

## Creativity, Artwork On Display In ArtWalk Event

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

Natick's ArtWalk brings the fruits of creative labor from the studio or spare room out onto the sidewalk for all to see.

The middle of last month saw the return of the town's street-side art showcase, as craftspeople and potential customers con-

verged on the downtown area to put on display, peruse and potentially purchase one-of-a-kind creations.

Art and music of all stripes were on display during the July 15 art festival, with a portion of Washington Street shut down to make space for outdoor dining

by local restaurants. The Art-Walk featured works by painters, quilters, ceramicists, mixed media artists, musicians and more.

Main Street's high facades offered some shade from a setting sun that had just recently re-emerged after a seeming weeks-long hibernation, and brought back with it summer's swelter. The mercury was up, yet spirits seemed high. The annual art festival held added meaning, an outdoor venue in which to gather after the tumultuous and trying months of the year prior.

Some people took the free time and seclusion imposed by the shutdown to focus on a hobby or two. Or three. For still others, that hobby evolved into a business and/or side hustle.

That's been the case for Natick resident Tiana Meehan,



**ARTWALK**  
*continued on page 2*

## Natick's BSC Crown In Softball Ends Lengthy Drought



**The 2021 Natick High softball team shared the Bay State Conference title with Newton North. Paradise Photo & Video**

BY KEN HAMWEY  
 STAFF SPORTS WRITER

A significant sports story at Natick High during the 2020-21 pandemic year was the softball team finishing the regular season at 14-2, enabling the Redhawks to be crowned as Bay State Con-

ference champions along with Newton-North.

A 27-year title drought ended because the last time Natick High captured a league crown in softball was in 1994.

**SOFTBALL**  
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ARTWALK

continued from page 1

who started Tiny Light Candle Co. in her basement during the pandemic. She manages a Boston real estate office, and runs the candle company in her off time.

“The pandemic hit, and I thought, why not give it a shot?” she said.

Passersby gravitated toward Meehan’s table at the ArtWalk, pulled in by the prospect of sampling a new scent. They lifted lids and sniffed, and one could catch nearby a hint of the fragrance on the sultry summer air. Patrons haggled with one another about the virtues and potency of this or that scent. High Tide is her most popular offering.

A longtime consumer of candles, Meehan started educating herself about what went into making them, and discovered a lot she didn’t like about the commercial brands. Most use petroleum-based wax, she said, which isn’t healthy for people or the planet. She would settle on soy wax for her candles, a renewable and more eco-friendly medium.

“I did all this research. I went



from interest to being very passionate about it.”

Nearby, Barbara Levitov’s handcrafted pottery was on display, some home décor hardware to contrast and complement Meehan’s scented candles. Levitov sang the praises of Debra Sayre, the creative and organizational drive behind the ArtWalk and Natick’s weekly Farmers Markets. A crafter of earthy-hued, wheel-turned ceramic art, Levitov is a frequent presence at local art shows and festivals.

“This is one of my favorites,” said Levitov of the ArtWalk.

For some, the sidewalk is the studio, the curbside their canvas.



Natick resident Jason Cheeseman-Meyer could be found street-side during the ArtWalk, putting some finishing touches on an enormous mural. The piece, painted on Main Street pavement, is an aquatic scene featuring fish, turtles and other denizens of the water world.

Cheeseman-Meyer teaches at Natick’s Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and was one of several artists commissioned to create an original mural in the space. His is part of the Traffic Calming Project, an effort that seeks to reclaim space from busy thoroughfares, reallocating square footage away from cars and repurposing it toward works of art and other fruitful ends.

The piece evolved over the

course of the project, as passing children kept asking if more colorful fish would be joining the group of trout and bass that Cheeseman-Meyer had envisioned for his mural.

But making art outdoors has its tradeoffs. High public visibility

on the one hand, vulnerability to the elements on the other.

“The weather has not been cooperating,” he said of his weeks-long project. “If I’m not being rained on, I’m being baked.”

Some hyper-local businesses put their storefronts (and AC) to good use during the ArtWalk, their location and inventories a perfect fit for the festival. The downtown area is home to an increasing family of creative-based businesses, and the art festival offers the perfect venue to get the word out about what they offer.

Some of these shops took advantage of the foot traffic, setting up small displays just outside their doors to draw patrons inside for a look and brief respite from the heat and humidity.

Uni-T, a shop on Court Street that sells its own line of hand-printed T-Shirts and an eclectic assortment of locally handmade art, set out a selection of goods on the sidewalk to give passersby a sense of the store’s character.

“It helped a lot to gain new customers who don’t normally shop downtown,” said Eujin Kim-Neilan, the shop’s owner. “It’s a very warm and friendly event.”

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**SOFTBALL**

*continued from page 1*

The players, who were unable to compete last year when state officials canceled all spring sports because of covid-19, split their first two games, then rolled to 13 consecutive triumphs. They competed admirably in all 16 games without head coach Diane Whitaker and, although the girls were eliminated from tourney play early, they battled gallantly in a 5-4 extra-inning loss to Mansfield in the Division 1 South Sectional playoffs.

Trailing 4-2 in the bottom of the seventh, Natick got a pair of RBI doubles from Julianna Kiley and Kerina Killelea to tie the game. In the eighth inning, however, the Hornets' catcher (Jill Kopyy) tripled, then scored on a pop-up base hit by pitcher Ashlyn Conley for the winning run.

"We were all very proud of the girls," said acting head coach Tom Lamb, who directed the squad in Whittaker's absence. "They battled hard all season long, they were consistent and cohesive and they won close games (four one-run wins). Coach Whit-

taker, who suffered a concussion in an accident, deserves lots of credit for the job she did with team-building. Last year, when the season was canceled, she directed google-meet activities for what was the Corona Olympics."

Lamb had high praise for the way the Redhawks rallied against Mansfield.

"Give Mansfield credit, they didn't make any mistakes," he emphasized. "But our kids bounced back, tied the score and just fell short. Both starting pitchers were strong. Katherine Canty pitched very well for us, overcoming a fifth inning where we committed two errors and Mansfield scored four runs.

"The girls achieved so much after splitting our first two games. They won a lot of games and they shared the BSC championship. They came a long way after not competing last year, then starting this season with wearing masks, sanitizing equipment and distancing. They were a special group, handling so many challenges."

Lamb isn't a stranger to softball. He coached Natick's varsity team in 1989 and for the last three years he's been both a volunteer and an assistant coach.



**Katherine Canty finished the regular season with a 10-1 record on the mound. Courtesy Photo**

"This year's team had lots of strengths," he emphasized. "We had excellent senior leadership, two outstanding pitchers, quality hitting and solid defense. The girls had high softball IQs, they were coachable but most importantly they were competitive. They didn't like losing."

The squad's 11 players included four seniors, six juniors

and one freshman. The captains were seniors Canty and outfielder Maddie McCarthy.

"Katherine had a 10-1 record in the regular season," Lamb said. "Her earned-run average was 1.51 and she struck out 111. She was simply overpowering and had great control. Her assortment featured a good change-up, a riser, a fastball and a curve.

And, she rarely walked a batter.

"Maddie is very athletic, has speed and is versatile. Her work ethic is strong and that matched her strong arm and her strength on defense. She played both in left field and in right."

Natick's other two seniors were pitcher Martha Jennings and second baseman Ava Leombruno.

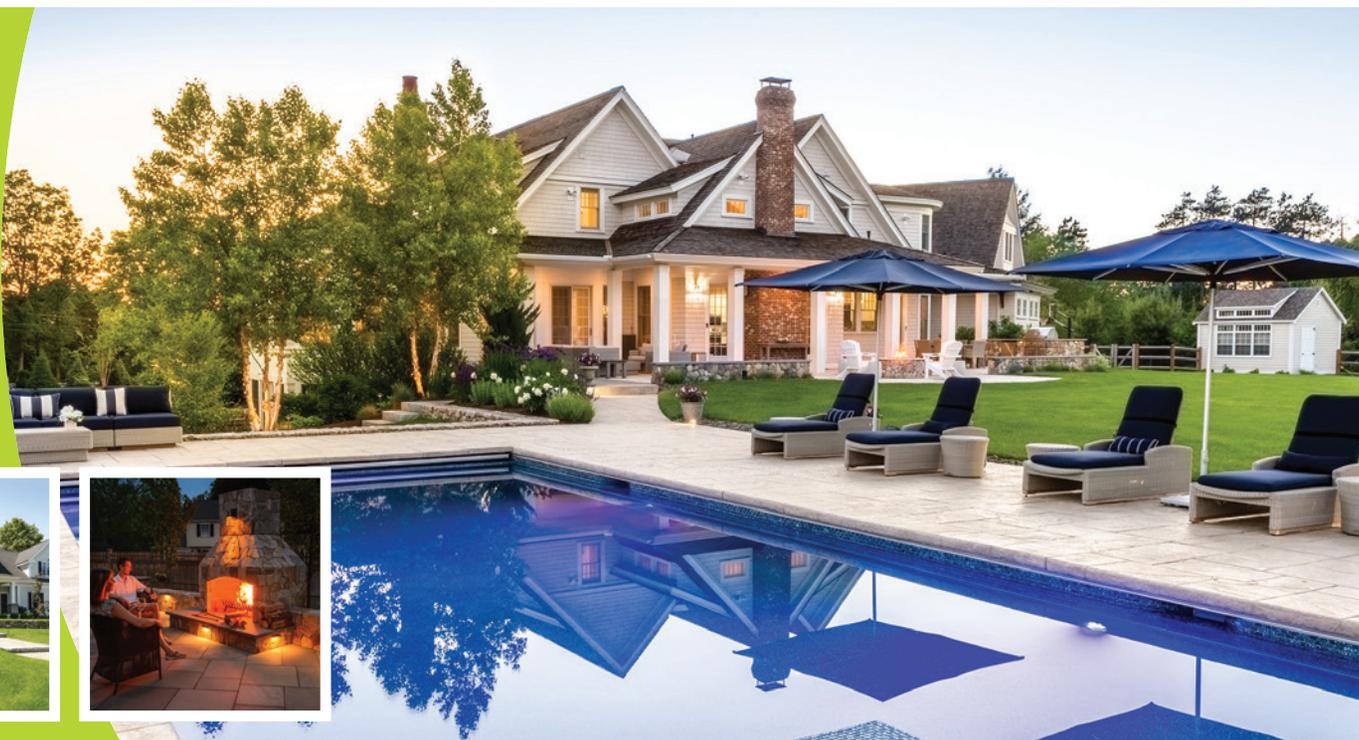
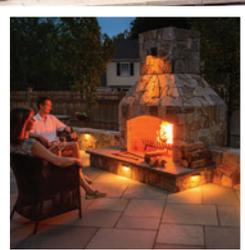
"Martha did a great job as a back-up starting pitcher," Lamb said. "She was like a Swiss Army knife, able to play in the infield or outfield. She had a good assortment of pitches and she was a good contact hitter. Technically sound, Martha is smart and a great student of the game.

"Ava was solid at second base. She's very competitive and a determined fielder. A very sound hitter with experience, she always had a good feel for the strike zone."

Catcher/shortstop Jess Brill and Kiley (first baseman/pitcher) had dynamic seasons as juniors. During the regular season, Brill hit .588, had 11 RBIs, 16 stolen bases and 3 doubles. Kiley hit .568, smashed 2 home runs, knocked in 20 runs, stole 5 bases

**SOFTBALL**  
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# Natick Center Cultural District Announces "Multicultural Day" on August 28th

BY ARCHANA MENON  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
COORDINATOR, NCCD

The Natick Center Cultural District announces the 5th annual Multicultural Day on Aug. 28, from 11AM – 2PM at the Common Street Spiritual Center, Natick. This event will celebrate the various food, inspiring music, exciting dance and the sharing of traditions and cultures found within the different ethnicities in our community.

We will feature an array of traditional and contemporary music, costume, dance and food from various cultures around the world by showcasing the traditional and modern cultural expressions such as traditional Chinese



dance, contemporary Latin and Indian dances and music from the Electric Soul band. Cultural groups representing the countries of India, Guatemala, China, Mexico, Uzbekistan, and more will have booths with arts and crafts demonstrations and sales. Many of our community partners, like SPARK Kindness, Natick is United, Natick Historical Society and Natick Black Lives Matter will also join in the festivities. With the Natick Farmers Market, outdoors, selling fresh, organic produce and artisanal products and the Multicultural Day indoors

at the Spiritual Center, the day promises to be a vibrant celebration of all who call Natick their home!

So, come and learn something new about your neighbors! This event is generously sponsored by MutualOne Bank.

If you are a part of a group or organization that would like to be represented at the event, please contact:

Athena Pandolf, Executive Director, NCCD at info.natick-center@gmail.com or Archana Menon, Community Outreach Coordinator, NCCD at archana@natickcenter.org

## SOFTBALL

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and had 10 doubles.

"Jess is an elite player," Lamb said. "She was one of the finest catchers in the league. She could hit and hit for power. A catcher with a strong arm, no one attempted to steal bases. Jess called a good game and was like a coach on the field.

"Julianna also is an elite player, both on offense and defense. Her arm strength was excellent and so was her range in the field. She didn't commit an error at first base, and she was one of the top power hitters in the BSC."

Two other juniors — Killelea (shortstop) and outfielder Mia Hansen — were quality contributors.

"Kerina's arm is quick," Lamb said. "An excellent hitter who could hit for power, she batted cleanup. She was a major plus and did a great job. A smart player, she knows the game and was superb taking throws from Jess Brill and making the tag. Mia kept improving by demonstrating a good eye at the plate. She hit a couple of home runs and her arm is very strong. Her range in the outfield was excellent and she was a top-notch teammate."

Rounding out the Redhawks' remaining juniors were centerfielder Sam Bean and infielder/outfielder Sam Gondelman.

"Nothing got by Bean in the outfield," Lamb said. "She covered a lot of ground and she had plenty of speed. A smart, take-charge outfielder, Sam positioned herself well for every batter. A line-drive hitter, she also displayed good speed on the bases. Gondelman was very versatile, able to play a variety of positions. A team-oriented player, she hit

the ball hard and demonstrated plenty of speed and quickness. A smart player, she was used often as a pinch runner."

Freshman Olivia Schultz played third base and also was a reserve catcher. Lamb labeled her "an outstanding player from day one."

"Olivia has a strong arm, she's athletic and intense," he noted. "A line-drive hitter, she had a good feel in the batter's box. Competitive and well-respected, Olivia was humble and very determined. At third base, she did a good job against teams that played small ball."

Lamb credits Natick's success, especially during its 13-game winning streak, to outstanding pitching and a blend of solid, timely hitting.

"Canty and Jennings gave us excellent pitching and we got good hitting during that stretch," he emphasized. "We treated the season like a sprint instead of a marathon. We knew we had to go no worse than 1-1 in our first two games. We beat Walpole and lost a close game to Newton-North. We had 13 straight wins because of hard work, consistency and determination."

Natick's success this year, Lamb says, is linked to the program's two varsity assistant coaches and a pair of sub-varsity coaches. The varsity assistants are former NHS players — Lucia Cabacini and Brenna Keefe. The sub-varsity coaches are Nancy Molina and Jeff Wright.

The 73-year-old Lamb, who calls softball "exciting and challenging," is no stranger to success, having won his share of Super Bowls. When asked to compare the softball title to his Super Bowl success, he said: "every championship is special, unique and different."

Lamb says he hopes to return to coach with Whittaker next season.

"The future does appear to be bright," he said. "There's a good nucleus of players returning and our two jayvee teams had good players and winning records. But, we'll need to develop a couple of pitchers."

Natick softball, however, appears to be back. And, it seems like it'll be a perennial contender in the BSC. The Redhawks' recent championship snapped a 27-year drought and that's what made the 2021 season so significant.

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### Publisher

Chuck Tashjian

### Editorial

Susan Manning

### Send Editorial to:

editor@naticktownnews.com

### Advertising Director

Kathy Benoit

### Advertising Sales Manager

Jen Schofield

508-570-6544

jenschofield@localtownpages.com

### Multi Media Sales Consultant

Jeremy Wardwell

413-204-5296

jeremywardwell@localtownpages.com

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Michelle McSherry

Kim Vasseur

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For those who need a little more help with their daily routines, SALMON at Medway's Whitney Place, their full-service, assisted living community offers private apartments in a warm



**CEO Matt Salmon welcomes SALMON at Medway's first resident Dottie Johnson to the community recently opened at 44 Willow Pond Circle.**

and gracious setting with unique offerings and amenities at all levels of care.

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RSVP by visiting [www.MedwaySeniorLiving.com/events](http://www.MedwaySeniorLiving.com/events) or call them at 508-533-3300. To get deeper glimpse into the SALMON lifestyle they invite you to follow @salmonatmedway on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.



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# Community Ties and a Commitment to Customer Service: Affordable Junk Removal

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But figuring out who to call can be a pain. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

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

Jay Schadler started his business in 2003. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with ten trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken

## Business spotlight



down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've

also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

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

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston as well as Resellables, a thrift store in Bellingham. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

For more information, contact Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit Affordable Junk Removal online at [www.take-awayjunk.com](http://www.take-awayjunk.com).

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Your Money, Your Independence

# Your Teen Working This Summer? Fund Their Roth IRA.

Have a teenager working as camp counselor, mowing lawns, selling ice cream, babysitting or another summer job?

If income is being reported to the IRS, you can open a Roth IRA for Kids in a child's name to help them save for retirement, qualified educational expenses and introduce personal investing.

**Roth IRA for Kids.** There is no age minimum, as long as they earn income. It's up to you to document that they had income earned from work, either W-2 or self-employment taxable wages. Recall a Roth IRA's tax treatment is most valuable when time horizons are long and current tax rates are low, both are true for kids.

**Adult supervision.** The account owner is the child, how-

ever, an adult maintains control and invests for the benefit of the child. Once a child becomes an adult, usually 18 in most states, the account is transferred.

**What if your teen spent their earnings?** After a talk about budgeting (i.e. 3 Jars - Spend, Save, Gift), you or a grandparent can set up and fund the Roth IRA up to the amount of your child's reported earned income.

Some parents make contributions as a 'match reward' for money earned in a summer job. Remember, Roth IRA for Kids contributions count against the \$15,000 tax-free gifts per individual for 2021. So if you've funded \$15,000 for child's 529 Plan, find another individual (i.e. spouse, relative) who can make the contribution.

**Introduction to personal investing.** Have fun by letting your kid research an ETF or company to invest in, have them explain why and teach how they can follow. The next year, have them choose a different investment with the new contribution. Over time, they have a mix of investments, outcomes and lessons learned.

**Taxation of withdrawals before age 59 1/2.** A Roth IRA allows for 100% of contributions to be taken out at any time and for any reason, with no taxes or penalties. Furthermore, if a Roth IRA withdrawal is for qualified education expenses, you avoid the 10% penalty on earnings but still pay income tax on the earnings. Thus, Roth IRA for Kids could supplement educational savings.

**Impact on financial aid?** Yes, in a great way. The "expected family contribution" or "EFC" formula has student-owned assets assessed at 20% with two notable exceptions: 529's at parent's 5.6% and retirement accounts owned by you or your child are not counted or 0%. However, if a child takes money from a Roth IRA, even to pay for college, up to 50% of the withdrawal may be assessed.

**Getting Started.** Not all institutions offer Roth IRAs for Kids, but many do with no minimums, no fees and no commissions. Consult your advisor or seek a fee-only CFP to learn more.

*The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.*



Glenn Brown

*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.*

# Metrowest Women's Fund Partners with MassBay Community College to Support Single Mother Students

MassBay Community College and Metrowest Women's Fund are creating a new fund with a \$25,000 grant from the Metrowest Women's Fund to assist MassBay's single mother students with their emergency financial needs. These funds will provide financial aid for non-tuition-related emergencies these students may encounter while pursuing their degrees including childcare expenses, housing costs, living

expenses, and other basic necessities.

"Our single mothers have many responsibilities outside the classroom, and we want them to have the peace of mind knowing there is a support system behind them while they earn their degree," said MassBay President, David Podell. "The support of the Metrowest Women's Fund will allow our students who are single moms to focus on their

education by lifting the crushing burden of fiscal stress. For these remarkable single mothers, the funds will make a tremendous difference in helping them overcome the sizable challenge of managing their life expenses while they pursue the education that can transform their lives and the lives of their children. We are truly grateful to the Metrowest Women's Fund and anticipate these funds having a tremendous

impact."

The Metrowest Women's Fund invests in women and girls in the Massachusetts Metrowest area through education, community building, grant making, and strategic partnerships. The

Metrowest Women's Fund programs focus on education inequality, safety from violence and uplifting the next generation of girls.

**WOMAN'S FUND**  
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# Sen. Rausch, Rep. Donato, Healthcare Providers, Public Health Experts And Educators Testify In Favor Of Community Immunity Act

Community Immunity Act seeks to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by addressing gaps in MA vaccination and exemption policy

Sen. Becca Rausch (D-Needham) and Rep. Paul Donato (D-Medford), lead sponsors of the Community Immunity Act, testified alongside healthcare providers, public health experts, and educators testified at a virtual Public Health Committee hearing today in favor of the Community Immunity Act (S.1517/H.2271).

This legislation seeks to prevent the spread of highly infectious diseases by promoting and supporting localized herd immunity statewide. The Community Immunity Act strengthens the Commonwealth's immunization

policies by standardizing the immunization requirements for all schools, daycare centers, and other covered programs and centralizing within the Department of Public Health (DPH) the processes for obtaining an exemption from those requirements.

Currently, Massachusetts does not have localized herd immunity across the state for many vaccine-preventable diseases. Of the kindergarten programs that submitted data to DPH in 2019-20, 145 kindergarten programs are below herd immunity rates for measles, 119 kindergarten programs are below herd immunity rates for pertussis, and 71 programs reported at least 10% of students are missing one or more vaccines required for school, without an approved exemption.

Furthermore, DPH lacks complete data on immunization rates in daycare centers, K-12 schools, summer camps, and colleges because data reporting is voluntary. In the 2019-2020 school year, 451 middle schools, 520 kindergarten programs, and 1,677 daycares and preschools failed to report any immunization data to the MA Department of Public Health. Moreover, according to recently available data from DPH, in 2020 18.8% of kindergarten students in Suffolk county, 14.4% in Franklin county, and 8.6% in Hamden county are not meeting school vaccination requirements. Under current statute, school and program administrators are charged with implementing certain immunization protocols, including vaccine exemption requests, rather than medical and public health professionals.

"As has become blatantly obvious over the last year and a half, every Bay Stater deserves strong public health protections. COVID reminds us that our collective health and safety rises or falls together," said Rausch. "If ever there were a time to advance the Community Immunity Act and its comprehensive immunization infrastructure, that time is now."

"Senator Rausch and I filed this bill long before COVID hit because even then Massachusetts had a serious immunization infrastructure problem, and

we had already seen multiple outbreaks of measles and other illnesses that we can prevent with vaccines," said Donato. "We all know a lot more about community immunity now. All of us are living through the consequences of what happens when we do not have strong public health infrastructure and herd immunity against infectious diseases."

More than 20 religious, educational, medical, and public health organizations support the Community Immunity Act including:

- American Federation of Teachers – MA Chapter
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- League of Women Voters
- Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Massachusetts Association of

- Health Offices
- Massachusetts Association of School Committees
- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
- Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
- Massachusetts Health Council
- Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association
- Massachusetts Independent Pharmacists Association
- Massachusetts Infectious Diseases Society
- Massachusetts Nurses Association
- Massachusetts Medical Society
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- Massachusetts Teachers Association
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners – MA Chapter
- National Association of Social Workers – MA Chapter
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**Independence and Critical Thinking:** Home health and hospice nurses work at the top of their licensure in an environment unlike any other in healthcare. They must possess high levels of aptitude and autonomy to operate independently while caring for patients with a wide range of needs. Our nurses must possess the ability to independently communicate assessment findings and care needs of the patient. This requires keen assessment skills, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and self-motivation to empower

patients to meet their health care goals.

**Teamwork:** Although home health and hospice nursing require autonomy there is a community of support at VNA Care. Nurses draw on the expertise of, and learn new skills from, VNA Care’s nurse specialists. They have support from clinical services managers and participate in interdisciplinary collaboration with other team members to provide the best possible patient care.

**Organization:** Organizational skills are critical in this role, particularly when working independently in the field. Our nurses visit with multiple patients per day with complex and unique needs. Organization helps them handle multiple priorities and adapt quickly to unforeseen changes if necessary.

**Empathy and compassion:** The people we serve may be recovering from surgery, managing an illness or other health conditions or they may

be on their end-of-life journey. Empathy and compassion are important parts of support. An empathic and compassionate approach to care makes all the difference in creating that source of support.

**Passion for the work we do:** VNA Care nurses enjoy working face-to-face with patients and being an integral part of our communities. They build meaningful relationships with patients and families, becoming trusted partners to help live their best lives at home.

Home health and hospice care is uniquely rigorous and exceptionally rewarding. Although it requires a specific set of skills and characteristics, our nurses ease into their new roles while working with a preceptor and educator through our strong orientation program. If you see these qualities in yourself and are interested in joining our team, please check out our careers page. We would love to meet you and welcome you to our team!

### WOMEN’S FUND

*continued from page 7*

“The pandemic has highlighted the childcare crisis that impacts women who are in the workforce while enrolled in

community of Metrowest a place where women and girls are supported and have access to the services they need and deserve.

“We are inspired and proud to support as many financially vulnerable students as possible at MassBay, the community college in our service area,” said



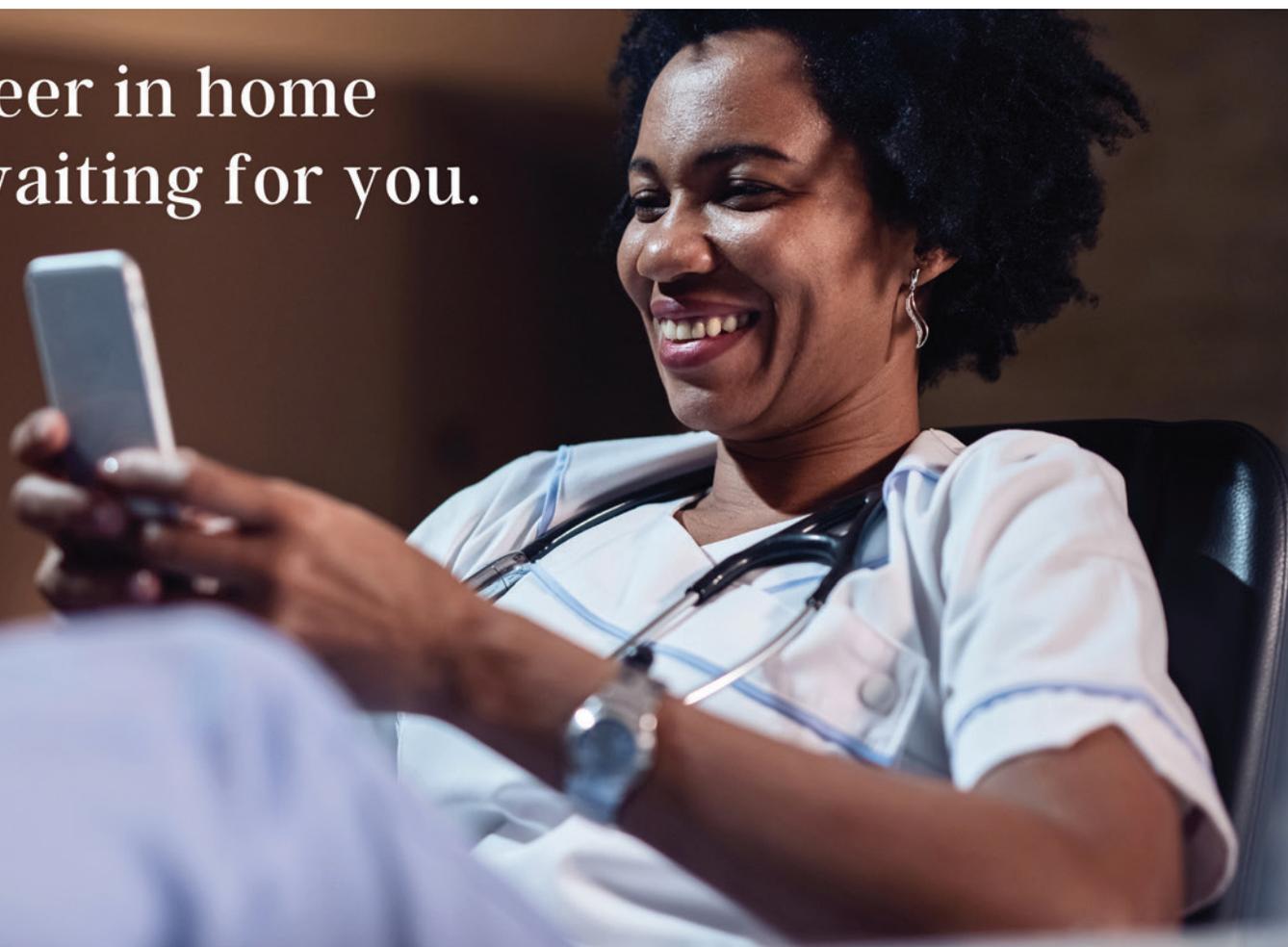
higher education,” said Metrowest Women’s Fund Co-Founder, Rachel Sagan. “This fund for non-tuition-related emergencies will keep hard-working single moms in school.”

The Metrowest Women’s Fund was founded by Rebecca Parkhill of Weston, MA, and Rachel Sagan of Sudbury, MA, who were driven by a single goal of doing their part to make the

Metrowest Women’s Fund Co-Founder, Rebecca Parkhill. “The fund will bring new resources in support of the needs of women and girls in Metrowest.”

To learn more about the Metrowest Women’s Fund visit [www.metrowestwomensfund.com](http://www.metrowestwomensfund.com). To learn more about MassBay visit [www.massbay.edu](http://www.massbay.edu).

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 VNA Care

# Cocotree Kids Provides Basic Necessities To Children

When Natick resident Catherine Maloy started volunteering for youth organizations, she found a startling reality: one of the children's basic needs was not being met.

Underwear.

"After volunteering for and donating to youth charities for many years, I discovered that underwear was always on the list of items that are most requested. But, underwear is not something that can be donated if used - like toys, shoes, clothing, etc. - and is not something that many people think about...until you are without it," she said.

That's when Cocotree Kids was founded.

"I can't wrap my head around the fact that kids in need do not have access to this basic necessity. So, I felt driven to build an organization centered around filling this gap and providing children in Massachusetts with the undergarments that they need," said Maloy.

Cocotree Kids purchases, collects and distributes underwear to children through our partnerships with shelters and youth-

focused organizations, such as the South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Cradles to Crayons and Second Chances, to name a few.

"We collect underwear through volunteer donation drives, and we have relationships with underwear wholesalers that enable us to purchase it at a fraction of the price of those in retail stores—meaning, a monetary donation goes a long way! These donations help us to fill the requests from our service partners and ensure that kids receive the correct sizes that they need," she said.

Maloy said it takes dignity away from children when they have to use dirty underwear or not at all.

"It is unthinkable to me that children in need, who are already facing a host of challenges, have to re-use soiled underwear, wear hand-me-downs that do not fit or wear nothing at all.

"Underwear is a basic necessity, so I am committed to this cause because I feel strongly that all kids deserve to have the

## Cocotree Kids



dignity of feeling clean, confident and comfortable with adequate undergarments. For a family in financial distress, spending \$10-15 on a 6-pack of underwear every few months is cost prohibitive. Because children grow so quickly, it is a recurring expense that is impossible to undertake when food and shelter have to be the priority. I want to do everything I can to help," explained the organization's founder.

And I'm just a few short months, The community has already rallied around Cocotree Kids.

"[It] was just founded in the spring of 2021, and we are already feeling the support from this amazing community. You're

right, this is not a cause that is commonly known. This is precisely why Cocotree Kids was created. Our mission is to put it front and center that kids underwear is a critical need!

"With the help of people hosting underwear drives, and the money we have received in donations so far, we were able to deliver about 800 pairs of underwear to our service partners," she said.

The work, however, has just begun, she said.

"We still have more work to do! The scale of this need is urgent and huge. We have been asked to deliver 6,000 pairs of underwear to toddlers in need in Massachusetts—and that is just one age group!

"So, we hope that this community will help us by donating money, hosting collection drives, following us on social media... and helping us to spread the word! There are also great volunteer opportunities to get involved and join our growing team."

What's the best part of her job?



## Business spotlight

"It is very fulfilling to know that this organization is helping kids in this specific way. It is also gratifying to see how many people now understand and are aware of this previously overlooked need.

"Overall, I feel privileged to meet incredible people who support their community. It is motivating to meet and interact with passionate people who really care about supporting those in need," said Maloy.

To donate or get involved, visit [cocotreekids.org](http://cocotreekids.org) or email [info@cocotreekids.org](mailto:info@cocotreekids.org).

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# Library news

## Natick historical newspaper

We are excited to announce the launch of our newest online resource, the Natick Historical Newspaper Archive. Made possible by the MutualOne Charitable Foundation, the digital Natick Historical Newspapers archive is your place to search for all things local to Natick and the surrounding area. The archive offers you the ability to search twelve different Natick newspapers with various dates that go back to 1869 and up to 2004. The online archive is keyword searchable and you can share your findings online with friends! So whether its the results of the Natick and Framingham football game in 1954, or an article about the 4th of July parade in the 1960s,- you will find these treasures and more!

## Walk-Up Window for Holds Pickup

What is the Walk-up Window? The Walk-up Window allows you to pick up your holds with no appointment necessary! Come to the library and line up outside along the ramp, where you will be protected from the elements with

our exciting new Holiday Window Display. This exciting initiative will give you the flexibility to pick up your items on your time, with expanded hours during the week and on weekends.

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

- One person may enter at a time
- Please enter at the bottom of the ramp, and wait on the marked spots to keep physically distant
- An exterior light indicator will go from red to green when it is your turn to enter the Walk-up Window.

• Scan your library card once inside, and we will grab your items for you!

• Don't have anything on hold? Give us a call at 508-647-6520 and we will assist you! Or head to "my account" and browse our catalog!

## Walk-Up Window Hours

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

## Can I still do Contactless

## Holds Pick Up?

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

## Contactless Pickup

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

• Pickup appointments are available from 9am-10am daily from Monday through Friday, and 9am-10am on Saturday. We also have appointments from 7pm-8pm Monday through Thursday.

• You may only book a pickup appoint AFTER receiving a request pickup notice from the Library that your items are ready.

• If you miss your appointment, please call us to schedule another. Because we only have so many slots per appointment, we are unable to reschedule pickup for the same day.

• Puzzles and items from the "Library of Things" are not available during contactless pickup.

How does it work?

- Step 1: Put items on hold using your Minuteman account
- Step 2: Wait for an email, text, or phone call that your items are ready to be picked up.
- Step 3: Book a pickup appointment window using our on-

line 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

**LIBRARY NEWS**  
continued on page 12



# Sha'arei Shalom

**Start your membership today!**

Sha'arei Shalom is a member-driven Jewish congregation serving the Greater Metrowest area. We offer a diverse congregation that understands the demands of busy families, the needs of seniors, and is affordable.

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

*continued from page 11*

window and grab your items off

the contactless pickup shelf. Items will be checked out and bagged with your name on it.

**Delivery Service**

Delivery Service is available

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

**What Stays Virtual**

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

**Express bundles**

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

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

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

1. Express Bundle(s) to pick up later at the walk up window

(within 1 day!)

2. Express Bundle(s) to pick up via contactless holds

3. Book-Fix curated collection based on your preferences within the categories of adult, teen, or children.

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

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

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

**Special Sunday Holds Pick-ups!**

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!

**Announcing the Natick Summer Community Read**

To supplement our "Tails & Tales" Summer Reading theme this year, the Library will be handing out free copies of Bestselling Author Sy Montgomery's How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals and Becoming a Good Creature, the children's book companion. Get your Summer Reading book and tote at the Library starting on June 7th as part of our Summer Community Read and learn all about our amazing "Tails & Tales" programs coming this summer!

To top it all off, on August 6th at 7pm, join us for a virtual visit and author talk with Sy Montgomery herself!

For more information on our Summer Reading events, head to our Summer Program Calendar at [www.morseinstitute.libguides.com/digital-branch/](http://www.morseinstitute.libguides.com/digital-branch/)

This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Morse Institute Library!



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# Protecting Your Young Adult

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is willing, they can execute and sign a HIPAA that appoints you to have access to their medical records.

## Business spotlight



Do you have a child turning 18 years old anytime soon or has turned 18 years old and is in college? You may be surprised to learn this, but when your child turns 18 years old, your child is an adult, and you no longer have access to their medical records or financial records. Further, once your child turns 18 years old, you no longer have the parental right to make decisions for them. If you want to be able to continue helping your kids, read on.

### **HIPAA Authorization:**

Let's first talk about medical records. Maybe your now adult child has a doctor. Maybe he or she doesn't. If your adult child does not sign a form that says, "My parent has access to my medical records", you won't be able to get access to their medical information. You can solve this with what's called a Universal HIPAA Release Form ("HIPAA"). If your adult child

**Health Care Proxy:** Now, what about being able to make health decisions for your adult child? Again, if your adult child is willing, your adult child can execute and sign a health care proxy where your child gives you authority to make medical decisions for them when they cannot. Think about this – They are away at college...or they're traveling (and maybe they're taking that trip you wanted to but couldn't because you're putting them through college). A health care proxy is the document that will give you legal authority to make those medical decisions for your child when they cannot.

### **Financial Durable Power of Attorney:**

Now, what happens to access to your adult child's financial records or to your ability to gain access to your child's financial information and accounts? When your child turns 18 years old, they probably don't want you on their bank

account any longer. That's not surprising, right? Legally, they can now have their own bank account. If you have a joint account with your child, your child can remove you from the bank account, but they still may need help. If your child executes and signs a financial durable power of attorney, where they name you as the power of attorney agent to act for them, you can then you can go to the bank or handle any financial matter for them if they are unable to do so. Until you are officially named

as a power of attorney agent, you have absolutely no ability to access to their financial records should something happen.

If something does happen and your adult child *has not* put in place the above legal documents, you may be faced with having to go into the court system to get officially appointed as your child's guardian and/or conservator if something happens to them. This can take up a lot of precious time and is expensive and stressful.

Parents, consider helping your child along so that your child understands what being an adult is and what responsibilities they now have. We, at O'Connell Law LLC, take this seriously and have set up a special and affordable online package to help your young adult child easily get the above documents in place *and still have an attorney who will*

*guide them on the decisions they are planning to make.* Talk with your child now and encourage them to get their key estate planning documents in place. When your child is ready, you can have them go to this landing page at: <https://www.oconnelllawgroup.com/young-adult/>. You can also find information at our website: [OconnellLawGroup.com](https://www.oconnelllawgroup.com). When they are ready to get this done, they will need your credit card information if they don't have a credit card themselves. Let us help you help your son or daughter so that they can get an estate plan done right now. Your son or daughter may not think this is very important (do you remember feeling immortal?); but think of the peace of mind this will bring you...and the protection it will give your child should something unexpected happen.

## Bacon Free Library Events

### **In-person Story Time:**

Mondays and Tuesdays at 10 am, outside at the library; bring a blanket

[baconfreelibrary.org/kids/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/kids/)

### **Zoom Story Time:**

Wednesdays: 6 pm  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/summerwst/2021-07-14/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/summerwst/2021-07-14/)

Thursdays: 9:30 am  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/summerwst-2/2021-08-05/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/summerwst-2/2021-08-05/)

### **Two of a Kind: Music for the Whole Family**

Monday, August 2nd: 6:30 pm  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/2ofakind-2/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/2ofakind-2/)

### **The Hoopoe Show: Mime and Magic**

Tuesday, August 3rd: 10 am  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/hoopoe-2021/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/hoopoe-2021/)

### **Bilingual Story Time (on zoom)**

3 Wednesdays: 6 pm  
(7/21, 7/28, 8/4)  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/bilingual-story-time/2021-08-04/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/bilingual-story-time/2021-08-04/)

### **Special Story Time: Teddy Bear Picnic**

Monday, August 9: 10 am  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/teddy-bear/2021-08-09/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/teddy-bear/2021-08-09/)

### **All-ages Trivia Night on the BFL Lawn: Animal Tails**

### **& Tales**

Monday, August 9: 6 pm  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/triviatales/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/triviatales/)

### **Special Story Time: Wild about Horses (on zoom)**

Wednesday, August 11: 6 pm  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/special-story-horses/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/special-story-horses/)

### **Big Bubbles with Mr. Vinny the Bubble Guy**

Tuesday, August 17: 10 am  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/bubblesvinny/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/bubblesvinny/)

### **Stacey Peasley Concert**

Wednesday, August 25: 6 pm  
[baconfreelibrary.org/event/stacey-peasley-concert-2/](https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/stacey-peasley-concert-2/)

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# Senior Center Events

## AARP Prepare to Care - Zoom Program

Tuesday, August 10, 1:30-2:30pm, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

No matter where you are in the journey of family caregiving - just beginning to anticipate a need, helping to coordinate a big move, or taking care of a family member full-time - having a good framework will help guide both you and your loved ones to make

care-giving easier. We'll share tips, advice and resources.

## Tips for a Better Sleep-Zoom Program

Monday, August 16, 1:30-2:30pm, 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.

## Art Matters- Ancient Civilizations Art and Culture-zoom program

Thursday, August 19, 11:00am-noon, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Please join us to examine art from the four great ancient civilizations; Mesopotamia (present day Iraq), Egypt, Greece and the Roman Empire. Each culture in turn contributed to the foundation of our own civilization. From these great cultures, we get writing, government, law & order, institutionalized religion, advanced culture, and the spread of information and ideas. Each civilization developed new and greater achievements, adding to the quality of life for all humankind. Sponsored by Riverbend of South Natick. Providing Ex-



ceptional Short-Term Rehab & Skilled Nursing Care under CDC Guidelines, www.rehabassociates.com/riverbend.

## Karen's Bookgroup-zoom program

Friday, August 20, 1:00 pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join Karen Mallozzi, volunteer host and book reader for this casual book group discussing a book that Karen has read and liked. The book pick is The Paris Library by Janet S. Charles; Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this is an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together. (Excerpted from Amazon books review.)

## Fire Safety in Your Home-zoom program

Monday August 23, 1:30-2:30pm, free, register thru

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

Join Kenneth Doucette, Director of Community Affairs, Middlesex Sheriff's Office as he reviews common fire safety precautions you should take at home and he will demo the Hazard Kitchen Educational Prop which has received accolades from the Mass Department of Fire Services.

## Watching Out for Scams-zoom program

Wednesday, August 25, 1:30-2:30pm, free, register thru Community Pass or call the center 508-647-6540.

Join, Ken Doucette from Sheriff Koutoujian, Middlesex Sheriff's Office in an update on scams to Senior Citizens. There are so many new scams happening during this uncertain time and you should be aware of all these techniques and tricks that scammers will try to use on you. Learn how to protect yourself!

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Janine Halloran, LMHC

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# Coming Full Circle: Dr. Allison Ailor Joins Performance Health Center

From a young age, Dr. Allison Ailor sought treatment from a chiropractor. As a young girl, she watched as a doctor performed his magic on her parents and herself.

That doctor—Dr. Bradley Weiss, a chiropractor—is now her mentor and the owner of the practice she joined this spring: Performance Health Center, where she is working with him and Dr. Thomas Ball.

“Throughout my life, Dr. Weiss has shown me that chiropractic medicine can help people live their fullest lives, pain free. I derive great joy in helping others feel their best, and I’m thrilled to join the doctor who inspired me,” said Dr. Ailor.

“Dr. Ball and I are excited to welcome Dr. Allison Ailor to our team,” said Dr. Weiss. “Our



**Dr. Allison Ailor**

patients are already raving about her skill, knowledge and compassion. I am happy that my enthusiasm for chiropractic medicine was so contagious.”

“Since joining his practice, Dr. Weiss continues to uplift me. He is still mentoring me and checks in daily with me to make sure I am doing my best and have all my questions answered. Dr. Ball has also been a huge help,” she said.

Originally from Vermont, where Dr. Weiss began his career, Dr. Ailor came to Boston to study at Northeastern University, where she majored in Environmental Geology and Mathematics, with a minor in Fine Arts.

During college, she danced competitively and continued to receive care from Dr. Weiss, who had moved to Massachusetts by then. This care became life-altering when a severe injury threatened to interrupt her upcoming performances. A few days of treatment at Performance Health Center eliminated all traces of pain so she could go onstage.

“When I hurt my back, I didn’t think I was going to be able to perform. But after treatment by Dr. Weiss, I was able to participate in the performance. I loved seeing how much it helped

me and how much I can help others,” she said.

After graduation, she performed with Funkanometry, a professional nonprofit hip hop dance company, based in California.

After more years trying different careers, she realized she wanted to help others on their journey toward improved physical well-being. She obtained her doctorate in chiropractic medicine from National University of Health Sciences in Pinellas Park, Florida in 2020.

While in school, she received the community service award, several academic and character-based scholarships, and was a faculty-selected tutor in Neuroanatomy, Neuroendocrine Physiology, and Advanced Clinical Diagnosis.

As a student, Dr. Ailor simultaneously completed Parker University’s Animal Chiropractic Program and is currently working toward becoming an



**Dr. Bradley Weiss**

**Business  
spotlight**



American Veterinary Chiropractic Association Certified Animal Chiropractor. She also completed a clinical internship with Performance Health Center, “internalizing” the systems and standards of care that Dr. Weiss has implemented.

As Dr. Ailor continues to build her patient base, she said every day is rewarding.

“I love the holistic and non-invasive aspects of chiropractic medicine. I find that

the more I learn, the more I love,” she said.



**Dr. Thomas Ball**

About Performance Health Center

Founded in 2002 by Dr. Weiss, Performance Health Center is a multifaceted chiropractic health-care facility in Natick. We meet the health care needs of those who want to perform better in their lives—including active families, home-office workers, athletes and even Grammy-winning musicians. Our chiropractic doctors and staff use natural and state-of-the-art techniques, such as Ac-



**Bernadette Lehmann**

tive Release Techniques (ART®) that optimize patients’ health, improve function and decrease/eliminate pain without drugs or surgery. There are only 30 chiropractors who specialize in this technique in Massachusetts, with only eight licensed to focus on nerve entrapment.

Members of the Performance Health Center staff can be reached here: info@performancehealthcenter.com; Drallisonailor@performancehealthcenter.com; drtomball@performancehealthcenter.com; drbradweiss@performancehealthcenter.com. It is located at 264 North Main St., Natick. The phone number is 508-655-9008. It is online at: performancehealthcenter.com.



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# Sports

## Natick's State Title In Wrestling — A Special Achievement

By KEN HAMWEY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Natick High's wrestling program during coach Bob Anniballi's 35-year career has been remarkable. There's been 25 Bay State Conference championships, 15 sectional titles and three state crowns.

The 2021 state championship, a 45-18 triumph over Plymouth South, is the Redhawks' latest achievement and it arrived last month — in the summer no less on July 1. Instead of a normal winter season, Natick, like all the other interscholastic squads, had to compete in the spring because of the covid-19 pandemic. And, they wrestled early on hoping there would be a tourney format.

"We went four-plus weeks into the season uncertain if we'd have playoffs," Anniballi noted. "It would have been easy for our kids, especially seniors, to check out. We had 29 boys finish the season and they sacrificed in a big way. Some missed family vacations, others delayed going to work and some lost out on internships. It's amazing what was accomplished and the credit goes to the kids, the parents, our coaches and administration. It truly was a family affair."

After a bye, Natick opened the sectional by defeating Shepherd Hill, then downed Milford

to capture the Division 2 Central crown. A triumph over Whittier Tech (North champions) in the state semifinals earned the No. 1-seeded Redhawks a berth in the final against second-seed Plymouth South.

"On paper, the teams were evenly matched," said Anniballi, who in 2018 was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. "But, there were two key developments that gave us a decisive team victory. Three of our sophomores beat Plymouth's senior captains and we strung together seven straight wins. We took 11 of 14 weight classes."

The three sophomores were Viktor Akhonen (113), Mike Anniballi (145) and Bennett Sonneborn (195).

"Those three wins made a big difference in the outcome," Anniballi said. "Winning the state title was a team effort but the victories by the three sophomores put us in the driver's seat. The outcomes of those matches were surprising but welcomed."

Then came the winning streak.

Although the Redhawks posted the first points (an 8-0 decision by Tucker Vician), they trailed, 6-4, before, Natick won the next seven bouts. Jake Adelman started the run with a pin at 170 pounds. David Seiche (182), Will Lederman (220) and



Left: Coach Bob Anniballi; Above: Natick High's wrestling team won the 2021 Division 2 State Championship.



Joe Babson (heavyweight) won their matches by decisions. Then Sonneborn notched his victory and Louie Linton (106) kept the momentum on track with a pin before Akhonen added his points on a decision.

The Panthers, however, registered a pair of back-to-back pins, cutting their deficit to 32-18. But, Natick's Nick Kruczynski (132) clinched the outcome with an 8-0 decision. Sammy Papadopoulos (138) and Mike Anniballi collected the remaining points.

"Getting seven straight wins was the turning point," Anniballi said. "That stretch provided us with great momentum. It was significant but there were some close, hard-fought decisions and not all the wins came on pins."

Anniballi emphasized that balance and depth were key elements in Natick's success. And, he stressed how unusual it was for a team to win a state crown without having a returning sectional or state champion.

"Our sectional title this year was our third straight," he said. "Last year, we captured the sectional crown without having an individual champion. To return this year and to win the states with no star power is very rare. It shows that we relied on everyone. And, it shows that all 14 of our kids who competed gave us a championship effort. Our guys were simply outstanding."

Anniballi stressed how well his wrestlers adhered to all the covid-19 protocols, citing their mature approach. "They never complained," he said. "They rolled with it, whether it was wearing masks or distancing. About 95 percent of our kids were vaccinated. We seem to be trending in a good direction. The pandemic has been a tragic event but I believe we're back and it's in our rear-view mirror."

Another factor that no doubt helped Natick add another state crown was a collection of attributes the players possessed that were crucial for wrestling success.

"We had kids who were mentally and physically tough, who were coachable and had a high wrestling IQ," he noted. "We also had athleticism, strength and quickness and many of our competitors relied on sound technical skills."

Those traits enabled the Redhawks to go 17-0 during the regular season and that record led to another BSC championship.

Anniballi's coaching style didn't change during the pandemic and his system remained in place. "We work hard and we do things for a reason," he noted. "Everything is designed to peak at the right time and we clearly did that. We aim to turn out good citizens and to build character but our goals always include winning titles."

A banquet is in the works to celebrate the team's achievements and it's a good bet that at that gathering Anniballi will repeat the words he emphasized to his players after they hoisted the state trophy.

"I told them they did it and their championship can never be taken away," he said. "I stressed that their commitment and sacrifice were the difference in what was a very different and difficult year. They adjusted well and they relied on a total team effort."

It's never easy to rate one championship over another but there should be no hesitation in labeling Natick's 2021 state wrestling title as "special."

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# Traffic Calming Art Winners Announced

*Congratulations to the winners of the Call to Artists for the Traffic Calming Public Art Project in Natick.*

The finalists and the selected proposals are:

- Jason Cheeseman-Meyer** - Sparkling Stream
- Denise Girardin** - LOVE 01760
- Swati Dave** - Traditional Indian Kolam Designs
- Kevin Baldwin** - Composition No.4
- Polly B. Wright** - Natick Abstract

The artists have either completed or in the process of finishing up their projects. Look for these vibrant and unique artworks near sidewalks at the intersection of Rte. 135 and Rte. 27 in Natick Center. The formal dedication of the Traffic Calming Public Art projects took place during ArtWalk on July 15th!



# Library Stitchers Pull Up Peace Chairs

The Morse Library Stitchers, for the 16th annual World Wide Knit in Public Day, Saturday June 12, enjoyed their latest public installation, The Peace Chairs, inspired by the Edward M. Kennedy A Seat at the Table project, which compliment the library's Pride Month banners.



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## MA Legislature Passes Bill Authorizing \$350 Million in Funding for Transportation Infrastructure

The Massachusetts Legislature on Thursday passed a bill that will invest \$350 million in municipal transportation and selected statewide transportation infrastructure projects.

The bill, *An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges*, authorizes \$200 million for municipal roads and bridges through the chapter 90 program and \$150 million to support statewide projects to address congestion, support electric vehicle infrastructure, prioritize bus infrastructure, and improve public transit.

“As travel returns to pre-COVID levels, our transportation system has a vital role to play in getting us back to better,” stated **Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland)**. “The Chapter 90 proposal advanced by the Senate and House today authorizes \$200 million for roads and bridges across our state and makes additional investments in emerging electric vehicle infrastructure which will greatly benefit the Commonwealth’s residents. Passage of this legislation is critical to maintaining a transportation system that is sustainable, reliable, accessible and climate resilient. I am grateful to Senators Rodrigues, Boncore, and Feeney as well as Speaker Mariano, Rep. Michlewitz, Rep. Straus, Gregoire and their staffs for their collaboration.”

“I would like to thank Chairs Michlewitz, Straus and Gregoire, as well as Senate President Spilka and her colleagues, for their work on the Chapter 90 bill,” said **Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy)**. “This bill not only authorizes \$200 million for roads and bridges but advances our priorities by investing in projects that municipalities will use to improve our transportation system, such as increased access to transit and specifically buses.”

“As we continue building back to our new better, Chapter 90 funding remains an important mechanism through which the state can directly support cities and towns in Massachusetts,” said **Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**. “Thank you to Senate President Spilka and Senators Boncore and Feeney for their leadership, and to my colleagues in the Legislature for their urgency to direct funding to projects that will make a real difference in

their communities and strengthen our local infrastructure across the Commonwealth.”

“These critical funds will ensure that our transportation needs are addressed all across the Commonwealth” said **Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means (D-Boston)**. “I want to thank the Speaker, Chairs Straus and Gregoire, and our colleagues in the Senate for the hard work they put into this legislation, and for continuing to prioritize our transportation system”.

“Public transportation is a public good. The \$350 million investment is among the largest Chapter 90 bond bills to date and represents the Legislature’s commitment to safe roads, reliable bridges, and modernized transit infrastructure,” said **Senate Transportation Committee Chair Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop)**. “In addition to funding shovel-ready projects, the Chapter 90 bond bill makes statewide investments support public transit, address traffic congestion, and advance electric vehicle infrastructure and fleets.”

“This legislation recognizes that in addition to the backlog of local roads in need of repair, there is an unmet need for local projects that benefit all modes of transportation, and I am pleased that the legislature was able to provide municipal assistance for road work and expanded funding for towns and cities to advance public transit and reduce congestion,” said **Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett)**, House chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation.

“The funding provided through this critical legislation allows our cities and towns the ability to move forward on the necessary repairs and improvements to keep our roads, bridges and infrastructure safe for the residents of our communities,” said Representative Gregoire, co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. “I am grateful to Speaker Mariano for the opportunity to play a small part in its passage.”

“Today’s final enactment of \$350 million in Chapter 90 bond authorizations is a smart investment for the Commonwealth,” said **Senator Paul R. Feeney (D-Foxborough)**, the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures



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# Real Estate Corner

and State Assets. “There is no question our local infrastructure is in dire need of repairs and upgrades. As we recover from the pandemic and businesses and offices re-open, more people are hitting the roads and commuting once again. This comprehensive investment in our transportation infrastructure will put people to work and allow our city and town officials to forge ahead with the critical projects necessary to keep our communities moving along safely.”

“The members of the Senate Republican Caucus are pleased to join with our colleagues in passing Chapter 90 legislation that will provide valuable resources to our cities and towns to construct and maintain the roads and bridges all of us depend on every day. Road paving, bridge construction and repair, and similar projects are important to our economy, our safety, and our quality of life, but their costs can be a major challenge for municipal budgets,” **said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R- Gloucester)**. “The spending authorizations contained in this bill will provide the resources and support needed urgently to respond to that challenge and make those projects possible this year.”

“The long-standing state-municipal partnership established under the Chapter 90 program is critical to helping cities and towns meet their transportation infrastructure needs. Today’s agreement continues the House and Senate’s ongoing commitment to support this important road and bridge program. Combined with the funding increases for targeted municipal transit-related grants, this bond bill will allow cities and towns to focus on addressing some of their most critical transportation needs,” stated **House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading)**.

The bill includes the following components:

**\$200 million in chapter 90 funding for cities and towns** for projects to maintain, improve, and repair roadways, bridges, sidewalks, and bikeways.

**\$25 million for the Municipal Small Bridge Program** to support replacement or preservation of structurally deficient local bridges critical to local communities and not eligible for existing federal aid programs.

**\$25 million for the Local Bottleneck Program** to address localized traffic bottlenecks and invest in infrastructure to reduce congestion, improve traffic flow, and reduce idling and greenhouse gas emissions.

**\$25 million for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure** to support municipalities and regional transit authorities in their efforts to install EV infrastructure and purchase EVs and zero-emission vehicles.

**\$25 million for Transit-Supportive Infrastructure** to create dedicated bus lanes, enhance bus stops and train stations, support passenger safety, upgrade technology and modernize infrastructure to meet demand and increase frequency of public transit services, and improve access to public transit.

**\$25 million for Bus Prioritization and Enhancement Projects** to support municipalities in their efforts to create bus rapid transit lanes, construct catenary wires for electric trolley buses, purchase equipment for transit signal prioritization, and make improvements at bus stations and stops.

**\$25 million for Enhancements at Transit and Commuter Rail Stations** to support municipalities in their efforts to construct parking lots and structures, drop-off and pick-up zones, electric vehicle charging stations, park-and-ride locations, bicycle parking or bicycle cages, and accommodations for micro-mobility devices.

The bill also includes language clarifying that transportation infrastructure projects are an allow-

able use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, consistent with U.S. Treasury guidelines. Having been

passed by the House and Senate, the legislation now goes to Governor Baker for his signature.



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