The artist uses the boat now and then as a fort of solitude when sketching or working on other art projects. Cheeseman-Meyer's full-time creative workspace sits behind a high window in the family's house, offering a view through lofty branches and of the boat far below.

That home studio is the quintessential artist's space, crowded wall-to-with easels, art supplies, and many canvasses in various stages of progress. Cheeseman-Meyer is currently at the helm of several works of art, the pieces patiently awaiting his return to the teeming studio.

"I've got a couple of paintings going," said the artist. "Happy to be at the easel with them."

READING

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Belenky. His is a nature-themed cubicle beneath the shade of boughs, carved stumps serving



as seats, its "walls" comprised of overlarge artificial leaves.

Natick's Deborah Tuck Wirtz created the third reading room, entitled "Empower," and featuring statements, quotes and missives from community members. The installation's centerpiece is a giant open book whose surface is made of astroturf, an apt homage to outdoor reading.

"This program allowed us to

see how art can be expanded," said Newman. She and the Morse Institute Library partnered with Natick's sustainability office, headed by Jillian Wilson-Martin, to make the project happen. Natick's Recreation and Parks

Department was also integral to the undertaking, as the installations were cited on town property.

The theme, or prompt, given to creators of each outdoor reading room, was to "find your voice."

"Reading is really a great way of finding that," said Newman. "We are all charged with finding our voice."

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Family Promise Metrowest Receives \$20,000 Grant from Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation to Keep Families Safely Housed

Family Promise Metrowest (FPM) has received a \$20,000 grant awarded by the Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation to increase the number of families served in its LIFE homelessness prevention program.

The LIFE program (Local Initiative for Family Empowerment) was established in 2017 in response to an increase in families requesting shelter that were not yet homeless but facing imminent eviction. For families facing eviction, the LIFE program provides subsidies to pay off rent in arrears and advocates with landlords to resolve the crisis. Families then participate in individualized coaching for up to one year to work on their budgets and other goals that address the root causes of their housing instability. For families

that have already lost their housing but not yet entered shelter, FPM pays security deposits or broker fees to help them secure new housing quickly and avoid shelter entry. The shelter diversion service also includes coach-

ing support as families transition into a new home. In both scenarios, an average expense of less than \$2,000 paired with goal-oriented coaching keeps a family safely housed, enables children to remain in their schools and daycares, and prevents a wide range of negative impacts for parents and children alike. This support can completely change the trajectory of a family's life. Simply put, preventing home loss is the most compassionate and cost-effective solution to family homelessness.

Although the urgency of

in less trauma for the children involved. Without the support of Middlesex Savings Bank and other community partners, we could not possibly keep up with the demand for our services."

To learn more about the

About the Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation

The Foundation was established in 2000 to help carry out the philanthropic mission of Middlesex Savings Bank. The Foundation has provided more than \$15 million in grants to local nonprofit organizations, supporting services and programs in a wide variety of fields, including education and basic human services. Since the inception of the Foundation, Middlesex Savings Bank has funded the endowment with over \$27 million in contributions. More information is available at <https://www.middlesexbank.com/about-us/community-support/middlesex-savings-charitable-foundation>.

About Middlesex Savings Bank

Middlesex Savings Bank, founded in 1835 and headquartered in Natick, MA, is one of the largest mutual banks in Massachusetts with over \$6 billion in assets. The bank has been committed to providing outstanding value in consumer banking and business banking products for more than 185 years. The FDIC insured bank has more than 30 offices located in 28 communities—Acton, Ashland, Bedford, Bellingham, Boxborough, Concord, Framingham, Franklin, Groton, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Littleton, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Reading, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Walpole, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough and Westford. For more information, please visit www.middlesexbank.com, and connect on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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The housing turmoil triggered by the COVID pandemic drastically heightened the need for the eviction prevention and re-housing services offered by the LIFE program. In response, FPM increased its housing subsidy budget to serve more families; raised the cap on sub-

sidies for security deposits; supplemented food budgets; and sought additional funding for parents to pursue education or training to increase their income. Although the urgency of the pandemic has abated, the growth in the LIFE program has not. Many families are still recovering financially from pandemic impacts, and their instability has only been compounded by inflation, making critical life expenses such as food, gasoline, and utilities more expensive than ever. Families that had just started to stabilize are slipping backward again. Family enrollment in the LIFE program has grown by 88% in numbers served over the last three years and is on track to double in 2023.

"The LIFE program keeps children and families stably housed by preventing homelessness," says Danielle Conti, FPM's Executive Director. "This solution is not only more cost-effective to the communities and families we serve, but also results

LIFE program, other Family Promise Metrowest programs, and how to become involved or donate, please visit www.familypromisemetrowest.org or email info@familypromisemetrowest.org.

Founded in 2008, Family Promise Metrowest (FPM) offers a spectrum of services to families that are facing housing instability and homelessness. From a family shelter based in Natick Center to a homelessness prevention program that serves families across the region, FPM has grown exponentially in recent years, now helping close to 100 families per year access stable housing, sustainable employment, affordable childcare, and educational opportunities. By partnering with local businesses, congregations, foundations, schools, and dedicated volunteers, FPM is creating real solutions to the housing crisis facing families.

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Greenleaf Landscaping – The One Stop Shop For All Your Outdoor Needs

BY LINDA CHUSS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“We work with clients to create a customized outdoor living space that fits their lifestyle so they can enjoy quality time with family and friends,” said Chris Hopkins, co-founder of Greenleaf Landscaping. A lifelong MetroWest resident, Hopkins brings his 30 years of experience in the industry to Greenleaf. He started as a boy, gardening alongside his mother in his hometown of Wayland. One of his first jobs was for a friend mowing lawns and spreading mulch. Hopkins eventually started his own business when he bought a truck for plowing and went door to door to sign on 28 clients the first year. Realizing how much he enjoyed working outdoors, he stuck with the career and over time, hired employees, took on a partner, expanded into other facets, and built a successful business.

After his first partner moved on, Hopkins teamed up with Roger Martin to form Greenleaf Landscaping. Hopkins and Martin had first known each other as friends. They share similar interests and values when it comes to business. Roger was working on a home renovation project when he asked Chris to bid on a masonry



project and a business relationship was formed. In the spring of 2023, they founded Greenleaf.

Greenleaf offers a broad range of services, from lawn mowing, property maintenance, irrigation, tree work, plant preservation, to snow removal. The company sets itself apart by also performing hardscaping – paver pool decks, stone walls, patios, and walkways. They also build and expand decks and install pergolas and accent lighting – things that really beautify a yard and welcome people to spend time with friends and family. “People have been saying they



Chris Hopkins and Roger Martin recently partnered up to form Greenleaf Landscaping, bringing their combined 60 years of experience in landscaping, hardscaping, and construction

don’t need to go away to relax or have a good time when they have a nice pool or deck in their backyard,” said Hopkins. “So instead of going on vacations, people are investing in improving their outdoor living space. It’s been a more recent trend.

“Roger’s background in construction is especially helpful with the building aspects of the work and with coordinating the projects from conception to completion. It’s great having a partner to bounce ideas off of and make decisions with.”

Because Greenleaf is a full-service provider for outdoor living

spaces, clients don’t have to worry about all the things that need to be coordinated. “For example,” said Hopkins, “before installing the pool deck, outdoor kitchen, or pool house, we start with all the work that can’t be seen such as drainage, electrical, and plumbing. As another example, people will focus on selecting pavers or natural stone they like but we also make sure they have the appropriate base material so the final product lasts for years to come.

“Even for the basic maintenance, having expertise that comes from years in the business provides a real benefit. We make

sure their irrigation is adjusted properly for the time of year. We discourage excessive watering through automatic sprinklers, which is especially important in the hot months. Deep root growth is essential for the long-term health of turf and plants. By avoiding frequent, shallow watering, root development increases, and reduces water consumption. In the fall, we provide core aeration to allow water and fertilizer to penetrate and keep the grass healthy.”

As client Jack Fuller of Natick said, “Greenleaf was professional and had great communication throughout the project, and the results speak for themselves! Our landscaping has been the envy of the neighborhood.”

“We really enjoy serving the community,” said Hopkins. “My wife, Dre Rossi, and her family are from Natick, so we know the town and the area well.”

To talk with Greenleaf about your landscaping and hardscaping needs, email MyGreenleafLandscaper@gmail.com or call 508-358-4231.

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Metro Credit Union Announces 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Metro Credit Union, the largest state-chartered credit union in Massachusetts, announced today that 19 students have been selected as 2023 Metro Scholarship recipients to further their education in the 2023-2024 academic year.

Each year, Metro provides financial support to local high school seniors who meet eligibility requirements. To apply for a scholarship, students must be Metro Credit Union members or have a parent or guardian who is a member, have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and plan to enroll in an accredited undergraduate or vocational-technical program in the upcoming school year. Selected scholarship recipients receive \$1,000 to be used toward their tuition and education expenses.

“We are proud to offer scholarship funding to help students continue their education,” said Robert Cashman, President and CEO of Metro Credit Union. “It brings us great joy to see young

members in our surrounding communities who are committed to advancing their education. Based on their outstanding high school accomplishments, we’re confident that the students benefiting from this year’s scholarships will continue to further achieve personal and academic success.”

Nineteen Metro Scholarship recipients were selected this year based on academic record, demonstrated leadership, work experience, a statement of educational and career goals and objectives, unusual personal or family circumstances, and an online recommendation. The 2023 recipients include:

Sydney Glickman, Natick
Lyla Sneed, Natick

Additionally, Metro awarded scholarship money to local students through the following initiatives:

Peabody Veterans Memorial High School—graduating seniors employed at Metro’s Peabody

branch during the 2022-2023 academic year were each awarded \$500 to contribute toward their education.

Lynn Hispanic Scholarship Fund – Metro contributed toward this fund designed to provide annual scholarships to graduating high school students in Lynn who are of Latino and/or Hispanic ancestry.

Cooperative Credit Union Association (CCUA) Scholarship Program – Metro member Johanna Castillo Mejia was selected as the CCUA recipient for the Metro-Boston Chapter. She has received \$1,500 to use toward her education next year.

Metro is proud of this year’s scholarship recipients and wishes them well as they head off to many great colleges in the fall, including Boston University, Drew University, Mount Holyoke College, Northeastern University, St. Anselm College, Union College, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, University of San Diego, University of Wisconsin



Sydney Glickman, left and Lyla Sneed

– Madison, Wesleyan University, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

About Metro Credit Union

Metro Credit Union is the largest state-chartered credit union in Massachusetts, with \$3 billion in assets. Metro provides a full range of financial products to close to 200,000 members in Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties in Massachusetts, and Cheshire, Hillsborough, and Rockingham counties in New Hampshire. Metro is the credit union of choice for employees at over 1,200 companies through its

Metro@work program.

Founded in 1926, Metro currently operates 19 branch offices in Boston, Burlington, Chelsea, Dorchester, Framingham, Lawrence, Lynn, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Peabody, Reading, Salem, Tewksbury, and West Roxbury. Metro is also a Juntos Avanzamos (“Together We Advance”) designated credit union, an honor given to financial institutions for their commitment to serving and empowering Hispanic and immigrant consumers. Metro was recently named among the most charitable companies in Massachusetts by the Boston Business Journal. Learn more at MetroCU.org.



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FCC Natick Votes in New Senior Pastor

The members of the First Congregational Church of Natick (FCC Natick) voted unanimously in a Special Business



Meeting to call the Reverend Cindy Worthington-Berry as their new Senior Pastor. Reverend Worthington-Berry received her Master of Divinity degree

from Andover-Newton Theological School in 1996. She is a graduate of Connecticut College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and Psychology.

Worthington-Berry replaces FCC's longtime pastor, Rev. Victoria Alford Guest, who retired in November 2019. In the meantime, the church has been served by two interim pastors. Rev. Jonathan New ushered the congregation through the early impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rev. Andrew Burr assumed his role with FCC in January 2022. He engaged the congregation in work to discern the needs of the church and its vision for an ideal leader.

With more than 20 years of experience as a pastor serving two United Church of Christ congregations in Massachusetts, Rev. Worthington-Berry has been

an advocate for economic, racial, and environmental justice in the communities that she has served. FCC Moderator Lane McDonough said he is hopeful that Worthington-Berry will maintain FCC's strong ties to the larger community and inspire new ways for members to serve their local

and global neighbors. "One thing about Cindy that really stood out in this process was her commitment to connecting to people beyond our congregation," he said. "We know she will minister passionately to FCC's members, but we believe she will also serve the wider community by strengthen-

ing our connections and leveraging new relationships with our Natick neighbors too. She has a track record of building bridges."

The members of FCC look forward to Worthington-Berry's ministry, which will launch with her first service on Sunday, October 22.

Natick's Cabinet of Curiosities

What is a cabinet of curiosities? Dating back to the 1500s, wealthy merchants, princes, and



naturalists collected and displayed objects they called "wonders" or "curiosities." These displays exhibited the collector's wealth, power, taste, and knowledge. Col-

lectors highlighted objects they considered rare or bizarre, often representing people and places they viewed as foreign, exotic, or historic.

The founders of the Natick Historical Society established a museum to preserve artifacts and promote knowledge, rather than a curiosity cabinet; however, the breadth and diversity of the Society's early collections reflect the spirit of a curiosity cabinet.

Stop by the Natick Historical Society at 58 Eliot St. to explore its Cabinet of Curiosities. For more information, visit www.natickhistoricalsociety.org/exhibitions.

Source: natickhistoricalsociety.org



Saint Bridget School Early Childhood Program Gets \$100K Refresh Ahead of School Year

The staff and administration at Saint Bridget School in Framingham are busy getting ready for the 2023-2024 school year. Courtesy of a \$100,000 grant from the Lynch Foundation, its Early Childhood Program – which offers Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten for students starting as early as age 2.9 years – is getting significant updates to its curriculum, classrooms and teacher support and development.

The Lynch Foundation's Early Education Initiative is a comprehensive strategy to support the launch and redesign of early childhood programs across the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Schools. This unique initiative has leveraged \$3.6 million to date in private philanthropic investment toward the establishment of new high-quality early childhood classrooms and the redesign of existing early childhood classrooms.

As part of the grant, the Saint Bridget School Early Childhood Program will benefit from new classroom design, furniture and materials; refreshed, high-quality curricula; and professional development for teachers through the Summer Learning Institute for Teachers and monthly coaching and mentoring offerings.

"The Early Childhood team at Saint Bridget School is excited to become a part of the Lynch Foundation's Early Education Initiative," said Director of Early Ed, Lauren Nazzaro. "We strongly believe in the importance that early childhood education plays in setting the foundation for all learning. We are excited to have a partner that shares our beliefs in providing quality educational experiences to our youngest scholars."

Saint Bridget School School has a six-decade legacy of providing high quality Catholic education to MetroWest families. Serving students ages 2.9 through Grade 8, the school is currently enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year. Prospective families are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Amanda Popp, Vice Principal for Admissions, to schedule a tour of the school. An Open House will be scheduled at the end of August 2023. Learn more at www.sbsframingham.org or by calling 508-875-0181.



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The Natick Center Cultural District Celebrates “Multicultural Day” on Aug. 26

The Natick Center Cultural District is pleased to announce Multicultural Day on Aug. 26, from 11am-2pm on the Natick Common. This event highlights the diversity and cultures in our community. We will feature traditional and contemporary music, dance, and food from various cultures worldwide. Learn something new about your neighbors as we celebrate our community and its cultural diversity and vitality!



If you are part of a group or organization that would be interested in hosting a booth, email the Natick Center

Cultural District at info.natick-center@gmail.com or call 508-650-8848.

“RISING UP” A New Public Art Mosaic Panel

A newly completed 12-foot-tall mosaic panel has been installed on Court Street in Natick Center by local artist Carol Krentzman. “RISING UP” visually represents our collective emergence from whatever holds us back in our lives, taking us from darkness into light, moving us forward from contraction into growth, expansion, acceptance, adaptation, and transformation. The dedication of the new public art mosaic will take place on Sunday, Aug. 20, at 2PM on Court Street. All are welcome to attend, rain or shine.

In the mosaic there are many colorful stems that twist and intersect as they head up towards the light. At the top of the stems are seventeen many-layered fused glass flowers. There are 12 flowers with hearts on their lower edge, which represent support for many different causes. The blue, green and red flower is for Police, Fire, & Military; the pink, blue and purple flower is for Babies & Children; the red, white & blue flower represents our USA Flag; the dark red flower is for Heart Health Awareness; the orange flower is Anti-Gun Violence; the blue and yellow flower is for Ukraine Solidarity; the white, black, red and brown flower is for Black Lives Matter; the turquoise and purple flower is for Opioid & Suicide Awareness; the green flower is for the Environment & Women’s Rights; the yellow, orange and red flower is for Climate Justice; the multi-colored rainbow flower is for Pride; and the pink flower represents Breast Cancer Awareness.

Included in the new mosaic are the life cycles of five of our most seen local butterflies, all made from fused glass. At the bottom of the mosaic are the five eggs. A bit higher up are five fused glass caterpillars next to their names: Eastern Black Swallowtail, Variegated Fritillary, Clouded Sulphur, Monarch, and Tiger Swallowtail. Above the caterpillars you will find their five chrysalises. And at the very top are all five butterflies, transformed and flying off into the sky.

The fused green glass leaves attached to all the stems contain

the names of generous donors, sponsors, volunteers, family, and friends who helped to make this new public art project possible. Special thanks to Middlesex Savings Bank, MutualOne Charitable Foundation, Natick Cultural Council, Friedman Family, Metrowest Subaru, Stonegate Real Estate, Leese Foundation, Greenberg Family, Tiles Plus More, Direct Associ-

ates, Stucchi Jewelers, Citizens Bank, Eastern Bank, Zogby Family, Kit Cunningham, Cosmos Family, Erickson Family, Fair & Yeager Insurance, Needham Bank, and all the other individual public art lovers who supported this mosaic.





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Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

Business spotlight

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe you're planning to move and need to clear out the basement and attic before your open house. Maybe you've spent way too much time at home lately and are feeling the need to declutter.

But figuring out who to call can be a pain. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have han-

dled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift



a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing

your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He

and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at www.takeawayjunk.com.

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Bacon Free Library in August 2023

Library Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:30-5:30 with extended hours on Tuesday until 7:00pm

Note: the BFL is closed on Saturdays during the summer.

Curbside pickup is available during all open hours

Check our website for the most up-to-date information and to register for programs: <https://baconfreelibrary.org>

Children's Programs

Outside Story Times (if rainy, we move inside): Every Monday and Tuesday @ 10 am: We'll feature a combination of stories for listening and songs for singing & dancing.

Messy Play Time - Weds, Aug 2nd & 16th @ 10:30 am: Join us outdoors for some messy, creative fun! Explore simple, open-ended projects like

making oobleck, experimenting with baking soda and vinegar, or finger painting with shaving cream. Geared toward ages 1-6 with adult supervision. Remember to wear clothes and shoes that can get messy! If it rains, we'll offer a less-messy craft indoors and save the messy projects for another day.

Fridays @ 10am - Baby Time (indoors): Join us for a cozy story time filled with lap bounces, rhymes, songs, and simple stories. Geared toward infants and young toddlers with their grownups.

Dog Tales Story Time - Monday, Aug 7th @ 10am. Join us for dog-approved stories and a chance to pet a calm, sweet, and soft therapy dog.

Mindfulness for Kids - Tues, Aug 8th @ 4pm: Families will create mindful moments together at this outdoor workshop with Traci McCubbin from The Mindful Squirrel. This program is geared toward children ages 4-10 with a parent/caregiver. Registration is required.

Jammin with You - Weds, Aug 9th & 23rd @ 10:30am: Be prepared to laugh, dance, sing, and jam your way through 30 minutes of non-stop family fun! This performance is geared for kids ages 1 - 7, but fun for the whole family. With modern takes on children's classics and classic original tunes, you'll be humming and bopping your way all the way home.

Science Heroes: Saving Earth Together! -- Tues, Aug

1st @ 5pm: Science and stories collide in this interactive STEM program presented by Talewise! Two unlikely heroes must learn to work together to stop a super-polluting mastermind. Throughout the story, you'll help the performer conduct science experiments about air pressure, the laws of motion, chemical reactions, and much more! Recommended for ages 3-11. Weather permitting, this program will take place outdoors on the library lawn, so bring a blanket or chair.

Read to a Dog - Friday, August 25th, 3-4:15pm: Kids build confidence and practice reading skills by reading out loud to a registered therapy dog! Children ages 5 and up can sign up for a 15-minute reading session with Sophie, a gentle golden retriever who loves belly rubs, stories, and cuddles. Registration is required.

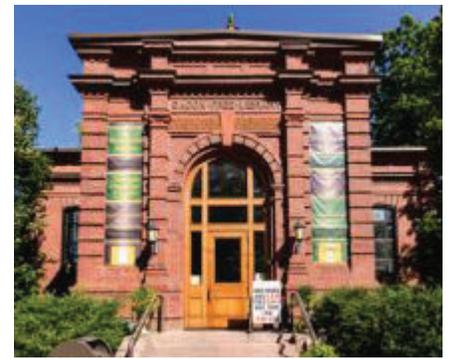
All Ages Programs

Stacey Peasley Concert - Tues, August 22nd @ 5:30pm: Let's celebrate summer reading with BFL favorite, Stacey Peasley! With her creative lyrics, fun rhythms, and contagious energy, Stacey will infuse pure joy into your evening. This concert will be outdoors on the BFL lawn, so bring a blanket or chairs to get comfy. If it rains, the show will be indoors at the Morse Institute Library.

Photography display: portraits of farm animals by local artist Judy Brown: on display at the BFL from July 27th through September 6th

Adult Programs

Our Band, award-winning music - Tues, Aug 15th @



5:30pm: Grab a blanket or chair and some snacks and join us on the lawn for Our Band which will win your heart. Sasha Papernik and Justin Poindexter bring their award-winning songwriting and bold interpretations to a rich Americana soundscape.

Adult Book & Film Clubs - registration required for all clubs <https://baconfreelibrary.org/clubs-programs/>

Mystery Book Club - first Thursday of the month @ 1pm on Zoom
Aug 3rd: The Perfect Couple by Elin Hilderbrand

History Book Club - second Thursday of the month @ 11am on Zoom

Aug 10th: Beautiful Country: a memoir by Qian Julie Wang

Nonfiction Book Club - fourth Saturday of the month @ 10am, on Zoom

Aug 26th: The Address Book: what street addresses reveal about identity, race, wealth, and power by Deirdre Mask

Tuesday Night Book Club - fourth Tuesday of the month @ 6:30pm, both Zoom & in person

Aug 22nd: Violeta by Isabel Allende

Cinephile Mondays - last Monday of the month @ 4pm on Zoom; watch and discuss films. Check the BFL website for the film of the month and to register.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Yes, even the Nasdaq-100 Index rebalances. What about you?

On July 24th a special rebalance was held to reduce the Nasdaq 100 Index's concentration in its largest holdings.

This is the third such special rebalancing (1998, 2011) as part of the methodology that states:

"A special rebalance may be conducted at any time based on the weighting restrictions described in the index rebalance procedure if it is determined to be necessary to maintain the integrity of the Index".

Some questions to consider:

- What is the potential impact to you as an index investor?
- Do you practice a similar rebalance process for individual holdings and asset classes?

How did we get here?

The performance of a small group of mega-cap stocks drove returns for the index and the broader market. These stocks include:

- Microsoft (Year-to-date return as of 7/17/23 is 38.9%)
- Apple (45.5%)
- NVIDIA (188.7%)



Glenn Brown

- Amazon (51.4%)
- Tesla (118.9%)
- Meta Platforms (144.4%)
- Alphabet Class A (32.0%) and Class C (31.7%).

These seven companies (combining Alphabet's share classes) represented over 55% weighting of the index and will reduce to 38% with smaller companies within the index being purchased.

Potential impact to index investors.

Selling high-performing stocks comes with the potential for a tax bill for funds.

Per Morningstar, "Mutual funds may be especially susceptible to capital gains distributions. An ETF like QQQ is among the most heavily traded securities in the United States, which results in plenty of opportunities for it to utilize in-kind creations and redemptions to purge low tax-basis securities, making capital gains distributions unlikely."

The importance of rebalancing.

A challenge investors have with rebalancing is selling or trimming winners and reallocating proceeds to other areas of a portfolio, including underperformers.

Some envision these 7 companies to continue their dominance, but consider Top 5 Nasdaq-100 holdings in 1998: Microsoft, Cisco Systems, Intel, Dell and Worldcom, yes that Worldcom. By 2008, only Microsoft was still in Top 5 and it had a total 10-

year return of -33%. Again, negative 33%.

In ten years the leadership will look different, so will returns.

Rebalancing asset classes within diversified portfolios.

Given S&P 500 Index 15 year outperformance over other asset classes and recency bias toward 4% money markets, many avoid rebalancing or other asset classes entirely like bonds, small company stocks, international stocks, REITs, commodities, gold, etc.

Again, the next 10 years will not look like the past 10 years.

For example, on January 1, 2000 a diversified portfolio of index funds may have included S&P 500 Index, US Bonds (Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index), International Stocks (MSCI EAFE Index) and Gold.

By start of 2010, total returns were Gold 274%, US Bonds 84%, International Stocks 12% and S&P 500 Index -9%, aka "The Lost Decade".

Go out to January 1, 2017, US Bonds 137% are still outperform-

ing S&P 500 Index 112%.

Some would argue it made sense not to rebalance, until see a rebalance to "out of favor" S&P 500 Index to start 2010 would lead 7 years later US Bonds 30% and S&P 500 133%. As for top performer during 2000's Gold, it was the worst at 5%.

There's more to consider that allowed in this space, consider reaching out to your Certified Financial Planner to discuss further.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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Natick and Holliston Residents Starring in Pippin, Aug. 4-13 in Framingham

Tickets are now on sale for A Common Thread Theatre Company's summer production of Pippin, playing Dennison Memorial Hall at Boston Church of Christ in Framingham Aug. 4-13.

Pippin is a young prince looking to carve out his own corner of the sky. A group of traveling players puts on a show about Pippin's search for meaning while trying to influence his decisions about war and love along the way. Pippin features music and lyrics by the same composer as Wicked and Godspell, Stephen

Schwartz. Bob Fosse directed the original 1972 production, which made a star out of the original Leading Player, Ben Vereen. Songs include "Magic to Do," "Corner of the Sky" and "No Time at All."

The title role in the Framingham production is played by Tim Caron of Natick. Juliana Buckler of Holliston plays Pippin's love interest, Catherine.

Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for students and seniors with valid ID) and can be purchased online at <https://www.acommon->

[threadtheatre.org/box-office](https://www.threadtheatre.org/box-office). The Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday matinees start at 3 p.m. The venue is located at 214 Concord Street in Framingham. For more information, email info@acommonthreadtheatre.org.

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Sports

Hall Of Fame Recognition Is The Ultimate Reward

2007 NHS Volleyball Team Was Phenomenal

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

It's always gratifying to see a sports team that that works relentlessly and achieves success get rewarded.

When a team finishes a grueling season by winning a state championship, it's great when public safety officials greet the bus and provide an escort, usually from the town line to their high school. Police and fire department notice is a wonderful way for a community to show instant support and appreciation.

Another way a team's achievement is saluted is at a banquet where awards, trophies, plaques and jackets are presented. That, too, is an excellent method to acknowledge success.

The crowning event, however, usually comes years later — at a hall of fame ceremony.

A good example of delayed appreciation is Natick High's 2007 boys volleyball team, which last year on Oct. 22, was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame.

That squad, coached by the legendary Peter Suxho, practiced diligently and its intensity and desire to excel were phenomenal.

That 2007 team was one for the record books.

It set a school record when it won the Bay State Conference crown by going 14-0; it captured the sectional title; then rolled to the state championship. Defeating Newton North in three sets for the state crown gave the Natick boys volleyball program its first and only state title. Its 22-1 record is the best in the program's history.

The team's five tourney victories came against St. John's (Shrewsbury), Milford, Lincoln Sudbury (the only team to beat Natick in the regular season), St. John's Prep (Danvers) and Newton North. The matchups against St. John's, St. John's Prep and Newton North were all three-set triumphs.

"The 2007 team was motivated, it had energy and the play-

ers trusted my coaching style," said Suxho, who coached the Albanian National Team before he arrived in the U.S. in 1996. "A desire to win and to play with energy and confidence were the key ingredients."



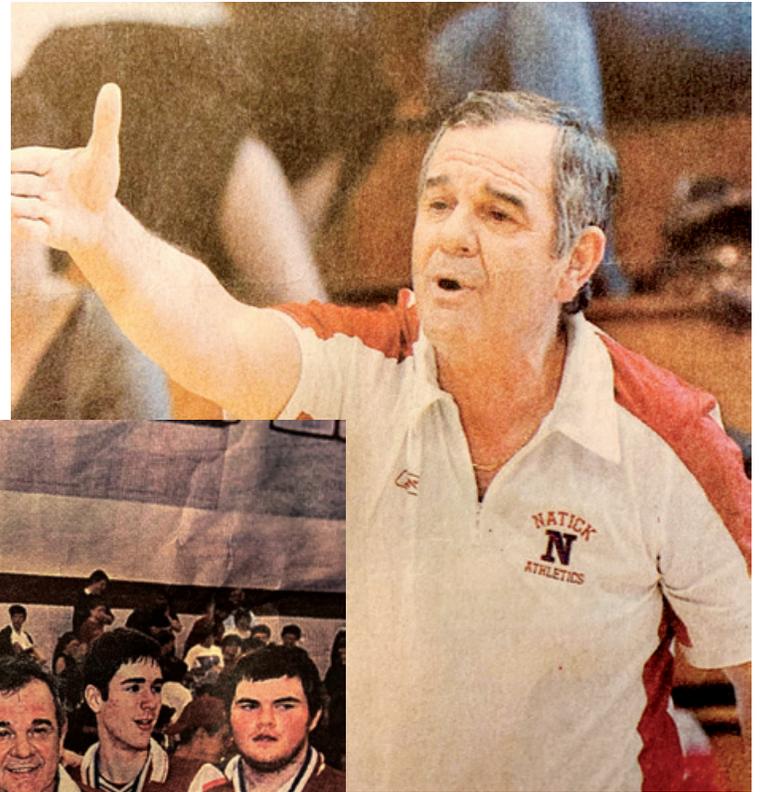
Suxho's squad also had other positives. "They had high volleyball IQs, they were experienced and athletic, and they relied on excellent technique," Suxho said. "Many of the 2007 players experienced the pain of losing in the state final a year earlier. They knew what was needed to get to the final. We also had depth, the players were solid students and their parents were great, always helping and supporting the team."

The 2007 team included two seniors, five juniors and six freshmen

The captains were Tim Lee, a senior setter who was voted the team's MVP, and Shaun Sibley, a junior right-side hitter. The only other senior was Luke Tygert, a right-side hitter. The other juniors included Jeremy Siden (middle hitter), Matt Lanchantin (middle hitter), Elio Jaho (outside hitter), and James Hubbard (libero). The freshmen were Nick Martino

(setter), Tyler Del Sesto (libero), Steve Brown (outside hitter), Patrick Sibley (setter), Ethan Mapel (outside hitter), and Rajeev Groghrade (middle hitter).

Last October, an appreciative crowd cheered the players and their coach at the Natick Senior Center when the team was inducted into the school's hall of fame. "It was a great ceremony," Suxho said. "It was a well-de-



Peter Suxho, who directs both the boys and girls volleyball teams at Natick High, continually turns out top-notch teams year after year.

The 2007 boys volleyball team at Natick High won the Bay State Conference crown, the sectional title, then rolled to the state championship by defeating Newton North in three sets. Its 22-1 record is the best in the program's history.

served honor for a team that had good chemistry and was close-knit. I was proud of the players and their achievement."

Suxho and volleyball are as natural as apple pie and ice cream. Before arriving to coach the Natick boys and girls teams in 2005, he guided Millis High to a pair of state championships in 2003. The Mohawks' boys and girls teams became state champs that year.

During Suxho's 19 years as the Redhawks' boys coach, his teams have won six BSC titles, six sectional crowns and one state championship. Three times, in 2006, 2010 and 2019, Natick was the state runners-up.

"My first year as Natick's coach, we got to the tourney, lost to Millis, and finished with a 12-6 record," Suxho recalled. "My second year, we advanced to the state final against St. John's Prep of Danvers. We lost the first two sets, tied the match by winning

the next two and were leading, 13-9 in the fifth set. We couldn't hold on and lost. Many of the boys on that 2006 team felt the pain, but came back the next year and won the states."

Suxho, who was hired at Natick by Tom Lamb, has a 217-66 career record in regular-season matches. His career record with tournaments included is 258-82.

Suxho's son Donald is no stranger to volleyball, learning the game from his father's tutelage in Albania and the U.S. He's carved out a fabulous career as a two-time all-American setter at the University of Southern California and a two-time U.S. Olympian in 2004 and as the captain of the 2012 team. Because of an injury, he was unable to compete in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

"Donald is now the director of volleyball for girls at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla." Suxho said. "He's involved in world-wide recruiting as he de-

velops players in Grades 6-12 for club volleyball."

Peter Suxho seems to have the Midas touch as a volleyball coach. It's not surprising that he came to Natick and turned out a state runner-up squad and a state championship team in his first three years at the helm.

Volleyball may not be a high profile sport in some circles but at Natick High interest and excitement surround the program. Expectations are always high.

Natick High's 2007 team is proof that a strong work ethic coupled with energy and desire can take a team a long way. Volleyball may be a bit out of the mainstream of popular interscholastic sports but in Natick it's recognized and appreciated by its fans.

The 2007 NHS volleyball team has hall of fame credentials now. And, they acquired them the old-fashioned way. By earning them.

SPARK programming

Why Will No One Hang Out With Me?

Practical Strategies for Back to School Social Skills for Children and Teens

Aug. 23 at 7pm via Zoom

For parents, caregivers, educators, and community members of

all ages

All are welcome to this important program!

In this practical talk, parent coach and author Caroline Maguire, M.Ed., will share "social sleuthing" strategies and tools to help your children strengthen

their interpersonal skills, connect with others, and build friendships.

The ability to connect with others and make friends is critical to a sense of well being in school and life. Many children and teens are rusty from social isolation and lack the skills that allow them to navigate the social world with comfort and confidence. In an age where loneliness and mental health challenges are on the rise, this program will present a practical guide to overcome social exclusion by targeting and developing specific social skills.

You will learn the following about your child/teen:

- How to gain the confidence to get along with others
- How to pay attention to social cues
- What to look for in a friendship
- Practical suggestions on how to pay attention to social cues, making chit-chat and mixing into a group
- Why social skills are so critical for kids and adults alike



August 27th
at 4:00pm
at Natick High Memorial Field

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a FREE fun festival for High School students who live in or attend school in Natick

Hosted & Sponsored by
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We hope to see you there! Learn more at
<https://tinyurl.com/RedHawkFest2023>



SPARK Kindness presents
a **FREE virtual program**
on **Wednesday, August 23rd at 7pm ET**



Why Will No One Hang Out With Me?

Practical Strategies for Back to School Social Skills for Children and Teens

with
Caroline Maguire, M.Ed.

Register and learn more at
SPARKKindness.org

in healthy development

- ASL Interpretation will be provided at this event.

Natick Red Hawk Fest 2023 Sunday, Aug. 27, from 4 to 7pm Natick High Memorial Field Join us for Red Hawk Fest - a FREE fun festival for high school students who live in or attend school in Natick! This annual event, which is hosted by the Natick Police Department and Natick Public Schools with

support from SPARK Kindness and other generous businesses and community partners, lets students connect with old and new friends as everyone transitions back to begin the new school year. Students will enjoy free food, fun activities, great music, games, and more! Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/RedHawkFest2023>. (Registration is not required to attend this event.)



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New Members Welcome to Charles River Chorale Open Rehearsals in September

The Charles River Chorale will begin rehearsals for its Fall 2023 season and is actively recruiting new members who are seeking a new community

and musical opportunity.

The non-audition chorale group will begin open rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

at the Church of Christ, 142 Exchange St., Millis. Two additional open rehearsals will take place on Sept. 26, and Oct. 3, to allow interested

new members an opportunity to explore the chorale opportunity.

Under the leadership of director and Holliston resident Ashley Nelson-Oneschuk, the Charles River Chorale is entering its 40th year as a nonprofit 501(c)3 chorale. Nelson-Oneschuk, a music professional in her 8th year with the Charles River Chorale, is also the choral director for Medway High School. Her goal for the chorale is “focused on cultivating a joyful community first, with excellent musical experiences as the vessel to achieve this.”

Charles River Chorale members hail from many area communities, with several from Holliston, Natick, Ashland and Hopedale, among others. Members range in age from teenager to octogenarians. The group typically holds winter and spring concerts, with the Winter 2023 concert planned for Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at 2pm, at Medway High School. The theme of the Winter 2023 concert is Joy to the World, Celebrations from around the Globe. This program will feature music celebrating cultures and seasonal events across the globe, including Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanuk-

kah, Diwali and more!

The Charles River Chorale rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ in Millis. Membership dues for the non-profit organization support operating costs. There are no dues for high school students, and scholar-



ships based on need are available. There is also a separate children’s choir for children in Grades 2 through 6.

For more information about the organization and the upcoming open rehearsals, visit <https://www.charles-riverchorale.com>. Those who are interested in joining the chorale for the start of the season on Sept. 17, are asked to complete a short sign-up document via the attached QR code. Sponsorships and advertising opportunities are also available.

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Saehyun Kim '24 Wins Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists

Walnut Hill School for the Arts Student Receives \$10,000 First Prize After Winning Senior Division

Saehyun Kim '24, a rising senior at Natick's Walnut Hill School for the Arts, won the Senior Division of the Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists on Saturday, July 15. Performing with the Canton Symphony Orchestra in the Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium, Kim clinched the title with a stunning performance of the first movement of Chopin's Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11 in the concerto round. Two days prior, Kim performed a movement from Brahms's Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8 with members of the Cleveland Orchestra in the chamber round. Placing first in the Competition comes with a \$10,000 prize. In addition to winning First Prize, Kim also won two separate special prizes: the Senior Division Audience Prize and the Senior Division Junior Jury, both worth \$500.

"I am ecstatic about the result and Saehyun's well-deserved achievement!" says Kim's piano teacher, HaeSun Paik, Co-Chair of Piano at the New England Conservatory and herself an alumna of Walnut Hill. "He is already an artist with phenomenal talent and a brilliant mind, which is served by uncompromising self-discipline—a rare combination. I can't wait to see how he will develop further in the future."

"Our music department is so proud of Saehyun and his major accomplishment at this competition," says Walnut Hill Director of Music Jennifer Elowitch. "What strikes me beyond his technical ease is his musical sensitivity and already mature subtlety. At Walnut Hill, he is a wonderful collaborator and particularly supportive colleague."

Eric Barber, Walnut Hill Head of School, says, "We at Walnut Hill are overjoyed that Saehyun won this highly

important international competition. And that Saehyun was selected to participate in both the Cleveland and Cliburn competitions this summer is an amazing testament to his artistic versatility and ability to master large amounts of repertoire, delivering music to the audience with verve and personality. Saehyun has studied with the supremely gifted teacher HaeSun Paik, herself an alumna of our program, and this speaks volumes about the incredible legacy of world-class artistry at Walnut Hill."

Hailing from Seoul, South Korea, Kim currently resides in Massachusetts and studies under Walnut Hill alumna HaeSun Paik '83, P'21. In 2022, he won First Prize at both the Morningside Music Bridge International Concerto Competition and the New England Conservatory (NEC) Preparatory School Concerto Competition. In

his first ever international competition, the 2019 International Tchaikovsky Online Piano Competition for Young Musicians, he won Second Prize as the youngest finalist. Additionally, he won First Prize at both the 2021 New York International Classical Music Competition and the 2018 Ewha & Kyunghyang Music Concours, the most prestigious young artist music competition in Korea.

Over the past seven years, Saehyun has performed at major concert venues in South Korea—such as the Seoul Arts Center, Mozart Art Hall, and TLI Art Center—and beyond. At the age of 10, he had his first solo recital at Kumho Art Hall as a part of the Kumho Prodigy Concert Series. During the 2021-22 season, he performed twice at Jordan Hall on two renowned concert series: First Monday at Jordan Hall and NEC Composers: Piano Music by NEC Alumni and Faculty. This season, he performed at Yamaha Hall Ginza in Tokyo as a part of the Yamaha Rising Pianists Concert Vol. 7 and will have

his U.S. concerto debut with the NEC Youth Philharmonic Orchestra at Jordan Hall.

Kim has appeared as a soloist with the Sendai Philharmonic, Korean Symphony, and more, collaborating with maestros Ken Takaseki and Chi-Yong Jung. He was also invited to give interviews and performances for national music channels such as JTBC Classic Today and KBS Classic FM. Currently, he is a Young Scholar of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation and a rising senior at Walnut Hill School for the Arts.

Walnut Hill School for the Arts celebrates its 50-year anniversary as an arts school this year.

About Walnut Hill School for the Art

Founded in 1893, Walnut Hill School for the Arts is located in Natick, Massachusetts, within the Boston metropolitan area. As one of the premier boarding and day schools in the United States, the School provides an immersive and intensive learning environment for talented



arts students in Grades 9-12 and in post-graduate studies. With areas of focus in music, dance, theater, visual art, and writing, film, and media arts, students from around the world are able to hone their crafts and engage in transformative experiences with professional artists and instructors from Boston Ballet, the New England Conservatory of Music, and other major arts institutions. Walnut Hill alumni include many internationally recognized actors of stage and screen, Pulitzer Prize-winning writers, and musicians and dancers at a number of the world's top performing arts institutions and ensembles. This year, Walnut Hill celebrates its 50-year anniversary as an arts school. Visit walnuthillarts.org for more information.



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Remaining Concerts and Family Performances

Don't miss these remaining summer events on the Natick Common:

Family Performing Arts Series

Tues, Aug 1, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.: Kevin Driscoll

Tues, Aug 8, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.: Ben Rudnick and Friends

In case of rain, the family performing arts series will be held at the Community Senior Center, 117 E. Central Street. Updates will be available at 508-647-6530 after 5:30 p.m. or on the Natick Recreation and Parks Department webpage and Facebook page.



3 of a Kind

Concert cancellation information can be found at 508-647-6530 after 5:30 p.m. or on the Natick Recreation and Parks Department webpage or Facebook page.

Source: www.natickma.gov/1549/Concerts-and-Family-Performances

Concerts

Thurs, Aug 3, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Ghost in the Machine (80's and more)

Thurs, Aug 10, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.: 3 of a Kind (Classic Rock)

New Firefighter Paramedics Join Natick Department

Natick Fire Department welcomed five new Firefighter Paramedics to the department. From Left to Right: FF Alexander, FF Relihan, FF Tosi, FF Delorey, & FF Marolf.



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Updated Residential Recycling and Trash Collection Guide now available

The 2023-2024 Residential Recycling and Trash Collection Guide is available at www.natickma.gov

Yard waste (except for Christmas trees) must be in paper bags or marked rubbish barrels. Plastic bags will not be collected. For more information, visit

www.natickma.gov/302/Yard-Waste

Yard Waste Pick Up

Fall (based on your trash day):

Tuesday Trash Day: Mon, Nov. 6

Wednesday Trash Day: Mon, Nov. 13

Thursday Trash Day: Mon, Nov. 20

Friday Trash Day: Mon, Nov. 27

Christmas Trees (bare only, no bag): The first two full weeks in January on your trash day.

Spring: The last two full weeks in April on your trash day

New Bulky Trash Program

If it doesn't fit in a Pay-As-You-Throw bag, it's a bulky item.

Bulky waste pick-ups are available for a fee every Monday (except Monday holidays and Fall Yard Waste Mondays).

Up to five items for \$50 (additional fee for certain items)

For a list of accepted items, FAQs, to schedule a pickup, or pay online, visit bit.ly/Natick-BulkyPickUp

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Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

| Date | Natick | Amount |
|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 07/18/2023 | 10 Carter Drive | \$1.51 mil |
| 07/18/2023 | 1 Village Way #5 | \$360,000 |
| 07/14/2023 | 53 Centre Street | \$715,000 |
| 07/14/2023 | 7 Post Oak Lane | \$307,000 |
| 07/14/2023 | 24 Walcott Street | \$1.25 mil |
| 07/14/2023 | 14 Overbrook Terrace | \$670,000 |
| 07/13/2023 | 3 Centre Street | \$595,000 |
| 07/13/2023 | 4 Arrow Path | \$2.18 mil |
| 07/13/2023 | 21 Glen Street | \$1.54 mil |
| 07/13/2023 | 24 Water Street | \$700,000 |
| 07/12/2023 | 15 Nimitz Circle | \$941,000 |
| 07/11/2023 | 6 Squire Court #1 | \$320,000 |
| 07/07/2023 | 5 Porter Road | \$1.63 mil |
| 07/07/2023 | 9 Braemore Road | \$790,000 |
| 07/07/2023 | 1 Morgan Drive #26 | \$975,000 |
| 07/07/2023 | 3 Wellesley Ave #3 | \$775,000 |
| 07/06/2023 | 4 Fairs Lane | \$1.93 mil |
| 07/03/2023 | 42 Graystone Lane | \$1.65 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 14 Rutledge Road | \$1.05 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 4 Lynn Street | \$1.72 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 28 Walnut Street | \$725,000 |
| 06/30/2023 | 3 Lake Street | \$875,000 |
| 06/30/2023 | 5 Michael Terrace | \$1.03 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 36 Beacon Street | \$1.10 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 32 Fairway Circle | \$660,000 |
| 06/30/2023 | 10 Nouvelle Way #T623 | \$999,000 |
| 06/30/2023 | 13 Allison Way | \$1.15 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 2 Arrow Path | \$2.21 mil |
| 06/30/2023 | 13 Allison Way | \$1.15 mil |
| 06/29/2023 | 25 Sawin Street | \$678,900 |
| 06/29/2023 | 15 Deer Path | \$1.75 mil |
| 06/29/2023 | 7 Floral Avenue | \$875,000 |
| 06/28/2023 | 13 Oak Hill Road | \$1.10 mil |
| 06/28/2023 | 11 Marshall Road | \$877,000 |
| 06/28/2023 | 105 Hartford Street | \$650,000 |
| 06/28/2023 | 2 Libby Road | \$1.59 mil |
| 06/27/2023 | 19 School Street | \$470,000 |
| 06/23/2023 | 313 N Main Street | \$540,000 |
| 06/23/2023 | 51 Felch Road | \$900,000 |
| 06/23/2023 | 7 Hemlock Drive | \$1.68 mil |
| 06/22/2023 | 14 Moccasin Path | \$1.61 mil |
| 06/21/2023 | 22 Bradford Road | \$586,000 |
| 06/20/2023 | 9 Ferndale Road | \$825,000 |
| 06/20/2023 | 9 Lake Street | \$675,000 |

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages



The house at 313 N Main Street in Natick recently sold for \$540,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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Summer Sun Down Checklist

The Dog Days of Summer may be here, but there is still time to make the most of the season with this list of activities made by Natick natives, for Natick natives!



- Spend the day at Dug Pond
- Have an ice cream at Park Street
- Go peach picking at Lookout Farm
- Play a round of golf at Sassaman
- Win a game of pickleball at East Street Courts
- Enjoy a Saturday at the Farmer's Market
- Call The Allain Group if you are considering making your next big move!



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