

Creativity and Recovery

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

“To be an artist is to believe in life,” said famous sculptor Henry Moore.

Natick’s 7-year-old Emelie Brosnihan already counted crafts and creativity among her favored hobbies. And when her family received a most-unwelcome diagnosis a few years ago, she would put her art to use in coping with the hard months ahead.

In the summer of 2022, Emelie experienced stomach pain and a bump was discovered on her right side. Tests revealed a form of kidney cancer, and she soon began treatment at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, including chemotherapy.

Dana Farber staff discovered that year during Emelie’s regular visits that she was adept and interested in arts and crafts. The facility provides such resources for children undergoing treatments - welcome diversions from the serious work of doctors and clinicians.

“Dana Farber is an incredible place,” said Kate Brosnihan, mom to Emelie.

It was then suggested that



Emelie submit some drawings of her own for a local fundraising drive. The chosen artwork



A Green Thumb

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

Mike Butera of Natick spent a long career in the discipline of landscaping.

Now retired, he’s passed on his company to family.

Yet a thumb that green doesn’t fade so easily. Butera’s

home garden at 11 Greenleaf Road is a gardener’s wonderland. From vegetables to exotic flowers, it’s bloomed like no other. Here are some choice scenes.

PANDA

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FLOWERS

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PANDA

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would be featured on reusable bags sold at Homegoods stores and proceeds from their sale would go toward helping families with children coping with cancer and other ailments. The drive was organized in partnership with the Jimmy Fund.

“I drew a panda eating watermelon and a fish,” said Emelie. On one bag, a roly-poly panda bear is pictured munching on a juicy slice of summer fruit. On another, a colorful fish swims in a sea of blue. Panda bears and watermelon are a few of Emelie’s favorite things, she said.

She drew a half-dozen designs for the contest, all adhering to a prescribed theme. Young artists were encouraged to create works that spoke to summer. Among Emelie’s offerings were a popsicle and hibiscus flower.

She worked on her designs last summer, and her winning drawings were featured on limited-edition reusable shopping

bags in June of this year, just in time for the sweltering vacation season. In between last summer and this one, Emelie attended first grade full time during fall, winter and spring.

Emelie’s prognosis is promising, her monthly visits to Dana Farber now a thing of the past. Those checkups had evolved over the months to quarterly visits, and have recently become even less frequent. It’s a sign that treatments have been effective, that life is slowly returning to normal.

Emelie has travelled so far this summer to a vacation on Cape Cod, and a trip to visit family in California. Soon, she’ll attend the “Hole in the Wall Gang Camp,” a residential summer getaway geared toward children coping with chronic illness. The camp was founded in 1988 by legendary actor and philanthropist Paul Newman.

“So, she’s doing really well,” said Kate

FLOWERS

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MassBay Partners with Natick High to Launch STEM Tech Career Academy

MassBay Community College is excited to announce a new partnership with Natick High School to establish the STEM Tech Career Academy. This innovative program, made possible by a \$1 million Massachusetts Executive Office of Education grant, is designed to increase interest in and provide access to STEM college coursework for students of color, students with disabilities, low-income students, and first-generation students aspiring to pursue STEM-related careers. This grant will engage students beginning in grade 9 and continue to support them through high school graduation, providing college coursework during the regular high school day that aligns with MassBay's Engineering and Life Sciences degree programs. This collaboration aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed for college degrees and careers in high-demand STEM fields.

"We are extremely grateful for this STEM Career Academy grant and the incredible opportunities it will provide students at Natick

High School," said MassBay STEM Tech Career Academy's program manager, Jen McAndrew. "We know that early college experiences significantly impact students' success in higher education. This academy will offer a solid and in-demand career track, enhancing students' marketability for future job prospects."

The STEM Tech Career Academy team at MassBay began collaborating with Natick High School in the fall of 2023 to recruit students and train Natick High teachers in the interdisciplinary life science and engineering curriculum. Thirty-two STEM Tech scholars will be participating in this first cohort of the program. Students in grades 9 and 10 will be exposed to both disciplines, with students committing to either the life sciences or engineering pathway in grade 11. This program provides Natick High School students with practical college experience while still in high school. It also provides student support, enrichment activities, and experiential learning opportunities. In 12th grade, students will

take at least one class on MassBay's Wellesley Hills campus.

On Monday, June 17, the program kicked off with a visit to ABI-LAB in Natick. The following week students will visit the Natick Soldier Systems Center. These field trips will provide this first cohort of scholars with the opportunity to meet each other and program staff, tour the facilities, hear from STEM professionals, and learn about STEM careers firsthand.

"We are very excited to kick start the STEM Tech Career Academy here at Natick High School," said Natick High School Science Department Chair, Dan Hinnenkamp. "To provide students with additional science pathways that overlap and give college credit, is a very exciting endeavor here at NHS. This grant has provided everyone with such great resources, I am very excited to follow the path and evolution of this program."

The STEM Tech Career Academy reflects a shared commitment to expanding access to STEM education and career pathways for underrepresented students, ensur-

ing they are well-prepared for the future.

One Natick High School freshman accepted into the program explained, "I have always been interested in STEM and I am always seeking opportunities to expand my knowledge. I find this Engineering and Life Science course exciting, and I think it will open up new possibilities. I am interested in this program because I believe it will add

value by providing me with different STEM related experiences like projects, research, industry exposure, and practical knowledge to build my skills. I believe that this program will help me gain the necessary skills to move me closer to achieving my goal. I am excited about attending this program and am looking forward to learning new things!"

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Bacon Free Library August 2024

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The BFL will be closed on Saturdays in 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

Story Time -- Mondays and Tuesdays @ 10am -- We'll feature a combination of stories for listening and songs for singing & dancing. Held outside (unless it rains).

Baby Time -- Wednesdays @ 10am -- 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. Always held indoors.

Jammin with You -- Fridays, Aug 2nd, Aug 9th, & Aug 23rd @ 10:30am -- Be prepared to laugh, dance, sing, and jam your way through 30 minutes of non-stop family fun! Held outside (unless it rains)

Read to a Dog -- Friday, August 16th, 3:00-4:15pm -- Kids can build confidence and practice their 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.

Goats & Giggles -- Friday, Aug 2nd @ 2-3pm -- Play and cuddle with some curious and friendly baby goats outside on the library

lawn! The Farmer's Helpers program from Chip-in Farm will be bringing their goats to the BFL for a visit.

All ages are welcome. Please note that participants may be required to wait in line, as the number of people interacting with the goats at a time will be limited for the animals' comfort and safety. We'll provide coloring pages and some farm-themed books to browse while waiting.

Professor Bugman's Insect Safari -- Weds, Aug 7th @ 2:30pm -- Come explore the arthropod biodiversity outside in your own community with a real entomologist! Professor Bugman will bring the equipment and expertise; you bring the curiosity!

This program will take place outdoors and is geared toward

ages 4-12. Registration is required.

Buildwave Workshop -- Monday, Aug 12th @ 2pm -- Build and have fun in this creative, hands-on workshop that encourages play and

collaboration. Participants will be given wave after wave of kits filled with different building materials to

LIBRARY

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ACCEPT Education Collaborative Learning Center Receives \$75,000 Skills Capital Grant

Executive Director Dr. Donna Flaherty is pleased to announce that the ACCEPT Educational Collaborative has been awarded a \$75,000 Skills Capital Grant, courtesy of the Healey-Driscoll administration.

On Monday, June 10, nearly \$15 million in Skills Capital Grants were awarded to schools across the state to support them in upgrading technology and instructional lab spaces, expanding career programs for young people and adults and increasing capacity in workforce training programs across Massachusetts.

The \$75,000 in funding will be used to expand ACCEPT's college and career learning opportunities through the purchase of zSpace technology. zSpace is a mixed-reality technology that combines virtual and augmented reality, allowing users to experience a life-like, virtual learning environment. This technology increases students' curiosity, critical thinking and engagement, and deepens understanding of course materials.

Through the use of zSpace, ACCEPT is developing expo-

sure to entry-level positions in the healthcare industry, newly developed course work and early introduction to a college classroom environment.

The Skills Capital Grants are awarded by the state's Workforce Skills Cabinet, which aligns education, economic development, and workforce policies to meet employers' demand for skilled workers in every region of Massachusetts. The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions demonstrating partnerships with local businesses and aligning curriculum and credentials with industry demand to maximize hiring opportunities.

"I would like to offer a sincere thank you to the Healey-Driscoll administration for awarding the ACCEPT Educational Collaborative Center this generous grant," Executive Director Flaherty said. "This grant will prove to be invaluable to all of our students in their pursuit of learning, and we appreciate everything the administration has done to place the utmost importance on their education."

Spark Parenting Event

Shame Proof Parenting: Back to School Success

Event Date: Tuesday, August 13th at 7PM EST

Event Location: Online Webinar via Zoom

Event Description: The end of summer marks a time of transition and big feelings for both children and parents/caregivers. Clinical social worker, author, and parent coach Dr. Mercedes Samudio, LCSW, DSW, will offer supportive and practical tips to empower families in using their unique parenting style to set up the school year

for success, including:

Promoting positive communication with your child

Addressing anxiety and promoting resilience

Managing social media and technology (in an empowering way)

Feel free to share your questions in advance, as there will be a Q + A portion of the program. Please note this program will not be recorded, so make sure to join us live on Tuesday, 8/13 at 7pm ET!

Registration Link: <https://sparkshameproofparenting.eventbrite.com>

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Summer Cleanout is Greener with Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

Business spotlight

or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. 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!

Jay and his team have handled 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.

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

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.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. 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 eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic,

If you don't want to be both-



ered 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.

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.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. 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!

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.

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

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at www.affordablejunkremoval.com.

And speaking of pricing, Jay

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.

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How to Mitigate the Effects of Summer Drought



Chris Hopkins

LANDSCAPE INSIGHTS

I am amazed at how quickly New England's weather can change. In late April, we complained that it was unseasonably cold and we were receiving abundant rain. Now, it is hot and muggy, and we are in a drought. Summer droughts can significantly impact grass, leading to several visible and physiological changes. Here are some key points to consider:

Effects of Summer Drought on Grass:

1. **Discoloration:** During a drought, grass often turns brown or yellow due to a lack of water. This discoloration indicates that the grass is going dormant to conserve resources.
2. **Growth Slowdown:** Grass growth slows significantly during a drought as the plant conserves water and energy. New shoots and blades may be sparse or absent.
3. **Soil Compaction:** Dry conditions can lead to soil compaction, making it harder for roots to access water and nutrients.
4. **Root System:** Grass's root system can be severely affected. Shallow roots may dry out quickly, while deeper roots may struggle to find sufficient moisture.
5. **Increased Weed Growth:** Weeds often have deeper root systems and are more drought-tolerant, causing them to take over the lawn during drought conditions.

Management Strategies:

1. **Watering:** Water deeply but infrequently to encourage more profound and deeper root growth. Early morning watering reduces evaporation losses and protects against fungus in hot, humid weather.
2. **Mowing:** Raise the mowing height to reduce stress on the grass. Taller grass shades the soil, reducing evaporation and promoting more profound/deeper root growth.
3. **Aeration & Overseeding:** In the fall, aerate the lawn to reduce soil compaction and improve water infiltration. Overseed to thicken the lawn and choke out weeds and invasive grasses, introducing newer and healthier grass to complement the existing grass.
4. **Drought-Tolerant Grass Species:** Consider planting drought-tolerant grass varieties better adapted to survive dry conditions.

5. **Fertilization:** Avoid fertilizing during drought conditions, as this can further stress the grass. Fertilize during recovery periods when adequate moisture is available.
6. **Top Dress:** In the fall, add compost to the lawn before seeding to help thicken it, along with aeration and overseeding.

Proper lawn care and management practices can help mitigate the effects of drought and promote grass recovery once normal moisture conditions return. No one likes to see the damaging effects of drought conditions. Applying some or all of the strat-

egies above will significantly improve the quality of your grass over time. Supplemental water from an irrigation system is another great way to fight the effects of drought stress on the lawn.

Information provided by Chris Hopkins, Greenleaf Landscaping LLC — with 30 years of experience serving all your landscaping needs. Greenleaf is a total green-space management company. We design, build, and maintain beautiful outdoor living spaces of all sizes for discerning New England families. Talk to Greenleaf today: 774-421-9570

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LIBRARY

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explore.

Geared toward kids entering grades K to 6. Registration is required.

PJ Story Time -- Tuesday, Aug 13th @ 6pm -- Put on your jammies, grab a favorite stuffed animal, and join us for a cozy evening story time! All ages are welcome.

Button Making -- Weds, Aug 14th, 2-4pm-- Stop by anytime between 2:00 and 4:00 to create your own cool button using our button maker! You can draw your own design or use a page from a discarded book or magazine. All ages are welcome.

Stacey Peasley Concert -- Tuesday, Aug 20th @ 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. Feel free to bring a picnic dinner as well. **If it rains, the show will be indoors at the Morse Institute Library.**

All Ages Programs

Featured art display, until August 7th: Marie Picard Craig Art Exhibit -- Marie Craig uses cyanotype, an early method of photography, to explore the overlap between concrete bodies, or still moments, and the life instilled in them. Her photographs capture places of formative choice, incorporating both intention and chance. Craig began her career as a medical photographer and illustrator after graduating from Clark University, MA with a master's degree in biology. She later shifted her role to become a teacher, curator, photographer and gallerist, all in the fine art community. Marie has shown her work in numerous solo and group exhibitions in the US and Australia. In 2011 she co-founded Fountain Street Gallery in Boston and serves as its director. She lives and works in Natick, MA

Featured art display, August 8th - Sept 18th: Mary Weafer Photography -- Mary's elegant photos capture art and nature in unique ways.

Adult Programs

Garden Travel -- England: The Cotswolds, Cornwall, and Devon -- Tuesday, Aug 6th @ 6pm on Zoom -- Landscape photographer Joanne Pearson will be our guide

through this armchair tour of 11 gardens in southwestern England. Among the highlights are the much revered Arts and Crafts style garden at Hidcote; the last surviving rococo garden in England at Painswick; the inspiring gardens at Drogo Castle, the last castle ever built in England; and the remarkable Eden Project. This program will be held over zoom. Register to receive the program link.

Maine Destinations for Stephen King Fans -- Tuesday, Aug 20th @ 7pm on Zoom -- In this virtual program, author Sharon Kitchens will discuss her new book, Stephen King's Maine: A History & Guide. She'll lead you on an exploration of Maine locations that serve as the basis for Stephen King's fictional towns of Castle Rock, Jerusalem's Lot, Derry, and Haven. Drawing on historical materials and conversations with locals and people who know King, Kitchens talks about the places that would become the settings for Carrie, Salem's Lot, The Dead Zone, Cujo, IT, and 11/22/63. This program will be held over zoom. Register to receive the program link.

The Indigenous Old World -- An Exploration of Pre-Colombian North America -- Weds, Aug 21st @ 7pm on Zoom -- Christoph

Strobel, Department Chair and Professor of History at UMASS Lowell, will bring us into the Indigenous Old World: Before European colonization, North America was filled with cities, towns, and villages. Across the continent, Indigenous peoples produced architecture and monumental construction. The ancient and medieval communities of North America were fed by agriculture. Moreover, Indigenous Americans actively managed their environment and participated in long distance exchange networks.

This program will be held over Zoom. Register to receive the program link.

Food Explorers: Spring Rolls - Thurs, Aug 29th @ 4pm -- Join Food Explorers for a delicious cooking program! You'll be making spring rolls with a registered dietitian. Learn how to soak and wrap your spring rolls and fill with an assortment of fresh veggies, rice noodles, and soy sauce. The recipe is nut free but will contain soy.

This in-person cooking class is for ages 16 and older. Registration is required.

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

August 1st: The Shape of Water by Andrea Camilleri

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

August 8th: Four Lost Cities: a secret history of the urban age by Annalee Newitz

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

August 24th: Opposable Thumbs: How Siskel & Ebert changed movies forever by Matt Singer

Tuesday Night Book Club -- the fourth Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 pm at the library

August 27th: Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows by Jaswal Balli Kaur

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.

Museum Passes

The Bacon Free Library and Morse Institute Library offer passes for free or reduced-admission to 30 local museums. Check one out and plan your next day trip!

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August Events At Natick Community Senior Center

For a complete listing of our programs, please go to <https://www.natickma.gov/1049/Newsletter-Print-and-E-blast>

WONDRUM GREAT COURSES- HYBRID

Please call to register 508-647-6540.

Join us for this weekly exploration every Tuesday from 11:00am-noon of a range of talks given by experts in their fields. Zoom from home or join us at the center to watch in person.

August 6- Listening to and Understanding Opera- Introduction Words and Music part 1

August 13- Listening to and Understanding Opera- Introduction Words and Music part 2

August 20- Listening to and Understanding Opera-Vocal Expression in Music part 1

August 27- Listening to and Understanding Opera- Vocal Expression in Music part 2

WEEKLY WALKS- TUESDAYS

Please call to register 508-647-6540.

Every Tuesday (8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27) meet us at 9:30 am at Wellesley College to walk the paths on campus. We meet at the Sports Center Complex Visitor Parking- entrance off Central St/135 (one-way entrance/exit). We will walk as a group for an hour led by Sharon or other volunteer, wear comfortable shoes/sneakers, dress appropriately for the weather, goes rain or shine.

CULTURALLY CURIOUS

Downeast Connections: Artists Inspired by Maine- Hybrid Wednesday, August 21, 1:30-2:30pm, free

Please call to register 508-647-6540.

Maine's remote, rocky shoreline has been a beacon to American artists for generations. This program will survey the work of some of the most celebrated artists inspired by the state's distinct landscape and way of life. The program features work by artists including Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth, and Ashley Bryan. Thank you to

Whitney Place for sponsoring this program!

GAME SHOW- FAMILY FEUD

Monday, August 26, 1:00-2:00pm, free

Please call to register 508-647-6540.

Come and be a contestant on our LIVE game show Family Feud with MC Kevin Richman. In this fun competition, you will compete for prizes while naming the most popular answers to survey questions. Snacks and beverages included!

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL DAY TRIPS!

DAY TRIP TO SALEM WITCH MUSEUM AND PIRATE MUSEUM

Wednesday, September 11, \$89.00, non-refundable, payable at registration. Luxury bus departs from Fisk Methodist Church, 106 Walnut St, Natick at 9:00am, returns approximately 5:00 pm. Registration Deadline is Tuesday, August 20.

On this tour, we will visit the Salem Witch Museum and the

New England Pirate Museum (museum entrances with tour included). The Salem Witch Museum presents one of the most tragic stories in American history, the 1692 Witch Trials and guided tour at 2:15. Say "Ay Ay Matey" as you relive the adventures of famous pirates at the Pirate Museum with a 10:15 guided tour. Visit the artifacts room to see some real treasures. Have free time to shop the local stores and taste the local flavors that historic Pickering Wharf has to offer (lunch on you own).

DAY TRIP TO NEWPORT PLAYHOUSE

Run For Your Wife

Wednesday, September 25, \$134.10, non-refundable, payable at registration. Luxury bus departs from Fisk Methodist Church, 106 Walnut St, Natick at 9:00am, returns approximately 5:45 pm. Registration Deadline is Tuesday, September 3

A FUN filled afternoon at this dinner theatre with buffet lunch, wonderful play and cabaret. The feature play, 1982 British comedy by Cooney, Run For Your Wife, shows John Smith who has two wives, two lives and a very precise schedule for juggling them both. When

John Smith is mugged, ending up in the hospital, both his addresses surface, causing both the Streatham and Wimbledon police to investigate. Comedy ensues as Smith tries hopelessly to explain himself with the help of his upstairs neighbor. Lunch is a hearty buffet with hot/cold foods, main entrees, side dishes, beverages and homemade desserts. You will not be disappointed!

DAY TRIP TO CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS, NH

Thursday, October 3, \$116.10, non-refundable, payable at registration. Luxury bus departs from Fisk Methodist Church, 106 Walnut St, Natick at 9:00am, returns approximately 6:45 pm. Registration Deadline is Wednesday, September 11

We will begin our day with a stop at a regional landmark, Hart's Turkey Farm. Choose from Turkey Dinner, Roast Beef Dinner, or Broiled Haddock Dinner with all of the fixings. After we will tour Castle in the Clouds, located in the heart of the Ossipee Mountains! This former country estate took

SENIOR CENTER
continued on page 9

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Teaching Kids Financial Responsibility: Summer Jobs and Roth IRAs



Glenn Brown, CFP

Have a teenager working this summer?

Did they earn money babysitting or mowing lawns?

How about a W-2 from selling ice cream or as a camp counselor?

You can open a Roth IRA for your child to evolve their financial knowledge while helping invest for retirement, a first house and/or qualified educational expenses.

Kids establishing Roth IRAs. There is no age minimum, as long as they earn income. It's up to the parent to document to IRS that their kids had income earned from work, either W-2 or self-employment taxable wages.

If under 18, an adult opens and maintains control of a Custodial Roth IRA with the child as beneficiary. Once an adult, usually 18 in most states, the account is transferred to a Roth IRA in their ownership.

After a Custodial Roth IRA is opened for 5 years, the advantages of tax-free earnings and withdrawals are same as Roth IRA. Recall a Roth IRA's tax treatment is most valuable when time horizons are long and current tax rates are low, both true for kids.

What if your teen spent all their earnings? After a talk about budgeting (i.e. 3 Jars - Spend, Save, Gift), a parent or grandparent could fund a Roth IRA up to the amount of the child's reported earned income on tax returns.

Some parents will make 'match' contributions based on money earned in a summer job. If a teen earned \$3,800 for 2024, a parent will fund \$3,800.

Remember, these contributions count against the \$18,000 tax-free gifts per individual for 2024. So, if you've funded \$18,000 for child's 529 Plan, find another individual (i.e. spouse, relative) who can make the Roth IRA contribution.

Introduction to personal investing. Have fun by letting your teen research an ETF or company to invest in, have them explain reasoning behind their

choice and teach how they can follow. The next year, have them choose a different investment with the new contribution. Over time, they have a mix of investments, outcomes and lessons learned. This hands-on experience lays a foundation for making informed financial decisions of greater magnitude later in life.

Taxation of withdrawals before age 59 1/2. A Roth IRA allows for 100% of contributions to be taken out for any reason, with no taxes or penalties. Furthermore, if a Roth IRA withdrawal is for qualified education expenses, you avoid the 10% penalty on earnings but still pay income tax on the earnings at the kid's tax rate. Thus, Roth IRA could supplement educational savings. Later, they could also withdraw up to a \$10,000 to pay for a first-time home purchase.

Impact to financial aid? Yes, in a good way. The "expected

family contribution" or "EFC" formula has student owned assets assessed at 20% with two notable exceptions. First is 529's owned by parent's is 5.6% and retirement accounts owned by parent or child counts as 0%. However, if a child takes money from a Roth IRA, even to pay for college, up to 50% of the withdrawal may be assessed.

In conclusion, opening a Roth IRA for kids is a proactive way for parents to teach financial responsibility and secure their children's financial future. It's not just about saving money; it's about cultivating a mindset of financial discipline and planning that will benefit them throughout their lives. By harnessing the power of investing, compounding and leveraging tax advantages, parents can give their children a head start towards financial independence and security.

Not all institutions offer Custodial Roth IRAs, but many do with no minimums and low fees. Consult your Certified Financial Planner to learn more.

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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SENIOR CENTER

continued from page 8

many years, thousands of workmen, and millions of dollars to build. The Castle is built in one of the most beautiful settings in the world. Situated on the highest hill in the vicinity, the castle itself commands a panoramic view. One can see for a radius of 75 miles! Before heading home, we will make a stop at Kellerhaus, New Hampshire's oldest candy and ice cream makers.

DAY TRIP TO TURKEY TRAIN, NH

Thursday, October 10, \$126.00 non-refundable, pay-

able at registration. Luxury bus departs from Fisk Methodist Church, 106 Walnut St, Natick at 9:45 am, returns approximately 6:45 pm. Registration deadline Wednesday, September 18. Begin your day with a beautiful scenic drive up to Meredith, New Hampshire where we will board the Winnepesaukee "Turkey Train" at the Hobo Railroad. This two-hour scenic train ride, through the countryside and fall foliage is complete with a delicious full turkey dinner with all the fixin's provided by Hart's Turkey Farm. After our train excursion and on the way home, we stop at Moulton Farm which dates back to 1890's, in the heart of the Lakes Region.



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Natick residents take the stage in Weston summer productions

Weston Drama Workshop, a nonprofit youth theater organization in its 62nd anniversary season, staged six productions this month at Regis College, featuring participants entering Grade 5 through age 23. Participants have been rehearsing for these productions since early June, and performed at the Regis College

Fine Arts Center between July 13 and July 27. With over 30 performances in the span of a jam-packed three weeks, Weston Drama Workshop continued its long-standing tradition of providing the MetroWest community and beyond with quality youth theater.

WDW's younger ensemble—participants in the Morning Program and the Afternoon Program—performed two productions: Alice By Heart, the touching musical based on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and set in the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, directed by Aidan O'Hara; and Old Jake's Skirts, a one-act Theater for Young Audiences play about a lonely pumpkin farmer who finds an old trunk of calico skirts, directed by Callie Llewellyn. Among the young actors performing in these two productions are Natick residents Eliana Aliprantis, Eleni Crew, Ariana Jahic, Haley Kennedy, Sadie Klau, Lucy Landry, Diya Shah, Annabelle Springer, Emily Springer, and Liam Turner.



Bernie Klau, Morgan Bienstock, Anya Carroll

The program's older ensemble, ages 14–23, performed three main stage musicals and one black box play. Audiences explored the lives of Henry VIII's six wives in Six: Teen Edition, directed by Julia Deter; experience Andrew Lloyd Webber's enthralling score



Front: Lucy Landry, Diya Shah, Emily Springer, Sadie Klau, Eliana Aliprantis; Back: Eleni Crew, Liam Turner, Ariana Jahic, Annabelle Springer, Haley Kennedy

in The Phantom of the Opera, directed by Chris Brindley; followed two revolutionaries as they tried to save rock 'n' roll against the backdrop of music by Queen in We Will Rock You, directed by Skylar Grossman; and witnessed Sarah Ruhl's reimagining of the

Orpheus myth in Eurydice, directed by Tristan Burke. Among the performers starring in these four productions are Natick residents Morgan Bienstock, Anya Carroll, and Bernie Klau.

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National Night Out

This year the Natick Police Department, along with its many event sponsors and community partners, will participate in the nationwide, “41st Annual National Night Out” starting at 4 p.m. at Memorial Field, 92-108 West St., Natick. National Night Out is

designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate supports for, and



participation n, local anti-crime efforts

participation n, local anti-crime efforts

- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships

- Send a message to criminals letting them know our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

From 4-8 p.m. on Aug. 6th, residents in neighborhoods throughout Natick and across the nation, are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with their neighbors and police at this free event.

Follow the Natick Police on “X” @Natickpolice for more details as the event gets closer. If you are a local business or resident that would like to participate in some way, please contact Lt. Chad Howard at howard@natickpolice.com, or by calling 508-647-9516.

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Jack Whelan graduates from Marquette University

This past spring, Jack Whelan of Natick, graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Whelan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Whelan was one of 2,852 students to graduate from Marquette in May. The university celebrated its 143rd Commencement with a series of events, including Graduate Recognition Ceremonies at Fiserv Forum and a Baccalaureate Mass on campus. Learn more about the weekend.

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university that draws over 7,600 undergraduate and 3,700 graduate and professional students from nearly all states and more than 60 countries. In addition to its nationally recognized academic programs, Marquette is known for its service learning programs and internships as students are challenged to use what they learn to make a difference in the world. Find out more about Marquette at marquette.edu.

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Sports

Lofty Goals Set For Natick High's Cross-country Team

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Coach Matt Miller has set some lofty goals for the Natick High boys cross-country team.

The 58-year-old Miller, who has 22 years with the program (12 as head coach) lists winning the Division 1B Meet and the Bay State Conference Championship Meet as two of his prime objectives. Also on his list are to improve on last year's result in the other post-season meet (Meet of Champions), and to see the Redhawks or one of their individuals invited to the Nike National Meet in Oregon.

Miller's goals may be lofty but he firmly believes they're realistic.

"Based on last year, our squad had the best results ever in the Division 1B and the All-State Meet (now called the Meet of Champions)," said Miller, who also coaches boys indoor and outdoor track. "We finished third in the division meet out of 21 teams and ninth in the Meet of Champions out of 23 squads. We had a 5-4 dual-meet record in the Bay State Conference but finished third in the conference championship meet."

Miller has a high degree of confidence in his 2024 contingent and he knows it's capable of surpassing last year's efforts. "We've got a talented and dedicated group," he emphasized, "and they've seen what they can achieve after last year's post-season. The boys rose to the occasion. Qualifying for the Nike Nationals, however, will be hard but it's possible."

The Redhawks have a vari-

ety of other strengths that Miller likes. "They work hard and do what's required for success," he said. "They're young but have meet experience and rely on grit and determination. They're also confident and have benefitted from our overall depth."

Five seniors have graduated from last year's team but there are six returnees with varying degrees of experience.

Natick has seven captains and they're all seniors.



"Joe Vogel, Will Catching and Jay Hu are quality runners and respected leaders," Miller said. "Joe is a natural leader who's a distance specialist. He runs the two-mile in track. Will is a middle-distance specialist who can extend out to a 5K race. He runs the 800-meter event in track. Jay is the hardest worker on the team. He's talented and gives great effort, which could lead to him becoming a top-7 runner."

Christian Goranson, Mark Boyajian, Ben Sheidley and Mateo Gonzalez round out the



Above: Natick's cross-country coach, Matt Miller, far right, guided the Redhawks to a ninth-place finish last fall in the Meet of Champions. Runners included, from left, Freddie Van der Velden, Nick Bianchi, Liam O'Neill, Steven D'Alessandro, John Bianchi, Sean Fleming, and Jacob Tobin. Lft: Labeled by coach Matt Miller as Natick's top cross-country runner, John Bianchi also excels in track. He finished fifth in the mile at the Division 1 State Meet last spring.

captain's group. "They're all well-liked and are strong leaders," Miller noted. "They're committed to the team and they're all dependable and have passion for cross-country."

Miller labels junior John Bianchi as "our No. 1 runner" and says he was the top distance runner in indoor and outdoor track.

"John is strong, physical, fast, experienced and has a lengthy stride," Miller offered. "He rises to the challenge. He was seventh at the Meet of Champions last year and set a school record in the outdoor mile (4:16.31)."

Junior Freddie Van Der Velden has emerged after a promising sophomore year. "Freddie is enthusiastic and is committed to improving," Miller said. "He has a good training partner in Bianchi."

Sophomore Callum Doyle was ranked the 12th best freshman miler in track last spring and Miller is eager to see him progress. "Callum is quiet and he's emerged as a top-notch miler in track," he said. "And, he's not afraid to train hard."

Sophomore Declan Hava is a runner with a tremendous work ethic. "He loves running and he loves being part of the team," Miller said. "He's willing to work diligently to reach his goals."

Miller rates Brookline, the defending BSC champion, as the favorite to again win the conference meet. "They're talented and have some quality returnees," he said. "We'll be in the mix along with Newton North and Wellesley."

As Natick gets ready for pre-season practice that begins on Aug. 22, Miller will welcome Hunter Stewart, his "experienced and knowledgeable assistant coach." Stewart also works with sprinters in indoor and outdoor track.

A native of St. Louis, Miller relies on a competitive philosophy that focuses on reaching one's potential and enjoying athletics. "If those things occur, then winning will be the by-product, he said. "And, if our runners don't win, there's still lifelong values they get from competing with their colleagues and building great relationships."

Valuable life lessons Miller hopes his runners learn while competing are "how to be good teammates and quality leaders, how to overcome adversity and to be resilient."

Natick High's boys cross-country team will be a formidable opponent for conference foes this fall and also for those the Redhawks will face in post-season meets.

Miller knows his forces will be fast and run strategic races. "We're also versatile, having a good blend of speed and endurance. And, our competitive desire will be a major plus."

The goals have been set and Natick will open its season on Sept. 4 at Wellesley.

Expectations no doubt will be high but Matt Miller and his Redhawk runners are ready for the challenges ahead.

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Framingham-Natick Dispatch Center Receives \$4.3 Million Grant From Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The communities of Natick & Framingham were awarded a \$4.33 million grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to establish a regional 911 emergency communication district between Framingham and Natick for Police and Fire dispatch.

“Combining the dispatch operations of the Framingham Police and Fire departments into a unified location and establishing a regional dispatch center has long been a goal,” said Mayor Charlie Sisitsky. “The acquisition of a \$4.33 million grant from the Commonwealth is a significant step towards equipping and preparing the Center for operation. The existing dispatch centers at both the fire and police stations were constrained in space. I want to thank Dana Haagensen, Director of Administration & Finance for the Framingham Fire Department, for taking the lead on this grant.”

“This is an impressive example of what regional, shared services can provide to Massachusetts communities” said Natick Town Administrator Jamie Errickson. “I’m confident that this grant will accelerate this collaborative effort and I look forward to advancing the Regional Dispatch Center with our Framingham partners.”

“We are very pleased to have been awarded the grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the State 911 Department,” said Framingham Fire Chief Michael Dutcher. “In collaboration with our mutual aid partners, the Town of Natick, we will have a state-of-the-art Regional Emergency Communications Center, that will improve our efficiencies in responding to calls for service.”

“We are so grateful to the 911 Department for approving and accepting us into the grant program. The City administration has been working on this diligently along with our partners in Natick and I can’t wait to start the construction of our Regional Dispatch Center,” said City of Framingham Chief Operating Officer Michael Tusino.

The dispatch center is planned to be situated in the office building next to the Memorial Building, located on Route 126 in downtown Framingham.

The City of Framingham purchased 188 Concord Street in March 2023. The Framingham Health Department & Clinic opened on the first floor earlier this spring, and the dispatch center will be located on the upper floors of the 4-story building.

Both the Framingham City

Council and the Natick Select Board voted to support the regional municipal 911 emergency communication center.

Framingham and Natick, the current participating communities, will share the expenses, duties, and responsibilities of constructing, operating, and maintaining the regional municipal 911 emergency communication facility under a forthcoming agreement between the Town of Natick and the City of Framingham.

“I would like to thank the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security State 911 Department for supporting this important effort through its grant program,” said Natick Police Chief James Hicks. “Our Public Safety Dispatchers have always been the very best and well trained. This partnership will build on their professionalism and lead to a more efficient delivery of public safety services to the region. It will also create a career path for these dedicated workers that will help draw more people to this critical position in public safety operations.”

“On behalf of the entire Police Department, I would like to thank the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the State 911 Department for giving us this grant,” said Framingham Police Chief Les-

ter Baker. “It affords us the opportunity to work with our partners in Natick and allows us to update and further professionalize and enhance the great work our current dispatchers already do.”

“This collaboration is an amazing opportunity to streamline critical functions and enhance the services we provide to our communities

and our first responders.” said Natick Fire Chief Jason Ferschke. “We are grateful to the Executive Office of Public Safety and the State 911 Department for this opportunity”

The dispatch center is planned to be situated in the office building next to the Memorial Building, located on Route 126 in downtown Framingham.



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Dean's List

The following local residents were recently named to the Dean's List at the *College of William & Mary* for the spring 2024 semester:

Jacob Herz
Benjamin Landry

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

The following area students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2024 semester at *Quinnipiac University*:

Natick resident Jordan McCall.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits

during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

Quinnipiac is a private, educational, institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,000 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review's "The Best 388 Colleges." The university is in the midst of program expansion and renewal for both traditional and adult learners, attraction of diverse communities, development of innovative corporate partnerships and construction of an ambitious set of capital projects. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and follow Quinnipiac on Twitter @QuinnipiacU.

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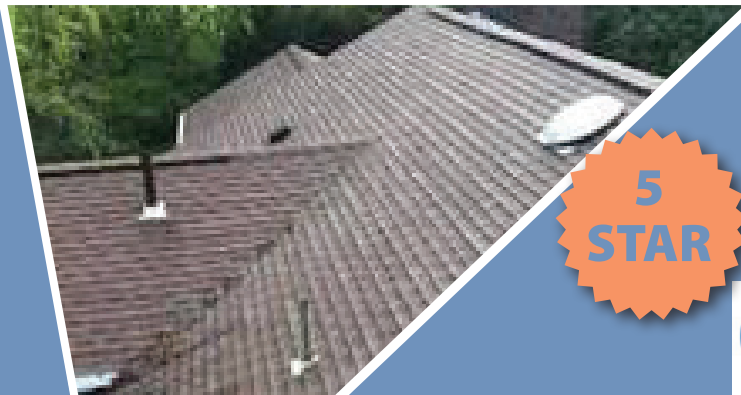
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Real Estate Corner

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07/17/2024	10 Oak St.	\$705,000
07/15/2024	7 Morgan Dr. #409	\$775,000
07/12/2024	16 Arlington Rd.	\$705,000
07/12/2024	5 Austin Way	\$1.4 mil
07/10/2024	2 Carlisle Ter.	\$1.15 mil
07/10/2024	12 Wayside Rd.	\$1.73 mil
07/10/2024	18-18A Hammond Rd.	\$530,000
07/08/2024	22 Garden Rd.	\$590,000
07/08/2024	8 Jefferson St.	\$979,000
07/03/2024	24 Hammond Rd.	\$775,000
07/02/2024	13 West St.	\$973,500
07/02/2024	10 Nouvelle Way #S709	\$769,000
07/01/2024	19 Fairway Cir.	\$785,000
07/01/2024	15 Moccasin Path	\$2 mil
07/01/2024	48 Water St.	\$1.48 mil
07/01/2024	12 Pearl St.	\$775,000
06/28/2024	25 Pltts St.	\$1.02 mil
06/28/2024	7 Morgan Dr. #101	\$753,000
06/27/2024	42 Beverly Rd.	\$667,500
06/27/2024	6 Madison St.	\$1.20 mil
06/24/2024	40 N Main St. #2	\$750,225
06/24/2024	5 Cider Mill Lane	\$3 mil
06/24/2024	13 Morgan Dr. #307	\$500,000
06/21/2024	16 Oak St.	\$1.15 mil
06/21/2024	15 Marion St.	\$720,000
06/21/2024	74 Pleasant St.	\$1.08 mil
06/21/2024	9 Stanley St.	\$815,000
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06/20/2024	28 Longfellow Rd.	\$985,000
06/20/2024	7 Lamplight Cir.	\$885,510
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06/20/2024	25 Stacey St.	\$700,000
06/18/2024	5 Travis Rd.	\$2.10 mil

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



The 3-bed, 3-bath 1,713 square foot unit at the Castle Courtyard at 93 E Central Street in Natick recently sold for \$710,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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Sold: \$1,050,000



20 SHERWOOD ROAD

Listed: \$949,000
Sold: \$1,005,000



2 JEFFERSON STREET

Listed: \$799,000
Sold: \$842,500



10 TOURNAMENT ROAD

Listed: \$699,000
Sold: \$795,000



6 RICE STREET

Listed: \$609,000
Sold: \$680,000



JESSICA ALLAIN

#1 in Natick Homes Sold Since 2018
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239 SPEEN STREET

Listed: \$619,000
Sold: \$660,000

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