

localtownpages 

Natick

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 142
SPRINGFIELD, MA

Postal Customer
Local

Vol. 6 No. 2

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

February 2021

The Voice of Your Community

InSPIREing Renovation



BY SEAN SULLIVAN
STAFF WRITER

Over the past few months, scaffolding has grown and ladders sprouted around the spire of Natick's First Congregational Church.

Members of a work crew can be seen circling the tiled spike upon their platforms, laboring at tasks unseen by observers far below. Supplies are hoisted up to the crews via a system of ropes and coordination with workers at ground level, where ample space has been roped off for safety.

The work is part of the church's renovation, some much-needed cosmetic and structural attention for a building of such age.

The church's predecessor was destroyed in the fire of 1874, and construction began the following year on the new

RENOVATION
continued on page 2

Inclusive, Accessible, Free:

SPARK Kindness Expands Its Programming During Covid Crisis

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

SPARK Kindness, a non-profit organization launched in 2010 to counter cyber-bullying, has pivoted its programming, due to the global pandemic, to serve the increasing needs of the parent/caregiver community.

"Our work supporting resilience, kindness, and emotional wellness is even more important in times of crisis," Christine Fortune Guthery, SPARK founder and executive director, said. "As a result, and in rapid time, the SPARK team moved to a virtual platform, expanded its programming, developed new resources, and deepened its commitment to antiracism and equity, with a



SPARK KINDNESS
continued on page 5

WHAT IS YOUR HOME WORTH?

JM JOHN MCHUGH
JOHNMCUGHREALSTATE.COM
18 Years Experience



Contact Me For A
Complimentary Market Analysis

JohnSellsNow@gmail.com
978.902.5646
JohnMcHughRealEstate.com



COMPASS.COMPASS.COM



Let us guide you home in Natick.

We donate a portion of our proceeds from our home sales to Family Promise Metrowest. Let us help you!



THE CHANDLER GROUP
781.929.0159
chandlergroup@compass.com

THE CHANDLER GROUP IS A TEAM OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS AFFILIATED WITH COMPASS, A LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER AND ABIDES BY EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY LAWS.



CORDAVILLE
REALTY

Let's Get Moving

The spring market is here!
Contact us for all your real estate needs

617-974-7079

CORDAVILLE.COM

RENOVATION*continued from page 1*

one that still stands today. Nearly 150 years is a long time in the lifespan of a building, and age and elements have taken their toll. The original church organization was founded in 1651, the same year as the town's birthday.

Natick resident Doug Hanna is the co-chairman of the church's building and grounds committee, and has taken part in coordinating the renovations. An architectural firm was brought in to assess the old building, make recommendations for its preservation and continued longevity.

The church's iconic spire was an area identified as in need of attention. Specifically, its tiles of slate that have been exposed to harsh summers and winters, the sun and storms of so many decades. These shield the more vulnerable wooden bones of the building, those thick beams and ribs that comprise its skeleton and have enabled it to withstand so many years of New England weather.

"It lasts and lasts and lasts," said Hanna of the slate. "Eventually, it starts to go."



These tiles are about a quarter-inch thick, sliced from granite and cut to form hexagon shapes when layered upon the roof. The tiles are not painted, but owe their earthy stone and rust color to the hues of the original material from which they were cleaved. Those colors display astonishing resilience, as the old tiles show very little evidence of fading even after so many years in the sun.

Their faces looked down upon generations of parishioners and passersby, saw Woodrow Wilson enter the church to lobby for inclusion among its ranks. They housed the two-and-a-half ton church bell donated by Leonard

Morse, saw the town through unimaginable transformation, a Great Depression, pandemics, and too many wars to enumerate.

Yet the church has not been immune or resistant to the changing world around it. It has, in fact, shown a willingness to experiment, be resourceful in order to stay viable and keep pace with the times.

In a sort of reversal of the premise of a popular 80's film, technology has been hidden within a century-old structure. "Ghostbusters" featured a New York skyscraper, whose original architects designed it as a portal through which various mytholog-



ical beasts could be summoned. This conduit of communication was hidden, camouflaged within the girders and concrete of the ancient building, invisible to the tenants who lived there.

Now, secreted within the uppermost spire of Natick's First Congregational Church, is modern technology meant to boost communication (cell service) for miles around. The spire's height makes it an ideal candidate for the job, and several name-brand communication carriers have been renting space within the high structure for years, with several more companies slated to become tenants in coming months.

But while its height is a pre-

mium perk for such work, the slate surrounding the original roof is not. Observers will notice the tiles on the uppermost part of the spire have remained untouched during the current renovation.

Those shingles are relatively new additions in the church's lifespan, made of fiberglass fashioned to blend in with their slate cousins just below. Turns out those erstwhile and authentic slate tiles hamper the signal of the communications equipment inside the spire, and so were replaced with synthetic versions of their former selves after the cell boosters were installed.

Renovations like the current



GET YOUR HOME READY TO SELL

*The spring market
is almost here!*

Contact Barber Real Estate Group
today to find out how we can help!



WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE
56 ELIOT STEET | NATICK | MA 01760

BARBER REAL ESTATE GROUP
BarberRealEstateGroup.com
508.653.1256

Your Money, Your Independence

Revisiting - Dividends: Evolve Beyond Yield

Two years ago, February 2019, I wrote about income investors becoming too attracted to high-yielding dividend stocks.

They'd ignore a company's business model, free cash flows, payout ratios, dividend growth and other key factors. Their mantra of "I don't care about the stock price, as long as I get my dividend" dramatically changed last year.

At first, all stocks fell. High-yielding companies were leveraged, faced earnings issues, industry headwinds and needed to preserve cash, so dividends were suspended or cut and stock prices stayed low. Meanwhile, efficient companies with growing business models recovered quickly, increased market share, stock prices accelerated and later dividends raised.

Bringing us to today and a conundrum for income investors.

Low Interest Rates Meet Inflation - Two year ago, certificates of deposits at 2.5% are renewing at 1% or less. Add the Fed indicating short-term rates will be held, even if inflation ex-

ceeds its 2% target rate. Thus those buying treasuries or investment-grade corporate bonds risk earning less than inflation.

Outdated Criteria Brings Concentration Risks - The philosophy of every investment must achieve a certain level of dividend yield is a fallacy. Meaning, you can't build a portfolio only of stocks with greater than 4%, 3% or even 2% yield.

For example, if 2% dividend yield is required to own a stock, a/o 1/20/21 you'd disqualify 76 of 120 (64%) largest companies in S&P 500 Index. Require a 4% dividend yield? Only 12 companies remain, limited to oil & gas, tobacco, drugs or telcom. That's not being selective, that's concentration risk and avoiding growing companies.

Income investors need a new perspective.

Seek Total Return Approach - Instead of yield alone for income, think a combination of yield, dividend growth and stock price appreciation. If you require 4% income distribution and your portfolio yields 2%, the other 2%

comes from selling investments. Relatively small and can occur naturally when rebalancing to manage risk.

Growth of Dividends - Growing companies reinvest earnings into projects to increase future cash flows. Dividends come from cash flows, and many growth companies yield 1.5% or less. Given this, these are ignored by income investors. Huge mistake, let me explain.

Yield-On-Cost (YOC) - Measures the compounding of dividend increases. Divide current dividend paid by what you paid for the share, multiply by 100. Real world example, large software company averages ~1.5% yield last 5 years. Dividend increases results in shares bought 5 years ago having 4.2% YOC, meaning your initial investment now pays 4.2% annually. Bonds can't do this, they're fixed. Now add over the 320% stock appreciation and you see the mistake of only selecting high dividend yields.

Evolve beyond yield and seek help when needed.



Glenn Brown

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.

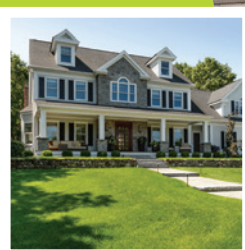
Landscape Design & Maintenance

Hardscapes

Pools & Outdoor Living

Property Maintenance

Light Construction



Let us help create the yard of your dreams.

781.431.8503 • www.indresanocorp.com



RENOVATION

continued from page 2

spire work are very costly, and thus are being scheduled to coincide with other needed upgrades and repairs in order to stretch those dollars. The almond-hued lattice work tapering up into gothic arches is made of metal, though its paint is peeling.

Four clocks housed in the spire's tower are in need of attention as well, a condition that's complicated by the fact that they are owned not by the church, but by the town of Natick. In the before-times, prior to the widespread adoption of personal timepieces, a central clock was seen as a public necessity for citizens to go about their lives in a timely manner.

The church's centrality and history ensure it remains an integral part of community culture. Its green space facing the Common has been called "Natick's Town Porch," and hosts many events and displays of the congregation's values - often delving into spheres moral and political.

"That church is iconic," said



Hanna. "We really feel that we are at the heart of the Natick community."

It seemed an excavation of sorts as he led the way up into the spire's base - as if ascending was synonymous with delving backward through the years, decades, centuries. The most accessible and utilized parts of the old church were naturally the most tended to, the first slated for renovation. Yet out of sight, out of mind, and the degree of wear and tear grew as we climbed.

The ground level and basement, with modernized heating and facility appliances, seemed mostly to belong to our current

century. But as Hanna brought us up, synthetic tile and plastics gave way to finished wood, then unfinished. Creaking stairs led into exposed reddish brick walls and January's chill.

Now in the base of the spire, steps became more like something one might find in a fort built by middle-school friends, a meeting place assembled away from the watchful eyes of the world, fashioned from what scraps they could salvage around town.

Old beams and planks were sheltered from the direct elements, but not from the humidity and particulates that found their way in through vents and screens.



And the further we ascended, the more the place seemed to age. Daylight shone in through ancient stained-glass windows, each portal a bright, multicolored votive candle against the surrounding dark wood.

Graffiti dating back to Nixon's final days in office was impeccably preserved on a wall within the lower spire, as we passed two strands of taut rope running up into the unseen heights of the structure. These are pulled from below on occasion to sound the church's bell.

The stairs ended, and Hanna climbed an aluminum work ladder up from there through a portal in the ceiling, twisting and bending to navigate the tight and awkward space.

We could go no further, wary of the height and interfering with the work crew's labor. It's possible to navigate with care around the great and greening bell that

hangs unseen behind those perforated windows, and peering out through gaps in the metalwork offers a southwest, bird's-eye view of the town. Attached to the bell is a massive wheel - a pulley ready to be rocked to and fro by its rope from below.

Hammer blows and voices against background music resonated through the ancient bell tower, the sounds belonging to the work crew above us. They went about their tasks in much the same way the original builders had - upon ladders and scaffolds, afforded a rare and enviable view of the horizon on all sides, a snapshot in time of the town's lifespan and history, and playing some role in it.

"We're into multiple centuries," said Hanna. "The bones in the structure are in very good shape. We're getting the roof in good shape for another one-hundred years."

localtownpages

Published Monthly
Mailed FREE to the
Community of Natick
Circulation: 16,435
households & businesses

Publisher
Chuck Tashjian

Editorial
Susan Manning

Send Editorial to:
editor@naticktownnews.com

Advertising Sales Manager
Jen Schofield
508-570-6544

Production & Layout
Susan Dunne
Michelle McSherry

Advertising Department
508-570-6544
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Ad Deadline is the
15th of each month.

Localtownpages assumes no financial liability for errors or omissions in printed advertising and reserves the right to reject/edit advertising or editorial submissions.

© Copyright 2021 LocalTownPages

Update Your Kitchen...the Easy Way!
Refinishing | Refacing | Design

RENEW CABINET COATINGS
REFINISH. REFACE. DESIGN.

774-300-9112
www.nicekitchencabinets.com

New Year, New Menu!
Dine-in - Carryout/Curbside Pick-Up - Delivery
Order Online or Call Ahead!

SKYBOK X 109
Sports Bar & Grill
Wednesday - Saturday open at 4 p.m.
Sunday open at 12 p.m.
319 Speen Street, Natick
508-903-1600 | www.skybokx109.com
DISTINCTIVE HOSPITALITY GROUP

Widow
Rising

Helping widows reimagine and rebuild.

- Widow Coaching
- Health and Wellness Coaching
- Legacy Guide
- Medication Consultation

Mary Meade Ambrefe, Pharm.D., BCGP
Certified Health Coach, Certified Widow Coach
widowrising.com | widowrising@gmail.com

SPARK KINDNESS

continued from page 1

focus on kindness and justice.”

Inclusive, Accessible, Free Programming

Though the pandemic caused a number of public fundraising events to be cancelled and postponed, SPARK made the decision to expand its programming during this unprecedented time. “We have committed to making this expanded programming even more inclusive and accessible to support families in need and promote racial equity at this critical moment,” Guthery said.

SPARK stands for “Successful Positive Authentic Resilient Kids.” SPARK’s mission is “to build a kind, resilient and welcoming community where no one feels alone, bullied, unsupported, or unconnected.” The nonprofit hosts speakers, parenting groups, and community activities. All programs and resources are free.

“We have received feedback that our programs are needed now more than ever by parents/caregivers and community members,” Guthery said. “Studies conducted during the pandemic show that the mental health im-

pact on parents and caregivers is significant. Parents and caregivers have increased pressure due to the pandemic as well as its impacts on work and financial health. At the same time, they have had to focus on supporting their children’s emotional health as well as their online/distance learning.”

“At the same time, community members have been looking for resources on how to promote kindness, civility, and racial justice in their homes and their community. We have received feedback that SPARK’s programs and resources during this time have been particularly helpful when people are experiencing increased stress and are also concerned about their finances. This [accessibility to programs and resources] is important to SPARK as one of our core values is inclusion; we want to eliminate all barriers to people accessing our support.”

Upcoming Programs

Two programs are planned for February. Anyone interested in attending the virtual programs should register online, www.sparkkindness.org/programs.

Building Resilience in Middle School Students, Feb. 3, 7 pm (via Zoom Webinar). A free

online program for all middle school parents/caregivers of middle schoolers. Parenting a middle schooler can be a time of stress and isolation for parents and caregivers. In this talk, psychologist Dr. Kristen Aberle will share tools and strategies to make the best of the middle school years and strengthen your child’s mental health and resilience.

Strengthening Your Student’s Executive Function Skills and Independence with Sara Ward, Feb. 25, 7 pm (via Zoom Webinar). A free online program for all community members. Hybrid? All remote? In the classroom? Regardless of the environment the demand on children’s executive function skills is greater than ever. More and more independence is required of students to navigate school schedules, assignments and due dates as well as manage the workload. Expert Sarah Ward will share many practical executive function based interventions families could implement to improve organization, task and time management. Note: there will be simultaneous translation of this program into Portuguese.

The Significance of a Spark

“SPARK has over 7,000 members, and we are growing rapidly, as many people are looking for ways to build connection and promote kindness during these challenging times,” Guthery said. “All SPARK programs and resources are free, thanks to dedicated volunteers, donors, business and philanthropic sponsors, and friends. Membership is free; you just need to subscribe to our newsletter. You can go to SPARKKindness.org to sign up or find us on Facebook and Twitter.”

“As the founder of SPARK, I would like people to know that I have had the honor of meeting so many ‘sparks’ in this community over the past 10 years. There are

countless people bringing kindness to the world every day, and they are our neighbors and they are also strangers that we pass by and never meet.”

“I would also like people to remember the significance of a spark. First, it represents light and how we can all bring light to the darkness. Second, it is energy—it is a force. Kindness often needs to be more forceful in order to be effective. After all, there is no kindness without justice or without setting appropriate boundaries for behavior. And finally, a spark is a catalyst—it spreads. By standing for kindness and justice we can all be catalysts for good, for change, and for the best in all of us.”

Affordable JUNK REMOVAL
You Don't Lift a Finger!

We beat ALL competitor pricing.
774-287-1133
DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE

LET US CLEAN OUT YOUR UNWANTED JUNK
Serving Metro-West and Beyond!

\$25 off a full truck if you mention <i>local town pages</i> <small>Not to be combined with any other offer</small>	\$299 15 Yard Dumpster <small>Not to be combined with any other offer</small>
---	--

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

AffordableJunkRemoval@gmail.com
<https://affordablejunkremoval.com/>

TOGETHER
LET'S MAKE OUR WORLD
**KINDER, BRAVER,
MORE CONNECTED,
& MORE INCLUSIVE.**

SPARKKindness.org/donate
SPARKKindness.org/volunteer

Want financial independence?

Are you building with:

- Fee-only Certified Financial Planner™
- Strategies for budget, cash flow & debt
- Low-cost investments ■ Growing income streams
- Maximizing work, government & health benefits
- Tax planning ■ Insurance analysis ■ Estate planning
- College savings for kids ■ Care for elderly parents

We help you take control of planning and investing, so you can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

Glenn Brown,
CFP®, CRPC
508-834-7733
www.PlanDynamic.com

PlanDynamic
Evolve your financial independence.

PlanDynamic, LLC is a registered investment advisor. Please visit our website for important disclosures.

Info on 2021 Natick Annual Town Election

The Natick Annual Town Election is March 30, 2021. Nomination papers are available for the Annual Town Election currently.

- Natick voters will elect the following officials:
- One member to the Select Board for a 3 year term
- Two members to the School Committee for 3 year terms
- One member to the Planning Board for a 5 year term
- One member to the Board of Assessors for a 3 year term

- One member to the Board of Health for a 3 year term
- One member to the Recreation and Parks Commission for a 3 year term
- One member to the Natick Housing Authority for a 5 year term
- One member to the Morse Institute Library Trustees for a 2 year term
- One Constable for a 1 year term
- 72 Town Meeting Members

Nomination papers for Town Meeting members are also available.

Nomination papers for new Town Meeting members are due by Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021.

Please check the town website at www.natickma.gov for listings of available offices or call the Town Clerk's office for more information.

The Clerk's office is open by appointment only. For more information, call 508-647-6430 X4 or e-mail townclerk@natickma.org.



MUSIC GO ROUND 

Guitars • Drums • Keys • Horns • DJ and more

We Buy Used Gear | Lessons | Repairs

Reuse. Recycle. Rock.®

Route 9 Natick MusicGoRoundBoston.com 508-647-6874



MARY ANN MORSE

HOME CARE

Private Duty

Stay Safe and Independent In Your Own Home



- Groceries & meal preparation
- Pharmacy and shopping
- Personal care, bathing
- Transportation to appointments
- Exercise
- Pet Care
- Respite for caregivers
- 365 days/year
- Professional staff trained in infection control
- Services customized to your needs

Call Today
508-306-8599

Mary Ann Morse Private Duty Home Care
45 Union Street, Natick, MA | www.maryannmorse.org/natick

Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp. To Offer Certified Home Health Care

NATICK, MA. Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp., a non-profit provider of high quality, affordable senior living and healthcare services in Metro West, announced the newest offering in its continually expanding continuum of senior care: a Medicare certified Home Health agency within Mary Ann Morse Home Care.

Mary Ann Morse Home Care will provide a range of customized professional medical services to seniors including skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care, and more. Patients recovering from illness, surgery, or with chronic health conditions can receive treatment in the comfort and safety of their own home. Together with our Private Duty Home Care service (offering non-medical assistance with meals, personal care, household tasks, transportation) the agency provides a complete care solution, enhancing quality of life and facilitating the highest possible level of health and independence for seniors.

Mary Ann Morse Home Care is located in Natick, MA and services all Metro West communities. The certified agency accepts Medicare and private pay. Visit maryannmorse.org/home-care to learn more.

Instant cash paid for your valuable firearms.

Call today for a confidential consultation
508-381-0230 • www.neballistic.com

Gaetano's Bakery

Cakes | Pastries | Yogurt

412 Washington Street, Holliston
774-233-0289 Gaetano Arria, Owner

  Follow Us! [guetanosfinecakes](https://www.guetanosfinecakes) www.guyscakes1.com

Natick President Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

Grace Hartigan is a senior at Natick High School and has earned her Girl Scout Gold Award. It is the highest award a Girl Scout can achieve. Only 6% of Girl Scout in the country will earn this award. The Gold Award is an 80 hour service project which identifies a problem and provides a sustainable solution for lasting change.

Hartigan developed a club called Kids Serve, Too.

Growing up as a kid, Hartigan's stepfather was a helicopter pilot for the Army and spent two years deployed in Asia. Through his deployment, Hartigan did not get any extra support from people outside of her family during these difficult times.

Hartigan wanted to help other children who have family members serving in the military overseas. Hartigan decided to create an after-school club for military kids in Natick, working with the schools superintendent and principal.

Together the children engaged in a range of activities,



including making posters for a school building, learning coping techniques through yoga, interviewing a Natick veteran and much more. A teacher in the in the Natick school system and her two children who are part of a military family will continue

to run the club after Hartigan graduates high school.

Hartigan hopes to see more military kids join next year so we can keep showing Natick who these strong kids are!

Hartigan has been part of Girl Scout Troop 72293 since



first grade and always looked up to older Girl Scouts in her community and now she passing down these responsibilities to younger future leaders in our town.

Hartigan is a member of the National Honor Society and plans on attending Providence College in the fall.

SPORT MANAGEMENT

SPORTS BROADCASTING

FORENSICS

Franklin, MA

SUMMER PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

JULY 26–AUG. 6, 2021

WHY DEAN COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAMS?

Enjoy an amazing experience at Dean College this summer while earning college credit.

- Earn college credit for successful completion of course/program.*
- Get advice on the college admissions process from a Dean College admissions counselor during a free one-on-one consultation.
- Find unique experiences and field trips embedded into each program with behind-the-scenes access to program-specific venues, including Gillette Stadium and New England Patriots training camp. Tentative trips planned to a science lab and police station for forensics and an e-sports venue and baseball stadium for sports-specific programs.
- Get unmatched instruction by leaders in their respective fields.
- Commuter: \$1,250* Overnight: \$1,950*

DEAN.EDU/SUMMER

508-541-1626

Pre-college programs available to high school students ages 14+. For those students looking to stay overnight, housing will be provided by Dean College. *Does not include activity fee.

Dean College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information or other protected classes under the law (including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972). For more information, visit dean.edu.

Natick Center Cultural District:

Amid Closings and Coronavirus, There is Innovation and Success

BY CYNTHIA WHITTY

The impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on businesses has been devastating. According to a CBIZ Main Street Index survey conducted between Aug. 25 and Sept. 15, 2020, 43 percent of those small- to mid-size businesses surveyed reported a significant to severe impact due to Covid-19. The index found the majority (84 percent) of businesses surveyed realized some impact from the pandemic and corresponding economic slowdown. Notably, smaller businesses, those with 1-4 employees, were most severely affected.

The Natick Center Cultural District (NCCD) reports that there have been several downtown closings related to the pandemic, but that there has also been innovation and success as businesses pivot to respond to the public health crisis.



Holiday art painted by residents on Washington Street. (Photo/supplied)

Responding to a Tumultuous Year

“This past year has been an unexpectedly tumultuous one for the local business community,”

Athena Pandolf, NCCD’s executive director, reported. “Due to Covid early last year, small businesses had to navigate closures,

change business protocols, and struggle to financially keep afloat amidst an ever-changing business landscape. It has been quite a difficult year for them. Yet, I have seen such ingenuity, fortitude, and flexibility in the way they conduct business. Many have found innovative solutions to keep their businesses open amidst a pandemic, and some have experienced increased sales during this time.”

“We had four businesses close—The Common Cafe, Natick Cycle, Spirit Bear Yoga, and Java Jims—which was very unfortunate,” Pandolf said. “On

the upside, we had five new businesses open, plus two pop-up shops during the month of December. These new stores—Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, The Bagel Table, Baylee Bee, Uni-T (Woman-Owned T-shirt Brand), Elder-Well Adult Day Program, and soon-to-open Cilicia Mediterranean Market—have experienced strong community support and robust sales since they opened.”

To provide merchants with information and assistance for Covid-19 relief grants, NCCD is working with Natick’s Commu-

nity & Economic Development (CED) Department.

“NCCD strives to keep merchants informed about new guidelines through weekly meetings, providing grant materials and helping to create the resource website, natick.business,” Pandolf said. “We worked with the CED Department to help implement public art into the newly acquired outdoor dining space and traffic calming spaces. We also created merchant lockers for contactless pickups during business and after business hours and an online appointment system.”

NCCD was not able to hold its Holi Festival, its annual fundraiser, Porchfest, and others events because of the state’s restrictions and guidelines. They also canceled collaborative events, such as Natick Days, Spooktacular, and Holiday Lighting, with the Natick Recreation and Park department. However, NCCD modified and held some events, such as Porchfest @ home, Natick Nights online, and two Natick Nights outside, which include the LOVE01760 & ArtWalk project dedication, Multicultural Day was online and Sidewalk Sales in September and October, Small Business Saturday, and the Holiday Stroll. Pandolf reported, “All were well-attended. We held three art dedication ceremonies for the LOVE01760 Project, Carol Krentzman’s We The People mosaic, and Ginger McEachern’s UnconVENTional Garden painting.”

NATICK CENTER
continued on page 9

NEW ENGLAND REGLAZE

Don't replace your old tub, reglaze it! Tubs, tile sinks and much more

NOW \$299.⁰⁰

We do any TUB!

CALL US NOW
617-895-7771

www.newenglandreglaze.com

SAVE \$100 WITH AD

Reg. \$399

Color, travel, may apply.

MA. CSL 105479 MA. REG 135975

HOUSE HELPERS

Contractors

www.househelpers.org

FRANK DIGIANDOMENICO, OWNER

(508) 875-8789 office • (508) 561-2080 cell

Since 2001

Licensed and Insured

Basements | Kitchens | Baths | Decks
Interior & Exterior Remodeling & Structural work

Visit our website to view more @ www.househelpers.org

COAN
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
www.coanoil.com

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD HEATING EXPERTS

Happy Valentine's Day!

Rebates up to \$1,600*

Innovative comfort features

Special Financing available, 7 years at 0%*

24/7 Service

Service, Repair and Installation:

- Furnace
- Air Conditioner/Ductless A/C
- Water Heaters/Tankless
- Humidifier
- Gas Piping

GO WITH THE TRIED & THE TRUE

RELY ON RUUD.™

Gas, Oil and AC Equipment Sales & Service

888-818-2028

*Rebates and financing provided by and subject to Mass Save restrictions and limitations



NATICK CENTER

continued from page 8

Metro Pets won NCCD's 9th annual Holiday Window Contest with their "Happy Howlidays" wishes. (Photo/supplied)

Plans for 2021

In 2021 NCCD is planning to

host as many events as are safely possible. "We are hopeful that as the vaccine is being rolled

out and administered, we'll be able to host outside events safely. We know that people are keenly missing the connection to others that the events bring, and we will remain dedicated to that if we are able," Pandolf said.

"Our schedule may include an outdoor Holi event that is safely socially distant, Natick Nights in June and July, Porch-Fest in September, and more Sidewalk Sales throughout the year," Pandolf said. "There will be some surprise events throughout the year to bring the community together, whether online or in-person." For updates on downtown activities, visit www.natickcenter.org.



Santa takes off his mask to enjoy a special treat from Shishkaberry's during the Holiday Stroll. (Photo/supplied)

RonsTire.com Ron Saponaro

Ron's
TIRE & SERVICE

Tel: 508-872-2266
Fax: 508-872-2011
Email: ronstire@rcn.com

635 Waverly Street, Rte 135
Framingham, MA 01702



SPARK Kindness presents a FREE virtual program on February 3rd at 7pm ET

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
with Dr. Kristen Aberle

Register and learn more about this FREE online program and more by visiting SPARKKindness.org

Special Thanks to Our Community Partners for Their Support!



SPARK Kindness presents a FREE virtual program on February 25th at 7pm ET

Strengthening Your Student's Executive Function Skills and Independence During the Pandemic
with Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP

Register and learn more about this FREE online program and more by visiting SPARKKindness.org



Spotlight Community Partner
NATICK SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
SEPACNatick.org

Kilkelly
MASONRY

OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE!

**Brick | Block and Stone | Walls | Walks | Steps
Patios | Chimneys and Veneers**

FULLY INSURED | FREE ESTIMATES!

Call 508-328-0210
kilkellymasonry.com

Family Promise Metrowest Receives \$25,000 Grant from Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for COVID-19 Relief

Family Promise Metrowest, a Natick-based nonprofit that offers a community response to family homelessness, announced today that it has received a \$25,000 grant from Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (EBCF). The grant is part of a commitment from the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation to provide financial support to local organizations focused on COVID-19 relief.

The grant will provide funding for programs to assist families that have lost their homes or are facing eviction in Metrowest Boston.

“As we prepare for 2021, we are genuinely grateful to Eastern Bank for their generous donation that will be used toward housing and support for our families. These are challenging times and with an increase of families facing unemployment and possible eviction, our community partners are needed now more than ever. Thank you to the foundation for being there with us and

facing these uncertain times together,” said Susan Crossley, Family Promise Metrowest, Executive Director.

During the early days and weeks of the pandemic, Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation began to lend its support as quickly as possible, and it has steadily increased throughout 2020 the amount of unsolicited grants to nonprofit organizations. In total, \$11 million in COVID-19 relief grants has been provided to hundreds of local and regional organizations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island in 2020. The most recent funding supports organizations focused on housing stability, homelessness, food security, and essential services and utilities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

Addressing housing and homelessness, preventing evictions and foreclosures, and providing rental assistance, shelters



and other services, Family Promise Metrowest is receiving a grant for its work in addressing housing insecurities compounded by the virus outbreak.

“Housing, homelessness and food insecurity have long been challenges in our local communities that are being made worse by the double impact of the pandemic and approaching winter season,” said Nancy Huntington Stager, President and CEO of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. “Thank you to the organizations and people bravely working on the front lines to support our neighbors in need providing vital assistance during these times. The

need for corporate philanthropic support of our nonprofit partners is as great now as it was at the beginning of the pandemic, and we invite those who can to join us in giving their support.”

About Family Promise Metrowest

Founded in 2008 to provide shelter for families facing homelessness, Family Promise Metrowest’s mission is to “transform the lives of families with children who are homeless by mobilizing a diverse community to provide shelter, education and comprehensive support.” Over the years FPM has grown to encompass transi-



tional programming and homelessness prevention, in addition to comprehensive employment and education support. Their unique approach brings together a community of 50 congregations and 3,000 trained volunteers to provide meals, companionship, and overnight housing, while case managers work individually with motivated families to work toward long-term sustainability.

You can learn more at: familypromisemetrowest.org

ROOFING WINDOWS SKYLIGHTS SIDING

We won't soak you to keep you warm and dry!

SAVE UP TO \$2,500 NOW!

With complete job. Please ask for details.

1st Responders Receive a \$250.00 Amazon Gift Card

MARIO'S QUALITY ROOFING SIDING & WINDOWS

Call **781-344-2420** to set up a consultation!

VELUX Skylight Specialist

mariosroofing.com

SELECT ShingleMaster Certified

WENZEL Inc.

LANDSCAPING

- Patios
- Walkways
- Fire Pits
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Pool Surrounds
- Lot Clearing
- Grading
- Pergolas
- Retaining Walls
- Water Features
- Landscape Design & Installation
- Lawn Installation

508-376-2815

Free Estimates • Fully Insured

www.WenzelLandscaping.com

2021 Dog Licenses are Now Available

All dogs 6 months of age or older must be licensed with the Town Clerk's Office (MGL Chapter 137). Licenses must be renewed annually by March 1, failure to do so will result in a \$50 late fee. Failure to license a dog shall be punishable by a fine of \$100 (Town of Natick By-Laws, Article #50, Sec. 16-7).

information, payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope in the payment drop box to the right of the front door of Town Hall. The license will be processed and a 2021 dog tag will be mailed to you.

Dog License Fee Exemption

The license fee is waived for residents over age 70 and for service dogs. Those licenses may not be renewed using the on-line option. To have the fee waived

(over age 70) you must provide proof of age. If you are unable to come into the office you may send a copy of your license or call the office and talk to a member of the staff (508) 647-6430



2021 Information

Please note that due to COVID-19, Town Hall is not open to the public. The Town Clerk's office will be processing 2021 dog licenses.

Dog license applications were mailed to all current dog owners.

You can register your dog by:

- Going on line at the following link: <https://www.doglicenses.us/MA/Natick/>
- Mailing in the application, current rabies information, payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope
- You may also drop off the application and current rabies



delicious meals, delivered

With Wegmans Meals 2GO, we've made it even easier for you to get the food you love. Now you can order a variety of cuisines right in the app, such as pizza, subs, sushi and more!

Learn more at wegmans.com/wegmans2GO

1245 Worcester Street • Natick, MA 01760
508.960.0100



Download & order in the Meals 2GO app for carryout, curbside pickup or delivery



The only **Energy** company you'll ever need.



MEDWAY
OIL & PROPANE
"Your Total Home Comfort Company"

Family owned and operated since 1954

Fuels

- Heating Oil
- Propane
- Bagged Coal

Installations

- Oil & propane heating systems and water heaters
- Oil to propane conversions

Programs

- Flexible pricing and budget programs
- Ask about our military, police and fire discount.

Service

- Emergency service 24-7
- Oil & gas fired equipment

Be Sure to Ask About our New Customer Program

FREE: 100 gallons of home heating oil or propane*

FREE: \$100 Account credit towards your first tune-up or service plan*

Give us a call today! **800-649-5949**

*APPLIES TO WHOLE HOUSE HEAT CUSTOMERS ONLY. ASK FOR DETAILS.
*New automatic delivery customers only. Offer ends the last day of the month.

Natick Sustainability News

There will be 90 seconds* more daylight today than yesterday, and 90 more seconds tomorrow too. 90 seconds might not seem like a lot, but, over time, those seconds add up to the longest day of the year.

*-Jillian Wilson Martin,
Natick Sustainability
Coordinator*

This winter I am going to be grateful for each of those 90 seconds, just as I am grateful for you. Because every day I am blessed to witness the small (and big) actions you take for our future. Whether you are composting, installing solar, choosing 100% clean electricity, investing in an electric vehicle, or setting out a pink bag, your actions add up too, and together they make our collective future brighter.



Dug Pond and Natick High School, Photo courtesy of Natick GIS

Thank you for supporting sustainability and creating light

received an Accelerating Climate Resilience grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The grant will be used to construct a new community garden in Natick Center and to provide subsidized or free food to vulnerable populations. Many thanks to the Natick Housing Authority, Natick Service Council, Keefe Tech, Council on Aging and Natick Community Organic Farm for their support applying for this grant. We are excited to work on this in 2021!

More renewable energy: Starting in January, 31% of the electricity used to power homes and businesses enrolled in the Natick electricity aggregation program will come from wind, solar and hydropower projects located in New England. The foundations for the solar canopies at Kennedy are going in next week too!

Net zero plan coming soon: More than 300 residents participated in our Net Zero Online Open House and the Sustainability Committee is working to finalize the plan in early 2021.

A cooler, greener library: This spring Natick will partner with the UMass Clean Energy Extension to complete a whole building audit of the Morse Institute Library, with a focus on its 25+ year old chiller and ice storage systems. Our goal is to identify opportunities to retrofit the building with clean energy technology as existing components approach the end of their useful life.

New grant!: Natick recently



Instant cash paid for your valuable firearms.

Call today for a confidential consultation
508-381-0230 • www.neballistic.com

SUSTAINING NEWS *in Natick*

during this challenging year.

**In December - January, each day gains between 90 seconds and 2 minutes of daylight. In February, about 2.5*

minutes are added each day. As the sun moves higher in the sky from March through June, there are about 2 more minutes of daylight per day.



Riverbend of South Natick





Exceptional Short Term Rehab & Skilled Nursing Care

- ♦ On Call Physicians
- ♦ Post Surgical Rehab
- ♦ Alzheimer's Residents Welcome
- ♦ 24 Hr Nursing Coverage
- ♦ Respite Stays Welcome
- ♦ Hospice & Support Services

(508)653-8330

34 South Lincoln Street, South Natick, MA

www.rehabassociates.com/riverbend




Advertise your business!

Call Jen
508-570-6544 or email
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Your Legacy is More than Just the Money You Leave to Loved Ones

When we hear the word legacy, many of us think of money left to people and institutions that have come to mean the most to us throughout our lives. But your legacy is much more than that. It includes your memories, values, wisdom, family history, and more that do not necessarily have a monetary value. How can you pass those on to future generations?

You could begin by writing down or making a recording of yourself sharing stories about your parents, grandparents, and other relatives. Don't just talk about where they lived and what they did for a living. Try to convey a sense of who your

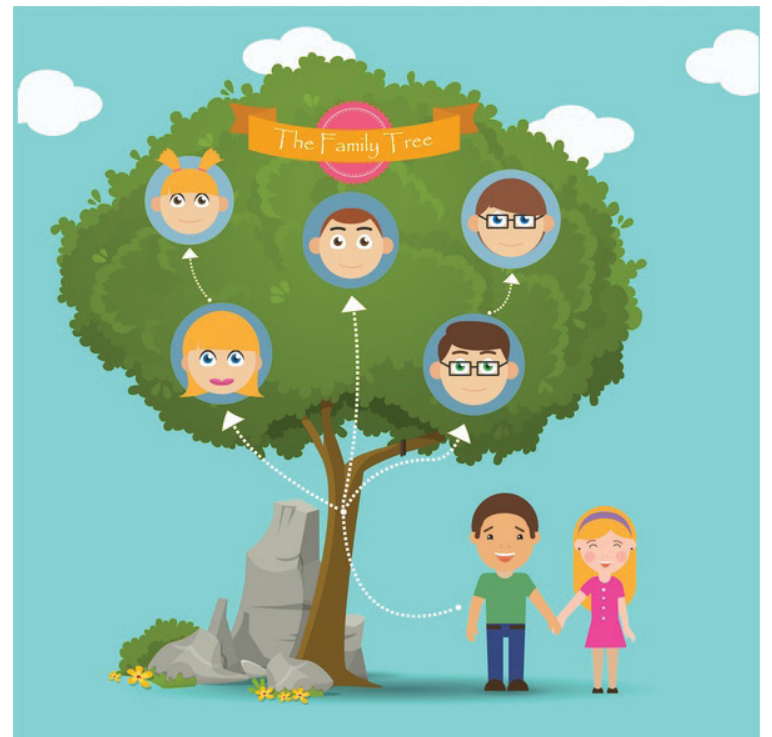
family members were, what was important to them in life, and the values they held dear.

You'll want to take a similar approach to tell your own story. Describe why you made certain decisions, what you learned from mistakes, how you achieved success, and what you would do differently if you could. It's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, so be sure to preserve photos that depict your history and that of other family members. You might even want to create a website featuring your stories and photos and invite family members to contribute to it.

Now let's consider items

Business spotlight

that may not be worth much money but have a great deal of sentimental value: an old watch owned by your uncle, for instance, or the rocking chair that your mother used for many years. You'd be surprised at how many family disputes arise over items like these. If one of your children has shown interest in such an object, you could specify in your will that he or she receives it when you pass away. Regarding sentimental items



that have not been "claimed" by your children, consider using an estate planning letter to designate the person you would like to inherit it and why.

What about your values, is there a way to increase the likelihood that these will be passed on as well? One approach is to use an estate planning tool, such as an Incentive Trust, to encourage certain behaviors while discouraging others. For example,

your trust could reward your children for graduating from college, entering a particular profession, purchasing a home, or doing charitable work.

In the end, you may be surprised by how much your values, wisdom, and family history—the nonmaterial aspects of your legacy—mean to the people you love and future generations.

9th Annual Holiday Window Contest WINNERS



- 1st Place: Metro Pets
- 2nd Place: Clip 'N Dip Dog Grooming
- 3rd Place: Morse Institute Library

Congratulations to all the winners!!

Discover How Our "Family" Can Help Protect Yours



WE OFFER



Wills



Trusts



Powers of Attorney



Healthcare Proxies

Contact us today to discuss your unique needs and goals.



508-202-1818

www.OConnellLawGroup.com

We are proud to be a part of the Metro West community and welcome the opportunity to serve as your "Counselor For Life"

Due to Covid-19, Almost Everyone Needs a New or Improved Health, Life, Disability, & Estate Plan!

BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES, COUNSELORS AT LAW

Even before March of 2020, when the coronavirus hit our country with a vengeance, approximately 86% of estate, health and disability plans didn't work when they were most needed because they were already out of date!

The pandemic dealt our citizens a 1-2 punch: 1.) Many people who thought they "didn't need" an estate plan desperately need a plan that works now.

2.) People who thought they had a good estate plan are now just realizing they **MUST** update that plan due to the pandemic and recent and pending changes in state and federal taxes and laws.

Who Will Make Your Healthcare and Financial Decisions if Something Happens to You?

With the pandemic still raging, absolutely nothing is guaranteed.

Unless you have a solid health, life and estate plan in place, all of this is at risk.

The time to take action to protect yourself, your loved ones and your estate is **NOW**.

The estate and elder law firm of Dennis Sullivan and Associates specializes in helping people and families just like yours. We have the team and the expertise to protect you, your family and your loved ones.

If you or a family member is stricken with Covid-19, who would care for your children? Who will make decisions for your grandchildren and parents? Who will make sure the rent, the mortgage and all the other bills are paid?

You need a trusted, caring, compassionate, and experienced team of professionals to help you design and establish your plan.

The founder of the Dennis Sullivan & Associates was educated at some of the finest universities in America, including master's degrees from the Boston

University School of Law as well as from MIT, and he has more than 30 years of service.

All team members including our attorneys and CPAs, make it easy and enjoyable to put together your up-to-date estate plan! In compliance with Massachusetts Covid-19 orders and leveraging current technology included with our services, you can review and complete your estate and elder law plan with your attorney virtually—from the safety and comfort of your own home!

As a result, you will be both well informed and in control of your planning process as you benefit from our unique personalized counselling process. No family should be unprepared, especially now with all the medical and, legal, and tax changes!

Dennis Sullivan & Associates is dedicated to protecting everything you have worked so hard to achieve, including your good health, home, spouse, family, legacy and lifelines!

Covid-19 is Not Going Away Anytime Soon!

People all over the world of all ages are susceptible to Covid-19, but we in the U. S. are especially susceptible because we have the most cases and the highest number of deaths in the world.

While it is exciting news that vaccines are being rolled out, the roll-out is going much slower than expected and a large percentage of our population have said they will not take the vaccine.

Therefore, we are all still at risk. **THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY IS NOW!**

Don't let your family be a statistic because you failed to take action and are stuck with no plan or an outdated estate plan. Research statistics adjusted for Covid-19 show that 90% plus of health, life and estate plans are out of date.

Once You are 18 Years Old, a HUGE Change Happens!

Most families are shocked to learn that once a child or grandchild turns 18, no one automatically has the ability to make health or financial decisions for them—not even a parent, grandparent or spouse! (See our blog at

Dsullivan.com for more information.)

Almost half of Americans 55+ don't have a Will and You Cannot Trust Wills You Get On-Line!

Americans age 55 + are at the greatest risk for serious complications and death from Covid-19. The mistake of using cheap or free on-line legal forms can cost your family thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars and much more in terms of aggravation due to complete loss of control and sleepless nights. (See our blog at Dsullivan.com for more information.)

Estate and life planning is always essential but in the midst of a pandemic, it is Mandatory!

We hope you now understand that you and your family will tremendously benefit from having much more than just a will. Wouldn't you and your family prefer the peace of mind understanding how your family is protected now and for generations to follow?

The reason you need much more than just a will is because a will is only effective when you die. You need to be protected while you are alive, not only from Covid-19, but as you need to be protected in the event of disability.

Disability is six times more likely than death in any given year, but 2021 is a more precarious year than most.

The documents an estate and elder law firm will create for you and your family members will provide each person you care about with peace of mind. Yes, there is a light shining at the end of the long, arduous Covid-19 tunnel. Let's all be safe and well protected together on our journeys. You and your loved ones will be able to control your estate, your finances, your investments and, most importantly, your health care decisions without the expense or interference of the courts, medical, or the legal system.

Those benefits alone could save you thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars AND save you a huge amount of time,

heartache, sleepless nights, and aggravation as well!

Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a caring, compassionate team of professionals who have been protecting families for generations by providing a unique estate planning and asset protection service for families in Massachusetts and surrounding states for more than 27 years. We currently provide virtual (on-line) discovery sessions, as well as personal counseling, and limited in-person consultations so you can get the high-quality life and estate plan you deserve at a reasonable investment for the lifetime protection for your family for generations.

Through our unique process you can complete all of your important protection virtually (on-line), staying warm, safe and healthy in the comfort of your home while a team of experienced, caring, compassionate and professionals creates a comprehensive estate plan that will provide you and your family members total peace of mind now and for generations that follow.

The most important phone call you can make today is to call our discovery line 800-964-4295 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or 781-237-2815 weekdays to register for discovery sessions and see how to qualify for your personalized review and counselling session. You can also register online at DSullivan.com. Due to the emergency we are doing our best as essential service providers to help those who qualify by understanding how much they can and should do for their family now.

Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a team of caring, compassionate highly-trained professionals who Protect Families for Generations.

Book a free online discovery session with us today. You'll see how easy and feasible it is now to protect your family's health and home, to protect your spouse, family, legacy, and life savings. You and your family will benefit from the peace of mind of knowing you have done everything you can to protect yourself and your loved ones for generations. Call now 800-964-4295 or register for a free meeting at www.DSullivan.com



THE ESTATE PLANNING & ASSET PROTECTION LAW CENTER OF
DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES
LIFETIME PROTECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY

PROTECTING HEALTH, HOME, SPOUSE, FAMILY, LEGACY & LIFE SAVINGS FOR GENERATIONS



PROPER PLANNING PREVENTS

- Time & money wasted on probate
- Losing your life savings to nursing home costs
- The government controlling decisions for your family
- Completely unnecessary Mass Taxes
- Public exposure of your personal affairs
- Surprises on the elder care journey

TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE DISCOVERY SESSION AND PERSONALIZED CONSULTATION CALL 781-237-2815

Trust & Estate Planning • Elder Law & Medicaid
Probate & Trust Administration



781-237-2815

www.DSullivan.com



Library News



Due to rising cases of COVID-19 within our Community and the surrounding areas, the Library and Board of Health have decided to scale back service and close for in-person browsing. We are very excited to announce a new point of service that will allow you to get your holds without an appointment, with our brand new, Walk-up Window!

Walk-Up Window for Holds Pickup

What is the Walk-up Window?

The Walk-up Window allows you to pick up your holds with no appointment necessary! Come to the library and line up outside along the ramp, where you will be protected from the elements with our exciting new Holiday Window Display. This exciting initiative will give you the flexibility to pick up your items on your time, with expanded hours during the week and on weekends.

If you have holds to pickup, please use the Walk-up Window! This window is located in our interior entryway.

- One person may enter at a time
- Please enter at the bottom of the ramp, and wait on the marked spots to keep physically distant
- An exterior light indicator will go from red to green when it is your turn to enter the Walk-up Window.
- Scan your library card once inside, and we will grab your items for you!
- Don't have anything on hold? Give us a call at 508-647-6520 and we will assist you! Or head to "my account" and browse our catalog!

Walk-Up Window Hours

Monday – Thursday : 9am-8pm
Friday & Saturday : 9am-4:30pm
Sunday : 1pm-4:30pm

Can I still do Contactless Holds Pick Up?

Yes! We encourage everyone who cannot stand outside or may not want to wait because of children or pets in their car to still book an appointment online or via the Minuteman Library App.

Contactless Pickup

We will still have contactless pickup appointments available for your convenience and safety.

- Pickup appointments are available from 9am-10am daily from Monday through Friday, and 9am-10am on Saturday. We also have appointments from 7pm-8pm Monday through Thursday.
- You may only book a pickup appoint AFTER receiving a request pickup notice from the Library that your items are ready.
- If you miss your appointment, please call us to schedule another. Because we only have so many slots per appointment, we are unable to reschedule pickup for the same day.
- Puzzles and items from the "Library of Things" are not available during contactless pickup.

How does it work?

- Step 1: Put items on hold using your Minuteman account
- Step 2: Wait for an email, text, or phone call that your items are ready to be picked up.
- Step 3: Book a pickup appointment window using our online pickup calendar OR give us a call at 508-647-6520
- Step 4: Come to the Contactless Pickup area outside the library during your appointment window and grab your items off the contactless pickup shelf. Items will be checked out and bagged with your name on it.

Can I Browse Books?

Not at this time. However, staff are hard at work making solutions to give you browse-ability while we are closed. If you would like a recommendation give us a call 508-647-6520 or join Morse Book Match!

Delivery Service

Delivery Service is available for our patrons who cannot safely come to the library, to see if you qualify for delivery click here.

What Stays Virtual

- All programming and events will continue to be hosted online.
- Reference assistance by email, chat, text message, appointment, or phone through our Digital Branch
- Virtual Reference hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 10am-2pm
- Access to all the great digital content like e-Books, e-Audiobooks, movies, magazines, and music from MorseInstitute.org website and our Virtual Reading Room
- Remote access to research resources like databases

Express bundles

The new Express Bundles for adults, DVD, teens, and children have launched! Also, we have a new Book-Fix program, that is

similar to Stitch-Fix (book bundles curated to fit your taste).

You can use the Walk up window to pick up an Express Bundle on demand.

OR, you can fill out an online form to request:

1. Express Bundle(s) to pick up later at the walk up window (within 1 day!)
2. Express Bundle(s) to pick up via contactless holds
3. Book-Fix curated collection based on your preferences within the categories of adult, teen, or children.

Mobile Self-Checkout & Contactless Pickup now LIVE on the Minuteman App!

In order to make getting your materials as fast and safe as possible, we are excited to announce that you can now book a contactless pickup appointment directly from the Minuteman App available for both Apple IOS & Android devices!

Coming into the building to pickup materials? You now have

a contactless option to check out your materials from within the library! Open the Minuteman Library App, select "Mobile Checkout" and scan the item barcodes to checkout. It is simple, fast, and safe!

Special Sunday Holds Pickups!

In order to help those who cannot safely come into the Library, we are opening three hours of Contactless Holds Pickup on Sundays. Times will be available at 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30. Visit the Contactless Holds Pickup webpage for all the information on picking up your holds without coming into the library!

MIL Virtual Programming

Childrens:

Program Videos

Premiering on our Facebook and website, no registration needed!

LIBRARY NEWS
continued on page 16



SWEETWATERS[®]

COFFEE & TEA

NATICK CENTER

Come and enjoy a broad selection of premium, real ingredient-focused beverages with a unique global and Asian influence. Also, we will be serving a range of delicious breakfast items, pastries and desserts.

It is our mission to get to know our neighbors and engage with our guests. Strong community connections is how we share the love.



Follow us on social media



Facebook: @SWNatickCenter



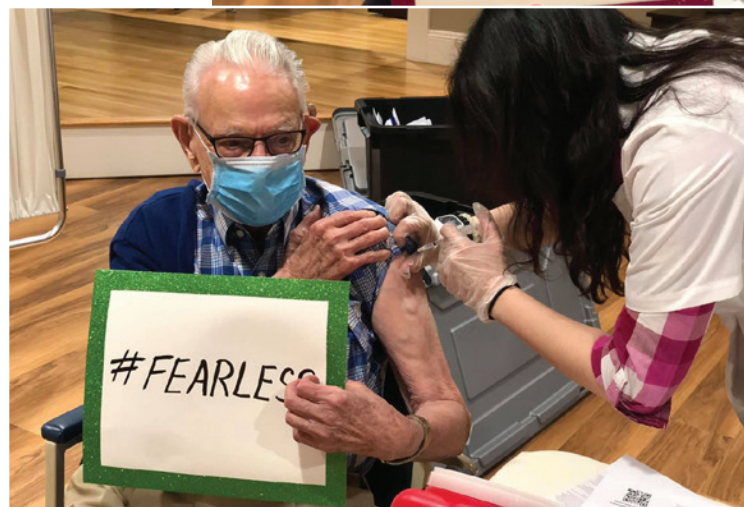
Instagram: @NatickCenterCoffee

Beaumont Residents Get Covid Vaccine



The Jan. 3, vaccine clinic was held at SALMON Health and Retirement's Natick campus.

Two staff members Connie Mabli, Director of Social Services and Admissions in Beaumont at Natick & Gustavo Lobos, CNA in Beaumont at Natick as well as two Residents Ginny Batchelder and George Worthington are shown in the photos



LIBRARY NEWS

continued from page 15

Rhyme Time

Posted Wednesdays 10:00am short stories, songs and play-time extension activities geared for infants and toddlers and their grownups.

Preschool Play

Posted Fridays 10:00am weekly program of stories, songs and games designed especially for the preschool set.

BedTime Buddies

Posted Wednesday nights 7pm A fun pre-bedtime program full of songs, skits, reading and more! A family program for younger listeners and the young at heart

Teen and tween

Dungeons & Dragons Online Gaming

Friday evenings, 6:00-8:00pm Play a Dungeons & Dragons adventure online over 5 weeks! It will be a fifth edition standard fantasy D&D campaign set in Faerun. Players will be able to choose from a variety of pre-generated first level characters. Beginners welcome!
Open to Teens ages 13-18.

Relaxing Coloring

Join us for a coloring session with exclusive coloring sheets - and chat with other Teens & Tweens on Zoom! Hosted by Teen Librarian Robin. If you want to take the coloring sheets

and color on your own time, that's OK, too!

Open to Teens ages 11-18 + 5th graders.

Monthly, from 3:00-4:00pm

Adult Programs:

Meditation with Vivek and Lipi

Wednesdays at 6:30pm Good news for our Wednesday Night Meditation folks! Vivek and Lipi will be hosting Meditation live using Zoom every Wednesday night at 6:30pm! Join us for relaxation and mindfulness! You must register for each session separately using the online calendar above. The Zoom link will be included in your registration confirmation.

Self Care Series: Virtual Qi Gong ("chi" gong)

Every Tuesday at 10am Join us weekly on Tuesday mornings for some relaxing and low-key Qi Gong. Qi Gong is a centuries-old system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation used for the purposes of health, spirituality, and martial-arts training. With roots in Chinese medicine, philosophy, and martial arts,

Qi Gong is traditionally viewed by the Chinese and throughout Asia as a practice to cultivate and balance qi (pronounced approximately as "chi"), translated as "life energy". The best part about Qi Gong, anyone can do it! Please register for each session you will be attending using our online calendar.

Research & Learning:

Exploring Genealogy & Family History

Every Thursday at 3pm Join Morse Research Librarian Karol to learn about the Library and other online resources you can use to start researching your family history! Stop by with your questions, or if you have started your research, let us know how it's going. This is a great space to share ideas and strategies to help grow your family tree. This program will be held using ZOOM! Registration is required for each session you plan to attend. Please be sure to enter a valid email address as a Zoom room code and link will be sent in the email confirmation.

I-HAUL

Disposal Service

A small amount to a whole house...

- Rubbish
- Clean Outs
- Waste Ban Items

- Appliances & Metal
- Construction Debris
- Brush & Yard Debris



You Call.

I Haul.

That's All.

Talk With Your Local Natick Junk Guy!

Buz Bragdon • 508-655-4968

Sports

Talented Natick High Six Eager To Start Competing

Covid-19 Delays Redhawks' Season

BY KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Natick High boys ice hockey team has a plethora of strengths, so it's not surprising that coach Bill LaCouture is extremely bullish on this year's squad, emphasizing that "if there were post-season playoffs at the state level, I firmly believe that our team would be in the Super-8 tourney."

LaCouture, who was a two-time Bay State Conference all-star in hockey at Natick, lost 11 seniors to graduation but there are approximately 22 players on hand with varying degrees of experience.

"We've got experience and depth, strong senior leadership, a high hockey IQ, high-level skills, speed, skating ability, and physical and mental toughness," said LaCouture, who guided the Redhawks to a 14-3-5 record last year in his first year as coach. "Our kids display discipline competing within our framework and they all take pride in the program's tradition."

That pride was evident when the players were informed that their season would be delayed because of an outbreak of covid-19. The Redhawks' skaters started practicing on Dec. 14 but on Jan. 2 they were ordered to stop workouts. The program was put on pause until Jan. 22. However, the School Superintendent (Dr. Anna Nolin) and the Board of Health ended the delay a week earlier, informing LaCouture and his team that they could begin competing on Jan. 15.

"All of the kids in our program have done their due-diligence and I'm proud of the way they've adhered to the rules, like wearing masks, staying in small groups and socially distancing," LaCouture said. "Our players have done their best to get our season underway. The delay was unfortunate but we respect the decisions made by Dr. Nolin and the Board of Health. I'm glad we're moving forward but the priority is the health and safety of everyone in the community."

At Local Town Pages deadline, Natick's schedule, which was originally a 12-game lineup, was not specific about when and where the Redhawks would start their campaign.

"I don't know our opening-day opponent because things are still up in the air," LaCouture said. "Other teams in the Bay State Conference have experienced delays."

LaCouture said. "He's very physical and disciplined and he controls the boards. His work ethic on ice is dynamic. Max is one of our fastest skaters and his hockey IQ provides him with a knack at the net. He's highly respected and leads by honoring the culture of the program."

Natick has four very capable goalies — juniors Luc Gagnon and Tim Cushing and seniors Steve Schneekloth and Jason Christlieb. Gagnon was a BSC all-star last year.

another on the ice."

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) modified school hockey, on and off the ice. Two changes are on faceoffs and scrums. Opposing players must be six feet apart until referees signal the drop of the puck. And, when more than two players are battling for possession, a faceoff will be called when a scrum numbers three or more skaters. Also, masks must be worn while playing, social dis-

that a strong competitive philosophy must still be maintained with a focus on reaching one's potential and enjoying athletics. "If those two things occur, then winning will be the by-product," he emphasized. "I also want our players to believe in themselves and embrace the culture. Bonding will help them get through lows and paying attention to detail is very important."

LaCouture, who played college hockey at the University of New Hampshire, also works



Coach Bill LaCouture, center, is flanked by his five captains, from left Max Gargurevich, Luke Rader, Alex Crook, Will Genaske and Nick Polymeros.

One thing about Natick's team that's not "up in the air" is its talent-laden roster and its top-notch leadership.

The Redhawks' trio of senior captains reflect the squad's overall strengths. The captains are defenseman Luke Rader, center Alex Crook and right wing Will Genaske.

"Luke is a warrior," said the 52-year-old LaCouture. "He's got a tremendous shot and a physical presence. He's got a high tolerance for pain and he sacrifices for his team, leading by example. Alex is a vocal captain whose comments are timely. A first-line center who's an effective playmaker, he can shut down opposing offenses. Will can always be counted on and he's got a high hockey IQ. A strong skater, he's in great condition."

The two assistant captains are also seniors — forward/defenseman Nick Polymeros and center Max Gargurevich.

"Nick has an incredible shot,"

"Luc has a high hockey IQ, he's instinctive and he strives to master his craft," LaCouture noted. "He's a definite college prospect. All of our goalies are capable of playing on any other team in the BSC. They support one another, bond well and are highly skilled."

Besides Rader on defense, the Redhawks can rely on seniors Joe Tarlin and Brandon Ihloff, juniors Nick Haswell and Ryan Comeau, and sophomore Noah Czech. "This group puts a high priority on playing defense first," LaCouture said. "They take pride in knowing that defense wins games."

Forwards who'll play significant roles are seniors Tyler Duby, Colton Green and Bruno Tavilla, and juniors Mike Fair, Nic Verna, Matt Haskell, James Carr and Sean McWhinnie, a BSC all-star last year. "These forwards have speed, they've got physical and mental toughness and they all complement one

tancing is required on the bench, crowd size is limited and there is no locker-room presence.

"Experts make the decisions on whether we'll compete and how we'll compete," LaCouture said. "We adapt and adjust."

Because there are no post-season playoffs at the state level this season, LaCouture firmly believes

diligently to teach life lessons through sports.

"When kids are part of a team, that helps them overcome adversity, like covid-19, because they find support from teammates," he offered. "Our players care about each other and they care about the health and safety of everyone in the community."

NATICK HOME IMPROVEMENT

GUTTER CLEANING & SNOW PLOWING

CARPENTRY • INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING

- Window & Door Replacement
- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
- Wood Flooring • Decks • Siding
- Roofs • Masonry • Power Washing
- Gutter Repairs & Cleaning
- Basement Finishing

Detailed & Meticulous
Reasonable Rates

Call Mauricio

508.202.8602

FULLY INSURED MA HIC.#169427



Real Estate Corner

Fifth Middlesex Towns to receive Transportation and Economic Funding



Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick) and his colleagues in the House passed two Conference Committee Reports on Transportation Investments and Economic Development. H.5250, An Act enabling partnerships for growth passed in the House by a vote 143-4 and H.5248, An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment passed in the House 146-0. These bills will allocate necessary funds for transportation and economic development to municipalities across the commonwealth. Both of these bills are presently before the Governor for approval.

“I was proud to join my colleagues in the House to pass both H.5250 and H.5248 which will provide the Commonwealth and the Fifth Middlesex towns with vitally important funds that will enrich our communities” said Representative Linsky. “I want to thank Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen

Spilka, House Chair Michlewitz and Vice Chair Garlick for all their hard work on these important bills.”

These authorizations would allow the Executive branch to borrow the funds necessary to proceed with the projects. The final decision is with the Governor.

Local authorizations are as follows:

Transportation Bond Bill

Natick

- \$1,000,000 shall be expended on sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements to state highway route 27 in the town of Natick
- \$3,000,000 shall be awarded to the town of Natick for reconstruction and repair of the Boden Lane Bridge
- \$7,500,000 shall be awarded to the town of Natick for construction of a parking structure at the Natick Center Commuter Rail Station
- \$7,500,000 shall be awarded to the town of Natick for construction of a parking structure at the West Natick Commuter Rail Station
- \$5,000,000 shall be expended to the town of Natick for reconstruction of the Route 27 and Route 9 Interchange

Sherborn

\$1,300,000 shall be awarded to the town of Sherborn for construction of an emergency access road for the Pine Hill Elementary School

Millis

\$100,000 shall be awarded to the town of Millis for repaving the section of state highway route 109 from Hammond lane to the town of Medway boundary line

Economic Development Bill

\$500,000 be expended for a competitive grant program to be administered by the department of early education and care for licensed early 367 education and care providers in the city of Attleboro and the towns of Franklin, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley and Wrentham for the purpose of defraying fixed operating costs and costs associated with modifications to early education and care services necessitated by the COVID-19 public health emergency to be awarded based on demonstrated financial need and current reopening status or future plans to reopen during the pandemic

Natick

- \$2,000,000 shall be expended for grants supporting small businesses and workforce development programs in the MetroWest region, including the cities of Framingham and Franklin and the towns of Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway and Natick
- \$500,000 shall be expended for the Natick Center Associates, Inc. for economic development in Natick center to assist in recovery from the combined effects of the 2019 fire and the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic
- \$100,000 shall be expended to the Center for Arts in Natick, Inc. for revenue lost due to the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic

Sherborn

\$150,000 shall be expended for the Sherborn Business Association, Inc. for revenue lost due to the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic

Millis

\$150,000 shall be expended to the town of Millis for economic development



Chip Sulser
617.686.0952

5 STAR CUSTOMER RATING

Beyond a SHADOW of a Doubt
It's a Great Time to SPRING into Action!

Care • Competence • Commitment

One Common St.
Natick, MA 01760
592 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | Commonwealth Real Estate
HomeServices

www.chipsulser.com chip.sulser@commonmoves.com

Advertise your business in our Upcoming
Spring Home & Garden

Reach over 80,000 homes! Ask for details today!

Call Jen: 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Real Estate Corner

Senator Rausch Announces 2021 Virtual Office Hours

Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham) will host her next virtual office hours

- Friday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Friday, February 26, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

In keeping with best practices and recommendations from public health officials, conversations with the Senator and her staff will take place via video conferencing and phone calls.

Residents from any part of the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District are welcome to share their questions and opinions on state issues with Senator Rausch and her staff. Constituents may reserve 15-minute appointments in advance at beccarauschma.com/office-hours.

To subscribe to Senator Rausch's newsletter, please visit <https://beccarauschma.com/newsletter>.

Constituents can still contact the Senator and her team at 617-722-1555 or email becca.rausch@masenate.gov to share their opinion on state issues, seek assistance, or schedule a call with the Senator or her staff. Residents can also get live updates from the Senator via Twitter (@BeccaRauschMA) and Facebook (@BeccaRauschMA).

Senator Becca Rausch represents the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District, comprised of Attleboro, Franklin, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley, and Wrentham. Currently in her second term, Senator Rausch serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.



RUN YOUR ADS WITH US!

CALL JEN (508) 570-6544

ready to have a
Real Estate Conversation?

UPGRADE

SOLD

MORE SPACE

DOWN PAYMENT

REALTOR

OPEN HOUSE

BETH BYRNE REALTOR®
508.561.0521

BSByrne@Comcast.net
BethByrneIsInTheHouse.com
31 South Main Street, Natick, MA

BethByrneIsInTheHouse.com

Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty are independent contractor sales associates, not employees. ©2020 Coldwell Banker Realty. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Realty fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.

Advertise your business this Holiday Season in our Holiday Gift Guide!
Ask for details today! Call Jen: 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@localtownpages.com

UNDER AGREEMENT	<p>KENSINGTON PLACE MILLIS</p> <p>New Construction - Ava Marie Model \$479,900</p>	UNDER AGREEMENT	
	<p>198 Congress Street Milford \$589,000</p>	<p>57 West Street Medway - \$350,000</p>	
SOLD	<p>36 Stratford Road Natick - \$819,900</p>	NEW LISTING	
	<p>79 Farm Street Millis - \$369,000</p>	<p>17 Yale Drive Milford - \$339,900</p>	
SOLD	NEW LISTING	NEW CONSTRUCTION	SOLD
	<p>177 Plain Street Millis Townhouse - \$559,000</p>	<p>166 Village Street Millis - \$589,000</p>	<p>163 Village Street Millis - \$499,900</p>

RAWDING REALTY LLC
MICHAEL RAWDING
508-341-5446

Let my 21 years experience of selling homes help you with your next move.

15 Baltimore St, Millis & 10 Speen St, Framingham Offices

RawdingRealtyLLC@gmail.com

Janice C. Burke
REALTOR®

Call Janice today, start packing tomorrow!



508-380-7206

janicecburkere@gmail.com



TOP AGENT
at Coldwell Banker
in Natick

**CALL FOR A
FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**



New Natick Listings Coming Soon



N Main Street, Natick

Pristine 2 BD + Finished Third Floor
2F 1H BA | 2 Car Garage
Downtown Location



Point Street, Natick

4 BD | 2F 1H BA | 2015 Construction
Gorgeous, Private Setting and Home



Charles Street, Natick

3 BD | 2 BA
Prime Walnut Hill Location
Walk to Downtown Natick and Train.

We ♥ Natick



COMPASS

#1 in Natick in Homes Sold



Jessica Allain + Natalie Warren

617.820.8114

allainwarrengroup@compass.com

Compass is a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.