

Put Yourself at the Top of Your To-Do List:

WE (Women Entrepreneurs) Love Natick Premiere Event, March 8

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

Women business owners are invited to a premiere event of WE (Women Entrepreneurs) Love Natick on Monday, March 8, 10 to 11:30 a.m. This virtual event, sponsored by the Natick Center Cultural District (NCCD), takes place on International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

The program will include special guest, business strategy coach Michelle Mercier, host of the popular podcast "The Resilient Entrepreneur," and other women businesses owners from Natick who will share their stories.



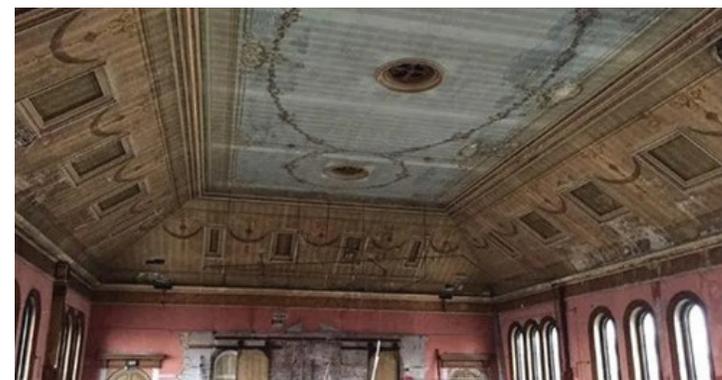
Michelle Mercier, host of the podcast "The Resilient Entrepreneur," will be a guest speaker on March 8. (Photo/supplied)

Mercier's presentation, "Putting Yourself at the Top of the 'To Do' List," explores women as caretakers, schedule makers, and a lot of times, the glue that holds everything together. Those responsibilities usually come with a mile-long 'to-do' list, especially for women running businesses.

Mercier's talk will inspire and empower women to recognize when they need a "worthiness boost;" understand the connection between worthiness and running a successful business; and create a self-care routine.

"This is a 'We Love Natick' premier event. We hope to hold

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Hoping to Preserve the Past

By SEAN SULLIVAN

Clark's Block was the name given to the building, its high brick façade a landmark looming over Main Street for nearly a century-and-a-half. Now, its preservation hangs in the balance.

It was rebuilt by Nathaniel Clark after the town's great fire of 1874, in which its previous incarnation was destroyed.

Clark, a prominent town businessman and benefactor, had the structure immediately

rebuilt to surpass its predecessor in stature, and stand as a symbol of resilience in the aftermath of that devastating fire.

"In many ways, it was his gift to Natick," said Niki Lefebvre. She is director of the Natick Historical Society, a group that has spotlighted the history and importance of Concert Hall.

"I think it's a remarkable space," she added. "I think

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Natick Fire Department Gets State Grant

The Baker-Polito Administration announced that 239 municipal fire departments will receive nearly \$2 million in grants to

fund fire education programs for children and older adults across Massachusetts.

Fire departments in 235 communities will receive Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E) and Senior SAFE grants; four communities will receive S.A.F.E. grants only; and three communities will receive Senior SAFE grants only.

Natick Fire Dept received \$4692 for the SAFE program, and \$2480 for the senior SAFE program.

“Since 1996, the S.A.F.E. program has brought fire education to hundreds of thousands of students in the Commonwealth,” said Gov. Charlie Baker. “This program allows firefighters and teachers to work together to provide fire and life safety education to young people. This collaboration contributed to a major accomplishment. No children died in fires in Massachusetts last year.”

The average number of children dying in fires annually has dropped by 78% since the S.A.F.E. Program began. The

Senior SAFE Program is in its seventh year, providing firefighters with the funding to deliver fire safety education to another vulnerable population – seniors.

“Home visits, smoke and CO alarm installations, and fire safety presentations at senior centers by firefighters with senior agencies help older adults develop strategies to stay safe at home for longer,” said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito.

“The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants represent a smart investment in fire safety,” said Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretary Thomas Turco. “Youngsters and older adults are historically at greater risk in house fires, but that risk can be reduced through the targeted

outreach, education, and awareness programs these grants help to fund,” he added.

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, “The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs are successful because we have trained firefighters who deliver education to children and older adults. The fire departments being supported in these public education efforts are increasing the safety of the people in their communities.”

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE Programs provide \$1.9 million through the Executive Office of the Public Safety and Security to local fire departments. The programs are administered by the state Department of Fire Services.



ENTREPRENEURS

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an event like this for women at least twice a year, if there is interest,” Athena Pandolf, NCCD executive director, said. “The purpose of these events is to support and encourage women business owners. We want to foster collaborative relationships, as well as bring women information that will help them succeed and grow.”

“We realized we had a lot of women-owned businesses,” Pandolf added. “There are 54 women business owners who are members of NCCD, with the majority of those in Natick Center. You could double or triple that for all of Natick. These businesses include artisans, crafters, and makers.”

To register for the March 8 program, visit www.natickcenter.org/event/we-women-entrepreneurs-love-natick/ or email info.natickcenter@gmail.com.

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-entrepreneurs-love-natick-tickets-140094294807>



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Your Money, Your Independence

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For most, estate planning receives the greatest amount of procrastination within financial planning.

It's understandable given the formality with an attorney, time commitment, complexity of choices and as parents with young kids thinking who/what ensures your child's continued growth with your untimely demise. Add a pandemic, "we've been meaning to do it" turned into "we should've done it when it was easier and safe".

Surprisingly, many are unaware that last April 28th, Massachusetts Senate Bill 2645 was passed/signed by Governor Baker to allow remote virtual notarization of legal documents through video-conferencing technology.

Yes, you can now work with an estate planning attorney through Zoom and FedEx to develop and complete your holistic estate plan.

I asked David Feakes, who over 20 years ago founded The Parents Estate Planning Law Firm, PC, to share his firm's ex-

perience and client observations to this legislative change.

Early Zoom adoption. "Last March/April, we'd help clients far along by doing signings in parking lots, picnic tables holding umbrellas and while we managed to do it safely, it was unsustainable", says David. "We'd been in communication with our state reps and got our firm's new policies and procedures in place. Once passed, we were proactive with Zoom, not just signings but also helping clients in our discovery phase move forward, as they had just put everything on hold."

Scheduling and engagement is easier for clients. "Parents with kids coordinating to come to our offices in Acton at the same time during work hours is hard", confessed David. "Also the idea of coming to an attorney's office can be intimidating, so now with the ability to do it all from home with kids running around or cats walking across the screen, it's helped relaxed clients and made decision making easier."

What remains constant - the why. "People have had time to reflect on making sure their kids are cared for if something unthinkable happens", shared David. "A will is not enough, we educate clients on legal strategies of trusts, guardianships, power of attorneys, health proxies, tax planning and legacy distribution. Additionally, as I share our process to get to know a client's family and what's important, I sense calm and relief when we reiterate this can all be done virtually and safely - something normally reserved at the completion of an estate plan."

As a fee-only CFP working with financial planning clients, I'd echo David's observations with Zoom and leveraging virtual technology. In 2018, a few early adopters chose this option to engage, but today the benefits of time, convenience and ease of access are thankfully felt by all.

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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Leading Courageously in Turbulent Times: Rules of the Road

Wednesday, March 31 at 7pm via Zoom, is available for parents, caregivers, educators, community members and leaders of all ages.

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2021 Annual Town Election is scheduled for March 30

Vote by mail

There will be vote by mail for the March 30, election and for the safety of voters and election workers, voting by mail is strongly encouraged. The state law pertaining to vote by mail has been extended through March 31. There is information explaining the differences between absentee and early voting here: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/e/absentee/absidx.htm

- There will not be any early voting in person.
- The Town Clerk’s office is accepting vote by mail and absentee applications now. The application must include the signature of the voter. Ballots, however, will not be available until the end of February.
- Applications may be emailed to vote@natickma.org but again they must have a signature.
- This is the link for vote by mail application <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2021-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf>
- To qualify for an absentee ballot you must:
- Be out of Town on Election day
- Have a disability that keeps you from voting at the polls on election day
- Have a religious belief that prevents you from voting at the polls on election day



- Absentee ballot applications may be completed by a family member and this is the link for an absentee ballot application <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee/English-Absentee-Ballot-Application.pdf>

Nomination Papers for new Town Meeting members have closed. Detailed information on election/political calendar dates is available at <https://www.natickma.gov/373/Election-Calendar>

Town Wide Offices

- Board Of Selectmen - For Three Years Vote For Not More Than One
Guimel Reche De Carvalho 25 Travis Rd.
Paul R. Joseph 10 Carlson Cir.
- School Committee - For Three Years Vote For Not More Than Two
Matthew Brand
1 Clearview Dr. Candidate For Re-Election
Shai Fuxman
33 Eliot Hill Rd. Candidate For Re-Election
Catherine W. Brunell 11 Circular Ave.

- Planning Board - For Five Years Vote For Not More Than One
Andrew J. Meyer
31 Prescott Ave. Candidate For Re-Election
- Recreation And Parks Commission - For Three Years Vote For Not More Than One
Kelly L. Mcpherson
22 Spring Valley Rd. Candidate For Re-Election
- Morse Institute Library Trustees – For Two Years Vote For Not More Than One
Carol A. Gloff
20 South Ave., #101
- Board Of Assessors - For Three Years Vote For Not More Than One
Molly K. Reed
8 Avon Lane
Candidate For Re-Election
- Board Of Health - For Three Years Vote For Not More Than One
Peter A. Delli Colli
30 Ridge Ave.
Candidate For Re-Election
- Natick Housing Authority – For Five Years Vote For Not More Than One
David Parish
21 Farm Hill Rd. Candidate For Re-Election



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PRESERVE

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it's something our community should hold onto and embrace. It accommodated grand events but also facilitated daily life of the community."

As age took its toll, Concert Hall fell into increasing disuse during the latter half of its long lifespan. Yet during its heyday, the venue hosted concerts, celebrations and social gatherings of all sorts, even the wake of Natick's Henry Wilson - a Massachusetts senator and America's 18th Vice President.

Though the exterior brickwork of the old building has been given facelifts in more recent years, what's behind those walls has remained largely hidden. Concert Hall was inspired by the Italianate architectural movement, a 19th century style that sought to celebrate edifices and sensibilities of the Italian Renaissance. The tall arched windows of Clark's Block and its ornate scalloped exterior are nods to the style.

From select vantage points at ground level, one can glimpse the sky through the lens of those high windows facing east and west, and imagine what the daylight illuminates within.

I stumbled upon that interior space decades ago in my role as an underage and uninvited explorer of Clark's Block. Those surreptitious visits left an impression. After discovering the great hall, I would often return to the cavernous place, its dust lit by beams of daylight streaming in.

Its carved, ornamented and painted ceiling and walls signified some undiscovered history and grandeur, and the feeling of being in that special place has



been mine to recall ever since.

Concert Hall has been spared much of the modernity that's grown up and around it, beyond the public eye that might appreciate it, out of sight and mind as town life and attention has proceeded apace far below. Like some secret ceremonial chamber, walled off from memory and generations that followed, the hall is a living record of customs and culture long since past.

And it is that very character that some town residents are now seeking to preserve.

Learning of its owner's plans to convert the hall into office space, a movement has formed in recent years to advocate for its salvation.

Natick's Vincent Vittoria became interested in the great hall about five years ago, and undertook efforts to preserve and restore the historic space for use by the public. The Friends of Concert Hall is an organization that resulted from his advocacy, officially founded in 2018 to promote awareness and action on behalf of the hall.

"Our group feels that Concert Hall is too unique, too beautiful, and too potentially transformational for our town center to not be restored," wrote Vittoria in correspondence. "There is no



other space like Concert Hall in our entire region and we owe it to our community to explore options that would see Concert Hall restored and used again for Clark's original intention."

Vittoria's group points to tax and other financial incentives available for the preservation and restoration of historic sites like Concert Hall, seeking to work with the building's owner to make it a reality.

Ironically, it was the pandemic that may have saved the hall from fading permanently into memory. The recent economic downturn associated with Covid19 has changed the way the world does business, at least for the time being.

The future of assets like office space is uncertain, and such investments don't fetch the premium price and status they held before the shutdown. Plans to repurpose the hall have been put on hold.

Photos of the historic landmark can be viewed on the Friend's for Concert Hall Facebook page, and the Natick Historical Society's website. The two groups have partnered in hopes of preserving the hall. The NHS site links to a short video about Concert Hall, in which Vittoria

can be seen advocating for the space.

"I told my wife when I first started my effort a few years ago that my dream for this space is to dance with her in that space," he

says in the video. "I like to envision myself dancing with my wife, looking up at that beautiful ceiling someday, and saying 'Wow. Look at what we've made happen.'"

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New Gaming Technology at Heritage Amps Up the Fun Factor in Senior Living

Mary Ann Morse at Heritage, a non-profit senior living community serving Metro West and part of Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp. in Natick, announces the implementation of the Lucynt Magic Table, exciting state of the art gaming technology designed to bring fun, physical activity, and mental stimulation to seniors.

The Magic Table is an innovative projector-based gaming system that tracks its players' body movements and gestures. Over 100 simple, colorful, interactive games are projected onto a blank wall, table, or floor, creating a digital world of play where all can participate. The cutting-edge games help cognitively challenged seniors to stay alert, increase their physical activity and social interaction, and most importantly – experience fun.

The Homestead Memory Care Program at Mary Ann Morse at Heritage is one of the first facilities in the area to feature this state of the art technology. “Memory Care residents across the state have been particularly affected by the reduced activity level and increased isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. These Magic Table games can be played in a safe environment and significantly enhance our residents’ quality of life,” said Bethany Mercer, Executive Director at Heritage.

Mary Ann Morse at Heritage Senior Living is located at 747 Water Street in Framingham and features independent & assisted living, mental health care, and an adult social day program in addition to its memory care program. For more information, visit maryannmorse.org.





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Correction

In the February 2021 issue, Girl Scout Grace Hartigan was incorrectly referred to as “president.” The headline should have read “resident.”



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Keefe Tech Announces Term 1 Honor Roll Students

Keefe Regional Technical School is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the school's Term 1 Honor Roll.

Ashland – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Rhayssa Beltrami, Emma Canning, Evan Lewis, Ashley Norris, Daniel Rutherford. *Grade 11*, Owen Riis. *Grade 12*, Hannah Ciniello, Noah Prince, Owen Sheehy. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Declan Ciniello, Breno Daldon, Sandra Lovo, Ana Carolina Sampaio. *Grade 10*, Alondra Lopez Melendez. *Grade 11*, Ana Clara Mello. *Grade 12*, Rachael Aarden, Skye Bradford, Angelina Marchant-Duncan, Juan Manuel Ramirez, Angela Valentin Ortiz.

Blackstone – High Honors: *Grade 12*, Mia Ignoto.

Framingham – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Sally Ames, Grace Arena, Gabriela Carrillo Valencia, Eduarda De Figueiredo, Kyra De Souza, Gabryela Dias, Dylan Fink, Bruno Flores, Chloe Forman Orth, Christopher Guimaraes, Daniela Hernandez, Casey Horrigan, Jackson Keefe, Antonio Neto, Samantha Orn, Lara Cristina Paulino, Patricia Richards, Yeshua Salguero, Joshua Silva, Chea Sok, Keyla Torres, Zuehailey Torres, Anon Unseethaharuthai, Isabella Vasquez, Charlie Walls. *Grade 10*, Juan Contreras, Logan Convery, Vidaliz Diaz,

Jonathan Renan Esponilla, Henry Galvez, Deeksha Johar, Dylan Jones, Yaidymar Morales, Rodrigo Lucca Paulino, Max Richer, Jayden Rust, Anita Unseethaharuthai. *Grade 11*, Jason Assarian, Kevin Assarian, Jennifer Barreto, Alexa Caiola, Drea Caiola, Gabriel Felipe, Anthony Gomes, Victor Gudiel, Julio Hernandez Pereira, Priscillia Kunda, Amanda Marins, Darli Mazariegos Castillo, Braeden McKenna, Lily Sullivan. *Grade 12*,

Stephanie Belalcazar Corrales, Edith Brickman, Gabriel Ferreira, Nolan MacIver, Ryan McCarthy, Kiersten Miller, Scott Palmer. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Patrick Almeida, Maria Eduarda Caldeira, Aiden Campbell, Jennifer Cantrill, Jacob Castaneda, Ava Celorier, Naylea Guzman, Tobias Hansen, Matthew Kelly, Arsalaan Khan, Ashley Lawrence, Felix Marshall, Kayla McLean, Alexander Mello, Ricardo Perlera, Alondra Rivera, Mikaela Rivera, Anderson Vasquez Rosa, Eduardo Vazquez Herdandez, Gabriella Viana, Aiden Vilaranda, Stephen Walls, Luiz Miguel Zanotelle, Gabrielle Zukeram.

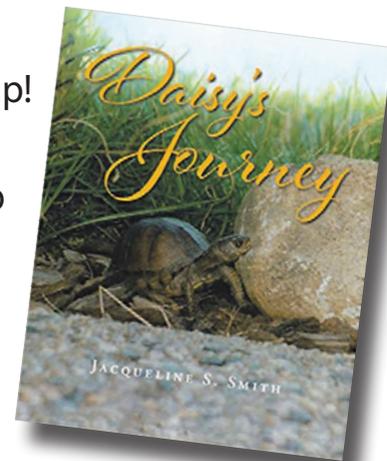
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Julia Gomes, Yaneli Graulau, Dariana Hernandez, Eddy Jimenez Soto, Jasmany Jimenez, Bradley Kadets, Olivia Klein, Gina Marie Lamberti, Sucharn Laochan, Juliana Lopes, John Luciano, Skyla Marcotte-Minahan, Izabella Mesa, Alisson Murcia Posada, Paola Ortiz, Kaisha Perez, Yvens Petit Louis, Kevin Honorio Ribeiro, Veronica Sanchez, Davidson Souza, Mariana Vargas, Christopher Vick, Jr. *Grade 11*, Klaryssah Albani, Ana Clara Barbalho, Bruno Barbosa, Aiperi Bazaralieva, Emily Caryl, David

De Oliveira, Frank Faranda, Hannah Gilvarg, Samuel Lavoie, Eduarda Magalhaes, David Maude, Abigail Mello, Marc Mendes, Stephen Merino, Bruna Mota, Jereniell Oliveras, Bryan Orellana Madrid, Logan Patria, Ana Luiza Rodrigues, Katyuska Santiago, Matthew Savino, Elizabeth Smith. *Grade 12*, Tiffany Adams, Colden Baer, Debora Barbosa Borgem, Bruno Bomfim, Emilly De Souza, Chase Ellingwood, Tyler Hill, Dayna Jones, Jordi Montanez, Kathysha Nieves, Kelvin Phelps, Corde Rhodes, Jake Roy, Guilherme

Salgado, Camila Santos, Dylan Schrag, Anderson Zabatta.

Holliston – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Tessa Bielak, Tyler Casey, Bryan Costa, Rory Forde, Joseph Green, Jake Lynch, Caroline White. *Grade 10*, Makenzie Stebbins. *Grade 11*, Vaansh Mansharamani, Zoe Rosen. *Grade 12*, Sylvie Bielak, Alec Chan, Ethan Ze'evi. **Honors:** *Grade 9*, Evan Burhoe, Sydney Comeau, Ludmilla Da Silva, John Donoghue, Benjamin Hunter, Mark Lagodimos, Jack

HONOR ROLL
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State Approves Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan: What This Means for Natick Residents

By CYNTHIA WHITTY

The Mass. Department of Conservation Services in late January approved the town of Natick's 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan allows the town to be eligible for grants through 2027 and lays out a strategy for implementing key open space and recreation goals and actions. The final plan can be found on the natickma.gov website, www.natickma.gov/1666/Open-Space-Trails.

In this interview with *Natick Local Town Pages*, Martin Kessel,

chair of the Open Space Advisory Committee, speaks about the importance of the plan, the planning process, recent accomplishments, and goals.

Whitty: Why was an update to the plan needed?

The state requires cities and towns to update their Open Space and Recreation Plan every seven years to be eligible for various state grants to help with the purchase of open space and developing parks. The plan was recently approved by the Division

of Conservation Services (part of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs), which means we are now eligible [for grants] for seven more years.

At least as important is that Natick now has a set of goals for the next seven years. Very often, when there's a Town Meeting Article seeking funding for some project, or a landowner seeking a conservation restriction, the proponents will cite specific goals and objectives in the Open Space and Recreation Plan that their project addresses.

Conservation restrictions provide a way for landowners to receive tax benefits in exchange for voluntarily protecting their land from further development.

Whitty: Who was involved in completing the plan?

Primary responsibility lies with the Open Space Advisory Committee, which was created by Town Bylaws for that purpose. This year we were fortunate to have the project spearheaded by Marianne Iarossi, who was hired in August 2019 as Natick's Open Space Planner/Conservation Agent. The state provides a 16-month timetable for the process, but thanks to Marianne's whirlwind effort, we had a completed draft ready for submission in just six months.

Whitty: What was your role in completing the plan?

Marianne Iarossi did most of the writing and research, and the Open Space Advisory Committee, which I chair, reviewed and refined everything – doubling our regular monthly meeting schedule to get everything done. The committee gave the most at-



Town of Natick Open Spaces & Trails

tention to the Seven-Year Action Plan, which is really the heart of the project. This gives the goals and objectives for the next seven years, along with the particular detailed action items we want to achieve.

I personally took charge of the Open Space Inventory, which lists every open space parcel in town currently or potentially dedicated to conservation or recreational uses, with details about current use, ownership, and whether the land is protected from development. It turns out there were a lot of errors in the last version of the plan, with deeds not being filed properly and parcels not listed correctly by the Assessor. It was also important to accurately identify and catalog all the conservation restrictions, legal documents that were often quite confusing.

Whitty: When was the plan timeline?

We started in earnest last January and submitted the draft to the state in July. We had a meeting scheduled for March 12, which happened to be the day that Natick and the state went into shutdown mode. But by April we were meeting on Zoom, and in fact, we doubled our meeting schedule to twice a month so we could keep the project on track.

A key part of the process is getting broad public input so that the plan really does address the needs and interests of the community, and this usually involves

a lot of meetings with board and committees and with residents. Because of COVID, we had to be particularly creative, so we used a lot of social media, recorded videos, an online survey, participation at various town forums, and so forth.

Whitty: Can you comment on recent accomplishments related to the plan and what you hope to accomplish in 2021 and beyond?

That list [on pages 7-8 of the plan] is actually a pretty good snapshot showing just how much has happened just in the last few months. It's a tribute to the dedication of hundreds of volunteers serving on town committees and helping with trails, as well as those serving in town government.

The new Trails and Forest Stewardship Committee has big plans in 2021 to install much-needed trail signage, perform important trail improvements, implement a program for regular maintenance led by trail stewards, and increase public awareness of trails and open space. Also in 2021, the Cochituate Rail Trail (CRT) should finally be completed, thanks to dedication of the CRT Advisory Committee and the independent Friends of Natick Trails. And our committee will keep exploring new trail opportunities as well as ways of preserving open space that is not yet protected.

For more information and to see the approved plan, visit www.natickma.gov/1666/Open-Space-Trails. For questions, email openspace@natickma.org.

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Recent accomplishments related to Natick's 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan:

- A brand new Trails & Forest Stewardship Committee has been developed. TaFS is working to develop a formal steward program, install trail signage, conducting forest/trail assessments, and more.
- Educational beaver signage has been designed and will be installed at Pickerel Pond.
- A new trails and open spaces logo was created.
- Recent grant funding will allow the Town to treat invasive species at the Town Forest and improve the meadow habitat.
- Renovations of multi-purpose fields, lighted basketball court, community gardens and playground at Navy Yard at Whitney Field was completed.



Eisenmenger Trail kiosk at Memorial School. (Photo/Martin Kessel)

- Connor Heffler Park renovations were completed.
- Final construction continues on the Cochituate Rail Trail (CRT) and the Town will begin to work on designing the last segment of the CRT to Natick Center.



The Charles River from the South Natick Dam. (Photo/Martin Kessel)

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Library News

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

Walk-Up Window for Holds Pickup

What is the Walk-up Window?

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

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

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

Walk-Up Window Hours

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

Can I still do Contactless Holds Pick Up?

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



MORSE INSTITUTE LIBRARY

Natick's Community Library

Contactless Pickup

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

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

How does it work?

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

Can I Browse Books?

Not at this time. However, staff are hard at work making solutions to give you browse-ability while we are closed. If you would like

a recommendation give us a call 508-647-6520 or join Morse Book Match!

Delivery Service

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

What Stays Virtual

- All programming and events will continue to be hosted online.
- Reference assistance by email, chat, text message, appointment, or phone through our Digital Branch
- Virtual Reference hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 10am-2pm

LIBRARY

continued on page 12



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Ashland business owner found dead in Natick

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Samantha Amenta-Stavar, 47, was found dead in Natick on Monday, Feb. 15.

The Ashland and Framingham bakery owner was last seen in Natick, near the CVS on Central Street, in her 2017 navy blue Toyota Prius hatchback. Her phone was pinging in the Natick/Norwood area, according to police.

Amenta-Stavar co-owned with her husband Jules Remenar, Dulce D Leche on Route 135 in Ashland since 2019, and on Edgell Road in Framingham since 2016.

Fellow business owner and Dorageon Ramen owner Alan MacIntosh, set up a go fund me page to raise funds for the fam-

ily. On the page, MacIntosh said “Today our community suffered a devastating loss. ... Our hearts are broken.

“Jules & Sam founded and built Dulce D Leche, and have become a pillar of the MetroWest community. They had locations in Framingham and Ashland, and were a staple at many farmers markets around the area. Jules met the love of his life, he described meeting Samantha through a dating app, they were 93% compatible, and Jules described it as a fairy tale, it was truly love at first site.

“The community is in shock at the loss. So many people remember their visits with Sam and Jules just within the past few days. Many have recounted their experiences with Sam on their visits to the shop, and how

caring, and selfless she was. Even during struggling times, Jules & Sam would do anything and everything they could to give back to the community.

“Let us come together as a community, and help support Sam and his extended family during this devastating time. As we are still in the midst of this global pandemic, all restaurants have suffered, and have struggled to remain open. Jules & Sam invested everything they had into their amazing cafe location in Ashland. Let us come together and help Jules and his family, so the last thing him and his son have to worry about is keeping Jules & Sam’s business dream alive,” he wrote.

To donate, visit:
https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-samanta-sam-amenta-stavars-family?qid=4b4f322ad421912528aa6dd500cd07c8&fbclid=IwAR12ocoAdmh8-oWXHdhaM_zDROX-BicU9XnLKuDw9BWMU0L-PoHWLuvhTJ5II.



by selling Dulce D Leche t-shirts, with all proceeds going to the business: https://www.bonfire.com/store/dulce-d-leche-store/?fbclid=IwAR2arYf9JBnf5i_wmqBPPx-ixJ0ZUZjNB-xhWgnmTCCu-wX3pFUawB24iP0A.

The MetroWest food Facebook group Chew On This is also facilitating a fundraiser

Legislature Passes Landmark Climate Change Bill

Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick) announced today that The Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate passed An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (S.9). The passing of this legislation reaffirms the Legislature’s commitment to addressing the climate crisis facing the Commonwealth following the Governor’s veto of last session’s climate bill.



“I was proud to vote for the Conference Committee report on An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy. This bill builds the policy infrastructure to get us to our aggressive climate goals while keeping environmental justice at the center. Backed by science and supported by strong climate justice activists, this bill lays out a path to achieve at least net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050” said Linsky. “I want to thank Senate President Spilka and House Speaker Mariano for all their hard work in pushing the Legislature to get this incredibly important legislation passed as soon as possible.”

The policies S.9 includes will impact all sectors of our state’s economy while providing support for workforce development, training, and funding for the R&D

necessary to explore energy innovation, ensuring we all participate in needed climate solutions to get us to net-zero.

The legislation includes, among other items, the following provisions.

Sets a statewide net-zero limit on greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and mandates emissions limits every five years, as well as limits for specific sectors of the economy, including transportation and buildings.

- Codifies environmental justice provisions into Massachusetts law, defining environmental justice populations and providing new tools and protections for affected neighborhoods.
- Requires an additional 2,400 megawatts of offshore wind, building on previous legisla-

tion action and increases the total authorization to 5,600 megawatts in the Commonwealth.

- Directs the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), regulator of the state’s electric and natural gas utilities, to balance priorities going forward: system safety, system security, reliability, affordability, equity, and, significantly, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sets appliance energy efficiency standards for a variety of common appliances including plumbing, faucets, computers, and commercial appliances.
- Adopts several measures aimed at improves gas pipeline safety, including increased fines for safety violations and regulations related to training and certifying utility contractors.
- Increases the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 3 percent each year from 2025 – 2029, resulting in 40 percent renewable energy by 2030.

BILL

continued on page 18

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LIBRARY

continued from page 10

- Access to all the great digital content like e-Books, e-Audiobooks, movies, magazines, and music from MorseInstitute.org website and our Virtual Reading Room
- Remote access to research resources like databases

Express bundles

The new Express Bundles for adults, DVD, teens, and children have launched! Also, we have a new Book-Fix program, that is similar to Stitch-Fix (book bundles curated to fit your taste).

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

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

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

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

In order to make getting your

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

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

Special Sunday Holds Pickups!

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

MIL Virtual Programming

Childrens:

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

Preschool Play

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

BedTime Buddies

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

Teen and tween

Dungeons & Dragons Online Gaming

Friday evenings, 6:00-8:00pm
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Open to Teens ages 13-18.

Relaxing Coloring

Join us for a coloring session with exclusive coloring sheets - and chat with other Teens & Tweens on Zoom! Hosted by Teen Librarian Robin. If you want to take the coloring sheets and color on your own time, that's OK, too!

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

Monthly, from 3:00-4:00pm



Adult Programs:

Meditation with Vivek and Lipi

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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

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

Every Tuesday at 10am

Join us weekly on Tuesday mornings for some relaxing and low-key Qi Gong. Qi Gong is a centuries-old system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation used for the purposes of health, spirituality, and martial-arts training. With roots in Chinese medicine, philosophy, and martial arts, Qi Gong is traditionally viewed by the Chinese and throughout Asia as a practice to cultivate and balance qi (pronounced approximately as "chi"), translated as "life energy". The best part about Qi Gong, anyone can do it! Please register for each session you will be attending using our online calendar.

Research & Learning:

Exploring Genealogy & Family History

Every Thursday at 3pm

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

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How to Discourage Challenges to Wills and Trusts

By TIFFANY A. O'CONNELL, JD, LLM, CELA, AEP
PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY,
O'CONNELL LAW LLC



Business spotlight



Challenges to wills and trusts are more common than you might think. Here are several ways to help discourage disputes and help ensure your wishes are carried out.

Try to Treat Siblings Equally

If you have two or more children, leaving each of them the same amount can eliminate one of the main reasons wills and trusts are contested in the first place. Another potential problem is when inheritances are left to grandchildren, and one sibling has more children than the other. If you follow the equality principle, this and many other potential conflicts can be avoided.

If You Gave a Significant Amount of Money to One of Your Children In The Past, Your Estate Plan Should Reflect That

If your goal is to treat all of your children equally, you might want to “balance” a significant gift to one child in the past by

deducting it from the inheritance you ultimately leave to that child. If you do that, consider explaining why you are making such a “balance” adjustment.

Consider a “No Contest” Clause

If you think one of your children (or that child’s spouse) might dispute your will, a no contest clause can make the risk of challenging your will outweigh the potential benefit of doing so. Generally, a no contest clause stipulates that if a beneficiary contests the will’s validity or its provisions, his or interest in the will is forfeited. If you are only leaving a token amount to a beneficiary, consider making sure that the token is large enough to help discourage the person from

challenging your will. In other words, if the amount is tiny, they may not care about the no contest clause because it doesn’t matter if they lose out on this tiny amount. We’ll oftentimes refer to this as a ‘dangling carrot’.

Prove That You Are of Sound Mind

Challenges to wills often involve allegations that the maker of the will was not of sound mind when the will was signed. You can help prevent this by obtaining a written evaluation from a treating physician and a psychiatrist stating that you are indeed of sound mind when you sign the will.

If You Must Disinherit Someone, Note It Clearly In Your Will

Our children sometimes disappoint us. When the level of disappointment is so severe that the only solution seems to be disinheriting a child, make sure your



decision is noted in your will. You don’t have to give a reason for your decision, but you should make it clear that your decision was intentional.

Talk to Your Loved Ones ‘While The Waters Are Calm’

More often than not, we hear that a loved one did not talk with their family about their estate

plan during their lifetime. In such instances, we learn that a family member doesn’t understand why something was done a certain way (and the person who did the estate plan is no longer alive to explain). If you plan to treat someone differently, and if appropriate (because, sometimes it isn’t), consider talking with that person while you are still well to get their take on what you plan to do and so that they can understand why you are doing it a certain way. They may be totally fine with what you are doing. You may find out, however, that their feelings would be very hurt if you did as you planned. Talking with them ‘while the waters are calm’ can help you determine if your plan would keep family dynamics in harmony or if it would potentially destroy any relationships.

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Planning, Prevention and Preparation Help Families Maintain Dignity and Control

BY DENNIS SULLIVAN & ASSOCIATES

Our team had a recent experience with our client, “Mrs. Cronin” a member of our Lifetime & Legacy Protection Program (LLP Program). Mrs. Cronin and her late husband, Mr. Cronin attended a seminar we held over 20 years ago with the AARP Legal

Services Network. We helped the Cronins establish their estate plan and they kept it up to date with their membership in the LLP Program at Dennis Sullivan & Associates.

Mr. Cronin passed in his 80s, and Mrs. Cronin eventually had to go to a nursing home at age 93. We kept in touch visiting her to

update her plan.

We learned Mrs. Cronin was having difficulties paying some bills for real estate taxes; we investigated to determine her health and medical needs and ensure her wishes were being met. Although it took considerable effort and coordination, due to COVID-19 protocols we were able to coordinate services on Mrs. Cronin’s behalf.

Unfortunately, we were rebuffed by nursing home personnel numerous times, nevertheless we persevered on her behalf all while Mrs. Cronin was locked in her room because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Hard Work & Mrs. Cronin’s Diligence & Dedication Pays Off

Despite numerous challenges, we were able to work with the bank regarding Mrs. Cronin’s Trust and the Power of Attorney as well as coordinating with the nursing home physician. Persistence, passion, perseverance, compassion, care and commitment by our team prevailed and eventually all of Mrs. Cronin’s goals and objectives (financial, health, tax), as well as her choices for health care were honored. She was even successful avoiding the time delay and the cost of two probate court proceedings (one for disability and one after death).



Our Main Responsibilities Were Met on Behalf of Mrs. Cronin

We accomplished Mrs. Cronin’s efforts to exercise her legal rights to retain control of not only financial decisions, but also health decisions regarding end of life treatment made by trusted individuals, rather than having to go to court. Disability court proceedings are long and expensive and result in ongoing court involvement, expense and can mean unmet health and financial objectives.

Could you imagine if her care, was left up to the state, courts, and nursing home? Our team ensured that Mrs. Cronin’s choices were written into her documents, honoring that no unwanted extreme end of life measures were taken when the time came that

she was at the end of life. We and her family were relieved that these goals were met.

Call 781-237-2815 or visit DSullivan.com to discover the right steps to take now for peace of mind and for the future as the Cronin’s discovered.

Because of the pandemic it has been our experience that health care documents, DNRs and MA MOLSTs need to be reviewed and updated. Don’t let this happen to you.

Dennis Sullivan & Associates is a team of caring, compassionate highly-trained professionals who Protect Families for Generations. You and your family will benefit from the peace of mind of knowing you have done everything you can to protect yourself and your loved ones for generations. Call now 800-964-4295 or register for a free meeting at www.DSullivan.com

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HONOR ROLL

continued from page 7

Scaramella. *Grade 10*, Gryffin Irons. *Grade 11*, Osgui Padilla Morales. *Grade 12*, James Bender, Ester Da Silva, Liberty Perron, Owen Stanley, Alanah Wills.

Hopkinton – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Sean Miniman. *Grade 11*, Jake Shepard. Honors: *Grade 9*, Da-Neil Anderson, Bennett Kazanjian, William Moore. *Grade 10*, Nicholas Souza. *Grade 11*, Alexis Manchester. *Grade 12*, Gabrielle Buentello, Josvardo Gomez.

Hudson – Honors: *Grade 12*, Jacob Baker.

Natick – High Honors: *Grade 9*, Lukasz Baran, Reid Campbell, Kiyomi Erickson, Cassidy Thompson-Crowder. *Grade 10*, Samuel Erickson, Talyn LaGrone, Lily Rosenstein. *Grade 12*, Peter Miller. Honors: *Grade 9*, Savannah Clarke, Alexandra Millen, Walkeny Pereira Junior. *Grade 10*, Gabrielle Gaudet, Jasne Gonzalez-Maciel. *Grade 11*, Larissa De Oliveira, Michael Lamont, Ana Julia Oliveira. *Grade 12*, Brock Howatt, Scott Joyce, Kieran Luff, Aiden Sylvia.

About Keefe Regional Technical School:

Keefe Regional Technical School is a four-year public high school located in Framingham, MA and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In addition to 15 career and technical programs, Keefe Tech offers a complete college preparatory and honors academic program, with opportunities for students to participate in advanced placement courses and dual enrollment courses at local colleges and universities. Keefe Tech is proud to serve students from the in-district communities of Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick.

Senior Center Events

March Events

Ongoing:

MARCH Mondays at a Museum – zoom program

free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join us on Monday, 11am-noon, as we preview video highlights from a range of Museums, free

Monday, March 1, Mary Cassatt and other Impressionists

Monday, March 8, Japanese Edo

Monday March 15, Rembrandt and Sargent

Monday, March 22, Outdoor Art- Murals, Sculpture

Monday, March 29, Degas

Mindfulness Meditation- Zoom program

free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Every Thursday with Sharon 1:00-1:40 pm. This meditation is audio only and participants are muted during the meditation portion. Everyone is welcome to join for some guided meditation, some quiet sitting and some reflection with Q & A and sharing.

Special Programs

Visit Elm Bank/Mass Hort Gardens by borrowing the Natick Council on Aging member card. Free, Gardens open April 1.

Request this by calling the center 508-657-6540 or e-mail kmoberg@natickma.org to reserve the pass (admits 2). Give me the date you wish to go. The garden is open to members for a timed entry Tuesday through Sunday from 12:30-5:00 pm and 12:30-1:30 pm for senior citizens and those with disabilities. We will send you a confirmation & entry pass to your e-mail. Please send your request at least 5 days in advance of your visit. Sponsored by Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences, Natick.

Small Gardens for Smallish Spaces- zoom program

Wednesday, March 10, 1:30-2:30, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join Gretel Anspach from Mass Hort/Elm Bank in this talk on creating a small-sized garden. Whether you have a huge yard without the time or desire to

tend it all, or an apartment with no outdoor space at all, this talk will give you tips and techniques to start and maintain a garden you can call your own. Gretel Anspach is a Lifetime Master Gardener with the Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, a Trustee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and a recently-retired systems engineer for Raytheon. Gretel helped to establish and maintain two food production gardens that have provided fresh produce to the Marlboro Food Pantry for the last eight years.

Sponsored by Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences, Natick.

Virtual History Bookgroup with BFL and NHS

Thursday, March 11, 11am-noon, free

Presented by the Bacon Free Library & the Natick Historical Society

Join us for a discussion of historical fiction and nonfiction books.

Our non-fiction book pick is *The Mayflower: The Families, The Voyage and the Founding of America* by Rebecca Fraser. Sign up at <https://baconfreelibrary.org/clubs-programs/>

Social Security Nuts and Bolts- AARP zoom program

Thursday, March 18, 10:30-11:30am, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

If you have questions about Social Security as you prepare for retirement now or down the road, we have the answers you need! Watch the recording to learn how AARP is helping to preserve Social Security for current beneficiaries and future generations.

You'll hear from speakers Kurt Czarnowski and Tom Nicholls in this webinar from AARP.

Kurt Czarnowski is currently the principal in "Czarnowski Consulting," a retirement planning firm which in now in its 10th year of providing "Expert Answers to Your Social Security Questions."

Tom Nicholls is a Senior Legislative Representative in AARP's Government Affairs Department and serves AARP's 38 million members and all older Americans as a federal lobbyist and public policy expert on Social Security issues.

Book Group with Karen Mallozzi- zoom program

Friday, March 19, 1:30-2:30pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

The book pick is *Lessons from Lucy* by comedic writer Dave Barry. From Washington Independent Review of Books- "As Dave Barry turns seventy—not happily—he realizes that his dog, Lucy, is dealing with old age far better than he is. She has more friends, fewer worries, and way more fun. So Dave decides to figure out how Lucy manages to stay so happy, to see if he can make his own life happier by doing the things she does (except for drinking from the toilet). He reconnects with old friends and tries to make new ones—which turns out to be a struggle, because Lucy likes people a lot more than he does."

Curbside Composting- Zoom session

Monday, March 22, 3:00 pm free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join Karen Mallozzi, a Task Force Member of the Natick Curbside Composting Program to learn how you can do it. Benefits include save money not having to buy the Blue Bags for all your waste. Keep biodegradable matter out of our landfills and saving the town money. About 35 - 40 % of our municipal waste (by weight) is compostable.

Volunteering in 2021- Giving Back to the Community- zoom program

Wednesday, March 24, 1:30-2:30 pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join Jeanette Szretter, long standing local volunteer and coordinator of community volunteering along with Frank Foss, Town of Natick Moderator, talk about volunteering during COVID times, how you can explore local volunteer opportunities including volunteering on a Town Board or Commission. Q&A and discussion as well! Participants will receive a list of local Natick nonprofits and volunteer opportunities.

E-Resources from Bacon Library zoom event- zoom program

Monday, March 29, 1:30 pm, free, register thru Community



Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join Casey Stirling and Karen Kassel from Bacon Free Library for a Zoom presentation on how to access library e-resources including Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy and how to sign up for a Boston Public Library card. These resources are available for anyone with a current Natick library card. Following this presentation we invite anyone who has specific questions regarding these resources to email us to set up a one-on-one Device Advice session (on Zoom or phone) with one of our librarians.

Sleeping Well- Tips for a Better Night's sleep with Robb Webb- zoom program

Wednesday, March 31, 1:30-2:30 pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join Robb Webb, Sleep Lab Manager, MetroWest Sleep Disorders Center, MetroWest Medical Center. Do you chronically have trouble getting a good night's rest? Do you wake up feel-

ing un-refreshed? An estimated 50-70 million US adults have sleep or wakefulness disorders. Join Robb as he talks about the causes of sleep difficulties, treatments/procedures, and how to identify them- helping you get back on track with a healthier life! Better sleep is a healthier YOU.

April and May Coming UP

Ongoing:

APRIL Mondays at a Museum – zoom program

free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join us on Monday, 11am-noon, as we preview video highlights from a range of Museums, free

April 5- Art in Gardens and parks- NYC Central Park, St James Park, London and NY Botanical Gardens

EVENTS

continued on page 16



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EVENTS

continued from page 15

April 12-Frick Museum
 April 19- Patriot's Day - COA is closed
 April 26- Manet, Bonnard, Vuillard and more

May/June Mindfulness Meditation- Zoom program
 free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Every Thursday with Sharon 1:00-1:40 pm. This meditation is audio only and participants are muted during the meditation portion. Everyone is welcome to join for some guided meditation, some quiet sitting and some reflection with Q & A and sharing.

Virtual History Bookgroup with Bacon Free Library/Natick Historical Society

Thursday, April 8, 11am-noon, free
 Join us for a discussion of historical fiction and nonfiction books. Our book pick is Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie (fiction). Sign up at <https://baconfreelibrary.org/clubs-programs/>

Forgotten Patriots: Little Known Heroes of the American Revolution- zoom program

Tuesday, April 13, 1:30-2:30, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

We are all familiar with the names Washington, Adams, Franklin, and Lafayette. They were some of the important figures in our struggle for independence. Yet there were countless others whose deeds and sacrifices helped shape and win the Revolutionary War. This lecture will look at some of those lesser known, or even forgotten, patriots. Join historian Paolo DiGregorio for this talk. Thank you to Whitney Place Assisted Living & Memory Care for their generous support of this and other programs at our Center. Now open for Virtual Tours! Call (508) 655-5000 to schedule yours today!

Meet Marth Washington-dramatization with Anne Barrett-zoom program

Wednesday, April 14, 1:30pm, free. register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Meet the first First Lady, Martha Washington. Known for her

genteel and quick-witted personality, she was devoted to her husband, as well as an outspoken and loyal patriot. This performance will include songs from the battlefields. Anne is an actress and singer who brings historical theatrical performances to communities across New England.

Earth Day - zoom program

Thursday, April 22, 1:30pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

We'll stream a talk given by environmental activist and founder of 350.org, Bill McKibben in 2019 about climate change, what we need to do and where we go from here. We'll also hear from climate activist, Greta Thunberg and the CDC on How Climate Affects Communities.

Planning for Medicare- Countdown to 65- zoom program

Monday, April 26, 1:30-2:30pm, free. register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Are you turning 65 soon? Then let us help you navigate signing up for Medicare! Whether you're continuing to work & remaining on your current health care plan or retiring and wanting Medicare

coverage, you will need to enroll. We will cover the following:

- Explanation of Medicare Parts A, B, and C
- Medicare enrollment timeline
- Medigap plans that help supplement Medicare coverage
- Medicare Advantage plans, such as HMOs and PPOs
- Medicare Part D prescription drug plans
- Plans and programs available to early retirees, such as COBRA

Mother's Day Breakfast Goody Bag - Special Give-Away to pick up at Natick CSC

Wednesday, May 5 between 9:30am-11:30am, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

RSVP required, free, call Natick Community Senior Center to register 508-647-6540.

Our traditional Mother's Day breakfast will be a bit different this year, it's Drive-Through! You are invited to enjoy a free bagged Panera continental breakfast including pastry, fruit cup and orange juice, plus a special surprise, provided by Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center here

in Natick. We'll have 100 breakfasts ready to go for community seniors, in honor of Mother's Day. Preregistration is required. Sponsored by Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center, Natick

Art Matters- Mother and Child-zoom program

Wednesday, May 5, 1:30 pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

The bond between mothers and their children is very special, very personal, and yet universal. This relationship transcends language, different cultures, great distances and time itself. We'll look at a range of art and artists from ancient times to modern including Cassatt, Picasso, Raphael, Kahlo and many more. Come and celebrate Mother's Day with this art appreciation! All are welcome. Sponsored by Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Center, Natick.

Garden Tour at Elm Bank/Mass Hort - in person

Tuesday, May 25, 10:00am, rsvp required, free, register thru

EVENTS

continued on page 18



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Sports

Dalicandro: Natick Grid Captain With Superb Perspective

BY KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Coach Mark Mortarelli will rely heavily on T.J. Dalicandro when Natick High kicks off its football season because he admires his captain's discipline, versatility and leadership — assets that are very positive during a global pandemic.

Mortarelli says the senior linebacker “is a coach on the field and could easily run a practice.” The veteran coach trusts Dalicandro so much he's convinced the Natick native will be a major plus if any of his teammates need help in dealing with covid-19 concerns. Mortarelli knows Dalicandro has the right stuff “to help players stay calm.”

A captain in both football and lacrosse, Dalicandro won't be bashful if he's asked to settle some nerves. He'll step up and lead with discipline and conviction, traits that likely stem from his father (Ted Sr.), who coaches the Newton South football team and also assists with Natick's varsity lacrosse squad.

“As a captain, I'll have the opportunity to help with any virus concerns,” Dalicandro said. “My role will be to maintain focus on the season, not the virus. And, if necessary, I'll try to relieve any tension, especially among underclassmen. The key is to keep calm.”

When Dalicandro competes, he's calm and collected, whether he's at strong safety, cornerback or linebacker. When he was a freshman and sophomore, he played quarterback on the jayvee squad. “T.J. can play almost any position on offense or defense,” Mortarelli said. “As a sophomore he was on special teams with the varsity and he started at strong safety last year.”

What makes Dalicandro a potential all-star at safety are his speed and quickness, an instinctive nature, a high football IQ and a strong skill-set. “I like playing safety because you see the entire field and it's where lots of tackles can be made,” he offered.

His statistics last season, when the Redhawks posted a 10-1 record, included 52 tackles, 3 sacks, 2 interceptions, 3 tackles for losses and 8 passes broken up.

“My team goals for the season are to win every game and make sure everyone is having fun,” said Dalicandro, whose initials stand for Theodore James. “Having fun is a must because one never knows when his last game will be played. Last spring, my teammates and I were unable to enjoy lacrosse when the virus forced cancellation of all sports. My individual goals for football will be to increase my tackles and to score a touchdown on defense.”

Dalicandro, who also has competed in indoor track, is optimistic Natick can be a dominant grid team within the Bay State Conference's Carey Division. “I like our chances,” he said. “We've got the talent to have a quality season, although every team will be a challenge. I've been eagerly awaiting the season. It's like waiting for the bell to ring in class on the last day of school.”

At Local Town Pages deadline, the Redhawks were in the process of compiling their schedule for March and April.

If his play on the field as a junior is any indication of what's to come, the Redhawks should be in a good place. The 18-year-old Dalicandro had some strong efforts in 2019.

“I'll always remember our regular-season game against Wellesley,” he emphasized. “A play was called for me to blitz and I sacked the quarterback at a point when Wellesley was gaining momentum. I played a solid game on defense and we won, 14-13.”

A pair of interceptions, against Braintree, and later in the playoffs against Wellesley, are also memorable. “The pick against Wellesley was significant because it helped us advance in post-season play,” Dalicandro noted.

Mortarelli likes the way his 5-foot-9, 160-pound safety relies on physical and mental toughness. “He's laser-focused,” Mortarelli said. “And, that enables him to play a variety of positions. His positive nature is another quality that rubs off on younger players.”

Dalicandro firmly believes that physical and mental toughness help with his approach to football. “It not only gives me a good feeling, but it also helps me from



getting too high or too low during a game,” he said. “Physical and mental strength help me to maintain a level approach while I'm competing.”

Dalicandro's dad has obviously provided his son with some valuable tips and pointers, especially when T.J. was playing at the youth-league level. “He's helped a lot,” Dalicandro said. “We watch film together and he points out how to play smart, like avoiding penalties at a key time. He's stressed the importance to be disciplined.”

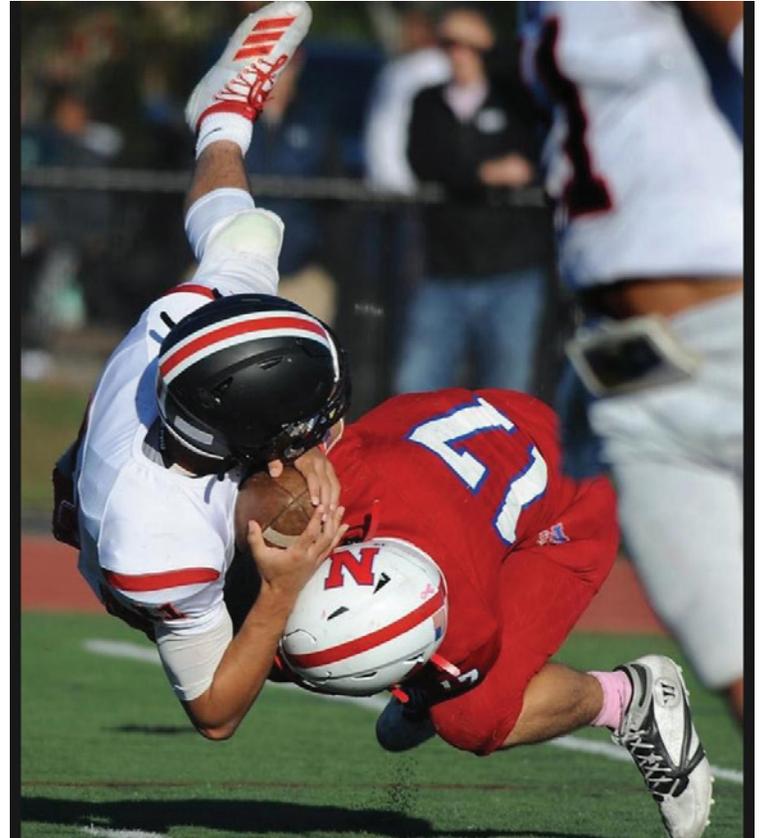
As a midfielder in lacrosse, Dalicandro at first felt awkward about his father being an assistant coach. “As I've gotten older, I'm glad my father's on the scene. He helps in many ways.”

Dalicandro also has progressed and excelled, thanks to Mortarelli's encouraging words. “Calling me a coach on the field and showing trust in my play builds confidence,” he said. “It definitely puts a smile on my face. Coach Mortarelli is a great leader who teaches players to be better people. He knows the game and his experience is a plus.”

What also puts a smile on Dalicandro's face is his future destination — he's been accepted at Western New England College in Springfield where he'll major in sports management. “I'll play football and lacrosse there,” he said. “I'm planning on a career in coaching and hopefully it'll be at either the college or the professional level.”

Before that time arrives, Dalicandro is focused on his final season of interscholastic football. The pandemic has caused some anxious moments, especially with the status of football.

“I was terrified about the possibility of losing football last fall,” he said. “Then, when it got pushed to the Fall 2 season, I was relieved. The new timeta-



T.J. Dalicandro turns in a dynamic sack against Wellesley High during his junior season.

ble felt okay. Now that the season is about to start, it's a great feeling but I wish we could have a normal year with post-season playoffs. However, it's important to remember the top priority — the health and safety of everyone. My two younger sisters play sports, too, and we've got to realize the need for our parents and grandparents to be safe.”

Dalicandro is a dynamic team player who recognizes he's fortunate. He hasn't forgotten that he and most of his teammates won a championship in the eighth grade and he's also humbled to be a captain in two sports.

But, most of all, T.J. Dalicandro knows he's blessed because, as he says, “I'm in a program with great teammates and coaches.”

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Real Estate Corner

EVENTS

continued from page 16

Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Garden Tour- limited to 15 participants. Meet at the main parking lot of Elm Bank, 900 Washington St, Wellesley. Join this lovely garden tour to admire shrubs, trees, flowers and learn about the history of this fascinating estate as well as horticultural plant identification and background stories. Highlights include the Bressingham Garden, Weezies garden for children (including pollinator plants), seed to table vegetable garden and the show stopping Italianate Garden by the Manor House. Some seats available throughout the gardens, but be prepared to stand and walk, wear comfortable shoes, hat etc. Bathrooms are available on-site. Allow 2 hours, but feel free to stop whenever. Rain Date will be Wednesday, May 26, 10:00am.

Sponsored by Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences, Natick.

NOTES:

Home Fit Tips (12' video)

<https://states.aarp.org/massachusetts/watch-a-homefit-video-from-home>

Did you know that 89% of people 50 and older have told AARP that they want to remain in their homes for as long as possible?

The AARP HomeFit program was developed to educate older adults how to navigate all living spaces independently to allow them to remain in their own homes as they age. Participants receive information on how to easily evaluate their own home for "livability" should they themselves or one of their family members become unable to use stairs, or must rely on assistive devices. It is designed help individuals plan for independence, choice and dignity as they age.

AARP Massachusetts Execu-

tive Council member Ellie Meyer is an occupational therapist with 30 years experience covering a wide range of populations and settings.

Ellie has put together this useful video to help you stay safe at home during COVID-19. You'll get tips to help you understand how homes can be designed and modified to help you get around independently in all of your living areas and how to make your home as safe as possible.

Author talks from NEHGS – zoom program

Monday 3/8, 1:30-2:30pm, free

1:06' Abe: Abraham Lincoln in His Times" author talk by David S. Reynolds, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rabQ-gOxHWmQ>

3/22, 1:20' Demagogue-The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy, author talk NEHGS, <https://forum-network.org/lectures/demagogue-life-and-long-shad->

ow-senator-joe-mccarthy/

LINK for Social Security program 1 hour long: a little over an hour long- <https://states.aarp.org/massachusetts/want-to-know-more-about-social-security-join-our-webinar-october-21>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfm6mfU5uko>

We'll stream this 1/2 hour talk given by environmental activist and founder of 350.org in 2019 about climate change, what we need to do and where we go from here. Greta Thunberg's TED talk 11' from 2019

CDC 4' you tube on How Climate Affects Communities

TBD- Bee Keeping for Bee-ginners- zoom program with NCOF

Wednesday, April 29, 1:30-2:30pm, free

Join Heather Livingstone and Antonio Nissi from Natick Community Organic Farm to learn all about bees, the benefits they bring, how you can encourage

these pollinators to flourish and how you might get going on establishing your own beehive(s).

Earth Day Talk with Bill McKibben- zoom program

Thursday, April 22, 1:30pm, free, call Natick Community Senior Center to register 508-647-6540.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dfm6mfU5uko>

We'll stream this 24' talk given by environmental activist and founder of 350.org in 2019 about climate change, what we need to do and where we go from here.

Greta Thunberg's TED talk 11' from 2019, <https://www.google.com/search?q=t-ed+talk+greta+thunberg&aq=chrome.0.0j69i57j0l2j0i22i30l2.3128j1j4&-sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

CDC 4' you tube on How Climate Affects Communities, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JywsWktvODc>

BILL

continued from page 11

- Establishes an opt-in municipal net-zero energy stretch code, including a definition of "net-zero building"

- Prioritizes equitable access to the state's solar programs by low-income communities
- Establishes \$12 million in annual funding for the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center in order to create a pathway to the clean energy

industry for environmental justice populations and minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

- Provides solar incentives for businesses by exempting them from the net metering cap to allow them to install solar systems on their premises to help offset their electricity use and save money.

- Requires utilities to include an explicit value for greenhouse gas reductions when they calculate the cost-effectiveness of an offering of MassSave.

- Creates a first-time greenhouse gas emissions standard for municipal lighting plants that requires them to purchase 50 percent non-emitting electricity by 2030 and "net-zero" by 2050.

- Sets benchmarks for the adoption of clean energy technologies including electric vehicles, charging stations, solar technology, energy storage, heat pumps and anaerobic digestors.

The bill is now with the governor.



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Real Estate Corner

Meet Our Neighbors: The Center for Arts in Natick

Hosted by the Natick Historical Society, on March 24, 7 PM, on Zoom, the Natick Historical Society's Meet Our Neighbors-series shines a light on the many cultural, educational, service, and other organizations that have shaped Natick over time.

The series begins in March

with David Lavalley and the Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN).

Join us to learn about the history of TCAN, how it has shaped our community, and what they are planning for 2021.

This event will be held via Zoom. It is free and open to the public.

Advance registration is required: register on the Histori-

cal Society website at <https://www.natickhistoricalsociety.org/>

events/2/24/meet-our-neighbors-tcan.

Meet Our Neighbors
The Center for Arts in Natick, David Lavalley

This month, we'll hear from David Lavalley. Join us to learn about the history of the Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN), how it has shaped our community, and what we can expect from TCAN in 2021.

Wednesday
March 24th, 7pm
via Zoom

The Natick Historical Society's Meet Our Neighbors Series shines a light on the many cultural, educational, service, and other organizations that have shaped Natick over time. Is there a neighbor you'd like to hear from? Let us know! contact@natickhistoricalsociety.org

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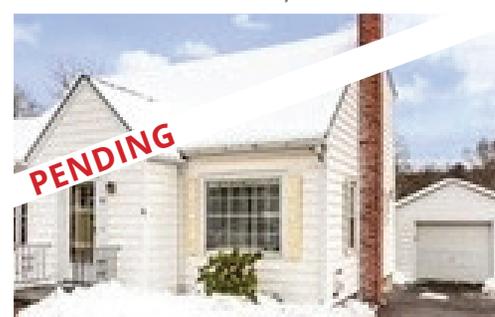
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6 BD | 6F 2H BA | 8,664 SF



3 Austin Way, Natick
5 BD | 2F 1H BA | 3,586 SF



27 Cedar Crest Road, Wayland
3 BD | 1F 1H BA | 3,213 SF



6 Glenwood Street, Natick
3 BD | 2 BA | 1,456 SF



#1 in Natick in Homes Sold



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