

Mini-golf at Library Suits Enthusiastic Players to a Tee

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

Artificial turf was laid out among the tomes at Morse Institute Library last month, a welcome respite from the snow that piled up and plummeting temperatures punctuating the season.

The library hosted its annual indoor mini-golf event, building a befuddling array of obstacles between bookshelves to challenge even the most proficient of putters.

The course comprised two floors of the historic structure, its holes incorporated into the building's 66,000 square feet of architecture.

"And we get to show off all of it," said Miki Wolfe, Director of the Morse Institute Library. "This is just pure joy."



Cayden and Emory Katz family enjoy the day. Photo by Sean Sullivan

The event was hosted on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In keeping with the sacrosanct code of mini-golf,

each hole had its own theme. Each was meant to tell the

MINI-GOLF
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Potholes Can Be a Real Bump in the Road

BY SANDY QUADROS BOWLES
EDITOR

Buckle up: It's pothole season.

And thanks to the heavy snow that blanketed the area this winter, pothole season arrived earlier than usual, AAA Northeast reports.

As plows pounded the roads and pavements cracked from freeze and thaw cycles, drivers are in for a bumpy ride this spring.

Natick is no exception. In one week alone, March 9 to 12, used more than 37 tons of hot asphalt to repair the potholes.

That's a lot of asphalt. The town reports this tonnage is equivalent to seven adult African elephants.

Potholes form when water seeps under the roadway and freezes during cold temperatures. The frozen water expands, creating ice under the pavement.

As the ice thaws, a void is created under the pavement. Traffic



Potholes are ugly and can cause serious vehicle damage.

Photo by Sandy Quadros Bowles

pushes the pavement into the void and eventually creates a pothole

Natick DPW crews use either cold patch or hot mix to repair the potholes.

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MINI-GOLF

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story of a local nonprofit organization, town department, or scholastic club.

The Natick Drama Workshop for example, had its name up in lights in theatrical fashion, the club's three-letter acronym displayed and accented by battery-operated bulbs.

The workshop is a local staple in the performing arts realm, training Natick students to produce and play their parts for over 50 years.

In addition to advertising its mission, the workshop used the mini-golf hole to get the word out about its latest production of "Beauty and the Beast." The organization produced and performed four showings of the musical in March.

The Natick Academy of Performing Arts was also represented on the course.

The Natick Art Association used its patch of mini-golf green to get the word out about the group, and also to publicize "Art in Bloom, Nature's Magic," an event the organization will host on May 2 and 3.



The greenhouse theme encouraged sowing and growing.

Art in Bloom will feature an array of floral arrangements, each inspired by children's book art and created by local artists.

The Natick Art Association adorned its mini-golf hole with flowers that served as obstacles for putters.

Keep Natick Beautiful is an organization whose mission is to keep outdoor town spaces in free of clutter and waste. For its hole, the group littered the green with bottles and cans, all placed responsibly into recycling bins placed to block putters' progress.



Golf clubs made a colorful array.



Library trustee Kathleen Donovan lent a hand.



A royal display on the course.



A light-hearted theme was family-friendly. Photos by Sean Sullivan

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5th Annual Earth Day All Around Natick, May 2 & 3!

A community-wide weekend festival of engaging, Earth-friendly events

The EcoNatick organizing team is planting the seeds for another two-day, multi-location celebration where residents, families, community groups, and local organizations will create opportunities for all to get outside, interact, learn, and do something good for the Earth, its living things, and each other. As part of this celebration, you can observe Earth Day by:

- Enjoying a hike, nature walk, or outdoor meditation
- Check out an electric vehicle at the EV Petting Zoo
- Biking or paddling somewhere new
- Helping with a trail, park, or school yard cleanup
- Planting a tree
- Learning about native plant gardening or lawn care/replacement
- Repairing (rather than replacing) a broken item at the Repair Cafe
- Enjoy the Farmer’s Market, and more!

The organizing team expects to offer at least 25 events, spread around town and scheduled throughout the weekend. Details available at EcoNatick.org, events continue to be added through April 15.



EcoNatick’s Debby Marion and Amber Keller offer ideas for “Making a Shift to Give the Earth a Gift,” at the Earth-Friendly Fair on the Town Common in 2025.

Visit the “Earth Friendly Fair” (on the Natick Town Common, Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.): Meet the experts, take home information on a variety of earth-friendly topics, and enjoy some special family-friendly events - all following our theme: “Make a Shift, give the Earth a Gift. Find the Joy!” Every year we rely on volunteers to make this happen - by hosting a variety of hands-on, educational and fun activities. Do you know of a company or group that should join us? Would you like to join us? Please, we invite you to get creative! Garden

tours, energy equipment show-offs, trail clean-ups, meditative walks – all ideas are welcome! Reach out through our website. “Earth Day provides an occasion to deliberately connect with our home planet in many meaningful ways, in our own homes, backyards, and the community spaces of our town,” said Debby Marion, an EcoNatick volunteer. “Let’s get outside to learn new ways to appreciate and sustain the Earth’s web of life.” Find out more about Earth Day All Around Natick by visiting EcoNatick.org.

EARTH DAY

All Around Natick

May 2-3

Visit EcoNatick.org



Couple Honored with Founders Award

Pat and Kathy Moynihan have received the Founders Award from the Natick Service Council. They were honored for their years of commitment to the organization and their support for its mission. “NSC is a behind the scenes unsung hero to those Natick residents among us who are most in need,” the couple said in a statement. “The organization doesn’t look for headlines or recognition, but rather it focuses on the work.” They praised the team effort. “From the talented staff to the

many dedicated volunteers, the services performed by NSC for Natick’s most vulnerable are unparalleled in the community.” Their experiences with the council have deepened their appreciation, they said. “As donors we know that our contributions stay local and go to a great cause. And, as volunteers, we have experienced first-hand not only how the needs of clients are being met, but also have witnessed the expressions of joy and genuine gratitude for the help received. It is something to see and you can’t help but feel good about it.”



Pat and Kathy Moynihan. Courtesy photo

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School Community Takes Plunge for Special Cause

They made a splash for a good cause.

Led by Natick public school teacher and coach Nick DiAntonio, students, staff, and community members recently gathered for a Unified assembly and Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Massachusetts.

Displaying energy, creativity, and school spirit, the event raised \$16,400 to support Special Olympics Massachusetts and inclusive programming across the Natick schools.

The school staff thanked everyone who participated and described the event as “the



true meaning of community” and a “powerful celebration of inclusion.”



They didn’t chicken out.



Plungers showed warm hearts despite the cold weather.



Colorful costumes ruled the day.



A great team effort. Photos courtesy Natick Public Schools

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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

BY CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company takes an environmentally re-

sponsible approach to disposal, recycling whenever possible and properly handling non-recyclable materials. "With four kids, sustainability is especially important to us," he says.

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers reinvested into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 21 years, and we both work full time, managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to include a fleet of



trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and be involved in their activities. We're also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Natick in particular, the Schadlers say they are



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. Christine was born in Natick, and Jason grew up next door in Framingham and spent much of his youth in Natick. "We also enjoy bringing our girls to the mall there," Christine says. "Our 12-year-old calls it 'the best mall in the whole world.'"

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting

and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

POTHOLES

continued from page 1

A cold patch is a temporary asphalt filler and is not intended as a permanent repair. Cold patches are best used in emergency repairs

during wet, winter conditions.

Hot patches is the use of hot asphalt that is rolled into the pothole. Under the right conditions, this should serve as a semi-permanent repair.

These longer-term fixes are done during dry, warm weather.

Driving into a pothole can be costly: Potholes routinely cause major damage to wheels, tires and suspension components.

Exceptionally large potholes can cause a vehicle to bottom out and result in severe damage to the undercarriage. Potholes

can also contribute to crashes if drivers lose control after driving into one or swerve trying to avoid them.

An estimated 44 million U.S. drivers were hit with pothole repair bills in 2022, according to a recent AAA survey. In spring that year, AAA responded to 1.9 million tire-related roadside assistance calls across the U.S. Many of these calls stemmed from pothole damage.

To avoid pothole damage, AAA recommends the following:

Adjust your driving habits. Slow down and increase the space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you. This gives you more time to spot a pothole and react to avoid it.

Avoid driving into a puddle. Large puddles could hide deep potholes underneath the surface of the water.

Be extra alert on days following heavy rain. Rainwater can rush into cracks and grooves and lift broken segments of pavement.

Make sure your tires are properly inflated. Follow the manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, usually indicated on

a sticker inside the driver's side door jamb. Low-profile tires are increasingly popular, but they're more vulnerable to blowouts and damage.

If you can't avoid hitting a pothole, try the following:

Lift your foot off the gas and try to steer as straight as possible to prevent suspension damage. Slow down but avoid braking hard as you go over the pothole as that would compress your suspension and put extra force on tires.

Pay attention to new or unusual noises or vibrations after driving through a pothole. If something feels off, it could be a sign of damage. Take your vehicle to a trusted repair facility for a thorough inspection.

Consider purchasing a separate wheel and tire coverage plan.

Want to report a pothole in Natick? Visit natickma.gov/1188/Report-a-Concern.

There's something else Natick DPW crews suggest you do.

Be patient. Filling potholes takes time. Crews are working to smooth out the problem, one pothole at a time.

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The Snow Has Melted—It's Time for Financial Spring Cleaning



Glenn Brown, CFP

After a winter spent clearing snow and managing the elements, spring brings a welcomed shift. It's time to open things up and clear out the old. Just as melting snow reveals what's been hidden all winter, spring is also a chance to uncover areas of your finances that need attention.

Let's discuss five areas for review to help ensure things remain organized, efficient, and aligned with your planning.

1. Review Beneficiaries

Work benefits, retirement accounts, and life insurance policies pass according to the beneficiary listed, not your will or trust. Studies show ~30% of Americans have outdated beneficiary designations, which can lead to unintended heirs or tax consequences. Life events such as marriage, divorce, births, or deaths can change your intended beneficiaries. Even without major changes, it is wise to confirm that your accounts reflect your intentions.

2. Revisit Auto, Homeowners, and Umbrella Coverage

Homeowners coverage should reflect current replacement costs, auto liability limits should align with your assets, and umbrella insurance provides an extra layer of liability protection.

Rising property values and auto replacement costs naturally raise premiums, but some of the largest increases come after state-approved rate adjustments. While the state may approve a 3–7% increase, insurers can adjust individual policies within their pricing matrix. Examples of policyholders seeing 30–75% increases occur, even if nothing about their home, auto, coverage, or claims history has changed. Because of auto-renewal, most people simply accept and pay. Without shopping your options, you could end up paying far more than necessary.

3. Check Your Estate Plan

Estate planning is not a one-time task. Trusts, wills, powers of attorney, and healthcare proxies should be reviewed to ensure they reflect your current wishes and family circumstances.

While the federal estate tax exemption is roughly 15 million per individual, Massachusetts has a much lower exemption of 2 million, ranking it 49th in the United States. This makes state-level planning especially important for residents.

Review also allows you to evaluate strategies such as lifetime gifting, trust funding, or charitable giving that may re-

duce state estate tax exposure. It is also essential to ensure that successor trustees, health care proxies, and other responsible parties have electronic copies of your documents, and that assets intended for a revocable trust are properly titled in the trust's name. These steps help prevent delays, confusion, and unintended consequences.

4. Consolidate Old Retirement Accounts

Over 50% of Americans have multiple retirement plans still held at prior employers. Leaving accounts scattered can create unnecessary complexity, inconsistent investment strategies, and administrative inefficiencies.

Consolidating into a coordinated structure simplifies management, improves oversight, and makes it easier to rebalance your allocations to align with your evolving goals and risk tolerance. Fewer accounts also allow for better investment

alignment, lower fees, smoother required minimum distribution planning, and a clearer view of your overall progress toward retirement.

5. Declutter Accounts and Organization Systems

Just like a closet or garage, your financial life accumulates items you no longer use. Old bank accounts, unused credit cards, dormant investment accounts, and forgotten subscriptions create unnecessary clutter. Closing or consolidating accounts simplifies your administrative burden. Many find it helpful to consolidate to one primary bank account and one primary credit card, making it easier to reconcile expenses, track spending, and perform a cash flow analysis for the year ahead.

Minor Changes with Meaningful Impact

Financial spring cleaning does not require major changes.

It is about maintaining clarity, ensuring alignment, and reducing unnecessary complexity. Taking time to review these baseline areas strengthens your plan, improves organization, and provides confidence that your finances reflect your current priorities and goals.

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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Bacon Library Serves up Tasty Assortment of April Programming

There's a sizzling array of programs on tap at Bacon Free Library in April. Here is a sampling.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

All Together Preschool Storytime, Mondays and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Stories and songs.

Lapsit Storytime, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Stories, bounces, and songs for babies 0-24 months and their grownups.

Jammin with You, Fridays, April 3 and April 17 at 10:30 a.m. Outside, weather permitting. Be prepared to laugh, dance, sing, and jam through 30 minutes of non-stop family fun.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS

Featured Art Exhibit through April 29: Karin Rosenthal's innovative photography

Art for All: Paper quilling, week of April 6, Use strips of paper to create intricate three-dimensional art. Make a greeting card, a centerpiece for the spring

holiday table, or a piece of art to hang. Drop-in to do the craft at the library or call ahead for curbside pickup "take & make."

ADULT PROGRAMS

Virtual: Behind the Judicial Curtain, Secrets of a Trial Judge, Wednesday April 1 and 7 p.m. on Zoom. Retired Massachusetts Superior Court Justice Dennis Curran will discuss the ins-and-outs of the judicial process. Learn how bail is set, how sentencing decisions are made, how a criminal trial works, how judges are selected, how specialty courts run, and the challenges of being fair while also adhering to the law. Register on the library website to receive Zoom link.

Virtual: Laughter Yoga with Robert Rivest, Thursday April 16, 7 p.m. on Zoom. Laughter yoga is a fun, effective way to exercise and socialize while receiving the mind-body health benefits of laughing. Laughter yoga was

created in 1995 when Dr. Madan Kataria first combined breathing exercises from yoga with improvised laughter exercises. Laughter Yoga has turned into an international health movement. Register on the library website to receive Zoom link.

ADULT BOOK & FILM CLUBS

Registration is required for all clubs; visit the library website at baconfreelibrary.org/clubs-programs for details.

Mystery Book Club, Thursday, April 2 at 1 p.m. on Zoom. "Arsenic and Adobo" by Mia P. Manansala

History Book Club, Thursday, April 9 at 11 a.m. on Zoom. "A Land So Strange: the epic journey of Cabeza de Vaca: the extraordinary tale of a shipwrecked Spaniard who walked across America in the sixteenth century" by Andres Resendez.

Environmental Book Club, Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. on

Zoom: "The Lost Trees of Willow Avenue: A story of climate and hope on one American street" by Mike Tidwell.

Nonfiction Book Club, Saturday, April 25 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. "The Art Thief: a true story of passion, obsession, and a monumental crime spree" by Michael Finkel.

Tuesday Book Club, Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the library: "Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin.

Cinephile Mondays, Monday, April 27 at 4 p.m. on Zoom. Watch and discuss films. Check the library website for the film of the month and to register.

The Bacon Free Library and Morse Institute Library offer passes for free or reduced-admission to 30 local museums.

The Bacon Free Library is located at 58 Eliot St., Natick. Hours are Monday through Fri-



day, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with extended hours on Tuesday until 7 p.m. Saturday hours are 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Closed for the holiday Monday, April 20.

Check the website at baconfreelibrary.org for the most up-to-date information and to register for programs at baconlibrary.org. The historic nature of the building limits accessibility. The same programs are often offered in an accessible location at the Morse Institute Library. Visit morseinstitute.org for a schedule and more information.

Pool Players Take Their Best Shots at Natick Teen Center

Teens pooled their talents for a good time during a recent program at the Natick Teen Center.

Center staff report the event featured a lot of laughs, some impressive trick shots and spirited competition.

Missed your shot at all the fun? Don't worry.

Center staff say they cannot wait to host another tourney.



A behind the back shot. Courtesy photo



Lining up the shot. Courtesy photo



Cuing up for his best effort. Courtesy photo

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Gary Shilman – A Career Built on Conversations

BY JENNIFER RUSSO

When thinking of financial services, it's easy to focus on markets, numbers, and forecasts. But for Gary Shilman, the heart of his work has always been people.

Gary serves as a financial advisor with Edward Jones, where he works with individuals, families, and business owners to build long-term financial strategies tailored to their goals. His approach centers on understanding what matters most to clients, whether that's preparing for retirement, planning for education expenses, navigating life transitions, or creating a legacy for future generations. However, he believes that going above and beyond is based on a much simpler idea: networking and connecting people.

For the past 24 years, Gary has called Natick home. He and his family have grown alongside the community, attending local events, supporting area businesses, and forming friendships that extend well beyond the workplace. That interpersonal connection, he says, is one of the most meaningful aspects of both his personal and professional life.



"I'm not just someone's advisor," he explains. "I'm their neighbor. I get to interact with so many different people every day, and I love building those relationships. Listening to what people really need and helping them navigate life and its changes is something I deeply care about."

Gary also serves as the Vice President of the Natick Rotary Club, an organization going into its 100th year of dedication to community service and charitable initiatives both locally and globally. Through the Rotary, he helps support projects that strengthen the fabric of the town, reflecting his belief that thriving communities depend on people willing to give back. He volunteers for adaptive bike riding events on the Cochituate Rail Trail through All Out Ad-



Gary Shilman, Financial Advisor

ventures and Friends of Natick Trails, which he said resonates strongly for him, having a daughter with special needs.

Additionally, Gary is an ambassador for the Metrowest Chamber of Commerce, plays basketball once a week through the town recreation program

and loves to explore and take road trips around New England, finding all of the most interesting spots that many people miss along the way.

"Take the backroads," he advises. "So many cool things can be found along the drive when you don't take direct routes to

get somewhere. Old houses, hole in the wall places, great hiking and biking areas, one-off funky restaurants or diners...it's a lot of fun."

Gary brings a degree in business and decades of experience in financial services, something that he shares was not necessarily a passion-driven choice initially, but a practical one that he grew to really enjoy over time.

Being community-driven, the core of Gary's work at Edward Jones is a simple but powerful principle: relationships come first. He understands that financial planning is rarely just about money; it's about family, security, independence, and peace of mind.

"Taking the time to really get to know people makes all the difference," he shares. "It's the human side of the equation that matters most."

Learn more about Gary at www.edwardjones.com/us-en/financial-advisor/gary-shilman or reach out to him at 781-694-8138.

The content of this article was sponsored by the local Edward Jones office of Gary Shilman.

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Natick Police Cop Dodgeball Title Again



This team doesn't dodge trophies.

The Natick Police Department has earned the title of Battle of the Badges champion for the second straight year.

Team Young Guns defeated the Franklin Fire Department in a best of three championship. Congratulations to team members Sgt. Jamie Verner and Officers Travis Moran, Derek Kane, Christopher Keenan, James Herbert and Katelyn Pfeifer and Sgt. Jamie Verner.

The title came down to the third game when the Natick team pulled it out and secured a victory in what was described as a thrilling final game.

The team thanked the community for its support and looks forward to a three-peat next year.



The team took the trophy in a best of three tournament. Courtesy photo



Team Young Guns is shooting for a third title next year. Courtesy photo

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PLEASE RECYCLE ME!

Excitement Pours Down in April at Morse Institute Library

Escape the April showers with a full slate of programs for April at the Morse Institute Library. Here is a sampling:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Toddler Time, Wednesday, April 1, 8, 15 and 29, 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Toddlers, walkers through age 2, and their special grownups are welcome. This program features stories, songs, and stretches for the first half and special play activities for the later half. Registration is required.

Baby Play!, Wednesday, April 1, 8, 15, 29, 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Join a sweet program connecting babies and their special grownups with songs, rhymes, and socializing. This program is geared for non-walkers and their grownups. No registration required.

Pajama Time Stories, Wednesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Join Miss Susan for a few songs and lots of stories in the Children's Library, 45 minutes of stories and songs. No registration required.

Tween Explorations: Make a

Mug and Tea Cozy, Thursday, April 2, 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. An afternoon of playing all kinds of theatre games. This program is for children in grades 3-5. Registration is required.

Hugh Hanley's Circle of Songs, Friday, April 3, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come join Hugh Hanley as he brings this musical adventure each month for families with children ages two to seven. No registration is required.

Project ABC Playgroup, Friday, April 3, 10, 17, 24, 10 to 11 a.m. Project ABC's playgroup in collaboration with the library offers a variety of activities for children up to age six and their families. Explore a new theme each week based a favorite book. The event features STEAM, ELA, and SEL activities, and a circle time with songs and stories. Play, learn, and grow together. No registration required.

Saturday Storytime, Saturday, April 4, 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Stories, songs and rhymes in the children's department. This is a drop in program, geared toward preschool aged children

and their grownups, but all ages are welcome. No registration required.

Play Nights, Monday April 6, 13, 27, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Drop in and play with select themed play items for littles and their grownups to explore. Play nights are for everyone, but are geared to the preschool set and their adventuresome grownups. No registration required.

Elementary Explorations: Can You Build It?, Thursday, April 9, 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. An afternoon of in-person crafting. This week we are creating mini paper masterpieces! This program is for children in grades K-3. Registration is required.

Puzzlemania! Saturday, April 11, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Drop in for a puzzle-tastic time with puzzles for all ages and abilities. No registration required. All ages welcome.

Tween Explorations: Button Making, Thursday, April 16, 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. Join in an afternoon of in-person crafting, making button pins. This program is for children in grades 3-5. Registration is required.



tration is required.

Lego Free Build, Saturday April 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m. A LEGO family event. Drop in and build anything you like; LEGOs are provided. This program is for children ages 4 and older with a grownup partner. No registration is required.

Rainforest Animals with The Joys of Nature, Thursday, April 23, 3 to 3:30 p.m. and 4 to 4:30 p.m. This family vacation week event features naturalist Joy Marzolf from The Joys of Nature. This live animal program will feature creatures from the rainforest. The event is for families with children ages 4 and older. No registration is required.

Open Art: CD Fish!, Saturday, April 25, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Drop into the children's department and craft. This week make fish out of CDs. Geared for kids from preschool through early elementary. No registration required.

All Ages Programs Team Puzzle Race, Thursday, April 2, 6 to 8 p.m. For puzzle enthusiasts ages 10 and older. Teams of up to four people will compete to finish a 500-piece puzzle. Teams will be given up to two hours to complete the puzzle; the first team to complete the puzzle wins. If no team has completed the puzzle within the two hours, the team closest to completing the puzzle will win. The winning team will be able to select a new puzzle of their choice. There needs to be at least one adult 18 or older per team. Registration required for teams of up to four people, minimum of two people per team.

Art for All Club: Air Dry Clay Workshop, Saturday, April 11, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Join Walnut Hill School for the Arts students to learn various art techniques. Teens and Adults with all levels of experience are welcome. Registration required.

TEEN PROGRAMS

YAB: Youth Advisory Board (Tweens and Teens), Wednesday, April 1, 7 to 8 p.m. The YAB is the Teen Room's Youth Advisory Board for tweens and teens ages 11-18 and meets monthly to hang out, have their voice heard about library programs, suggest books and other materials for the teen collection, write book reviews, help with special projects and do fun activities. Participants are asked to sign up for each meeting so that materials can be planned. To apply, register for the event and fill out a one-time application that is available in the Teen Room or online.

Teens and Tweens: Make Your Own Magnet Poetry Set, Tuesday, April 7, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Celebrate National Poetry Month and make a magnetic found poetry set tin. For teens and tweens ages 11 to 18. Registration required.

Teen MakerLab To Go: Spring Greenhouse Book Nook Kits --Celebrate spring with this greenhouse model kit perfect for a bookshelf. Kits for registered participants will be at the circ-

MORSE

continued on page 15

SUMMER GUIDE!

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Why Heat Pumps Are a Smarter, Healthier Choice for Your Home



Alexandra McKernan



Ryan McKernan

HEATING INSIGHTS

For many homeowners, staying comfortable year-round has traditionally meant juggling two systems: a furnace to get through winter and an air conditioner to survive summer. Today, there's a simpler, smarter option that does both - the heat pump.

What Is a Heat Pump?

Traditional heating systems like furnaces and boilers create heat by burning fuel or using electric resistance. Cooling,

meanwhile, requires a separate air conditioner. A heat pump works differently and more efficiently.

Instead of generating heat, a heat pump moves heat. In winter, it pulls warmth from the outdoor air (yes, even when it's cold) and transfers it into your home. In summer, it reverses direction, removing heat from inside and keeping your home cool.

The result? One system that replaces both your furnace and your air conditioner, simplifying comfort and reducing energy use.

Why Homeowners Love Heat Pumps

Energy Smart

Because heat pumps move heat rather than create it, they use significantly less energy. That means lower utility bills and a more efficient home overall.

Consistent Comfort

No more temperature swings or rooms that never feel quite right. Heat pumps deliver steady, even comfort throughout the house.

Healthier Air

Many heat pump systems offer advanced filtration and humidity control, helping reduce dust, allergens, and excess moisture - great news for families, pets, and anyone with allergies.

Quiet Operation

Today's heat pumps are designed to run smoothly and quietly, so comfort doesn't come at the cost of background noise.

All-in-One Simplicity

Instead of maintaining two major systems, you get one smart solution that handles heat-

ing and cooling year-round.

Choosing Wisely Matters

Not all heat pumps, or installers, are created equal. The brand you choose and the quality of the installation have a huge impact on performance, efficiency, and long-term reliability. Working with a knowledgeable, properly trained professional ensures your system is sized, installed, and optimized correctly from day one.

Incentives That Make It Affordable

Thanks to local programs like Mass Save, upgrading to a heat pump is more accessible than ever. These incentives reward

homeowners for choosing energy-efficient solutions that benefit both their homes and the environment.

The Bottom Line

If you're looking for a smarter, healthier, and more efficient way to heat and cool your home, a heat pump is a strong investment. Local experts like Pro Comfort Control can guide you through your options, help you maximize available incentives, and install a system that keeps your home comfortable and on course for years to come.

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Struggling With Acne?

By LISA MASSIMIANO,
LICENSED ESTHETICIAN AND
CERTIFIED ACNE SPECIALIST

If you have been diagnosed with acne and haven't been satisfied with drug store products or the suggested treatment from your doctor, consider seeing an Acne Specialist.

What is an Acne Specialist?

An Acne Specialist is a licensed skin care professional who is specially trained to treat acne using a combination of clinical treatments, home care protocols and regular follow-up during the process of clearing acne prone skin.

Most physicians don't have the time to spend educating patients on the root cause of their acne. They often prescribe oral

antibiotics and strong topical retinoids that can leave skin dry, red and irritated. Patients get frustrated with these side effects and stop using the products.

How an Acne Specialist Can Help You.

An Acne Specialist will assess your individual skin type, and the type of acne you have, to develop a plan of action specifically for you. They will take the time to teach you about the root cause of acne and provide information on lifestyle, diet, medications, and ingredients in makeup and skin care products that exacerbate acne. They help you to get your skin clear and teach you how to keep your acne under control.

For people struggling with

acne, it can be frustrating to try and communicate with their doctor on a timely basis. My clients tell me that the best part of working with an Acne Specialist is that we are there for them to answer their questions and provide support while they go through the process of getting their skin clear.

Questions about acne? Email Lisa Massimiano, owner Skin Smart Salon and Acne Clinic at skinsmartsalon@aol.com or call 508-881-1180. Visit the website skinsmartsalon.com for information about Skin Smart's acne program and other services.

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Running is in the Blood, Heart of Natick Marathoner

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

As fog haunted melting snowbanks on a cool morning in early March, Kaitlyn Duncan readied herself for a run. Daylight Savings Time had robbed the region of an hour of Sunday slumber, but rising temperatures somewhat softened the blow.

Thermometers were forecast to push near 70 degrees mid-week, and that Sunday morning was already flirting with 50 around breakfast time.

Those taxing, early-morning runs are part of Duncan's training for the Boston Marathon.

The Natick mother of three is running the race on behalf of the Natick Center Cultural District. The cultural district works at the hub of commerce, culture and creativity, working to boost and build bridges between them.

"I see every day how much my children benefit from the art installations, cultural events, and town-supported programs that make Natick so special," Duncan wrote on her fundraising flyer. "It brings our town closer together and makes Natick an incredible place to grow up."

Duncan's training schedule is a dizzying array of cross training and cross country work.

Most are shorter runs (under 10 miles), some interspersed with brief sprints. Pushups, planks, sit-ups and stretching round out the regimen.

In the first modern Olympics competition in 1896, organizers were looking for a galvanizing event to adopt as a centerpiece to the games. As a tribute to the ancient Greek competitions, the marathon was chosen as that crowning event.

Boston's annual Marathon saw its inaugural running of the race the following year, and has hosted it ever since. "Marathon Mania" swept through the United States in the early 1900s, as cities and states adopted their own versions of the race.

The Bay State road race is considered the most prestigious and storied of the many marathons now held annually worldwide.

In addition to attracting elite runners from all corners of the globe, the Boston Marathon organization sets aside a number of slots for local athletes. As a "host town" for the race, Natick is awarded 25 bibs for town residents. To earn these slots at the starting line, runners like Duncan agree to fundraise for a local cause.

She ran track as a Natick High School student, but strove for short bursts of speed in lieu of sustained stamina. Running with a friend after graduation, she discovered the appeal of going the distance.

That friend was then training to make the college running team, and Duncan rose early with her for emotional and endurance support.

"I just woke up at 5 a.m. and trained with her for fun."

Running has been part of Duncan's own support system for years. A victim of domestic violence, she and her children were living in a shelter without transportation.

"I had no car and would run with my kids in the stroller everywhere."

While living there, the manager of the safe house took note of her penchant for pounding the



Kaitlyn Duncan runs through the snow. Courtesy photo

pavement, and asked Duncan to run her first Boston Marathon on behalf of the shelter.

"He became my trainer and has trained me for most of my marathons and ran one with me."

He has remained Duncan's trainer, and is currently coaching her for races she'll run this spring and summer. She'll run the Falmouth Road Race in August, her third time on behalf of the Natick Service Council.

That local aid organization



Kaitlyn Duncan with her family. Courtesy photo

has been a source of support for Duncan's family over the years, and the Natick mom has used running to return the favor.

Michelle Parven, an art teacher at Brown Elementary School, has taught all three of

Duncan's children, and is currently helping her with fundraising for the cultural district.

"I fell in love with being able to give back to places that have saved me, doing something I'm good at and that I love."



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Meet Natick’s Runners as They Race for their Favorite Causes

BY SANDY QUADROS BOWLES
EDITOR

Few traditions in sports match the Boston Marathon for endurance and spirit. And more than 20 Natick residents will embody those traits as they run for a special cause close to their hearts.

Meet Natick’s runners and their stories:

Andrew Ballow is running for the Natick Comets. “Founded in 1952, the Natick Comets are a non-profit, volunteer-led town hockey organization. As the cost of youth sports rises, we must remove barriers to entry to ensure all our young players have the same opportunities available to form ‘love for the game’ to grow as athletes, to build character, and resiliency and to develop as leaders. I’m running to help make youth hockey affordable and accessible for all families, so cost isn’t a barrier for any child.”

Allison Barbary is running for the Rotary Club of Natick. “The Rotary Club of Natick is an incredible organization dedicated to strengthening our community

through service, generosity and support. Through my work as a literacy coach at Brown Elementary School, I’ve seen firsthand the positive impact Rotary has on our schools and community and I’m honored to run on their behalf.

Tara Bharadwaj is running for the Morse Institute Library. “Libraries shaped who I am. Growing up, weekends meant stacks of book and a summer reading goal that sparked my love of learning. Later, the library became a place of independence and focus. It invested in me and now I’m proud to give back. Libraries open doors to education, imagination and opportunity for everyone.”

Andy Bostian is running for Cocotree Kids “because no child should go without simple necessities. The mission to provide brand new underwear to kids in crisis hit me deeply because new underwear is one of the most basic forms of dignity a child can have. When you learn that so many kids in crisis go without even that, it stops you. It’s such a

small item, yet it changes how a child feels about themselves, safe, clean and cared for. Every mile is for a child who deserves comfort and confidence.

Lindsey Caliga is running for OUT MetroWest. “I have been involved with OUT since 2012, first as a participant, then as a peer leader and now as a board member. I have run the Falmouth Road Race two times for them, in 2021 and 2022.”

Hanna Carson is running for the Natick Firefighters Association. No further information was available on her run.

Danica Champion is running for Spark Kindness. “As an ESL teacher for the past 11 years, I have witnessed the effects of the increased hate, intolerance, discrimination and disconnect within our schools and communities. I strive to ensure that all children and their families feel welcomed, no matter what.”

Pat Conaway is running for Keep Natick Beautiful. “I am a retired Middle School teacher of 40

years. We started in 2009 as Big Heart Little Feet and changed our name to Keep Natick Beautiful in 2016. We’ve conducted 600 cleanups in the past 17 years all over Natick, Framingham, The Sudbury and Charles River, Woodlands, Roadways, Trails. We have prrobably engaged about 1,500 volunteers of all ages.”

Andrew Fair is running for Patrick’s Promise. “Patrick’s Promise is the foundation created after the passing of my cousin Patrick Sibley in 2013. As a close-knit extended family, Patrick’s passing and the ensuing inception of the foundation has been a large part of our lives. For the better part of the last decade someone has ran the marathon for the foundation and it will be an amazing honor for me to continue the tradition.”

Caitlin Hatt is running for Natick Education Foundation. “Natick is my hometown, and the Natick Public Schools have had a lasting impact on my life, my family, and so many others.

Not only did my two siblings and I attend the Natick Public Schools, but my mom has been a vice principal at Kennedy Middle School for 19 years. It’s been inspiring to see the community she has built around her and the unwavering support she offers to both her students and colleagues.”

Carter Haydon is running for Path for Adaptive Opportunities. “My brother, Garrett, attended Arrowhead for 14 summers before he passed away in July 2025. The community that Arrowhead brought to his life meant the world to him. Because of this, I just needed to see what Arrowhead was all about. After my first week, I fell in love with it and became fully immersed. Since 2017, I spent most of my Friday nights and Saturdays in high school at Skyline programs, and summers at Arrowhead. I will be forever grateful for the bonds it created and strengthened.”

RUNNERS

continued on page 14



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RUNNERS

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Hailey Joseph is running for Embrace a Family. “I am running in memory of my dear friend Lisa Movitz, who lost her battle to stomach cancer this past August. Lisa’s infectious spirit, kindness, and strength touched everyone who knew her, and her legacy lives on through all the lives she touched.”

Bella Kondi is running for SOAR Natick. “After running the Chicago Marathon for charity, I knew I wanted to continue pursuing my dream of marathon running for a cause. Having known the Lucenta family for six years and volunteered with the Purple Flag Project, applying to run for Soar Natick felt full circle. Giving back to a community that shaped who I am today is an honor, and I’m grateful to run for an organization so close to my heart.”

Matt Lodi is running for Natick Little League. “Natick Little League is a program I have been a part of over the last 20 years as a coach, board member/president. I played in the

organization growing up. Natick Little League is the reason why I still coach at different levels (both baseball and other sports) at the youth and high school level, and am a teacher today. Natick Little League’s mission to allow as many members of the youth of Natick to play baseball and softball and learn life lessons is a leading reason for running for them.”

Kayleigh May is running for A Place To Turn. “I feel incredibly grateful to be running in support of A Place To Turn, a place that means a lot to both my family and the Natick community. My mom volunteers with A Place To Turn, and I have seen firsthand the care and compassion they operate with. I feel very lucky to have grown up in Natick and feel so thankful for the community and a Place to Turn is an organization that truly provides essential support to the entire community and is home to amazing people who work incredibly hard to do so.”

Chiara Morley-McLaughlin is running for FIDO of Natick. “As a lifelong resident of Natick I appreciate how the town fosters a strong community by having spaces to allow for gatherings. I

always wanted to have a space to bring my dog to allow him to run and play so I am excited to be able to give back to Eddie’s Park and help maintain a space that is important to the community.”

Sapna Mysore is running for the Center for Arts in Natick, also known as TCAN. No further information is available on her run.

Katelyn O’Brien is running for JdVS Foundation. “I have had the honor of being Sean Kilroy’s special education teacher for the last three years. Sean and his family started the JdVS Foundation after he was diagnosed with the rare genetic mutation. This foundation provides a community for JdVS families while raising money for further research. My hope is that my fundraising efforts can help to further this work. Sean and his fellow JdVS champions are my inspiration to get through 26.2.”

Jessie Perry is running for Family Promise Metrowest. “I’ve been so impressed with the work of Family Promise as I’ve learned more about their hands-on work in our community and the real changes they create in the lives of local families.”

Meghan Pini is running for Active Kids, formerly BOKS. “I am honored to be running for Active Kids because I feel passionate about the work they do to get students moving before school. As a PE teacher and coach, I find the power and value of physical movement. I have seen firsthand the positive impact Active Kids makes on students. I am inspired by the work this program does for our community and it will help drive me forward during the marathon.”

Matthew Ranieri is running for Natick Service Council. “My connection to the Natick Service Council goes back to high school, when my brother, sister, and I volunteered together doing food pick-ups for the Vi Tutuny Food Pantry. Seeing firsthand how the organization supports neighbors in need left a lasting impression on me and helped instill the values of service and community that I carry with me today.”

Xandra Roman is running for Kids Connect. “I spent a few summers at Kids Connect back when it was a drop-in program. It was an amazing safe space to keep us occupied in

the summer and we even put on a play for the Natick Pegasus TV channel. Now, as a tutoring program, I couldn’t think of a better way to support our towns youth and help where kids need it most.”

Danielle Westerman is running for Redhawk Foundation. “The Redhawk Foundation represents the values I have regarding uplifting community programming (specifically youth sports/arts/theater). I have seen firsthand the effects that participation in these programs has on young kids. I am so honored to be a representative for this foundation.”

Nick Zanussi is running for the Natick Community Organic Farm. “I was pumped to discover the Natick Community Organic Farm when I moved here. My children have enrolled in the summer farm programs and my family visits the farm regularly. While working at Walnut Hill, I have continued to build on the relationship between the school and the farm by having fundraisers for the farm, bringing students on guided tours, and coordinating the purchase of flower bouquets for the graduating seniors.”

Quilt Show

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Carnival Comes to Natick with Games, Fun

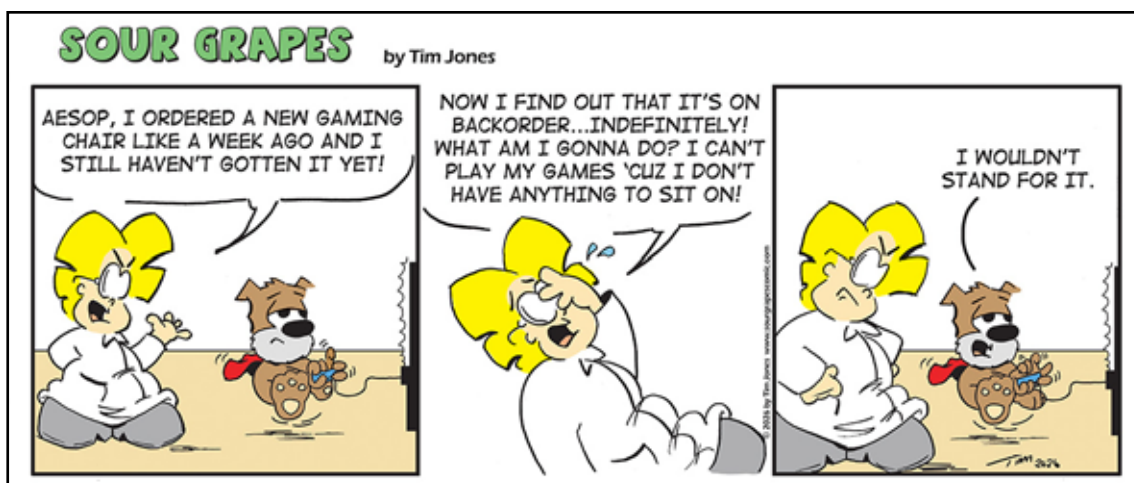
It’s never too early in the season for a carnival.

Just ask the young people who recently enjoyed a carnival-themed day at the Natick Teen Center. The center was full of energy as everyone had a blast winning tickets and prizes at the different mix of games.

Organizers thanked the staff and participants who they said made the day a huge hit.



Enjoying a roll of the dice. Courtesy photo



continued from page 10

Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central St., Natick, is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. Library is closed on Sunday April 5, Sunday April 19 and Monday April 20. For updated information and to register for programs, visit morseinstitutelibrary.org

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Sports

Natick Native Carlson Traded From Capitals to Ducks

After 17 seasons and more than 1,000 games played with the Washington Capitals,, Natick native John Carlson has a new home.

Carlson, 36, was recently traded to the Anaheim Ducks.

He is leaving with potential Hall of Fame statistics. He is the Caps’ all-time leading scorer among defensemen with 771 points, including 166 goals and 605 assists, in 1,144 regular season games.

During his time with the Caps, which ran from 2009 to this year, he was a member of the 2018 Stanley Cup team. He has been described as the Cap’s best ever defenseman.

His teammates reacted to his departure with sadness for the loss and appreciation for the player and the person, according to washingtoncaps.com.

“Obviously it’s a sad day. It’s probably the toughest day of my career, and I’m talking about personal wise,” Captain Alex Ovechkin, who is widely acknowledged as one of the best hockey players ever, was quoted on nhl.com. “It’s sad. We’ve been

together since his day one with the Caps. We’ve grown up together as a person and our families. It’s hard. It’s hard and it’s a sad day.”

Ovechkin described Carlson as “obviously the best defenseman in this franchise’s whole history. Obviously, an unbelievable man and a great friend for all of us.”

Teammate Tom Wilson described Carlson as “a guy that anyone can call him in your family and he’ll be there, he truly is. It’s not always sunshine and rainbows, and he gives people a hard time in here sometimes. But I think everybody in here knows that if you call him at three in the morning, he is a guy that’s lining up to be that guy for every single person. We see that in here, and that’s what hurts. He is a guy that you just can’t replace; I mean, you just don’t.”

Carlson received a warm welcome when he debuted with his new team in Anaheim.

He was awarded the Gordon Bombay Mighty Ducks jacket as the player of the game during his first ever skate as a Duck.



John Carlson has been traded from the Washington Capitals, where he enjoyed a Hall of Fame career. Photo courtesy washingtoncaps.com

the Y

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE

In the matter of:

Rhavier Henrique Rodrigues De Almeida
of Natick, County of Middlesex.

To all interested persons:

A petition has been presented by **Gabrielle Talita Rodrigues De Almeida** in the above captioned matter requesting to correct the birth certificate of **Rhavier Henrique Rodrigues De Almeida** in accordance with G.L.c.46, §13.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. **You have a right to object to this proceeding.** To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on **4/8/2026**. **This is NOT a hearing date**, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Honorable Terri Klug-Cafazzo, First Justice of the Court
Date: March 11th, 2026

Register of Probate

Sports

Wrestlers Grapple with Challenges But Still Score Strong Season

BY MATT HYLEN

The Natick Wrestling team finished their 2025-26 season with a lot to be proud of.

By season's end, the team closed the regular season with a 20-4 overall record, while being undefeated in the Bay State Conference.

This achievement marked Natick's 6th straight BSC title and the 30th in the program's history.

The Redhawks also finished as the runners-up at the D1 Central/West Sectional Championships and 15th at the Division 1 State Tournament.

Junior Mike Mortarelli, who participated in the 120 pound division, and Senior Nick Ferro, in the 157 pound division, represented Natick at the MA All State Wrestling Tournament in Springfield.

However, Coach Robert Anniballi, who also is the District Director of Health and Physical Education and a longtime teacher, mentioned that it was not always smooth sailing, especially during the preseason.

"Unfortunately, we had some preseason setbacks," he detailed.

"Two of our best wrestlers suffered an injury that put him out the entire season, while our rookie wrestler of the year moved out of state."

Yet, despite the big losses, preseason expectations remained the same for Anniballi. "We had, I thought, a team that was going to be a contender for maybe the top three or four in the state," he said. "We had a pretty loaded team coming in."

With the outlook of the roster different than anticipated, Anniballi had to find a way to adapt

and put his team in the best position to win. As the season progressed, the team kept finding success, ultimately leading to their 20-4 record.

"It was very gradual," Anniballi noted. "We had a lot of different guys in the lineup, but we were trying different scenarios and different wrestle-offs that determined those different lineups. I just think we, little by little, got better and better as a team"

With so much to account for, the team never faltered and stayed focused on the long term goals they set for themselves. Anniballi said, "The team had a great attitude. There was no complaining about what we could have been."

When considering the things that got the team to where it ended up by year's end, Anniballi credited his wrestlers and everything they put into this season. "Our captains were terrific... the team had a great work ethic in the room. We have kids that bought in and understood how they could contribute," he said.

Anniballi also was not shy to note that he was not the only person to coach the team. He credited village of extremely hard workers that helped bring this team together.

"Our coaching staff is fantastic," Anniballi emphasized. "I rely on all the assistant coaches. They're very instrumental in everything that we do. We collaborate quite a bit."

Looking into next year, Anniballi and the team are already eager to get back on the mats.

"I think a lot of the kids are motivated to get better in the



The 2025-26 Natick High School Wrestling Team had a strong season. Photo courtesy of Head Coach Robert Anniballi.

offseason," he noted. "It's been pretty evident right away with many of them doing clubs and other camps, that there's definitely a good attitude coming back. The coaches and the kids are pretty motivated about what the future holds and keeping our winning ways."

A big way that Anniballi believes this can be achieved is not only through offseason preparation, but the recruitment of the younger generation and up-and-comers.

"I would like to get more of the younger kids out for our program to keep our program strong," he said. "Keeping track of more athletes at the middle school level is one of the bigger things we are going to be working on."

Behind Natick Wrestling's continued success is the foundation Coach Anniballi has set.

The expectations he creates, as well as his willingness to work with his wrestlers to help them achieve that, has laid the ground-

work for what has been a successful program for years on end.

"Having a system, an identifiable system, that the kids know what to expect is super important," Anniballi stated. "We're always adding and modifying things, but our core system as far as our technique and our [repetition-based] practice style, I think has helped us sustain this success."

The Natick Wrestling program may be among the elite, but they are just getting started.

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Spring Into April with Senior Center Activities

Here is a sampling of the April events scheduled at the Natick Senior Center.

Short Stories of the Civil War, Wednesday April 1, 1:15 p.m., \$5

This is not your boring high school history class! If you do not like the subject being discussed, it will change in just a few minutes. Learn about the General whose biography is “An American Scoundrel”, and some of the unknown stories of ordinary but heroic soldiers just doing their duty. Meet the soldier known as the Rodney Dangerfield of the Civil War because he never gets credit for his heroic actions that earned him a Congressional Gold Medal. Be amazed at the fun facts you did not learn in school

English Conversation Volunteer Session, Monday April 6, 11 a.m.

Adults from other countries studying English need to practice speaking. Are you interested in sitting and chatting with one adult once a week for nine weeks? No teaching experience is necessary. Support people will be available

Concertina style card workshop, Mondays, April 6 to May 4, 2 p.m. \$15

Get creative in this hands-on workshop designing concertina-style (accordion fold) cards. Explore fun ways to decorate and personalize your cards, creating unique keepsakes and gifts. Whether you’re new to this style or looking to try something creative, this workshop will guide you step-by-step and spark your imagination. All materials are provided.

Pickleball Workshop, Tuesday, April 7, 2 p.m.

Do you love pickleball or golf but feel stiffer, slower, or sorer than you used to? This interactive workshop is designed for active adults who want to keep enjoying their favorite sports without fear or frustration. Learn how your body changes with age, why common aches show up, and what simple habits can help you stay confident on the course or court. Leave with practical tips, a warm up routine, and a better understanding of how to listen to your body so you can keep playing longer and better.

Sing, dance and celebrate America’s 250th anniversary, Thursday, April 9, 2 p.m.

A lively and joyful celebration

honoring 250 years of America’s history and culture. Enjoy an afternoon filled with music, singing, and dancing as we celebrate this special milestone. Come ready to enjoy good company and great entertainment. Refreshments will be served.

From Autopilot to Intentional: The four stages of change, Friday, April 10, 1 p.m. \$5

Tired of knowing what you want to change but struggling to actually do it? This interactive workshop reveals why you might be stuck in the “knowing-doing gap” and teaches you stage-specific tools that work with your brain instead of against it. Leave with a personalized action plan based on where you actually are in the change process for a habit you’d like to change.

Paint party, Monday, April 13, noon

Amy Adams, feminist activist artist and former Natick Artist in Residence, for a welcoming and creative art session. Participants will create a beautiful piece of art in an accessible, inclusive environment filled with paint, music, laughter, and community. All supplies are provided

What’s New with Social Security, April 14, 11 a.m.

This past year has brought many changes to Social Security programs. Login procedures for accessing Social Security online services have been updated; the Fairness Act and other legislative changes have been passed; business procedures have changed across the board, and now appointments are needed. Direct deposit processing also has new requirements. This presentation offers the opportunity to stay informed, and have questions answered. The presentation is being held at the senior center, but the presenter will be virtual on Zoom.

Morse Institute Mobile Digital Help, Tuesday, April 14, 11 a.m.

Sign up for a 20-minute one-on-one session with a Morse Institute librarian for help with your smartphone, tablet, or other devices. Bring your questions and your devices and we’ll work through them together. While you’re here, browse a small selection of books from the Morse Institute Library’s Bookmobile. You can even borrow a book on

the spot with your library card, saving you a trip to the library. Registration is required for each 20-minute appointment.

Memory Café, Thursday April 16, 11:3 a.m.

The Meaningful Connections Memory Cafe is a welcoming social gathering designed specifically for those living with dementia and their care partners. The focus is on connecting with others who are going through similar experiences, reducing isolation and enjoyment. This month the café welcomes back Howie Newman who combines comedy and music to create a fun experience for all. Call Katie by Monday, April 13 at 508-647-6540, ext. 1908 to learn more and to register.

Local hikes: Wellesley College Botanical Gardens and Lake Waban, Thursday, April 23, 10 a.m.

Explore the meandering trails in the Wellesley college botanic gardens and wooded trails that encircle Lake Waban.

The Natick Senior Center is located at 117 E. Central St. in Natick. For more information, call 508-647-6540.



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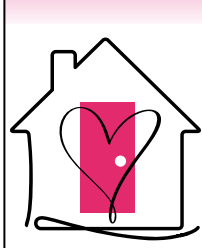
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03/16/2026	17 Florence St.	\$914,678
03/13/2026	2 Darby Ct.	\$850,000
03/13/2026	142 Bacon St.	\$1,120,000
03/13/2026	36 Silver Hill Ln. #21	\$284,000
03/12/2026	41 Charles St.	\$1,800,000
03/12/2026	83 Felch Rd.	\$1,900,000
03/12/2026	157 Mill St.	\$1,580,000
03/12/2026	83 Felch Rd.	\$1,900,000
03/10/2026	5-5A Wilson St.	\$836,000
03/09/2026	165 Woodland St.	\$1,180,000
03/06/2026	50 Village Brook Ln. #4	\$280,000
03/05/2026	10 Nouvelle Way #T923	\$850,000
03/05/2026	26 Fairway Cir.	\$695,000
03/04/2026	1 Lincoln St.	\$950,000
03/02/2026	57 Beverly Rd.	\$1,900,000
03/02/2026	10 Whittier Rd.	\$1,480,000
03/02/2026	10 Nouvelle Way #S803	\$536,500
02/27/2026	1 Proctor St.	\$1,490,000
02/27/2026	8 Floral Ave.	\$1,750,000
02/26/2026	43 Charles St.	\$896,500
02/26/2026	32 Harvard St.	\$715,000
02/24/2026	40 Silver Hill Ln. #4	\$355,000
02/20/2026	14 Ferndale Rd.	\$835,000
02/19/2026	38 Washington St.	\$799,000
02/18/2026	94 Woodland St.	\$2,050,000
02/17/2026	91 Glen St.	\$1,000,000
02/13/2026	3 Ferndale Rd.	\$1,790,000

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages



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The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,555-square-foot house at 17 Florence Street in Natick recently sold for \$914,678.
Image credit: www.zillow.com

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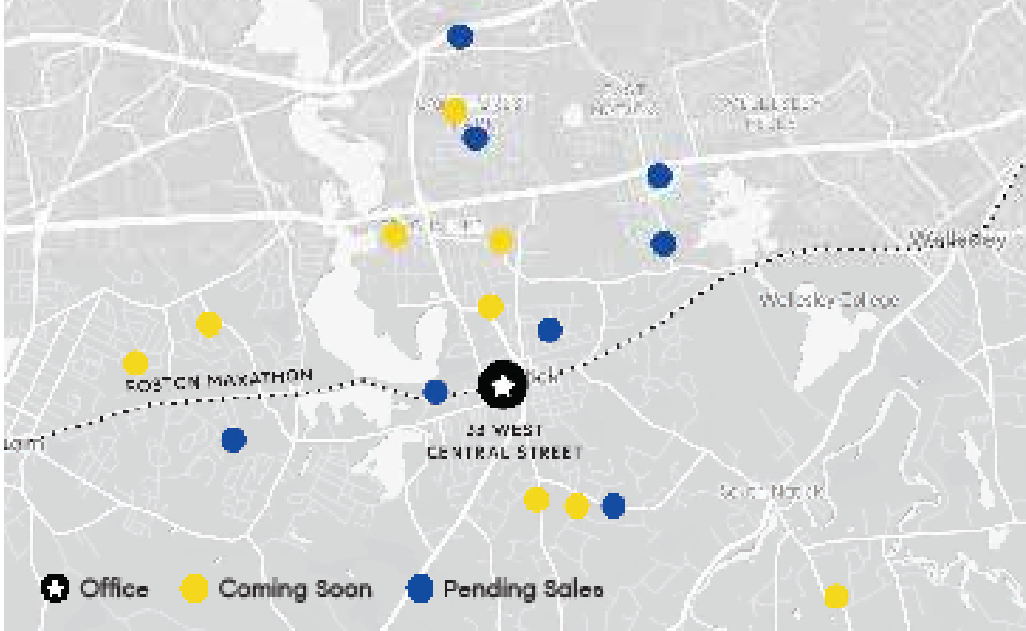
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Our Recent Natick Activity



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