

Organization provides Open Door for food, friendship

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

“The community supporting the community.”

That description, provided by Vinny Tingley, sums up Natick Open Door, the organization that’s been providing sustenance and space to socialize for nearly 50 years.

Tingley has been president of the group for about a quarter of his involvement with the organization, but had been among a countless crew of volunteers for years before taking the helm.

Natick Open Door offers meals to underserved members of the community. From soup to nuts, the volunteer group tends to the entire process. That includes everything



Volunteers serve as the heart of the organization.

Courtesy photo

from procuring and preparing the food, to cleanup.

“We reach out to clubs, groups, etcetera,” for the person-power required to host their dinners, said Tingley. Those groups have included members of

Boy and Girl Scouts troops, local youth sports teams and others.

Members of local churches donate their time

OPEN DOOR

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Journey honoring Sept. 11 victims rolls through Natick



Natick Police officers provided assistance as he passed through Natick.

Courtesy photo

BY SANDY QUADROS BOWLES
EDITOR

Four airplanes. Four sets of passengers and crews on routine flights on an unremarkable September morning.

American Airlines Flight 11

and United Airlines Flight 175, both leaving Boston toward Los Angeles.

United Airlines Flight 93, departing Newark enroute to San

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A new chapter: Bacon Library welcomes assistant director

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

When Ten Trees Books of Natick made the move to its new retail location last year, bookworms and neighbors volunteered to help with the transition.

That the bookseller's new digs were just across Main Street from the business's birthplace presented somewhat of an obstacle, one that Ten Trees turned into an opportunity.

Its new retail space was too close to transport its bound editions by truck, too far to practically schlep those hundreds of pounds of paperbacks and hardcovers by hand.

As a solution, a book brigade was suggested.

Ten Trees devotees and customers had heard about the plan, and stood side by side last Oct. 19 for the big move. Volunteers passed stacks of books from one to the next, transmitting the volumes to the store's new home.

To traverse Route 27, members of the brigade stood across the thoroughfare in small groups, where willing hands accepted those bundles of books and continued passing them toward their destination.

"You just grab a handful of

books and pass them on to the next guy," said Kim Rickard. "We basically created a human chain."

One member of that brigade was Samantha Sloane, who worked at Ten Trees.

"Kim was at one end and I was at the other," said Sloane.

It's a great chapter in the origin story of how she came to her current role in the town.

Sloane is the Bacon Free Library's new Assistant Director and Head of Children's Services.

The early roots of that narrative reach back years and across many miles to when Sloane's father got her and her younger siblings involved and interested in the written word.

"My dad used to read stories to us. We would have hour-long discussions when I was a kid," about plots, storylines, characters. One of Sloane's main protagonists during that time was the series of Harry Potter books that cast a collective spell over the consciousness of readers worldwide.

"At the time, it was everything."

Speaking of fiction, Sloane also lends her voice to the linguistically laborious task of

narrating audio books. She narrates under an alias and has voiced several genres of fiction and non.

Fiction is preferable, she said, owing to the dynamic range in tone and affect required to voice that genre. It helps, too, that it's her favorite category of literature.

Still just several weeks into her new position at the Bacon Free Library, Sloane said one of her goals is to bring more programming for kids to the institution. Currently in the works is a story time session hosted by the town's fire chief.

"I'm still getting adjusted," said Sloane.

She is a Wisconsin expat, who relocated here just prior to 2020.

She'd made the move to Massachusetts with her husband, so he could attend continuing education classes and pursue a degree here.

Then came the Covid era, and its crash course on how quickly and qualitatively the world can change.

Yet for all the chaos and confusion of those few pandemic years, some things remained constant.

The climate is comparable; Wisconsin and Massachusetts



Samantha Sloane surrounded by some of her favorite things, books.
Photo by Sean Sullivan

share muggy, hot summers.

The two also have winters in common, with our Bay State buried in snow a bit more, and the Badger State a little colder during their darkest months.

Sloane also found community in Natick.

Like that book brigade, unexpected connections are made from one person, one tribe to another.

Sloane's devotion to reading and books had drawn her to a job at Ten Trees, and a few serendipitous degrees of separation later to her role at the Bacon Free Library.

"I've always had a passion for reading," said Sloane. "It was just happenstance of walking into a bookstore and asking."

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OPEN DOOR

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and skills, as do members of the Rotary and Lions clubs.

In sum, Natick Open Door draws volunteers from about 50 local organizations.

“I think that’s so cool,” said Tingley, a Natick resident. “Anybody who has a passion to give back to the community.”

The organization’s biggest expense is renting space for its services, and so the group relies on donations from benefactors big and small for its funding. Potential sponsors can support the organization via its website.

Tingley heard about Natick Open Door after becoming a member of the Rotary Club of Natick. That group is part of a global charity network dating back to 1905. He’s been volunteering for Natick Open Door for more than 12 years, and has served as its president for three.

Though it didn’t take its current name until years later, Natick Open Door was founded as a soup kitchen 45 years ago by members of St. Patrick’s Church. The organization now hosts a weekly dinner for people in need at the Natick Elks Lodge, located at 95 Speen St.

That could include people who are food-insecure, but also locals who are seeking some friendly human interaction.

“I like to call them friends, not clients,” said Tingley. Attendees of the weekly dinners



Serving showcases a sense of community. Courtesy photo



Meals prepared and served with love. Courtesy photo

tend to be on the older side, and can take advantage of bus service to and from the lodge.

The meals are hosted Monday nights September through June from 5 to 6:15 p.m.

Although Natick Open Door is intended for town residents,

the event’s hosts aren’t in the habit of turning any of those friends away.

“I’m not sitting there, saying ‘where’s your address’ at the door,” he said. Attendees also aren’t required to meet any income requirement.



Camaraderie is an important part of the menu. Courtesy photo



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Francisco.

American Airlines Flight 77, taking off from the Washington, D.C. area headed for Los Angeles.

They would never reach their destinations. Instead, they would be used as weapons on one of the country’s most tragic days, Sept. 11, 2001.

Terrorist hijackers killed thousands at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Passengers and crew of Flight 93 attacked the hijackers, thwarting a flight plan still unknown but one that might have been headed for the White House or the Capitol Building.

The crews lost on that tragic day are being honored by retired flight attendant Paul Veneto



who is rolling a beverage cart along the routes traveled by the ill-fated flights.

The beverage cart symbolizes the cart that flight attendants roll down aisles to provide food and drink for passengers.

Veneto is using the cart to provide a way to remember.

In 2021, he pushed from Boston Logan Airport to Ground Zero in Manhattan to honor United Flight 175.

The next year he rolled the cart from Washington-Dulles Airport to the Pentagon in memory of Flight 77.

In 2023, he pushed from Newark Airport to the 9/11 memorial in Shanksville, Pa. to remember Flight 93.

The next year, his remarkable journey took him from the commemorative garden at Boston Public Garden to Ground Zero to honor American Flight 11.

This year “Paulie’s Push” represents a final push. He is taking a 220-mile, 28-day final journey from Boston to the Ground Zero 9/11 Memorial in New York City for the 25th anniversary commemoration.

During his memorable journey, he passed through Natick.

He was assisted by Natick Police Officers Jarrod Marifiote, Ervis Nunez, Cooper Fennell,



Messages of encouragement along the journey. Pauliespush.com photo



Paul Veneto greets a supporter. Pauliespush.com photo

James Herbert, and Patrick Donahue who ensured he traveled safely through town.

“The Natick Police Department is proud to support Paulie’s Push and the important mission behind it - honoring those we lost and ensuring their stories are never forgot-



Retired flight attendant Paul Veneto brings his beverage cart honoring Sept. 11 victims to Natick. Courtesy photo

ten,” the department said in a statement.

The department wished him well as he made his unforgettable journey to remember those lost.

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What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?



Gary Shilman, Financial Advisor

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Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It's about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can

handle it. And it's saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16% of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, "Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment." Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32%), often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51%), however, fall in the middle — the financially conflicted. They manage to get by but often carry a persistent undercurrent of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households earning \$175,000 or more

are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, "What do financially fulfilled people do differently?" Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently among the financially fulfilled, and they're simple steps you can take, too.

- **Build an emergency fund** (98% of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.
- **Create a financial plan for retirement** (91% of financially fulfilled have one). It's hard to feel in control if you don't know where you're going. A retirement plan puts a real

number on what you'll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life's unexpected curveballs.

- **Save intentionally for major milestones** (87% of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child's education don't have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.
- **Put an estate plan in place** (66% of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure what you've worked for still reflects your wishes after you're gone.
- **Work with a financial advisor** (60% of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the

past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn't happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

Contact Gary Shilman to discuss your financial needs, wants, and wishes.
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Food Drive honors late residents while carrying on legacy of service

Camp Woodtrail recently hosted their annual food drive in support of the Natick Service Council Food Pantry.

This year’s food drive held an especially meaningful purpose, as it was dedicated in memory of the legacy of service left by three beloved Natick neighbors: Ed Shagory, Jane Conaway, and Bob Macone.

Each of them made significant contributions to the community, food pantry supporters noted, and dedicated their time, energy, and hearts to making Natick a better place.

Their commitment to service above self continues to inspire and their legacy lives on through the many people they touched and the community they helped build, organizers noted .

Camp Woodtrail campers, counselors, families, and Natick Parks and Recreation team honored their memories through an act of kindness and service.



Camp Woodtrail community members supported the food pantry. Courtesy photo

Their generosity will help provide food and support to local neighbors who need it most. “What a beautiful way to carry their legacy forward,” organizers noted. “Thank you for being true examples of Neighbors Helping Neighbors.”

‘Shattered Ice’ to be screened



“Shattered Ice” features themes of suicide, substance abuse and mental health.

“Shattered Ice,” a coming-of-age sports drama, will be screened from 6:05 to 8:05 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9 at the Center for Arts, 14 Summer St.

The fee is \$5. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

The film involves themes of suicide, substance abuse and mental health. Community resources will be available.

A panel discussion on mental health and suicide prevention will follow.



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Community Nursery School of Wayland: A strong start to a lifetime of learning

BY JENNIFER RUSSO

For more than six decades, Community Nursery School of Wayland has been a place where young children take some of their first steps toward independence, friendship, and a lifelong love of learning.

Founded in 1965 by Roberta Wambolt, the school began with a group of local mothers looking for a place where their toddlers could learn and socialize. What started with 50 students has grown into a longstanding Wayland institution serving children ages 2.9 through 5 years old. Today, Roberta's daughter, Elizabeth Wambolt, carries on that legacy as director, a role she has held since 2002.

For Elizabeth, one of the most important distinctions about Community Nursery School is right there in its name: It is a school.

"It's important to understand that we aren't a daycare. We are a school, with talented educators who teach the children in a developmentally appropriate way with basic skills, relationship building and making friends, caring for belongings, and learning how to be independent," she said.

That education happens through a play-based, hands-on curriculum designed around the developmental stages of preschool children. Activities encourage creativity, problem-solving, social interaction, and confidence while giving children opportunities to make choices and discover how the

Business spotlight

world around them works.

The school's small class sizes are an important part of that approach. Classes include both a lead teacher and a teacher's assistant, allowing educators to give individual attention to the children as they learn, play, and develop new skills. Research on early childhood education suggests that smaller child-to-teacher ratios can create more opportunities for individual interaction and instructional support.

That individual attention is one of the ways CNS prepares children for what comes next. The school maintains relationships with the Wayland and Natick public school systems, helping support a smooth transition to kindergarten.

"We have principals tell us that when these children enter kindergarten, they are always well prepared, self-sufficient, kind, and respectful," Elizabeth shared.

"We are well known as a place where children are well loved. We are a warm, nurturing, supportive, and gentle environment that feels like an extension of home," she said.

That combination of education, personal attention, and a welcoming environment has helped CNS remain a trusted presence in Wayland for more



Community
Nursery School
of Wayland

than 60 years.

Today, the school can accommodate up to 78 students and, following a recent group of kindergarten-bound graduates, there are now openings for new families. Programs are available two, three, or five days a week, with payment plans available to help families manage tuition.

For families considering preschool, tuition is certainly a factor. But at Community Nursery School, the cost represents more than simply a place for a child to spend their morning. It is an investment in experienced educators, a nurturing environment, and early learning.

Places like CNS can also play a quiet but meaningful role in strengthening a local community. Parents meet through



school events, children grow up alongside the same classmates, and families often continue to see one another at local activities, sports, and community gatherings. Those early connections can become lasting friendships and help create the kind of close-knit community that benefits everyone. Some graduates have even returned after college to become teachers themselves.

That may be one of CNS's

most enduring lessons: A child's first school can be about much more than getting ready for kindergarten. It can be where they begin to learn who they are, how to be part of a community, and sometimes also where lifelong friendships begin.

To learn more about Community Nursery School, visit their website at www.cnswayland.org, email info@cnswayland.org, or call 508-651-2555.



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How to help stomp out the spotted lanternfly

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has officially confirmed established populations of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) across Middlesex County, including Natick.



The spotted lanternfly can damage a variety of trees. Courtesy image

While completely harmless to humans and pets, these invasive plant-hoppers feed on sap from over 70 plant species, including local maples, grapevines, and fruit trees. They excrete a sticky waste called “honeydew” that promotes destructive sooty mold growth.

The state advises residents to take the following steps.

Kill adults on contact (the squish technique): Spotted lanternflies jump forward, not backward. Approach them directly from the front and stomp/squish them head-on.

Alternatively, spray them directly with a mixture of concentrated liquid dish soap and water



Residents are encouraged to do their part. Courtesy images

to immobilize and kill them.

Scrape & destroy egg masses: Locate gray, mud-like egg masses on trees or outdoor surfaces.

Using a plastic card or putty knife, scrape the eggs directly into a sealed container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.

Simply scraping them onto the ground will not stop them from hatching.

Report sightings: Help state entomologists track the spread by logging a photo and location.

To report, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/spotted-lanternfly>

Free training Sept. 3 in Narcan use



Narcan can counter the effects of an overdose. Courtesy image

Participants will learn what causes an opioid overdose, how to recognize and respond to an overdose and how to use Naloxone, also known as Narcan, to reverse the effects of opioid overdose and save a life.

Community Narcan training will be available

from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3 at Morse Institute Library, 14 E. Central St.

This free training will be led by Natick Health Department’s 180 team.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/Sept3NaloxoneTraining>.

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Navigating college admissions with financial planning



Glenn Brown, CFP

If you have a high school junior or senior, the college admissions process can quickly turn into an overwhelming blur of deadlines, application choices, and financial decisions. From understanding application timing to navigating shifting loan rules, every choice you make now directly impacts your family's broader financial plan.

Early Action vs. Early Decision

Let's start with the early application process with various October deadlines, and how choosing between Early Action and Early Decision carries financial implications. Early Action gives your student an early decision without a binding commitment, letting them apply to several schools and compare actual financial aid offers. Early Decision is a binding agreement. While it can give an admissions edge at certain

selective institutions, it strips away your leverage to negotiate financial aid later. If your family chooses the binding route, merit aid conversations must happen prior, not after the application.

Build Merit-Based Relationships

When targeting merit-based aid, looking beyond "trophy" schools is often where the real money is hiding. Highly competitive universities rarely offer deep merit scholarships because their applicant pools are overflowing. Instead, consider specialized or regional colleges where your student's academic profile places them in the top 20% of applicants. Encourage your teenager to lead conversations, build relationships with local recruiters, and express genuine interest. Admissions teams want to hear an authentic student voice—not a sales pitch polished by Mom or Dad.

Manage Your 529 Plan

For families who have spent years funding a 529 plan, junior year in high school is the time to start protecting that growth. Consider shifting a portion of those funds into money market instruments so market dips do not force a bad exit right when tuition bills arrive. Tax-free withdrawals must go toward qualified education expenses like tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board. If

you end up overfunding the account, SECURE 2.0 rules allow families to roll up to \$35,000 of leftover 529 funds directly into a Roth IRA for the student, provided the account has been open for at least 15 years. It serves as a great safety valve that turns unused college money into a head start on retirement.

Fast Track The FAFSA

Make sure to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible once it opens in the fall. Prioritizing early completion gives your family first-come, first-served access to state-level grants, institutional aid, and federal work-study funds that frequently run out before general admissions deadlines.

Sequencing Your Loans

The biggest shift comes from last year's student loan reform, when open-ended federal parent borrowing officially ended. Congress placed a hard annual

limit of \$20,000 and a lifetime cumulative cap of \$65,000 per dependent child on Parent PLUS loans. Direct undergraduate student loan limits remain capped at \$5,500 to \$12,500 annually.

Because a four-year university can easily exceed that \$65,000 federal ceiling, families need a proactive borrowing plan:

- Pace the \$65,000 Parent PLUS cap evenly across all four years (\$16,250 annually) rather than borrowing \$20,000 upfront and hitting a wall by senior year.
 - Combine lower-interest Direct student loans first, ensuring your teenager maxes out their federal loan eligibility before parents assume debt.
 - Target colleges with generous institutional grants, prioritizing schools whose net price calculators reveal strong aid packages that minimize reliance on parent debt.
- Aligning your child's educational goals with a realistic, well-

paced funding strategy ensures they get a great degree without compromising your own retirement.

If you are balancing application timelines with your household wealth plan, reach out to your Certified Financial Planner to map out a custom college roadmap.

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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Fall into September events at Morse Institute Library

A return to the fall routine provides plenty of opportunities to visit the Morse Institute Library. Here are some examples.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
Boredom Busters-Build It! Wednesday, Sept. 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join us for building, creating and mystery activities. Today is Create It! Make designs using a Spirograph set or color a beautiful Mandala. Take a chance with a Create It Challenge! Recommended for kindergarten through grade 5. Drop-In, no registration necessary.

Pajama Time Stories, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Join Miss Susan for a few songs and lots of stories in the Children's Library. Forty-five minutes of stories and songs. No registration required.

Purposeful Play, Thursday, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10 to 11 a.m. Drop in to the Children's Department to explore tabletop activities for preschool aged children and their grownup partners. Just bring your imagination. No registration is required.

Project ABC, Friday, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 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. Join us as we explore a new theme each week based on one of our favorite books. We have

STEAM, ELA, and SEL activities, and a circle time with songs and stories. We will play, learn, and grow together. No registration is required.

Lapsit Storytime, Monday Sept. 14, 21, 28, 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Stories, bounces, songs, and bubbles for babies up to 24 months and their grownups. Gather in the StoryCraft Room in the Children's Department on the Lower Level. No registration is required.

Boredom Busters-Build It!, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join us for building, creating and mystery activities. Today is Build It! - Build a structure with Magna Tiles or Keva Blocks. Try the Build It Challenge. Recommended for kindergarten through grade 5. Drop-In, no registration is necessary.

ALL AGES PROGRAMS
Natick Art Association Opening Reception, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Natick Art Association brings art to the community; fosters conversations about the experience of creating, inspires and cultivates artistic expression among members of our creative community and beyond. With more than 100 members, the association includes new and nationally recognized local artists who are living, working and/or creating in Natick or surrounding towns. Members include

painters, printmakers, sculptors, potters, mosaic artists, jewelers, fiber artists, photographers, and mixed media artists. People who appreciate and love art are also encouraged to become members.

Coinciding with the 23rd anniversary of Natick Artist Open Studios, Natick Art Association presents a member exhibit at the Morse Institute Library.

Bookmobile at the Farmers Market, Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your library card to check out books, audiobooks, bestseller speed reads, and DVDs for all ages. Natick Common.

Bookmobile at Sherwood Village, Thursday, Sept. 3, Sept. 17, East Building 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., West Building 2:30-3:30 p.m. At the bookmobile you can: sign up for a library card, check out books and puzzles for all ages, and learn more about the library's programs and resources. No registration is required.

Genealogy Group, Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join a Morse Research Librarian to learn about library and other online resources to start researching your family history. Stop by with your questions, or if you have started your research, let us know how it's going. This is a great space to share ideas and strategies to help you start, and grow your family tree. Registration is required.

Red Cross Blood Drive,



Morse Institute Library. Photo supplied by the Library

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2 to 7 p.m. No registration is required.

Friends' Fall Book, Bake and Music Sale, Saturday, Sept. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 27, noon to 3 p.m. Mark your calendar for the Friends of the Morse Institute Library's two-day book, bake, and music sale. You'll find a wide selection of well-sorted books on the lower level, our legendary bake sale in the main lobby, and books for children and teens along with the CD and vinyl sale on the first floor in the Morse Room.

TEEN PROGRAMS
Teens & Tweens: Charm Keychains, Thursday, Sept. 10, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Make a beaded charm keychain with alphabet beads, pony beads, and other designs. All supplies provided. For teens and tweens ages 11 to 18, registration required.

Puzzle Weekend: Frida Kahlo, Saturday, Sept. 12 and Sunday, Sept. 13, All day. Teens are invited to stop by and work on the puzzle on the Teen Room table this weekend to help put together a Frida Kahlo puzzle in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. For teens and tweens, ages 11-18. No registration is required.

Teen Take & Make: Fall Watercolor Kit, Monday, Sept. 14, 2 to 9 p.m. Stop by the teen room to pick up a fall watercolor kit to complete at home. For teens and tweens, ages 11 to 18. Available until kits run out.

Teen Drop-In Craft: Scratch Art, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2 to 4 p.m. Stop by the teen room to do a scratch art piece. Available

while supplies last. For teens and tweens ages 11 to 18. No registration is required.

Teen & Tween Drop-In Coloring Saturday, Sept. 19 to Monday, Sept. 21, All day Teen and tweens ages 11 to 18 can stop by the teen room anytime the library is open for drop-in coloring. Coloring pages and supplies provided. No registration required.

Teen & Tween: Decorate Your Own Zippered Pouch, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 7 to 8 pm. Decorate your own zippered canvas pouch with iron on patches and paint pens. All supplies provided. For teens and tweens ages 11 to 18, registration required.

Teen & Tween: Friendship Bracelets, Monday, Sept. 28, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Come hang out and make some friendship bracelets For teens & tweens ages 11 to 18, registration required.

ADULT PROGRAMS
20s and 30s Book Club, Wednesday, Sept. 2, 7 to 8 p.m., We are a group of 20- and 30-something book lovers in Natick who will meet once a month to discuss a book that we have decided on and all read. Every month we will vote on the next book to read and do guided discussion on the book we have read, as well as have time to mingle and talk about the book in smaller groups. This month's book we will be reading is "Chain Gang All-stars" by Nan Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. Copies

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continued on page 11

MORSE

continued from page 10

will be held for members at the circulation desk to borrow while supplies last. Libby and Hoopla are available for digital copies. No registration is required.

Walk-in Technology Help, Saturday, Sept. 12, 19, 26, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and Monday Sept. 14, 21, 28 and 3 to 5 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 3 to 5 p.m. Having trouble figuring out how to use your smartphone, tablet, or other devices? Unsure on how to use Libby/Hoopla/Kanopy with your device? We can help with that. First come, first served session with one of our Information Services Librarians for help on the second floor each Saturday morning (except on holiday closures). Bring your questions and devices, and we'll work through them together. Sessions are a maximum of 15 minutes. More complicated questions or longer help needed will require a later one-on-one appointment. No registration is required.

Opera, War, and the Human Spirit: Finding Beauty in

Enemy Territory, Thursday, Sept. 3, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Hear an engaging talk with Cape Cod, award-winning historical fiction author Janis Robinson Daly as she shares her inspiration and research which led to writing her latest novel "Under Two Flags." Drawing upon the memoir of 18-yr-old Josephine Therese Marzynski, a Boston opera student trapped in Berlin during World War I, Daly explores how Josephine's passion for music drives her strength to endure even in humanity's darkest hours. Registration for this event is suggested, but not required.

Open Mic Night, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Join us for an Open Mic Night at the Morse Institute Library the second Tuesday of the month. Singers, poets, musicians, writers, performance artists, all are welcome. Performers can sign up for a five minute or 10-minute slot on a first come first served basis. No registration is required

American Mah Jongg Night, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6 to 8 p.m. Calling all players of American Mah Jongg to our new monthly

Mah Jongg night. Whether you have a rudimentary knowledge of Mah Jongg or have been playing for years, we would love to have you join us for an evening of strategy, luck and fun. This is an opportunity for the novice to hone their skills and experienced players to share their knowledge. Knowledge of the American version of Mah Jongg rules and your own National Mah Jongg League card is necessary. At this event, the game is not taught. If you have a Mah Jongg set, please bring it along. No registration is required.

Morning Book Discussion, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This month's selection is "Harlem Rhapsody" by Victoria Christopher Murray. Copies of the book will be available at the circulation desk of the library. Some titles are also available through Hoopla and Libby/Overdrive. New members are welcome, no registration is required.

Medicare 101, Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 to 8 p.m. Are you turning 65, new to Medicare, or retiring soon? Are you already on Medicare but want a greater

understanding of your Medicare options? Having trouble affording your medications? Presented by the MetroWest SHINE program, this presentation will provide a basic overview of Medicare and related programs, to help individuals make educated and informed decisions about their healthcare coverage. SHINE stands for Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone (on Medicare) and provides free, unbiased counseling on health insurance options and related benefit programs. Registration is required.

Needle Felted Sheep Scene, Thursday, Sept. 24, 6 to 8 p.m. Create a cute sheep scene using felting needles and a felting pad to shape and adhere wool roving to a piece of fabric. Each participant will receive a wooden embroidery hoop for their finished piece. It's possible to finish the project in the time allotted, but those who do not finish will receive supplies to take home. Registration is required.

Chat & Chew Book Club, Friday, Sept. 25, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. -Bring a lunch or snack and discuss books you've read recently. There's no assigned reading, so



Morse Institute Library. Photo by Theresa Knapp

you get to read what you want. Drop in if you have time, or register to get event reminders. Registration is optional.

Diamond Art Painting: Hummingbird Window Cling, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Learn about diamond painting and how to make a window cling. Apply colorful resin rhinestones to richly-pigmented canvas paintings to make visually dazzling, mosaic diamond artworks that sparkle, shimmer and shine. Registration is required.

For more information, visit morseinstitute.org.

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Nina Sable on why school districts matter when selling a home



School districts can be an important consideration when buying or selling a home. Nina Sable helps clients understand the full picture.



For Nina Sable of Sable Homes, understanding how school districts influence buyers is an important part of preparing a home for market. While school performance may not matter equally to every buyer, it can be a significant consideration for families with school-age children and can influence both where they choose to live and what they are willing to pay.

That doesn't mean a seller should assume a highly rated school district automatically guarantees a higher sale price. Real estate decisions are rarely that simple.

"Schools are important, but they don't make up the whole picture," Sable said.

BY JENNIFER RUSSO

When it's time to sell a home, homeowners naturally think about the things that make their property stand out: the kitchen, the backyard, the number of bedrooms and, of course, the price.

But there's another factor sellers should keep in mind... one they can't change, renovate, or stage: the school district.

For some buyers, a school district may be one of the first things they consider. Families with young children may be willing to pay a premium to live in a particular community. Other buyers may put more emphasis on the home itself, commute, neighborhood, property taxes, or overall affordability.

That's why Nina encourages sellers to understand their likely buyers rather than assuming one factor will determine the outcome.

School performance can also change over time. Leadership, enrollment, programs, funding, and demographics can all shift. Even the way schools are measured and ranked can change. A strong school district today may look different several years from now, just as a district that currently receives less attention can often improve.

For sellers, that means it's important to present school

information accurately and in context rather than relying on a single ranking or rating.

For buyers, it's a reminder to look beyond the number. A school rating is a snapshot, not a guarantee of what a district will look like throughout the years a family may live in the community.

So, how much should school districts factor into the value of a home?

There is no magic percentage. For one family, schools could account for 40% or 50% of the decision. For another buyer, it may be 10% or not factor into the decision at all.

Even buyers who place a high priority on schools still have to consider the full cost and lifestyle of owning a home. A highly rated district may attract attention, but an unreasonable commute, high property taxes, a major renovation or a monthly payment that stretches a family's budget can outweigh that benefit.

That's why sellers should think about the entire story their property and community tell prospective buyers.

A desirable school district can be an important part of that story. So can a great neighborhood, a manageable commute, a well-maintained home, outdoor space, local amenities, and a price that makes sense for the market.

Ultimately, a school district is one piece of a much larger real estate puzzle. For families with children, it may be a very big piece. For others, it may barely enter the equation.

For sellers, understanding that distinction can help set realistic expectations and present their home in the best possible light. And for buyers, it's a reminder that the "best" school district, like the "best" home, is ultimately the one that fits their particular needs.

For Nina and her team, helping sellers understand how buyers make those decisions is an important part of the process. The goal isn't to promise that one feature will determine a home's value. It's to identify the factors that are likely to matter most to the buyers who are actually looking at the property.

Learn more at www.sablesellshomes.com or reach out to the team at 508-733-8935.

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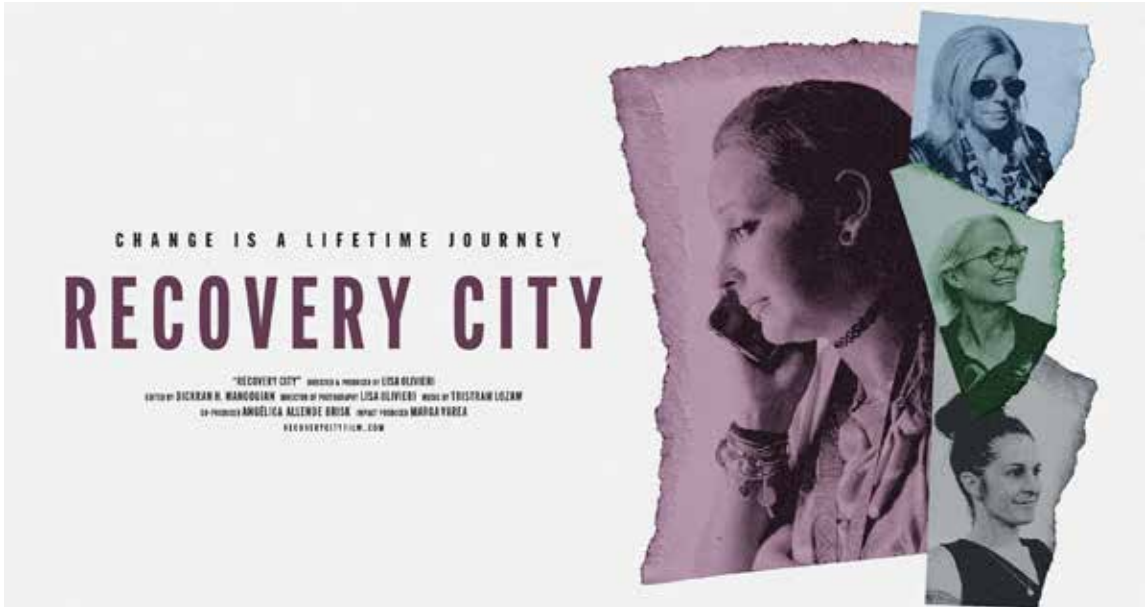


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'Recovery City' will be screened Sept. 15



"Recovery City" was directed by Natick High teacher Lisa Olivieri. Courtesy photo

A free screening of "Recovery City" by local filmmaker and Natick High School teacher Lisa Olivieri will be presented Tuesday, Sept. 15 at Morse Institute Library, 14 E. Central St.

The film looks at recovery after substance abuse.

Doors open at 6 p.m. The film will be screened at 6:30 p.m.

After the film is aired, a discussion panel will take place with Olivieri and the women featured in the film.

Light refreshments will be available.

Registration is encouraged but not required.

To reserve a ticket, visit <https://bit.ly/RecoveryCity-MIL>.

Walls go wild with nature display at Bacon Library



A majestic gorilla. Photo by David Parish



African lion checks out its surroundings. Photo by David Parish

Take a walk on the wild side as Bacon Free Library presents “David Parish: Thoughtful Animals” from Sept. 9 to Oct. 21.

The exhibit showcases the work of Natick resident David Parish.

He has been involved with several organizations within the town, most recently as Chair of the Bacon Free Library’s Board of Trustees.

An avid traveler, Parish enjoys observing and photographing animals in their natural settings.

He hopes this exhibit will appeal to children and perhaps even some adults



Lemurs can be amusing to watch. Photo by David Parish

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See you in September at the Community Senior Center

There's a lot to do and learn at the Natick Community Senior Center this September. Here is a sampling:

Music, dance and stories from Uganda. Tuesday, Sept. 8, 1:45 p.m., \$3.

Africano Waltham is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting African immigrant families, youth, and seniors by fostering cultural connection, learning, and community engagement. Experience the rich traditions and joyful spirit of Uganda as community members share cultural performances and stories that bring generations together.

Morse Institute Library mobile digital help. Monday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.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 device 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.

Learn How to Play Pickleball Stronger and Safer Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m.

Love pickleball? Join MetroWest Medical Center occupational therapist Christine Scully Palmer and physical therapist Susan Montuori for expert tips to build strength, boost mobility,

and prevent injuries. Learn easy warm-up exercises to stay safe and play your best every time you hit the court.

Expressive Arts Therapy. Sept. 8, 11 a.m.

A monthly interactive program for adults with cognitive decline and their care partners, featuring creative activities that foster expression and social connection led by Registered Art Therapist Kasey Larsen.

Functional Medicine: A New Paradigm for Healthcare. Sept. 15, 11 a.m.

Although the United States spends more on healthcare than any other nation, it suffers from lower life expectancy, largely driven by the widespread burden of chronic diseases. In this workshop, explore functional medicine as a modern systems-based approach that views the body as an interconnected whole. This model emphasizes lifestyle interventions and evidence-informed natural therapies, while prioritizing personalized, patient-centered care aimed at restoring physical vitality and supporting long-term wellness.

Meaningful Connections Memory Cafe. Sept. 17, 11:30 a.m.

Memory cafe is a welcoming and supportive gathering for individuals with memory loss and their care partners. Join us for companionship, entertainment, resources and a light lunch. On Sept. 17, Warren Phillips brings music alive by singing and using his keyboard to create



Natick Senior Center. Photo by Theresa Knapp

the sounds of a full orchestra. Call Katie Stanganelli at 508-647-6540, ext 1908 to reserve your spot no later than Monday, Sept. 14.

E-Motion Grief Movement Community. Sept. 23 to Nov. 18, 10 a.m.

The center is partnering with E-Motion an organization that provides an innovative, grief informed approach that integrates movement, community, and ritual to build resilience and support individuals and groups in moving with loss. Join Joan O'Dell, Case Manager and Katie Stanganelli, Outreach Coordinator, who have been trained to facilitate this program, on a 1.5 - 2 mile walk along the Natick Rail Trail. This group is for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one or friend. Call Katie at 508-647-6540, ext 1908 for more information and to register

Home Safety Workshop - Tips to Keep you Safe at

Home. Sept. 24, 11 a.m.

This informative workshop will be packed with smart, simple ways to help you stay safe and confident at home. Learn how to reduce fall risks, make your living space safer, and avoid unnecessary hospital visits. Small changes can make a big difference — come discover how to make your home a safer place to live! Presented in partnership with Mary Ann Morse Home Care, maryannmorse.org.

Ageless Grace. Sept. 23 to Nov. 25, 11:30 a.m.

Ageless Grace is a revolutionary brain fitness program. The program consists of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all abilities and is set to upbeat, lively music. These tools, based on everyday movements that are natural and organic, focus on the health and well-being of the body and brain and are fun to practice. The brain-body connection can help improve overall health and well-being, reduce

stress, keep the brain agile and body responsive.

Human Services Health and Wellness Fair. Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Join us at this free event any time during the two hours to enjoy refreshments and meet with representatives from various Town of Natick departments, as well as local agencies and organizations to gather valuable information and resources for residents of all ages. Participants include representatives from: the Assessor's Office, Board of Health, Council on Aging, Human Services, Veterans' Services, Police and Fire, the Natick Housing Authority, Sherwood Village, Natick Service Council, Springwell, MetroWest Transit Authority, MetroWest Meds, and others. Refreshments will be available. Registration is not required.

Natick Community-Senior Center is located at 117 E. Central St. and can be reached at 508-647-6540.





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Police, public unite for National Night Out

BY MAUREEN SULLIVAN

On Aug. 4, dozens of families came to Memorial Field for the annual National Night Out sponsored by the town's Police Department.

A perfect summer's evening provided the backdrop for plenty of activities, from bounce houses to children's contests, from catching water balloons (courtesy of two Natick firefighters on top of a ladder truck) to playing with adoptable puppies.

There was also a chance to learn a few things, for example, the differences between e-bikes and scooters. Travis Moran and other Natick Police officers presented a display on which requires a license, and which are allowed on recreational paths. Visitors could also ride the bikes, and if they wanted to learn about impaired driving, they could wear a special pair of "drunk goggles."

"It's a great night to bring awareness to what the town has to offer," said Moran. "It's also a great family night."

Natick Rotary served up hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza, while Chick Fil-A handed out chicken sandwiches, and Starbucks distributed ice-cold drinks. Kona Ice, Not Your Average Popcorn and Roche Bros. also provided refreshments.

The Natick Service Council conducted a food drive during the event. According to Kelsey Hampton, the director of community engagement, donations tend to drop off during the summer; they could use snack foods, tuna, cereal, jars of pasta sauce and personal care items.

The Service Council is also putting together a team for the 15th annual Ride & Stride for Food, which will take place on



Police Chief James Hicks, right, checks out some puppies from Shultz's Guest House ready for adoption. Photo by Maureen Sullivan



Bubbles big and small delighted children. Photo by Maureen Sullivan



Personnel from the Soldier Systems Development Center (aka the Labs) show the latest in Army gear. Photo by Maureen Sullivan



Police Officer Travis Moran shows a display of the differences between e-bikes and scooters. Photo by Maureen Sullivan



Hmmm ... hot dog, pizza, burger or chicken? At the annual National Night Out at Memorial Field on Aug. 4, visitors could have all of the above. Photo by Maureen Sullivan

Sept. 27 in Dedham. Go to the summer newsletter, <https://natickservicecouncil.org/summer-2026-newsletter/>, to learn more.

Other participants included Advocates, SMOC, Natick 180, SOAR Natick, Anchored in Re-

covery, Natick Community Organic Farm, Veteran's Services, Natick Service Council, Needham Bank, AT&T, FirstNet, Soldier Systems Development Center, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and the Morse Institute Library's Bookmobile.

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A happy homecoming as Camp Arrowhead returns from ‘Big Res’



Campers brought back lots of smiles. *Courtesy photo*

As the summer wound down, Camp Arrowhead returned from Big Res 2026. Organizers described it as a fun-filled week with cabin themes, camp songs and many incredible memories made. The dedicated overnight/residential milestone week known to campers and staff as “Big Res brought plenty of smiles.



Big Res is a summer tradition. *Courtesy photo*



The very definition of happy campers. *Courtesy photo*



Happy to be home. *Courtesy photo*

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Friendships were forged in the summer outing. *Courtesy photo*

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SPORTS

Two paths, one bench: Daley, Trubiano rebuild a Natick champion

BY MATT HYLEN

Natick girls soccer scored four goals in last November’s Division 1 state final. The two players who scored them have graduated, and so has the goalkeeper who held Franklin to two.

“None of those players are replaceable,” co-coach Kari-Ann Daley said.

That is the arithmetic facing the Redhawks this fall. Captains Nicole Proia and Abby McCauley each scored twice in the 4-2 win over Franklin at Doyle Field, giving Natick its third Division 1 title in five years and capping a 16-3-3 season.

Proias twin sister, Lydia, is gone too, along with the spine of a team that arrived as a fourth seed and left as champions.

However, Daley and co-coach Denise Trubiano are not worried about how they will respond to what they may have lost.

“We will build off the team culture,” Daley said. “These girls are just fabulous people in every sense of the word, genuinely amazing human beings. When the heart of your team is like this, we consider ourselves very lucky.”

Trubiano sees the same thing in the group that returns.

“We have a core group who are great leaders who bring everyone together,” she said. “Regardless of their role, each player gives all they have to support each other and make each other better. It is a continuation from last year, as last year’s seniors were outstanding and led us to the championship.”

The two coaches reached the Natick sideline from opposite directions. Daley has taught in town since 2003 and played soccer throughout her childhood, which made coaching the obvious next step.

She ran the freshman team for seven or eight years, stepped away to have a family, returned at the junior varsity level in 2019, and took over the varsity alongside Trubiano in 2024.

Trubiano is a Natick High graduate who played four years for the Redhawks before going on to Lafayette. She began teaching at Natick in 2000 and coaching junior varsity the same year, put in 12 seasons, then

stepped away to coach her own daughter in the Millis youth program. She returned to the high school level at Millis in 2021 and joined Daley in 2024.

Two paths, one conviction. Asked what makes the partnership work, both landed on the same answer.

“I believe that the reason why we are successful as co-coaches and friends is that we have the same mentality and approach,” Trubiano said. “We are competitive and want our girls to be successful, but if it is without laughter, fun, and celebration, then it is not being done right.”

Daley put it in nearly identical terms.

“My coaching mentality is work hard, play hard, but you have to have fun,” she said. “Last year, we laughed every day. If you aren’t finding the fun, why do it when there are so many competing options for one’s time?”

With tryouts ahead, the standard is specific. Daley wants players who arrive in shape and ready to play 80 minutes, with solid footwork, a good first touch and a high soccer IQ.

Trubiano wants fitness that can outrun anyone on the schedule. Both put something above all of it.

“Most importantly, we are looking for an athlete who thinks first of what is best for the team,” Trubiano said. “They are a part of something bigger than themselves and proud to carry on the tradition of Natick soccer. They sacrifice for their teammates and lift others up.”

The tradition within the team’s identity is its own kind of pressure. Natick’s youth program feeds the high school a steady supply of players, and the town has come to expect what it gets.

“There is a culture of excellence and an expectation to win,” Daley said. “I mean, who doesn’t want to repeat their successes? With that said, every team is different and needs to be treated as its own entity. What worked for us last year will not work this year. We lost too many players.”

So, the fall begins as an open question rather than a title defense.

We need to see who we have, work the lineup, move girls around, find chemistry,” Daley said. “This takes time and hard work, from us and the players. But it is exciting, and I know we are looking forward to the challenge”

There is precedent for patience. Natick did not look like a champion last September either.

“We definitely had some hiccups early on in the season,” Daley said. “You need to reflect on those games and missed opportunities and use them to get better. We were able to peak at the perfect time last year during the postseason run.”

In the meantime, the job is keeping the standard visible.

“We need to be honest and transparent about team and individual expectations, and be consistent,” she said. “Our leaders need to model the work ethic and positive attitudes that can separate us from others, and everyone has to be committed to that.”

Both coaches teach in the building, so the season does not end when practice does. Daley teaches five sections of seniors and usually has most of the senior players in her classes.



Soccer coaches Kari-Ann Daley, left, and Denise Trubiano are looking toward another strong season. Photo by Lynn Tartaglia

“I get to see them grow as young people, both athletically and academically. I cannot tell you how personally rewarding this is” she said. “We keep in touch with a lot of the girls and their families. These relationships are what makes teaching and coaching so special.”

Trubiano’s position limits her to two classes, which she says makes the team that much more valuable.

“The afternoons with these girls are the best part of my

days,” she said. “They bring such joy and laughter to my life, and I love sharing the crazy stories with my family, because these girls become such a huge part of our lives.”

The Redhawks reported Aug. 24 with a roster full of openings and a banner already hanging.

“We know that these girls will show up and be ready,” Trubiano said. “We will have a blast working through all we have to work through as a team. I cannot wait.”

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Why the price you choose may determine whether buyers ever walk through the door



John McHugh

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By JOHN McHUGH

Your house may be beautiful. Your renovations may be spectacular. You may know exactly what you spent improving it. Here is the uncomfortable part: the buyer doesn't care what your home is worth to you. They care what else they can buy.

While a seller is thinking about the new kitchen, hardwood floors and \$50,000 spent on improvements, the buyer is

remembering the house they saw yesterday—and comparing yours to three more on their phone. That's where pricing gets interesting.

I often hear a perfectly reasonable question: "Why don't we start a little high? We can always come down." Because buyers may never give you the chance. If a home appears overpriced online, some buyers won't schedule a showing. They don't come inside. They don't see the gorgeous kitchen. They don't discover the backyard. They don't fall in love. They simply click on the next house. And that's the danger of "testing the market."

The first few weeks are when a new listing has something it can never get back: newness. Realtor.com research published in June 2026 found that homes achieving the strongest results relative to their asking price tended to go under contract within their first two weeks. Price reductions become increasingly common as listings linger. Suddenly the buyer's question can change from

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2026 research found the strongest results relative to asking price tended to occur within the first two weeks.

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mous amounts of data. But it hasn't walked through your kitchen, admired your renovations or toured the house down the street that your buyer saw yesterday. That's why market value isn't determined by what a seller needs, spent or hopes to receive. It's discovered through competition.

Price your home at \$900,000 and buyers compare it with homes around \$900,000. Push it substantially higher and you haven't simply changed your asking price. You've changed your competition. Good pricing isn't about giving your house away. It's about getting buyers through the door—and giving the market a reason to compete for it.

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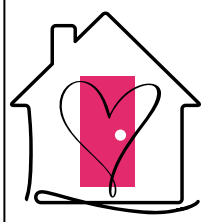
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Recent Natick Home Sales

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Date	Natick	Amount
08/12/2026	75 W Central St.	\$1,160,000
08/12/2026	40 Nouvelle Way #N241	\$865,000
08/11/2026	4 Gibbs St.	\$645,000
08/11/2026	9 Post Oak Ln. #16	\$430,000
08/10/2026	14 Reynolds Ave.	\$850,000
08/07/2026	7 Clover Ln.	\$1,450,000
08/07/2026	11 Morgan Dr. #407	\$529,900
08/06/2026	36 Walden Dr. #19	\$349,000
08/05/2026	14 Hardwick Rd.	\$825,000
08/05/2026	13 Aqueduct Rd.	\$1,300,000
08/04/2026	15 Village Rock Ln. #1	\$303,000
08/04/2026	13 Hudson St.	\$1,070,000
08/03/2026	3 Beverly Rd.	\$1,610,000
08/03/2026	70 Washington St.	\$940,000
07/31/2026	20 Pine St.	\$900,000
07/31/2026	4 Curtis Rd.	\$1,900,000
07/31/2026	304 Eliot St.	\$1,500,000
07/31/2026	30 Oakridge Ave.	\$1,650,000
07/30/2026	7 Whitney Cir.	\$1,480,000
07/30/2026	9 Overhill Rd.	\$1,040,000
07/30/2026	101 North Ave.	\$675,000
07/30/2026	8 Warren Rd.	\$2,210,000
07/30/2026	40 Nouvelle Way #N644	\$589,000
07/30/2026	10 Nouvelle Way #S807	\$820,000
07/28/2026	13 Avon St.	\$1,310,000
07/28/2026	16 Circular Ave.	\$820,000
07/28/2026	26 Leach Ln.	\$942,500
07/27/2026	7 Oakridge Ave.	\$839,175
07/27/2026	18 Fairway Circ.	\$520,000
07/27/2026	7 Woodleigh Rd.	\$1,010,000
07/22/2026	34 N. Main St. #3	\$799,000
07/22/2026	25 Davis Brook Dr.	\$1,480,000
07/21/2026	9 Morgan Dr. #203	\$278,719
07/21/2026	4 Chester St.	\$1,300,000
07/20/2026	10 Village Green Ln. #19	\$307,500
07/20/2026	20 Circular Ave.	\$630,000
07/20/2026	10 Water St.	\$800,000
07/20/2026	25 Bunker Ln.	\$1,610,000
07/20/2026	9 Riverbend Dr.	\$1,280,000
07/17/2026	21 School St.	\$570,000
07/17/2026	2 Chester St.	\$1,300,000
07/16/2026	11 Irving Rd.	\$1,480,000
07/16/2026	12 Florence St.	\$565,000
07/16/2026	13 Village Ln. #20	\$293,000
07/16/2026	4 Rolling Ln.	\$1,090,000

Source: zillow.com Compiled: Local Town Pages

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The 3-bed, 3-bath, 1,849-square-foot house at 14 Hardwick Road in Natick recently sold for \$825,000.
Image credit: www.zillow.com

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Back to School: Equipped 406 local students with backpacks, essential supplies, and gift cards to start the year with confidence.

Food Security: Providing fresh produce, essentials, and pantry staples to nearly 500 households every month.

Harriet's Closet: Accepting in-season fall clothing donations starting October 1 to keep families warm throughout the colder months.

Career Development: 1-on-1 resume reviews, interview prep, and career coaching at The Brack Center (Walk-In Hours return September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17 from 11am to 3pm).



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