

From Venezuela To Natick — A Musical Journey

BY SEAN SULLIVAN

For those who make the move far from home to a new way of life, heirlooms can be a way to hold on to memories and tradition. Such tangible items from another life are powerful touchstones, connections to other times and places, phases in one's journey.

That's been the case for Natick resident Juan Wulff, who imported the custom of the Cuatro when he moved from Venezuela to the United States in 2015. The musical instrument is a fixture in his former country, and Wulff has continued playing the Cuatro - a practice that keeps him connected to the culture in which he was raised.

"In Venezuela, every family has a Cuatro at home," said Wulff, who has been playing the instrument for two decades. He added that a dream of his is to make it as famous as the ukulele in the pantheon of instruments.

He'd studied and played piano earlier in life, but sought an instrument that's more por-



table and wieldy. The Cuatro stood waiting for Wulff at the friendly intersection of size, tradition and accessibility.

"I wanted to have an instrument that was easier to carry to parties," he said of the Cuatro, which he originally learned to play by watching other mu-

sicians. To refine his acoustic game, he has for the past few years been taking professional lessons.

"It's very rich," he said of the instrument. "You can learn for

WULFF

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Boys' Cross Country Qualifies For All State Meet



The award ceremony where Ben Feldman got his 7th place medal. Courtesy photo.

For the first time in more than 30 years, the Natick Boys' Cross Country team qualified for the All State meet.

Head Coach Matthew Miller was proud of the team's performance.

"We have had a terrific 6-3 season and topped it off with the third best showing from all Bay State Conference schools, only behind Brookline and Newton North. This is the first time in over thirty years that Natick Boys

have qualified for the All State meet in cross country," he said.

Miller, who is also a history teacher at Natick High School, has coached the team for more than 10 years.

The post-season team that advanced to the All State Meet consists of one senior, four juniors, and five sophomores:

Senior - Carson Moellering

CROSS COUNTRY

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WULFF

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your entire life the Cuatro.”

Wulff has teamed up with a friend who'd been a professional harpist in Venezuela, the two artists finding time to hone their act and skills amid the myriad responsibilities vying for their attention.

“Together, it sounds great,” said Wulff of the two string instruments. “For me, it’s just like a class to be with him.”

The duo has lately been working on an ode to “Ten Summoner’s Tales,” the infectious and whimsical narrative album released by Sting in 1993. The record features the then-ubiquitous “Fields of Gold” and “If I Ever Lose My Faith in You,” and the album’s storytelling style and frugal musical accompaniment is ready-made for an acoustic artist like Wulff and his Cuatro to cover.

The spartan songs “The Shape of My Heart,” and “Seven Days,” are among the tracks in “Ten Summoner’s Tales” that Wulff has been practicing. The plucky ballads feature string melodies front and center, seemingly custom-made for cover versions

featuring the Cuatro.

The instrument is a descendant of the Spanish guitar, whose country of origin exerted colonial influence over Venezuela in centuries past. One legacy of that history is the Cuatro. If the ring of Wulff’s last name seems inharmonious to his Venezuelan roots, it’s because he owes that surname to some German ancestry.

His voice and plucking of strings amplified by a small microphone and speaker system, Wulff could be heard strumming the Cuatro and singing on a neighbor’s stoop in late September. He was one of many performers around town in Natick’s “Porchfest,” an annual music event in which residents lend out their verandas as venues for local musical acts. Wulff’s music journey, his history with the Cuatro, made him stand out somewhat from that crowd of performers.

Porchfest found Wulff paired that Saturday with a (distant) neighbor on Washington Street, where he plucked at the Cuatro’s strings before a small audience gathered upon the house’s lawn. There, he performed a rendition of Israel “IZ” Kamakawiwo‘ole’s “Somewhere Over the Rainbow/

What a Wonderful World.” The piece blends the lyrics of the classic Judy Garland and Louis Armstrong songs.

Kamakawiwo‘ole’s song became a staple of popular culture during the first decade of the 2000s - heard over airwaves, in numerous films, television shows and commercials. The Hawaiian artist originally recorded it in 1988, to the sound of his strumming ukulele, an instrument whose warm and sharp island tenor make it a close cousin to the Cuatro. The two instruments have traditionally shared the feature of four stings made of nylon. Wulff’s rendition of the song arrived crisp and clear among rows of houses that balmy late-summer afternoon.

The Cuatro has kept Wulff in touch with his erstwhile culture, yes, but the act of making music has also been centering in and of itself.

“In between work and the pandemic it’s been crazy,” said Wulff, who works as a contractor, and his wife as an architect. He’s been playing more now since Covid seems to have waned.

“I need to keep doing that. It’s something that keeps your brain healthy.”

CROSS COUNTRY

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Juniors - Ben Feldman (#1 runner and 7th at the Division 1 meet), Ben Scharr-Weiner, Nate Lord, Jack Kidd

Sophomores - Steven D’Alessandro (#2 runner and 33rd at D1 meet), Jacob Tobin, Sean

Fleming, Nick Bianchi, Brian Arthur.

Miller said, “Ben Feldman has been one of the best runners in the state all year, and the other runners have progressed rapidly to supplement his ability, culminating in an 8th place finish at the Division 1 meet, ... where the team qualified through to the All State Meet.”



Carson Moellering and Ben Scharr-Weiner charge up the hill.
Courtesy photo.

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CROSS COUNTRY

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The boys qualified by placing 8th in the Division IA Eastern Massachusetts Championships last month, at the Wrentham Developmental Center's 5k cross country course.

Kathy Fleming, the Natick High School Girls Assistant Distance coach, said that race was definitely challenging.

"The Division I race was by far the most densely populated (Division 1B and Division 1C also competed at Wrentham later in the day) with the best cross country runners in the state.

"The Natick boys knew it would be challenging to advance to the All State meet having to face the toughest competition race in the Division 1A race. However, after the regular season ended they bonded as a team for the postseason championships and were really able to zone in on the task at hand.

"Coach Miller taught them visualizing techniques and even took a trip to Wrentham a few days before the race to really get a feel for the course before the big day. The experience of racing



Boys XC team after the race: (left-right, first row) Steven D'Alessandro, Carson Moellering, Jacob Tobin, Nick Bianchi (second row) Ben Scharr-Weiner, Ben Feldman, Sean Fleming. Courtesy photo.

the best in the Division IA meet has set them up emotionally and physically for the challenge that they will face at All States," she said.

Miller said it was an exciting race they brought out the best in his runners.

"We finished the season with a 6-3 record in the very challenging Bay State Conference. Our last meet was a 28-28 tie where we won the tiebreaker because our sixth runner finished ahead of Framingham's sixth runner. The meet was especially exciting because our sixth runner (Moellering) actually sprinted past their 5th & 6th runners in the last 20

meters and that won the meet for Natick.

"Prior to this meet, I knew that we had a chance to beat the favored Framingham team and the Natick runners performed our plan flawlessly and courageously to squeak out the win. After that victory, the boys gained a lot of confidence that I think has carried over to the postseason success," coach said.

"Carson Moellering also ran a great race at the divisional on Saturday, passing 21 runners in the last 2 kilometers to finish in 84th place (out of 188) with a 40 second 5K personal record. That

finish directly led to our chance to advance to the All State meet. All of the other top five scoring runners ran 5K personal bests, including Ben Feldman placing 7th," he continued.

This is a group that really loves running and enjoy being together as a team. They are a friendly bunch who are inclusive with all of the members of the team regardless of ability. I have seen them put great effort into all of their training that is paying off now with postseason success.

"This sophomore class has a bright future as they have greatly

contributed to the team success even without two excellent runners who have been injured all season, Liam O'Neill and Owen Pendas.

"I have been impressed with team workouts all Fall as they have met the challenging training schedule with confidence and great effort. The better runners are encouraging to everyone in the workouts, and proud of their accomplishments after they finish the workouts. They have set their sights on some ambitious goals and have trusted me to help them accomplish the goals," said Miller.

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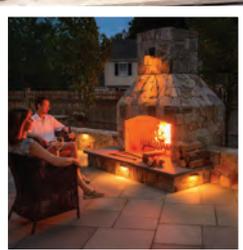
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MassBay Partners with Dignity Matters to Provide Free Menstrual Care Products to Students

MassBay Community College is pleased to partner with Natick-based Dignity Matters to provide free period products to students in need. “Period poverty” (or the inability to afford or access menstrual care products) is a growing issue among homeless and disadvantaged women and girls, exacerbated here in Massachusetts by the high cost of living and financial stress of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a recent study by Kotex, more than two in five people who have periods have struggled to purchase menstrual care products; between 2018 and 2021, that number increased by 35%. The study also found one-third (35%) of people who menstruate have had to miss events or activities in the last year – such as work, school, or an appointment

– due to lack of access to period products.

Dignity Matters is a non-profit organization that collects, purchases, and supplies menstrual care products, bras, and underwear to women and girls who are homeless or in need. These products help them stay healthy, go to work and school without interruption, regain self-confidence, and live with basic dignity.

“The cost of feminine products is often a hidden burden for women and girls,” said Elizabeth Blumberg, Psy.D., MassBay Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students. “We are proud to partner with Dignity Matters to provide some assistance to MassBay students who struggle with the financial cost of these vital health care products. This

program is truly making a difference in their lives.”

Free menstrual care products provided by Dignity Matters have been made available in the women’s restrooms on all three MassBay campuses in Wellesley Hills, Framingham, and Ashland.



books, and housing, but not hygiene items. You can’t purchase menstrual care with Food Stamps/SNAP either, so students literally have no other way to afford these products,” says Kate Sanetra-Butler, Founder and Executive Director of Dignity Matters. “Recent studies estimate that as many as 12% of students at state and community college in Massachusetts are homeless, and many more are living in poverty. Some of them have overcome incredible barriers just to get to college, and we can’t let period poverty be the one that holds them back.”

This initiative is led by MassBay’s Student Nourishment And Care Committee (SNACC), which is a group of staff, faculty, students, and community volunteers who are dedicated to eliminating basic need barriers that are obstacles to student success.

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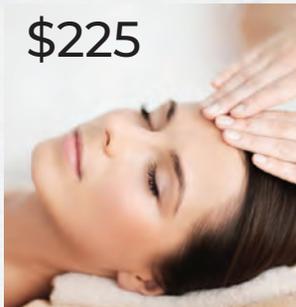


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Senate Prioritizes Veterans' Services in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

The Massachusetts State Senate passed a \$3.82 billion blueprint to invest funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to meet the urgent needs

of the Commonwealth's ongoing recovery. The bill includes increased investments for veteran services and supports that target housing security, transportation,

and mental and behavioral health care, among other areas.

"For too many veterans, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented physical, mental and

financial challenges," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Reaffirming our commitment to veterans is an important piece of this legislation's broader goal of ensuring an equitable COVID-19 recovery and reimagining our future. I am truly grateful to the many veterans who have given so much for the security of our nation, including Senators Velis, Rush, and Cronin, and I am proud to live in a state where so many of us have worked to build the best veterans' services in the nation, including with these investments. I'd like to thank Senator Rodrigues for his leadership of the ARPA process, as well as Senators Velis, Rush, and Moore for their contributions to this legislation and their steadfast commitment to serving veterans in our Commonwealth."

on *An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs* (S. 2564). The Senate's ARPA plan would invest \$150 million in supportive housing, including \$75 million for the chronically homeless population. Priority for permanent supportive housing would be given to veterans, along with individuals and families who are chronically homeless, experiencing behavioral health or substance misuse needs, survivors of domestic violence, involved in the foster care system, or seniors. An amendment proposed by Senator Rush and adopted directs \$20 million be invested in supportive housing for veterans located across the state in areas not primarily served by either the Chelsea or Holyoke Soldiers' Homes.

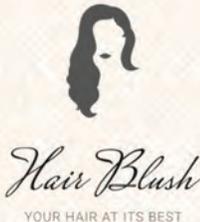
"Veterans who have served this nation and have been willing to give their life for our freedom deserve a place to call home," said Senator Michael F. Rush (D-Boston), Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. "Thank you to the Senate President and Ways and Means Chair for their leadership to ensure all our Veterans have that home."

"As we continue to build our post-pandemic future, we must recognize our veterans who made sure that future was possible," said State Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "I am proud that our Senate ARPA spending plan includes measures to strengthen housing security, transportation services, and food distribution for veterans, while also ensuring proper recognition for Massachusetts service men and women who died in the line of duty. Thank you to Senate President Spilka for her leadership and Senators Moore, Rush, and Velis for their diligent work to support our cherished veterans."

Many of the provisions strengthening veterans' services were passed as amendments

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If cash is needed, close the gap and hedge against Fed rate increases by laddering CDs

across 6, 12, 18, and 24-month terms. As CDs mature, reinvest what isn't needed 24 months out.

Diversify Fixed Income and Increase Assets. With inflation outpacing Treasuries, that part of your portfolio loses buying power. Don't abandon all your treasuries, but mix in assets that tend to keep up with inflation.

Consider adding REITs (real estate investment trusts), TIPs (treasury inflation-protected securities), commodities, and equities growing their dividends consistently above inflation.

Words of caution, high-yielding stocks tend to move downward like fixed-rate bonds during inflationary times and evolve beyond "oil and gold" for commodities to include metals in renewable energy and necessities within technology.

Buy Instead of Rent or Lease. Bad news renters, your landlord

will be hiking rates to keep pace with inflation, thus you're unprotected. Homeowners, your mortgage is fixed and the inflation-adjusted value of your payments declines at the same rate as inflation rises. Also, the replacement value of your home tends to rise with costs of land, materials, and labor.

Buy higher quality durable goods that last longer (i.e. clothes, appliances, machinery) delaying replacement at higher costs. Autos should be bought, financed (see mortgage example), and owned for extended periods. Changing cars every 3-4 years means you're buying the same utility (transportation) at a higher price versus utility at a fixed cost of 8-10 years.

Negotiate and Lock-In Expenses. Subscription services, cable, internet, phone plans, insurance premiums, gym memberships, credit card APRs are

recurring costs that are often negotiable. Also, discounts if pre-pay, pay annually, or commit to extended periods. Most not advertised, so ask.

Bigger items, you can find auto loans ~2%, HELOCs at Prime minus 0.5%, and 15-year mortgages ~2.5%.

Determine if you can manage 15-year mortgage payments, even if currently 3.2% on a 30-year refinance. Consider \$500K at 3.2% 30-year is \$2,162 month with ~\$278K total interest versus 2.5% 15-year is \$3,333 month with ~\$100K total interest.

You can't control how inflation rises and falls, but you can control financial decisions today that will help manage inflation tomorrow. To learn more, talk with your Certified Financial Planner.

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.

FUNDING

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provide services to veterans across the state. The second explicitly ensures that the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty can be awarded to service men and women who have died as a result of training accidents while in the line of duty.

"As we approach Veterans Day, we are reminded of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Veterans throughout our communities and the importance of recognizing those who have served our nation," said Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield), Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and

Federal Affairs. "Extending the Medal of Liberty to those who died as a result of a training accident will ensure that we are properly honoring the sacrifices that those service members and their families have endured. Additionally, the critical funding allocated to our Commonwealth's Veteran Treatment Courts will resolve the transportation barriers that keep Veterans from participating in this valuable program and getting the help they need. I am grateful to the Senate President and the Chairman of Ways and Means for their leadership and commitment to ensuring that Massachusetts is the premiere state for our Veterans and their families.

These important amendments are a continued step in that direction."

An amendment offered by Senator Michael O. Moore extends \$1 million of state financial support to the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, Inc. for 'empowerment centers' which distribute food services to veterans in need in Worcester County.

"The brave men and women who have served in our armed forces are true heroes, and we should be doing everything in our power to make their transition back to civilian life as easy as possible," said Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury). "Through their programs, events and other

resources the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation has become a leader when it comes to providing services for our veterans. Because of this I am both grateful and proud that we were able to allocate funding for them so that they can continue to pro-

vide exceptional service for our service members."

With both the House and Senate having passed their own versions of ARPA spending plans, the two bills must now be reconciled before heading to the Governor's desk.



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Trendy Fashion Without The Expensive Price Tag

BY SUSAN MANNING
STAFF WRITER

Opening a local business is never an easy task, but it's especially difficult when a pandemic is in play.

But that didn't stop mother daughter duo Baylee and Debbie Donovan.

Last month the pair celebrated its one year anniversary of its fashion store: Baylee Bee. Despite only being open in Natick for one year, business is going well.

Debbie said, "People are really starting to discover our little shop, especially with the holidays approaching."

The pair has a simple mantra: "We all deserve fun fashion at affordable prices that will make you smile!"

Baylee Bee takes pride in finding unique, quality pieces that not every boutique offers. Part of what makes this shop different from many others is the price range for its clothing.

"People come into the store and expect prices to be expensive, but most of the time they are pleasantly surprised and become repeat customers," said Debbie, who moved to Natick seven years ago with Baylee and family.



While most boutiques work on a high markup price, slow merchandise turnover principle, Baylee Bee has a low markup and quick turnover.

"The store is always getting in new merchandise and customers often come to shop every week," she said.

Donovan said some of the dresses they carry are especially popular with educators and pediatricians because the fun patterns are intriguing to the children. Clothing features owls, triangles, sloths and other large prints, which children love.

And while the store is trendy, it's also generation-spanning. They offer clothing for ages 8 and over.

"We run the gamut of ages. Many of the customers are mothers shopping with their teenage daughters and that means

Business spotlight

the clothes are meant for every woman," Donovan said.

Opening during a pandemic certainly caused some challenges, but the support from amazing friends, family and customers was tremendous.

"When we had strict regulations in place, we could only have six customers in the shop at one time. People would lineup in the freezing winter weather and wait patiently to come into the store. Support has been so amazing," said Debbie.

The duo sources its products from online wholesalers, but hopes to be able to attend trade shows in the near future.

"Everything we sell is unique. You will not find it in the mall," she said.

She said people seem to enjoy not only having a boutique in the center of Natick, but they enjoy the atmosphere too. They always have candy and snacks on hand, as well as hot cocoa, tea and even Prosecco for the over-21 crowd.

"We like to keep it cozy," she said.



Donovan said one way the boutique has filled a void in people's lives is their private sip and shop events.

"After hours, we would host a private event that included drinks and snacks, a couple of hours of shopping and a discount to those attending. It was really popular, especially during the pandemic months."

In addition to the fashion items, there are also locally inspired products. Donovan said they sell a host of Natick swag

such as blankets, mittens and masks all adorned with the Natick logo.

So far, the mother-daughter duo is enjoying its time in Natick.

"We love our storefront. We love Natick. And we love the community," Debbie said.

Baylee Bee is located at 19 Main St., Natick. It is open every day, Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM. Sundays it is open noon to 6 PM. Find it online at: bayleebec.com and @bayleebeclothing on IG and FB.

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Hamwey Among 7 to be Inducted into Millis Hall of Fame

Local Town Pages sports writer Ken Hamwey will be inducted into Millis High School's Athletic Hall of Fame on March 19, 2022 at the Medway VFW.

The 78-year-old Hamwey, a Bellingham resident who's worked for Local Town Pages for 10 years, was a unanimous choice of the selection committee. The veteran sports journalist continues to cover feature stories in semi-retirement for Local Town Pages, focusing on seven communities — Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Wrentham, Holliston, Natick and Franklin.

Hamwey, who previously lived in Millis after earning a bachelor's degree from Babson College, started his newspaper career in 1967 with the Framingham News, now known as the Metrowest Daily News. His first story, which was published 54 years ago, focused on Millis' varsity football team. Early on, his reporting ranged from high school and college sports to the professional beat where he covered the Boston Celtics and the New England Patriots.

"I'm honored and humbled to be selected for induction into Millis' Hall of Fame," Hamwey said. "It's heart-warming to have a wonderful community like Millis recognize me for my reporting. Some of my fondest memories during a 54-year career involve Millis. Gordon Browne, a three-sport athlete at Millis High, will be presenting me at the ceremony in March and for those unaware of his stature, he was the first Tri-Valley League football player to be drafted (second round by the Jets) into the National Football League. He was an offensive tackle who blocked for quarterback Joe Namath for two years before suffering a career-ending injury."

Hamwey will be inducted as a contributor and he'll be honored along with star athletes Molly Breen, Dennis Breen (posthumously) and Rich Monaghan; coach and athletic director Peter



Vigue; the 2008-09 girls state championship basketball team and the 1980 boys track team.

After six years in Framingham, Hamwey was hired at the Providence Journal where he spent the next 35 years working for the four-time Pulitzer-prize-winning newspaper.

He finished his career there as the paper's Night Sports Editor, retiring in 2008. On Hamwey's last day in Providence, the Rhode Island State Senate read aloud a citation for his efforts and contributions to R.I. athletics. Two years later, in 2010, he was honored by the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), which presented him with its Distinguished Friend Award.

At the Metrowest News, which included the Milford News and the Country Gazette, Hamwey wrote a popular weekly column — "Yesterday's Heroes" — that focused on athletes' and coaches' past achievements.

In 2007, Hamwey began covering sports for the Bellingham Bulletin. As Sports Editor at the Bulletin, he launched a column similar to Yesterday's Heroes called "Where Are They Now," reporting on former Bellingham

athletes. For the next 11 years, Hamwey extensively covered Bellingham sports while also filing stories for Local Town Pages.

Hamwey's upcoming induction in Millis will be his first Hall of Fame honor. However, he has been nominated for induction into Bellingham's Hall of Fame but that committee has yet to select him.

Hamwey moved to Bellingham in 1972. He's married to Pauline Allard, a school teacher who taught in Bellingham at the Macy Elementary School. His son, Travis, graduated from Bellingham High in 1989.

Tickets for the ceremony cost \$50 and can be ordered until March 12, 2022. They can be obtained by writing a check to the Millis Athletics Hall of Fame and mailed to 155 Plain St., Millis, MA 02054. Tickets can also be obtained via Venmo (money amount to @Millis-AthleticsHOF). A cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. followed by the ceremony.

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Papa Gino's Honors Natick Team Member for 25 Years of Service

New England's neighborhood pizzeria, Papa Gino's, is excited to announce that Gerald Rose Jr., Shift Leader for the Papa Gino's located in the Natick Travel Plaza off the Mass Pike, is celebrating his 25th anniversary with the company this month! Ger-

ald, also known as JR, is known and loved throughout the Natick community, and Papa Gino's is honored to have him as a valued member of their team.

"After a quarter-century of working with Papa Gino's, Gerald has become such an import-

ant part of our team, leading by example and bringing a positive outlook to everything he does," said Trenna Ahlberg, Area Manager at Papa Gino's. "It has been an honor to have him on our team for all these years and we are excited to celebrate this special milestone with him."

Gerald currently works as a Shift Leader at the Papa Gino's and D'Angelo Grilled Sandwiches dual restaurant, where he has enjoyed spending time with coworkers and guests alike. Gerald has made countless fond memories during his time with Papa Gino's, from team bowling nights, to winning Red Sox tickets the year they broke the Curse, to getting to know his regulars and watching their families grow throughout the years. He appreciates the time spent with his coworkers and values the unique opportunities and experiences he has had over his 25 years with the company

"My favorite part of working with Papa Gino's for two and a half decades has been build-

ing relationships with our regulars in the neighborhood," said Rose. "Over 25 years, it's been an honor to watch the growth of guest's families and the community as a whole."

"We are so grateful to Gerald for being such a wonderful and dedicated member on the Papa Gino's team and for helping us to serve our community for a quarter-century!" said Deena McKinley, CMO of Papa Gino's. "Gerald embodies our values as a neighborhood pizzeria with deep ties to the community, and we're thrilled to have him on our team."

Gerald's anniversary coincides with Papa Gino's 60th birthday in New England. It was back in 1961 when Mike Valerio opened his first Papa Gino's restaurant in East Boston. That restaurant soon became known throughout Boston as the place to go for the best pizza, and 60 years later, guests can still enjoy that authentic Italian taste at nearly 100 Papa Gino's restaurants across New England. This year marks a time

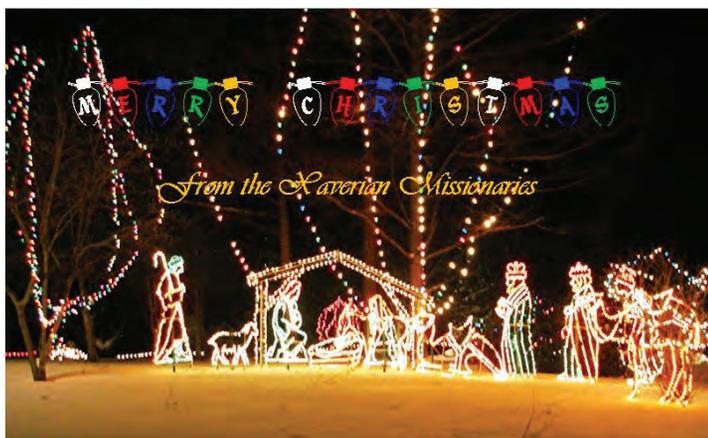


of celebration all year long for the Papa Gino's team and guests.

About Papa Gino's

Founded in 1961 and celebrating its 60th birthday this year, Papa Gino's Pizzeria is a proud New England staple with a heritage of serving high quality, handmade pizzas with fresh ingredients and an over 80-year-old Italian family recipe. From a single restaurant in East Boston, Papa Gino's has expanded to nearly 100 restaurants in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Follow Papa Gino's on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Fatima Lights Shine Again



This year the Festival of Lights at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine will begin on Dec. 9, and end on Dec. 28.

The lights go on at 5pm and are off at 9pm.

There will not be a concert this year.

Mass on Christmas Eve is at 8pm. Mass on Christmas morning is at 10 am.

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Sudbury Valley Trustees

Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) has welcomed Anthony Serra as its new Land Protection Associate. In this recently created position, Mr. Serra will provide support to SVT staff on land protection projects while also playing an important role in community outreach and in collaborative initiatives with SVT's conservation partners.

Anthony Serra Joins SVT

SVT is a nonprofit land trust that protects natural areas and farmland in the region around the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. The organization, which has 2,900 members, has helped to protect more than 8,500 acres of land since its founding in 1953, and it has a goal of protecting 12,000 more by 2050.

"We are delighted to have Anthony join our land protection team," said Christa Collins, SVT's Director of Land Protection. "His particular experience in outreach and communications will really help us make the case about why we need to accelerate our efforts."

A native of Brockton, Massachusetts, Mr. Serra holds a bachelor's degree in biology from McGill University in Montreal and master's degrees in public affairs and environmental science from Indiana University.

He has previously worked as an Environmental Quality Analyst for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in Lansing, Michigan, and he has also served with the national AmeriCorps program at the U.S. Forest Service in MacDoel, California, and at Wildlands Trust in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

"I am excited to be joining SVT and doing my part to

protect the special places in my home state," said Mr. Serra. "This endeavor is critical for biodiversity, public health, and climate mitigation, and I hope to promote that message through my work here."

Mr. Serra will be based out of SVT's headquarters in Sudbury.

ABOUT SVT

SVT is a member-supported non-profit organization that works to protect natural areas and farmland for wildlife and people in the 36 communities that surround the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers. SVT, 18 Wolbach Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.



Anthony Serra will support SVT's efforts to accelerate its pace of land protection in order to conserve an additional 12,000 acres by 2050.

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Winter Pet Safety Tips

*How to keep your pet
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BY THERESA KNAPP

Winter Pet Safety Tips from www.mass.gov.

- Keep pets indoors when possible
- Provide outdoor shelter for your pets
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- Don't lock pets in cars
- Keep antifreeze out of reach of pets

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that like to crawl under the hood seeking warmth. Simply bang on your vehicle's hood to scare away animals before you start your engine. For more information, visit mass.gov/service-details/winter-pet-safety-tips

Image credit: Theresa Knapp

Sports

Snoeyink A Key Component For Natick's Football Team

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Jacob Snoeyink could easily be the poster child for how a football captain leads and how a lineman in the trenches handles adversity.

A senior at Natick High, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound Snoeyink has started for two seasons at nose guard and offensive tackle. A Bay State Conference all-star as a junior, the 18-year-old plays both positions aggressively and instinctively. His leadership style and the resiliency he's shown by playing hurt were prime assets for a football team that was 8-2 at Local Town Pages deadline but out of the running for a Super Bowl berth.

Natick opened the playoffs by downing North Andover, 31-21, but was unable to beat Milford in the quarterfinals, losing, 21-7.

For Snoeyink, whose goal in the pre-season was to get to the Super Bowl, the loss at Milford was difficult. It stung and it hurt more than his aching shoulder and feet.

Natick's coach, Mark Mortarelli, didn't hesitate for a second to praise Snoeyink for his intense and aggressive play, not only during the regular season, but also in the playoffs.

"Jacob played both ways with multiple injuries," Mortarelli said. "He set the tone for his teammates to always put the team first. His ability to play through two painful foot injuries and a shoulder injury has been incredible to watch. He is, without a doubt, one of the toughest kids we've had in a long time."

Snoeyink's immediate reaction after losing was anger. A day after the setback, a different feeling took over.

"I was angry at first," Snoeyink said. "Then I felt hollow. We lost to Milford during the regular season by a point and we wanted to avenge that defeat. After our quarterback (Colby Leblanc) got hurt throwing a TD pass and left

the game, it seemed like we lost our momentum after leading, 7-0. We weren't able to avenge the one-point loss earlier and we were out of the playoffs. It's an empty feeling. I played hurt but everyone on our offen-

caused him to miss any games.

I dislocated my shoulder and dealt with turf toe in my right foot (torn toe ligament) last season," Snoeyink noted. "This year,

I've had turf toe in my left foot. All three injuries still bother me but I've learned to play through the pain. The shoulder injury happened in practice. I just wrap it. As for

the toe injuries, I insert a metal plate in my shoes and wrap the toes."

Snoeyink's strengths as a lineman are a high football IQ, sound technical skills, athleticism and speed and quickness. "I'd also include mental toughness," he said. "That enables me to bounce back and be resilient."

Snoeyink plays hurt because he knows football can disappear from his radar on short notice. "I'm not going to be playing football forever," he said. "I want to make the most of my opportunity and enjoy the camaraderie and the spirit of the locker room."

Enjoying his role on defense a bit more than playing offensive tackle, Snoeyink says it's because he likes to hit. "On defense, there's more of a chance to make an impact," he offered. "I like to pursue, tackle and sack an opponent. Offensive tackle is more about blocking and protecting."

Against Needham in Natick's opener this year, Snoeyink was playing his first game as a captain. There was another first — he scored his first touchdown.

"Our defensive end (Ryan Lebrun) hit the quarterback," Snoeyink recalled. "I made the second hit and jarred the ball loose in the endzone. I fell on the ball for my first TD." The strip sack gave the Redhawks momentum enroute to a 24-0 victory over the Rockets.

Snoeyink, however, rates his first-ever start, as a sophomore against Framingham on Thanksgiving, as his most memorable

game. "Right tackle Jakoby Holiday was hurt and I started in his place," said Snoeyink. "I played well and did my job. We won and that effort enabled me to grow in my role. I gained confidence and was able not to overthink the situation."

Snoeyink, who moved to Natick from Miami as a two-year-old, rates his top gridiron thrills as being selected as a captain and being chosen as a BSC all-star. "I'm more humbled by being a captain," he said. "That's because it shows I earned the respect of my teammates."

Three teammates Snoeyink admires and recognizes for their contributions are Natick's senior captains — Aaron Becker (guard/defensive end), Jake Adelman (linebacker/running back), and Jason Little (receiver/defensive back). "They're quality leaders who give 100 percent all day every day," he said.

Snoeyink also is quick to laud Mortarelli, a coach who calls Snoeyink "one of the best linemen in the BSC."

"Coach Mortarelli has lots of great qualities," Snoeyink noted. "He's a no-nonsense guy who's eager for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work. He's an exceptional motivator who really knows football strategy and his pre-game speeches really fire me

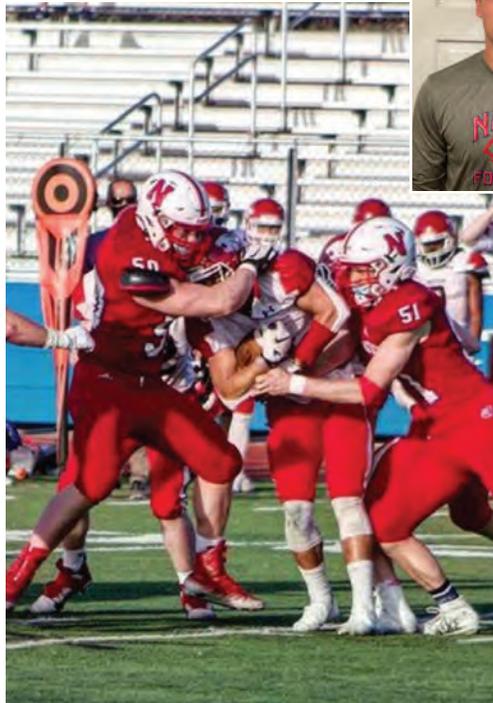
up."

A good student, Snoeyink would like to continue playing football in college. He's still undecided on what school he'll attend and whether he'll major in business or biology. His future at Natick, however, still involves some competitive battles.

"After our final game against Framingham, I'll strive to get healthy again and to get ready to play lacrosse," he said. "It's difficult to see the football season end. I loved playing with a great group of guys. After the playoff loss, I felt badly for our coaches who worked so hard. It's an empty feeling because we couldn't get the job done."

Calling his parents (Craig and Marah) role models for their support and encouragement, Snoeyink relies on an athletic philosophy that combines winning, reaching one's potential and having fun. "I'm competitive, I love to win but really hate to lose," he said. "Valuable life lessons I've learned from football are to be vocal, accountable, and prepared. Overcoming adversity is another great lesson that football teaches."

Jacob Snoeyink is a leader in so many ways and it's his desire, dedication and devotion that make him a breed apart.



Jacob Snoeyink (50) played defense at a high level for Natick High's football team. Snoeyink hopes to continue playing football at the collegiate level next year.

sive line was dealing with injuries."

Snoeyink was voted a captain by his teammates and he fulfilled that role magnificently. He does, indeed, lead by example, but he gets vocal when the time is ripe — like giving pre-game and half-time pep talks.

"When a speech is necessary, I'm not afraid to speak up," he emphasized. "I try to help our cause by using the right words. I stress playing hard, competing for one another and to take each repetition responsibly."

At halftime against Milford with the score knotted at 7-7, Snoeyink was unable to offer any inspiring words. "I was with the trainer getting my feet wrapped," he revealed.

On dealing with adversity and relying on resiliency, Snoeyink gets an A plus. The "nagging" injuries his coach refers to are a dislocated shoulder and turf toe in both feet. None of those injuries

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Sports

Natick High's Girls Soccer Team Wins First State Title

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Mission accomplished for the Natick High girls soccer team.

Before the 2021 campaign began, coach Dave Wainwright listed four objectives for his squad — build team chemistry, build confidence as the season progresses, compete for the Bay State Conference's Carey Division championship and advance as deep as possible in the State tourney.

The Redhawks not only achieved all four goals, but they also kept their eye on the big prize throughout the Division 1 Tournament. When the playoffs ended at Whitman-Hanson Regional, sixth-seeded Natick captured a hard-earned 3-2 victory over top-seeded Hingham and the program had its first State championship.

Junior Zoe Graves scored Natick's first two goals but junior Emma Grant's goal in the 77th minute was the difference in the title match. Natick's smothering defense also can take a bow because it made the Redhawks' journey through the tourney memorable and historic.

The Redhawks shut out all four of their playoff opponents before facing the Harborwomen. Natick's four tourney triumphs came against Attleboro (4-0), Needham (1-0), Acton-Boxboro (2-0), and Bishop Feehan (2-0).

"Our defense peaked at the right time," Wainwright said. "The shutouts built confidence and game by game our defense improved."

Two defenders who competed tenaciously were senior Kiyoko White and sophomore Kaitlyn LeBrun. "Kiyoko did a marvelous job," said Wainwright. "She's our guiding light. And, Kaitlyn did a masterful job on the back line. She was assigned a huge task — to mark Hingham's All-American striker (UCLA-bound Sophie Reale). Kaitlyn did a formidable job."

If any coach can guide a team to a deep tourney run, it's Wainwright. In his just-completed fourth season at Natick, he led the Redhawks to the State final in his first year in 2018. Natick



Above, the 2021 Natick High girls soccer team won the State Championship after defeating Hingham in the tournament final. Coach Left, Dave Wainwright guided the Natick girls soccer team to the first State championship in the program's history. Courtesy photos.



bowed to Wachusett on penalty kicks. In 2011, however, he and his Dover-Sherborn girls soccer team won the States, and his boys lacrosse squad at Needham High rolled to a State crown in 2003.

The victory over Hingham provided the Redhawks, who finished their season at 16-1-5, with validation and vindication. By downing Hingham, Natick showed that a No. 6 seed can beat a No. 1. That's an underdog achieving validation. The triumph also was vindication after coming so close in 2018 when the Redhawks lost to Wachusett.

"As an underdog, we were playing with house money," Wainwright said. "Being the underdog provided motivation. It galvanized both our veteran players and our younger kids. Five teams were seeded higher than

us. We beat the top seed (Hingham), the No. 2 seed (Bishop Feehan) and the No. 3 seed (Acton-Boxboro).

"As for 2018, we feel like we took care of some unfinished business. The girls on our 2018 squad were pioneers. They not only showed how to handle pressure, but they also laid the path on how to compete on a big stage."

The 51-year-old Wainwright has a knack, or is it a formula, for getting results in pressure situations.

"It's important to be healthy and to have some luck in tournament soccer," he noted, "but perseverance, resiliency and mental toughness are huge. Our journey in the playoffs took 22 days and it was an emotional roller-coaster."

Wainwright relies on an athletic philosophy that focuses on making sure his players reach their potential and enjoy playing their sport.

"If those two things occur, then winning will follow," he emphasized. "As for life lessons that can be learned though athletics,

my motto is 'expect nothing, earn everything.' That means paying the price for success, overcoming adversity, being resilient and also mentally tough."

Graves and Grant combined for Natick's three goals, and Wainwright knew a multi-goal effort would be needed to beat Hingham, which entered the final at 21-0-1.

"Zoe's two goals gave us a 2-0 lead," Wainwright said. "She's always at the right place at the right time. She was a massive presence. Emma's winning goal was a shot from the right, about 25 yards out, and it was at an impossible angle. The ball sailed into the upper left corner past their goalie. When Emma took the shot, our staff knew at that moment it was meant to be."

Other key efforts were turned in by Mikayla Henderson (midfielder/defender), Allison Jeter (goalie), Briar Grady (center midfielder) and Kyra Hacker (defender).

"Mikayla is the x-factor," said Wainwright. "We use her where

she's needed. She assisted on one of our goals but her play and effort on our journey were crucial to our success. Allison provided a solid foundation. She's skilled, composed and instinctive. Briar is a big part of our nucleus. One of our top facilitators, she handles her role effectively. Kyra is a true field general who's a force on defense. She's been selected to the All New England team and the voting was done by the Eastern Mass. Coaches Association."

Wainwright, a three-time Boston Globe coach of year, keeps Natick's opponents guessing on what mode of attack he'll employ from game to game. "We can be an up-tempo team or a possession-oriented group," he said. "We're balanced but whatever we're faced with we can adapt and overcome."

That flexibility was on full display in the final and it was a prime factor in helping the Redhawks capture the first State championship in the program's history.

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HIPAA Authorization: Let's first talk about medical records. Maybe your now adult child has a doctor. Maybe your child 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 is willing, they can execute and sign a HIPAA that appoints you to have access to their medical records.

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 (maybe they're taking that trip you wanted, but couldn't because you're putting them through college). A health care proxy is the document that

Business spotlight

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 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 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. At O'Connell Law LLC, we take this seriously and have set up

a special and affordable online package to help young adult children 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. 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.



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Dancing Arts Center Presents The Nutcracker at The Norwood Theater

Dancing Arts Center is pleased to announce the return of The Nutcracker at the Norwood Theater on Dec. 17-19.

This will be Dancing Arts Center's seventh production of the Nutcracker presented in Norwood and will feature fresh costumes, choreography, fun surprises, and guest artists. Telling the story of Clara's Christmas Eve dream battling the Mouse Queen alongside her Nutcracker, dancing through the Land of Snow, sampling the Kingdom of Sweets, and meeting the Sugarplum Fairy and Cavalier, the Nutcracker has been captivating audiences and inspiring young dancers for generations. The beautiful

and historic Norwood Theater located in downtown Norwood, Massachusetts makes an ideal setting for this family-friendly and professional production of the traditional holiday ballet.

Throughout the rapidly changing health environments of 2020 and 2021, Dancing Arts Center remained steadfast in providing their students with the development opportunities so important to their growth as young people and positioning them to be prepared for this season's Nutcracker.



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"We're thrilled to be returning to the stage after being absent in 2020," said DAC co-director Gregg Saulnier. "We have a renewed energy. Last year made us realize just what a special place the arts have, how much we need them, and what a gift it is to have the opportunity to work with our own students on such a top-notch production. We also want to thank all the parents of our students for being so supportive and flexible and helping us continue bringing the arts to their children. This long-awaited Nutcracker season is exciting for the kids, and for us."

Tickets are on sale now for four general public matinees and evening performances from Dec. 17-19. Purchase options and health and safety protocols are available at <https://norwoodstage.com/the-nutcracker-2021>. Playbill advertising packages with opportunity to reach over 2800 patrons are also available; please contact Dancing Arts Center at DancingArtsCenter@gmail.com or 508-429-7577 for information (deadline of Dec. 3, 2021).

About Dancing Arts Center:

Located in Holliston, Massachusetts, Dancing Arts Center provides world-class instruction in classical ballet grounded in the American Ballet Theatre® National Training Curriculum, modern dance, improvisation, tap, jazz, and

choreography to children of all ages as well as open classes for teens and adults. With a faculty of teaching artists, a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, exceptional summer programs, and exposure to professional companies, Dancing Arts Center is committed to providing a uniquely supportive artistic environment where young people can embark on their own journeys of personal growth. Open Enrollment is available year-round with prorated tuition and discounts for families.

For more information about the Dancing Arts Center contact DAC Directors Patrick Notaro and Gregg Saulnier at 508-429-7577 or dancingartscenter@gmail.com, or visit www.dancingartscenter.com.

Happy Holidays

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Bacon Free Library News

Visit the website for the latest information: baconfreelibrary.org

BFL Hours

The Bacon Free Library is open every Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 5:30pm, with extended hours on Tuesdays until 7:00pm. Patrons are welcome to come into the library and browse. Curbside pickup is available during all open hours as well as Saturday mornings from 10am to noon.

For programs that require registration, please call the library (508-653-6730) or register on our website, baconfreelibrary.org

Kids Programs

In-person, personal story times: Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9:45-12:00. As the days get a little too chilly for outdoor story time, the BFL is happy to offer you a personal, indoor story time: just you, your kiddos, and a librarian. We'll gather in a corner of the children's area to read stories for about 20 minutes. We will choose the books—feel free to make requests!—or you are welcome to bring or select your own. Registration is required.

Virtual story time on Zoom: Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Registration is required.

Adult Special Programs

Garden Design: a Deeper Dive

Weds, Dec. 1st at 7:30pm

Through her beautiful photographs of showcase gardens in Europe and across the US, professional photographer and landscape designer Joanne Pearson will explore garden design and the elements that make a design shine. You'll learn how to create a concept plan for your own yard as well as ways you can modify and incorporate some of the grand themes seen in showcase gardens into a scale suitable for your own backyard, your pocketbook, and your schedule. This presentation is great for gardeners as well as for those who want to broaden their appreciation of great landscape design.

This program will be held on Zoom. Registration is required.

History of Christmas

Weds, December 8th at 7:00pm

From ancient societies to modern times, Irish historian Sean Murphy will guide you on a journey through the fascinating history of Christmas through the ages. You'll also learn about the rich yuletide traditions in Ireland and enjoy music and videos of the season.

This program will be held on Zoom. Registration is required.

A Victorian Christmas

Sunday, December 12 at 4:00pm

Many of our holiday traditions and much of our Christmas music was revived or created during the Victorian era, in the mid-1800s. Singer/song-writer Diane Taraz will present these beloved carols, together with fascinating stories about their origins, as she performs in a hand-sewn 1850s dress and accompanies herself on guitar and dulcimer.

This program will be held on Zoom. Registration is required.

Adult Clubs

The BFL offers 5 monthly book clubs and 1 film discussion club. These clubs meet virtually, over Zoom meeting. Copies of the books (normal, large print, and audio) are available at the library. Check the BFL website, baconfreelibrary.org, in order to register for a book or film club.

Mystery book club - the first Thursday of each month at 1:00pm

December 2nd: The Windsor Knot by SJ Bennett

History book club - the second Thursday of each month at 11:00am

December 9th: The Firebrand and the First Lady: portrait of a friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the struggle for social justice by Patricia Bell-Scott (nonfiction)

Environmental book club - the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

December 21st: Finding the Mother Tree : discovering the wisdom of the forest by Suzanne Simard



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2021 Holiday Happenings with Natick COA

Sign up on Community Pass or call our front desk, 508-647-6540. All ages welcome.

Celebrate Hanukkah with Rabbi Cantor Ken Richmond- ZOOM

Wednesday, December 1, 1:30-2:30 pm, free

Join Rabbi Cantor Ken Richmond from Temple Israel in Natick in a fun celebration of Hanukkah, through songs, traditions & stories.

Acoustic Holiday Music with guitarist Sean Fullerton- IN PERSON

Tuesday, December 14, 1:30-2:30pm, free

Enjoy in person holiday music with guitarist and singer Sean Fullerton! Made possible by a grant from the Natick Cultural Council.

Trinity Rep - A Christmas Carol- ZOOM

Wednesday, December 8, 1:30-3:00pm, free

Join us for this streamed theatrical production from Rhode Is-

land's Trinity Rep theater of this timeless Dickens tale. Guided by Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, and ultimately inspired by his community, Ebenezer Scrooge embarks on a heartwarming journey toward redemption. Timothy Crowe is Ebenezer Scrooge & Directed by Joe Wilson Jr.

Meet Up at Festival of Trees, Mass Hort - IN PERSON

Thursday, December 9, 4:00pm, free. Meet at the entrance gate, Visitor Parking Lot, 900 Washington St. RSVP required with limited spaces. Browse decorated holiday trees and enjoy the classic model train display.

Thanks to Riverbend of South Natick & Rehabilitation Associates for paying for admission for this event who provide Exceptional Post Surgery Rehab & Skilled Nursing Care. A goody bag will be offered from Riverbend, www.rehabassociates.com

Holiday Dinner Grab N' Go for Natick Seniors

Monday, December 13 and Wednesday, December 15, 11:30 am or noon pick-up at Natick COA.

Call to reserve your holiday dinner, sign up begins 11/17, 508-647-6540.

A Victorian Christmas-ZOOM

Wednesday, December 15, 1:30-2:30 pm, free

Join historian, actor, singer Anne Barrett for this theatrical zoom performance of Christmas 1895! "Victoria Yule" will entertain you with the history of holiday traditions, readings from Dickens, and songs of the season in her clear soprano voice. Thank you to our sponsor of this program, Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences and Memory Care, Natick.

Mondays at a Museum- Newport Mansions at Holiday Time- ZOOM

Monday, December 20, 11-noon, free



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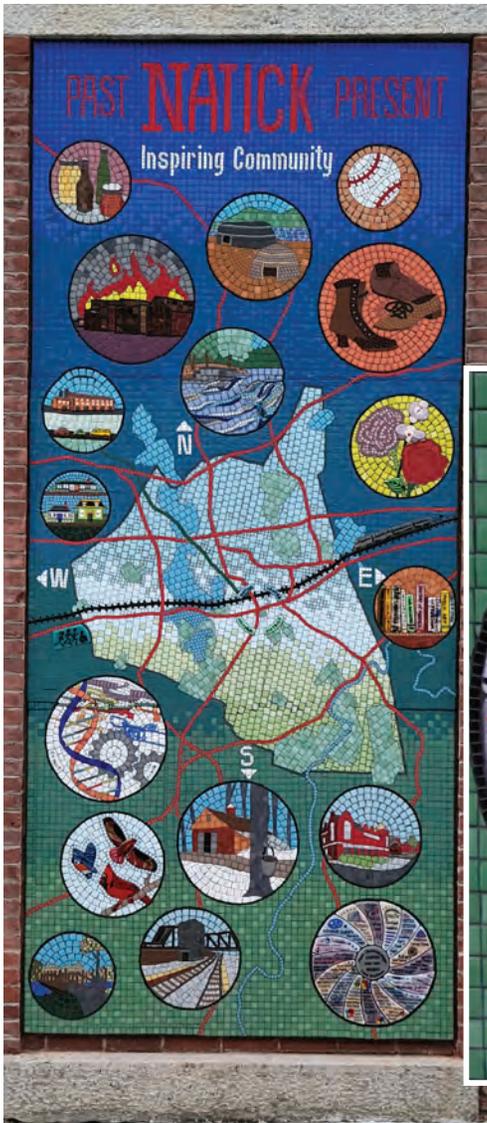
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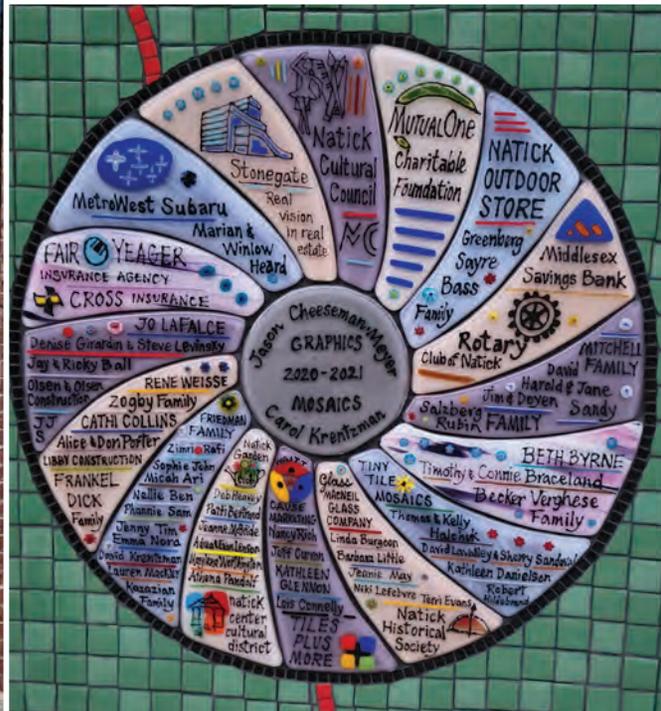
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Artwork In The Center

Carol Krentzman installed her latest mosaic art piece on court street in Natick Center last month. The 12-foot-high piece represents Natick history.



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Do you have money waiting in the Unclaimed Property Division?

Search state's database for money in your name

BY THERESA KNAPP

Have you heard the commercials for Find-MassMoney.com? Have you searched the state's database for your personal or business name and address (old and new)?

The Massachusetts State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division has over \$3 billion - with a "B" - in unclaimed funds for residents and business of the Commonwealth.

According to www.mass.gov/orgs/unclaimed-property-division, the Unclaimed Property Division receives abandoned property from banks and other holding companies after they have been unable to reach the own-

ers for three years.

The service "connects citizens with their abandoned property such as bank accounts, uncashed checks, stocks or dividends, insurance



policies, or the contents of safe deposit boxes. The state holds this reported property until the rightful owner or heir claims it."

To see if there is abandoned property in your, or your family's name, visit www.findmassmoney.com

Share the Warmth of the Season with Our Holiday Sharing Tree.

Take a mitten tag from our Sharing Tree.

Help bring some holiday cheer to a local child. Beginning November 18th, just take a "mitten tag," listing age and gift ideas for area children from the Sharing Tree in our lobby and return all wrapped gifts to us by December 10th. Lobby hours are Mon-Wed & Fri 8:30 to 4pm, Thurs 8:30 to 6pm and Saturday 8:30 to 12:30pm. For more information call 781-762-1800 or email us at webmail@norwoodbank.com.

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New Firefighters in Natick

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier announced the graduation of 35 firefighters from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy today. Graduates completed the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program at two campuses: Class #296 trained in Stow and Class #BW14 trained in Bridgewater.

“First responders are on the frontlines protecting their communities, and these newest firefighters are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “The rigorous professional training they’ve received provides them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

Class #296 (Stow): 22 Graduates from 12 Fire Departments

The 22 firefighters of Class #296 represent the fire departments of Billerica, Blackstone, Devens, Everett, Foxborough, Lincoln, Lowell, Natick, Plainville, Upton, Winthrop, and Woburn.

Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump



operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met the national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by

the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Today’s Firefighters Do Far More than Fight Fires

Today’s firefighters do far more than fight fires. They train to respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to Fentanyl overdoses

or a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle crashes. They test and maintain their equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these skills and more, including

the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

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Natick Woodworker Featured In Online Craft Holiday Show

CraftBoston Holiday 2021, the Northeast's annual craft showcase presented online by the Society of Arts + Crafts, runs through Jan. 30, 2022, with nearly 90 artists from New England and across the country.

This year's artists offer unique handmade items and limited edition works for holiday shopping. The show features home decor, jewelry, wearable textiles, sculptural works, and basketry in a variety of price points, ranging from small gifts to spectacular showpieces.

This year's craft show includes educational and entertainment programming designed to enhance shoppers' interactions with the makers via artist demos, live-streamed conversations offering direct access to artists, and workshops where viewers can learn craft techniques.

CraftBoston Holiday's online format and extended time-

line offers an advantage to participating artists, said Executive Director Brigitte Martin.

"By providing access to a well-respected destination show like ours, without the costs of booth rental, travel and lodging, CraftBoston Holiday offers artists an incredible opportunity to showcase their work to a nationwide audience without the overhead an in-person event requires," Martin says. "As a result, we provide a supportive platform for a wider variety of artists to reach buyers and tell their stories."

Natick woodworker Stephen Strout, whose finely-detailed food presentation and cutting boards come to life through intricate layers of wood in a variety of colors and styles, including exotic species and recycled hardwoods.

Visit <https://societyofcrafts.org/craftboston-holiday-online-2021/> for more information and to view Strout's work.



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Real Estate Corner

Friends of the Morse Institute to host annual holiday raffle

The Friends of the Morse Institute Library will host its annual holiday "lottery tree" raffle from November 27 to December 22, for a chance to win one of TWO prizes: \$100 worth of Massachusetts lottery scratch tickets. The proceeds of this fundraiser make everyone a winner, since raffle ticket sales help support the Friends and the programs of the Morse Institute Library.



Take a chance to win **\$100** of lottery scratch tickets and support the Library!

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 Available at the Circulation Desk

TWO winners' names will be drawn on 12/23/2021
Sponsored by the Friends of Morse Institute Library

Raffle tickets are \$5 /1 ticket, or \$20/5 tickets and are available through December 22 at the circulation desk on the main floor of the library. We'll draw the winners' names on Thursday, December 23. Winners do not need to be present to win.

For more information about the sale, visit <https://www.morsefriends.org>

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Wishing You a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

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