

Boy Scout Troop 1775 Celebrate 50 Years

By SEAN SULLIVAN

Fifty years have seen many a campfire.

This month, Natick's Boy Scout Troop 1775 will celebrate five decades of service and adventure.

"We're a very active troop," said Natick's Wade Huber. He's Scoutmaster to the organization, and his two sons are scouts.

Decades ago, the troop's founder petitioned to have it specially designated as an homage to the U.S. Marines. That branch of the military was founded in the year 1775. Up to that point (in 1971), Boy Scouts of America (BSA) troops had numbered in the hundreds, and were assigned triple-digit designations as they were founded anew.

Troop 1775's size can range from 15 to 60 scouts per year, and is currently comprised of about 30. The scouts are active primarily during the school year, and attend regular weekly meetings at Lilja Elementary School.



BSA chapters like Natick's are kept going primarily through fund-raising initiatives. Wreath and candle sales are held during holiday months, bracketed by bottle and can drives throughout the year.

1775's charter organization is Natick's VFW Post 1274. The troop can be found there at the outset of camping and day trips,

SCOUTS
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Art Blooms in Natick

By JACQUI MORTON

Morse Institute's Liebowitz Hall came alive with art, flowers, music, and community as more than 500 people attended Art

The organizations share a commitment to making cultural and creative experiences accessible to the community. Furthering the spirit of collaboration with Art in Bloom, the

Free Little Art Gallery in front of the Morse Institute showcased floral art the week before the exhibit and had a table set up during the event with art activities. Art in Bloom was first introduced last year and held outside. "We loved that, but the outdoors presented weather challenges, so we decided to move the event to an indoor space this year," Elizabeth Carroll, a past president of the Natick Garden Club and one of the Art in Bloom organizers, shares.

As visitors entered the exhibit



Natick Garden Club committee chairs for Natick's Art in Bloom Monica Foley, Elizabeth Carroll, Donna Thibault having fun at the selfie station!

in Bloom over a beautiful spring weekend in May.

The exhibit, a collaboration between the Natick Garden Club, Natick Art Association and the Natick Center Cultural District, was funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Natick Garden Club.

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SCOUTS

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loading gear that the VFW allows 1775 to store on site.

Near the middle of last month, the troop had just completed a hike of New Hampshire's Mount Monadnock. The 3,165-foot mountain is regarded as one of the most well-travelled in the world, with more than 125,000 hikers traversing its trails every year.

Recent highlights have also included a ski trip, and a trek to Cape Cod for some biking and fishing.

"It's the monthly camping trips that the kids really enjoy," said Huber. "It's really an opportunity to disconnect and be outdoors."

During one such recent trip, an unexpected snowstorm offered

the troop a rare experience. 1775 had planned on learning how to build shelters in the wild, and the fresh-falling powder piled an added layer of difficulty onto the task. The snow would also put their lean-to

Huber became the troop's Scoutmaster just when Covid was coming onto the scene. Last year

marked the troop's official anniversary, but celebrations were put on hold until scouts and chaperones could gather in person to properly celebrate.

The pandemic also meant the troop couldn't engage in the many public-service drives that are so integral to scout culture. Still, the troop found resourceful ways to stay connected to one another during the shutdowns

and sequestration that marked the last few years. Low tech turned to high tech, as 1775 took part in virtual camping trips, the glow of electronic screens replacing the flicker of firelight.

"It prevented us from doing what we do best," said Huber. "There's a lot of community service that goes along with our scout program. A lot of education, adventure and community service."

Now, with virtual meetings and social distancing ostensibly in the rear view, Troop 1775 will assemble at Natick's AMVETS, Post 79. The June 10th gala will belatedly celebrate the BSA chapter's half century of scouting. After 50 years, what's a few more months?



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ART

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on the Library's lower level, they found a garden scene backdrop and props welcoming a stop at the selfie station. A guitar played by Scott Matsumoto helped set a delightful tone for attendees to mingle with each other and with works of art, representing a range of mediums, each paired with a floral arrangement created in inspiration. As in, two works of art joining in a conversation.

Around the room, a total of 15 pieces of art were placed with their accompanying floral arrangements, created by 14 floral designers from the Natick Garden Club, some working in pairs or groups. One designer was a guest from the Natick Art Association and one was a professional floral designer from Framingham, who gave a talk on sustainable floral design as part of the first day's program. Each combination of art and floral arrangement was accompanied by a write-up. An article on paper will not capture the beauty of this exhibit the way each floral arrangement reflected the essence of its partner piece. It felt like being in an art museum

and an upscale flower shop at the same time.

Art and flowers filled the hall, but there had been 46 submitted pieces of art for the Garden Club

ted a collage, titled "Bird Song," that was inspired by her cat's interest in the pieces of paper she was using. "Shadow would grab the paper in her paws, tear off



to choose from, including sculpture, blown glass, watercolors, mosaic, oil paintings and photography, Elizabeth reflected. "I wish we could have done a floral arrangement for every piece! It was fantastic to have so many works of art submitted, and it shows how much depth there is in the Natick Art Association," she said.

Artist Janis Luedke submit-

ted little pieces with her teeth, and spit them out. As I cleaned up, it occurred to me that I should do something with them. I created a series which is reminiscent of the walks we take together in the yard."

Floral designers for Art in Bloom had one guideline which was that their arrangement had to fit in their car and the elevator



Above, Stacey Alleva Lee of Paeonia Designs Sustainable Floral Design Demonstration. Left, Ryan Black's "Summer Evening, Elm Bank Reservation." Floral arrangement by Rose Coyman and Julie Mason

The Garden Club has long brought much beauty to the Town of Natick. For 23 years and in all four seasons, they have been planting and maintaining approximately 50 planters in the Town's center, on merchant buildings, and in storefronts. And while Art in Bloom was a special event, Garden Club members are frequent visitors of the Morse Institute, where they plant and maintain the Library's outdoor planters and pollinator garden, care for the indoor plants, and create the Giving Tree each holiday season.

Their stewardship of the community is demonstrated well beyond even the plants and flowers they nurture, providing two scholarships every year. "This year we are excited to be presenting one to a Natick High School Student and one to a Keefe Tech student," Ms. Carroll wrote to me after we got to meet at the Library.

The Garden Club will be hosting their Plant Sale, their annual fundraiser, on June 4th. All are invited to visit the sale from 10am to 2pm at the Natick Community Senior Center to support the Garden Club and take home beautiful plants.

of the library, to be delivered to the library Friday afternoon. Of the arrangement created in response to "Bird Song," Janis says, "I was delighted to see the Garden Club really picked up on the mosaic theme and found a vase which closely resembled my art piece in which to build their fabulous flower display. The bouquet included a Bird of Paradise and blue macaw feathers."

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Four Firefighter Recruit Graduates Coming to Natick FD



Pictured left to right: FFOP Skyler Sarkisian, FFOP Andrew McIntosh, Deputy Chief Daniel Dow, FFOP Tim Biagi, and FFOP Justin Foster
Photos courtesy of the Natick Fire Department Facebook page



State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, acting director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA), announced the graduation of

60 firefighters from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy today. Graduates completed the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program at three campuses: Class #301 trained at the Stow campus, Class #S27 trained at the Springfield campus and Class #BW19 trained at the Bridgewater campus.

“First responders are on the frontlines protecting their communities, and these newest firefighters are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Mar-

shal 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 #301 (Stow): 24 Graduates from 10 Fire Departments, including Timothy Biagi, Justin Foster, Andrew McIntosh and Skyler Sarkisian from Natick.

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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.

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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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Award-winning Barber Real Estate Group Sees Continued Success in MetroWest

BY CHRISTIE VOGT

The team at Barber Real Estate Group, a division of William Raveis, has more than 50 years of experience in real estate, residential development and retail development. At William Raveis' 48th Annual Awards in 2021, Barber Real Estate was named the number one real estate team in Natick, the number two team in Wellesley and the number seven team in sales volume across Massachusetts. They continue to be members of William Raveis' Platinum Elite Club, an honor bestowed on the top 3% of agents.

Stephanie Barber, the owner of Barber Real Estate Group, attributes this success to her experienced team of five agents. "We've all been in the business a long time and mesh really well together," she says. "There's always someone well-equipped and available to assist clients."

Barber started the Natick business in 2012 with her late husband Ken Barber, a lifelong Natick resident — or a "true townie," as Barber says. Today, her team includes her son Mark Barber as well as agents Anna Borelli, Lou Julian and Stephanie Haase Parkhurst, as well as office administrator Cindy Evans.

"They all have their own strengths," Barber says of her team. Barber, for example, brings experience as a residential home builder as well as her extensive customer service skills from years running the Barber



WILLIAM RAVEIS
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Bros. store with her husband in Natick. Mark Barber has experience as a custom home builder, a knowledge base that proves particularly useful to clients as they make important decisions about their homes.

"Haase Parkhurst is the star when it comes to easing the somewhat stressful challenges of relocation for families," Barber continues. "Borelli's natural Scandinavian calm is a large part of her success; she is such a steady guiding force for clients." Julian is another "true townie," Barber says, and his knowledge of the area is unmatched. "Between Lou and my husband, they knew the whole town," she laughs.

Barber Real Estate Group assists clients across the MetroWest with buying and selling homes and about half of their business involves new construction, Barber says. The group specializes in luxury properties, with listings across Natick, Wellesley, Wayland, Framingham, Dover, Sherborn and beyond.

"The work we do is rewarding for many reasons. We enjoy the fact that we're helping people, first and foremost, but the daily challenge of real estate is also exciting," Barber says. "It's helping our clients make those

Business spotlight

big, often emotional, decisions and guiding them through the entire process."

Past clients Maureen and Jeff shared that the Barber Group helped them close on their home during the slowest time of the year and with multiple offers. "They gave us great advice about what we needed to do before putting our house on the market, generated a good level of traffic and demand despite



From left, Lou Julian, Stephanie Barber, Mark Barber, Anna Borelli and Stephanie Haase Parkhurst of the Barber Real Estate Group

the slow time of the year, and walked us step-by-step through to the closing," the clients said. "They are smart about the market, trustworthy, and really good to work with." Other clients describe the team as "highly motivated," "thorough" and "honest."

Barber's team takes their work seriously because they know how meaningful the home buying experience can be for clients. "For most people, their biggest asset is their home," Barber says. "Investing in a home is one of the most important things

most of us do."

Barber Real Estate Group is located at 56 Eliot Street, South Natick. The group has strong connections to the community, Barber says, and over the years has supported many local organizations, including sports teams, the Natick Service Council, Family Promise MetroWest, Bacon Free Library, the Natick Center Cultural District and the Natick Education Foundation, among others.

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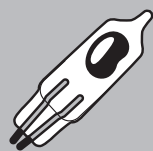
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Fire Chief Selection In Final Stages

By SEAN SULLIVAN

The town is in the final stages of choosing a new Fire Chief.

Natick's erstwhile chief is Michael Lentini, who retired last month after serving the town for over three decades. Lentini will remain in the role provisionally until his successor is selected.

The process of hiring a new fire chief is spelled out in the town's bylaws. The Select Board is charged with establishing a screening committee, a group tasked with outreach and selection of a pool of candidates for the position.

The first steps of the process began late last year, when the committee engaged the services of Municipal Resources Inc., an organization that assists local governments with administrative and procedural undertakings. MRI operates in New England, and includes former and active municipal staff in its ranks.

MRI invites the roster of applicants before its panel, putting the prospective Fire Chiefs through its process of evaluation.

From an initial slate of about 15 candidates selected by the screening committee late last year, the firm conducted interviews and assessments, narrowing the pool down to six. That number fell to five when one candidate dropped out of the process.

"MRI does a kind of scrubbing of the candidates," said Jamie Errickson. As Natick's Town Administrator, he's been involved in the process of selecting the town's next Fire Chief. The initial pool of applicants for the role would typically be around 40, said Errickson, adding that a tight labor market led to a much leaner list of candidates.

The five were further put through their paces by the screening committee earlier this year,

which distilled the group down to three.

"It's a pretty extensive, exhaustive process," said Errickson.

Natick employs the "strong" fire chief standard, a term of art in Massachusetts law. Under the strong chief statute, authority to hire and fire the chief rests with a town's Select Board, not the Town Administrator.

In addition, the strong designation bestows authority over the fire department's personnel with the chief, including the discretion to hire and fire staff. It also grants the chief purview over policy decisions within the department, and control over its budget.

Owing to its implications about where authority resides, the strong chief standard can be a source of contention within communities, with municipalities debating and putting the matter to a vote. Personnel within fire departments tend to favor the strong chief model.

"Every community has a different philosophy on this issue," said Errickson.

Because of the broad authority granted to a strong chief, the process of hiring someone for that role is all the more thorough. When such candidates appear before hiring panels, they are often quizzed in question-and-answer format on a variety of subjects and situations, everything from budgets to personnel to policy to infrastructure.

"Public safety is hugely important," said Errickson. "It's a good size department with a good size call volume."

The final three candidates include two Deputy Fire Chiefs from Westborough and Weymouth. The third, Daniel Dow, is Natick's Deputy Fire Chief. Natick's Select Board was expected to choose and hire a chief from the three in May.

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Diversification in developed international -16% and emerging markets -17% is failing.

Good thing there's bonds. Oh wait, US bond market via the BarCap Agg Index -10% is worse start to a year ever.

And cash, true it didn't lose principal but purchasing power decreased -8.3% the last 12 months, and if you've been to a grocery store, auto dealer/service dept, barber or gas station, 8.3% inflation my...

Don't be Torn and Frayed, become Happy about the opportunity to roll your Tumbling Dice.

Yes, Rolling Stones reference to Exile on Main Street celebrating a 50th anniversary. The relevance?

The Stones were on an amazing run of albums - Beggars Banquet, Let It Bleed (headline reference) and personal favorite Sticky Fingers. Yet, they found themselves exiled from Britain due to new 93% wealth tax, broke from a manager who'd stolen from them and sued by their record label. As vagabonds in France and later LA, they recorded what many consider their greatest album and then toured the US as year's top grossing act, a first of record 9 times.

Let me Shine a Light on 3 action steps to consider given down markets:

Roth Conversion - If certain investments you intend to hold for a long period are down -20% or more, then convert those a Roth and pay 20% less tax. Estimate your MAGI prior, as conversion is taxed as income impacting your federal tax bracket and % owed.

Take Tax Losses - Face your mistakes, learn and move on. In taxable accounts selling at a loss builds capital losses to carry and offset capital gains over future

years. If you believe the investment will come back, wait 31 days later to avoid wash sales. Remember, every Apple or Amazon from 2000, there's dozens of JDS Uniphases, Lucent, Global Crossings, and CMGIs.

Buy Quality When On Sale - People love sales, except when it comes to risk assets like equities. If not now, then when do you "buy low and sell high"? Sure, the market may go lower, but if you own quality investments you understand at a fair price, over time it will be time that matters most.

Don't overload on commodities, energy, TIPs and cash as this too shall pass on a macro level, since economic cycles rarely skip stages. Up next will likely be cooling housing values, layoffs disguised as reorgs and deflation via recession or soft landing by Fed's raising of rates.

Eventually a base for economic expansion is created but if you wait to see it, investment values will have adjusted in anticipation and opportunity past.

Had the Stones simply

stopped or not built upon their foundations in '71 until all things favorably aligned, one wonders about their legacy or even living to old age, let alone being the top grossing US tour in 2021.

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

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.



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Natick Residents, Members Of Local Congregations Join Family Promise Metrowest In Changing Future For Families Facing Homelessness

Family Promise Metrowest (FPM), a Natick-based non-profit, hosted their 13th Annual Walk to End Homelessness over the weekend of May 13-15 in several Metrowest cities and towns. Families, schools, congregations, and business groups

participated in independent walks throughout the region, raising awareness and funds for programs that support families facing homelessness or eviction. Natick residents and members of Christ Lutheran Church, First Church Natick, the Eliot

Church, and The Tobin School staged several separate walks throughout the town, including on the Cochituate Rail Trail and at Elm Bank. When Amy Lousararian, Natick resident and captain of Christ Lutheran Church's walk team, was asked why she participated in this year's event she responded, "I walked to support Family Promise Metrowest's meaningful impact on families in our community. FPM provides not just shelter and financial assistance, but more importantly it equips families with the tools and skills for sustainable change to achieve financial stability and freedom. I believe this holistic approach is the key to success."

This event was made possible by many generous local sponsors and donors including R.W. Holmes Commercial Real Estate, The Village Bank, Herb Connolly Auto Group, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Needham, Needham Bank, TJX, Eastern Bank, Mathworks, Rubicon Builders, Dunkin Northern Management, Middlesex Bank, Brookline Bank, and Eastern Bank.



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FPM's mission is to transform the lives of families with children that are facing homelessness by mobilizing local communities to provide shelter, education, and comprehensive support. This annual walkathon raises funds for programs that support families on their path back to stability, including a shelter program and a homelessness prevention program. Local congregations, businesses, schools, and thousands of volunteers partner with

FPM to address this issue by providing resources, guidance, and support to families as they bring themselves out of poverty and into a future filled with possibility. To learn more about Family Promise Metrowest and their programs please visit www.familypromisemetrowest.org. If you are having trouble paying your rent or facing eviction, please call 508-318-4820.

MBTA Commuter Rail Spring/Summer Schedule Adjusts for Natick Center Station Project Work

Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis), the MBTA's partner that operates the Commuter Rail, today announced that the Spring/Summer 2022 Commuter Rail schedules went into effect on Monday, May 23. Schedules are typically adjusted twice a year through close coordination between Keolis and the MBTA to meet changing passenger needs and reflect investments to improve service.

The Spring/Summer 2022 schedules continue to utilize the new clockface format introduced in 2021, which provides consistent service throughout the day across all lines. Additional improvements to the schedules include:

Express service on the Worcester Line returns. Previously known as "Heart to Hub," this train will enable passengers to travel from Worcester to Boston in approximately 1 hour

On the Fairmount Line, passengers will be able to bring bicycles onboard trains all day, every day

Mid-day service to Foxboro on the newly renamed Franklin/Foxboro Line

"The schedule update allows us to leverage recent investments made by the MBTA, plan for upcoming infrastructure improvements, and respond to input from the communities we serve to improve service for our passengers," said Keolis CEO Abdellah Chajai.

"As we continue to welcome more Commuter Rail riders back to the system, we're excited to continue to offer the popular regional rail-style of schedule that offers service at predictable intervals throughout the day while also making further improvements to service, like the return of express trains between Worcester and Boston," said MBTA General Manager Steve Poflak. "We thank our partners at Keolis for working with the MBTA in developing these new schedules as we continue our work to improve Commuter Rail service and the customer experience."

The new schedule includes minor adjustments to utilize improved track infrastructure and aligns Commuter Rail schedules with freight train schedules to minimize potential delays. The Worcester Line schedule will include the previously announced adjustments to mid-day train service to allow crews to work on multiple infrastructure improvement projects, including the Worcester Union Station project, Natick Center Station project, and rail tie replacement.

For the first time in over two years, passengers will be able to board trains between Rockport and Beverly as the Gloucester Drawbridge will re-open on May 23. Normal train service is expected to resume for the Newburyport/Rockport Line on Monday, June 6, though passengers should anticipate periodic adjustments for ongoing signal work.

The Spring/Summer 2022 schedule will also introduce new boarding information for every local stop to help passengers with accessibility requirements.

A picture containing graphical user interface

Description automatically generated

New boarding information for passengers with accessibility requirements

Printed schedules are already available in major stations and passenger assistants are available in stations to help answer any questions. The Spring/Summer 2022 Commuter Rail schedules can be viewed by browsing individual lines at <https://www.mbta.com/schedules/commuter-rail> and via the mTicket app. Passengers can stay connected with Commuter Rail by calling customer service at 617-222-3200, following @MBTA_CR on Twitter or signing up for T-Alerts.

Spark To Hold Diverse Book Hour

I'll Go and Come Back: A Diverse Books Story Hour

June 11, at 2pm, Lebowitz Room, Morse Institute Library, Natick

For the whole community (the book is geared for children ages 2-7)

Join us as award winning author Rajani LaRocca reads her new book, "I'll Go and Come Back" about a girl in America and her grandmother in India, whose love stretches between languages and cultures—and across the world. ASL interpretation will be provided at this event. This event is Autism Welcoming and we encourage attendees to share any specific needs as they register to help us make the event more accessible. Learn more about this



SPARK Kindness presents a FREE program at the Morse Institute Library on Saturday, June 11th at 2pm



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Graduates of the Foundation for MetroWest Youth In Philanthropy Program Grant \$30,000 To Support Mental Health Issues Across The Region

In the wake and ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, an Active Minds study found 80% of students have experienced a negative impact on their mental health, with 20% saying it actively worsened. The Foundation for MetroWest's Youth in Philanthropy program is at the forefront of educating students about the areas of greatest need in their communities. The students are empowered to award grants to projects that align community need with areas

of focus that resonate most with them. This year, the 48 students who graduated from the 2021 program saw a growing trend of mental health issues amidst the ongoing pandemic and directed grants accordingly.

"As we deal with the impact of the pandemic, mental health matters more than ever," said Caroline Murphy Director of Programs at the Foundation for MetroWest. "It's really inspiring to see students focusing on supporting one another and laying

the groundwork for a MetroWest that is healthy in body and mind."

Throughout the program, each class works to evaluate grant applications, conduct site visits, and distribute up to \$10,000 to youth-serving nonprofits in our communities. In the fall cohort of this 17-week program high school students in the Ashland, Natick, Hopkinton, and Sudbury programs, comprised of students from a variety of towns, granted a total of \$30,000 across six nonprofits. The following are organizations that the students selected to receive the grants:

- MetroWest Mediation Services supporting 50 cases in the Harassment Order mediation program to facilitate conversation and end conflict.
- REACH, MA creating educational programs to urge young people to prevent violence through a Peers Against Violence Educators (PAVE) program to promote long term healthy relationships.
- Circle of Hope purchasing and distributing basic support resources to more than 300 homeless college students at Framingham State University.
- A Place to Turn building the Healthy Learners program to provide health and wellness items to teens.
- The Children's Room's supporting a full year of grief support services to a family at no cost.



- NAN Project providing peer-to-peer mental health education and suicide prevention programs for students in the MetroWest.

"I think the pandemic added a lot of stress for teens, who already have so many big decisions on their plates," said Selina Lin, 14 yrs. "As a group, we chose to distribute funds to mental health support, because we felt it was one of the most important and relevant needs of our community and our peers."

Since launching in 1997, the Foundation for MetroWest's Youth in Philanthropy program has educated over 2,000 students who have granted over \$1.2 million to over 200 MetroWest youth development organizations. The Foundation for MetroWest is proud to be running one of the largest youth philanthropy education programs in the country. For more information about the Youth in Philanthropy program, visit www.yipmetrowest.org. The Foundation for MetroWest encourages students to submit their applications which can be found at www.yipmetrowest.org/students in May for the Fall

2022 program.

The fall Youth in Philanthropy program would not be possible without the support of the Hopkinton Country Club Charitable Foundation and The Sudbury Foundation. We are thankful for their support.

About Foundation for MetroWest

The Foundation for MetroWest is a community foundation that improves the quality of life in 30+ MetroWest communities. Since 1995 the Foundation has been providing financial and educational resources to local nonprofit organizations, sharing essential data about the region to inform critical decision making, and partnering with donors to help guide and align their giving with the areas of greatest need in the community. The Foundation is supported by a range of businesses, individuals, and other philanthropic organizations. Currently the Foundation stewards more than \$30 million in charitable assets for immediate needs and future impact.

To learn more, visit www.foundationmwx.org or call 508-647-2260.

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Hot weather is hazardous to your dog's health

Beware of hot asphalt, hot vehicles, and tethering in heat

BY THERESA KNAPP

Did you know if the air temperature is 77 degrees, the asphalt temperature is 125 degrees?

According to www.four-paws.org, a worldwide organization dedicated to animal welfare, if you cannot hold your human

hand on the asphalt for a full seven seconds, that pavement is too hot for your dog's paws.

The site warns "the ground can get much hotter than the surrounding air and absorbs heat fast." Concrete and brick can be equally dangerous.

Symptoms of paw burns include:

- Affected area is red and swollen (1st degree burn)
- Clear blisters are visible (2nd degree)
- Skin is charred (3rd degree)

First aid for paw burns should always include a call to the veterinarian as soon as possible. You can also cool down the affected paws by:

- Running the paw under running water which should not be ice-cold
 - Bandage the paw if possible; if not, cover with a clean sock
- Note: Incorrect handling of ice can cause tissue damage

Ways to avoid paw burns include:

- Use the seven-second test before starting your walk
- Walk your dog on grass or in meadows
- Walk your dog early in the morning or late in the evening when the pavement is cooler

with the windows rolled up, putting pets in serious danger."

The AKC notes that all dogs are susceptible to heat stroke and a dog with a "relatively broad, short skull" such as Pugs and Bulldogs can suffer negative effects sooner than other breeds.

In 2016, according to www.blog.mass.gov, Massachusetts passed "An Act Preventing Animal Suffering And Death" prohibits pet owners from leaving animals inside vehicles during extreme cold or heat. It also states that, "Any action by a person or first responder would follow checking to see if the door was locked, calling 911, and making an effort to locate the owner. The person must stay with the animal until law enforcement arrives, and is immune from liability resulting from the animal's removal."

The Act also prohibits dogs being tethered outdoors for more than 15 minutes during extreme weather conditions. For more information and details, visit <https://bit.ly/3sH1Qdl>

It's Hot Out!
Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!

- Car icon:** A car can overheat even when the window has been left cracked an inch or two.
- Dog icon:** Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are most at risk for overheating.
- Tree icon:** Shady spots offer little protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

90° Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

102° On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

120° Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.

Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

ASPCA

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! Stay by the car until assistance arrives.

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Special Events at the Bacon Free Library

Weds, June 1 @ 7:00 pm on Zoom: A Culture Marker: The Story of Kolam in Natick Center

How did Kolam, a ritualistic floor art practiced by generations of Tamil Hindu women across South India, find its way to Natick Center? Join us for a conversation with Swati Dave to learn more about this beautiful art form and how its presence in Natick nurtures a sense of identity and belonging in our community. This

event will be held on zoom.

Swati Dave, a long-time resident of Natick, is actively engaged in the town with equity, inclusion, and diversity work. She has been the Chair of Natick Cultural Council and is currently a board member of Natick Center Cultural District, SPARK Kindness, and Natick is United.

This program is jointly sponsored by the Bacon Free Library and the Natick Historical Society.

It is free and open to the public. Advanced registration is required. Register using the form here.

<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/a-culture-marker-the-story-of-kolam-in-natick-center/>

Saturday, June 11 @ 2 pm in Shaw park across from the BFL: Create Your Own Kolam

Join the Natick Historical Society and the Bacon Free Library for a free hands-on program on how to make a Kolam, a traditional decorative floor art practiced by generations of Tamil Hindu women across South India. Supplies will be provided. Then visit us at Shaw Park (across the street from the Bacon Free Library & Natick Historical Society) to make a Kolam of your own to take home with you.

Please register here: <https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/kolam/>

Children's Programs

Friday, June 3 @ 10 am inside the library: Dog Tales Personal Story Time

Sign up for a special story time with Lorcan and his human Cheryl! We will read a couple books that are doggie approved, while your kiddo can cozy up with Lorcan. Registration is required:

<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/dog-tales-2022-06/>

Every Monday @ 10 am outside, behind the library: Monday Morning Stories & Songs

Join us for a high-energy story time! We'll mix things up with a combination of stories for



listening and songs for dancing.

This program will be held outside on the library lawn. Bring a towel or blanket for stretching. Look for us around back! If there is rainy weather, the story time will be moved indoors.

Every Tuesday @ 10 am outside, behind the library: Outdoor Story Time

Come and join us for in-person, outdoor story time on the beautiful grounds behind the library. Be sure to bring a blanket or chairs to get comfy.

If there is rainy weather, the story time will be moved indoors.

Friday, June 17 @ 10 am outside at the library: Let's Get Growing

Presented by Tower Hill Botanic Gardens. Explore the wide world of plants as we sing songs, read, play, investigate, and plant

our own beans to care for at home. This program is best for Grades PreK-K; held outside on the library grounds. Registration is required:

<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/towerhill220617/>

Weds, June 22 @ 10 am outside at the library: Diane Edgecomb: Trail Mix

Step off the Beaten Path and into the Big Outdoors in this fun-loving Participatory Program with award-winning storyteller Diane Edgecomb.

We'll go on a fossil dig in Montana to discover a new dinosaur and take on the world's sassiest bugs all before we break out our lunch pails.

Join in the stories, songs and FUN that have made Diane Edgecomb one of New England's favorite storytellers. Diane has been featured on NPR and is a winner of a Parent's Choice award for her CDs and recordings.

Beloved storyteller Diane Edgecomb is known for transforming into the characters in her tales, bringing stories to vibrant life. Diane's warmth and invitation to participate brings today's family audiences into the heart of the moment. Diane has been featured on NPR and is the winner of the ORACLE award for Storytelling Excellence in the Northeast as well as five Storytelling World awards.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Natick Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural council, a state agency.

Weds, June 29 @ 10 am out-

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Sharon Timlin Memorial Event: A Race to Cure ALS to be held on June 18th to benefit The Angel Fund

Mike Timlin and family will be on hand for race

The 19th Annual Sharon Timlin Memorial Event: A Race to Cure ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) will be held as both an in-person

former Red Sox relief pitcher Mike Timlin, who was diagnosed with ALS in May 2001. She died less than a year later,

person for the past two years, so this year is going to feel extra special as we come together again for our 19th annual event. We hope you will join us on Saturday, June 18th, 2022."

Participants will receive a commemorative race T-shirt and can purchase a 2022 Commemorative Race Cap.

Awards will be presented to

will be no duplicate awards

Runners and non-runners are encouraged to take part in the Angel Fundraising Challenge, a fun and easy way to go the extra mile and fundraise.

To register for the race and/or donate to the Sharon Timlin Memorial 5K Event – a Race to

Cure ALS, visit the website www.sharontimlinrace.org. You may also send checks payable to The Angel Fund to The Timlin Race, 149 Wood Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748

the top three male and female finishers. The top three finishers in the following age groups will also receive awards: 14 and under; 15-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70-plus; male/female 80+, and wheelchair division. There



and virtual event for runners of all ages on Saturday, June 18th at Hopkinton High School.

The road race and family fun day benefits The Angel Fund for ALS Research and its research at UMass Chan Medical School. The race has raised more than \$2 million for ALS research since its inception.

The event is held in memory of Sharon Timlin, mother of

in March 2002. The event also recognizes and honors the Timlin family's commitment to ALS research and The Angel Fund for ALS Research. Mike and his wife Dawn will be guests of honor at the event.

"We are excited that the Sharon Timlin Memorial Event will return to an in-person event again this year," Mike and Dawn said. "We've missed seeing everyone in

The 5K race begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by the family fun day activities with live music, food, games, raffles, silent auction, Kids' Run and other activities from 8:30 to 12 noon.

Online Registration closes at 11:59pm on June 17, 2022. There will be no day of registration.

The in-person 5K race fee is \$45 with a virtual option of \$25, plus shipping. All 5K par-



DELL PARK CEMETERY

The Annual Meeting of the Trustees and Lot Owners of the Dell Park Cemetery Association will be held electronically via Zoom on June 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm, for the transaction of any business that may legally come before said Meeting. Any trustee or lot owner who wishes to attend should contact Martha Mahard at martha.mahard@gmail.com

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Sports

Natick's Jackson Eyes State Crown In Volleyball

Outside Hitter A Top-notch Captain

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Kendall Jackson set two goals for Natick High's volleyball team at the start of the season — qualify for the playoffs and focus on winning a state championship.

The Redhawks, whose record was 10-3 at Local Town Pages deadline, should be a high seed when the pairings for the Division 1 tourney are announced. Then, Jackson and the Natick squad can focus on winning the state title for the second time in coach Peter Suxho's tenure at the helm.

A senior captain, the 18-year-old Jackson, who excelled last year as an outside hitter, is optimistic that a state championship is a realistic objective.

"We're a young team but all the players are talented and skilled," said Jackson, who was a two-time all-star as a junior. "We've got depth, great potential and we're physically ready."

Jackson, however, is acutely aware that the road to a state crown isn't easy and some good fortune is needed along the way. "We'll have to stay injury-free," he emphasized. "And, when we're matched against a strong opponent, we may need a lucky bounce. Hopefully, our talent will be the key."

An instinctive hitter, the 6-foot-

3, 160-pound Jackson relies on a high volleyball IQ at the net. Last year, he amassed 180 kills, registered 24 aces and had 11 blocks. "I like to get good placements," he said. "My power has continued to improve."

That power has been very significant this season — at Local Town Pages deadline he had 199 kills and 28 serving aces in 13 matches.

Suxho, who also won two state titles at Millis High, is bullish on Jackson's ability and approach.

"Kendall is an all-around player who leads by example," Suxho noted. "He's mentally tough, jumps high, gets kills, plays solid defense and serves well. He's helped us to recruit players and he's very supportive of our younger kids."

Jackson's passion for playing outside hitter is fueled by the variety of tasks that must be achieved at that slot.

"You have to play strong defense," he said. "It's important to hit hard, jump high and be timely on blocks. It's also enjoyable because your teammates rely on you to get kills and blocks."

Three players who Jackson admires and relies are on Natick's other three captains — seniors Luke Rossi (middle hitter) and Zach Kwan (libero) and sopho-



Kendall Jackson is an all-star middle hitter for Natick's boys volleyball team. Photo courtesy of Lewis Glass, Paradise Photo

more Harrison Landry (setter).

"They're quality leaders and players," Jackson said. "They enjoy volleyball, they're solid competitors and they're highly skilled."

Jackson also has lots of respect for his coach, calling Suxho "a terrific strategist."

"Coach Suxho is extremely knowledgeable about the sport," Jackson said. "He's knows the x's and o's of the sport and he also knows how to plan for our opponents. He's been very motivating for me. He's very effective on instructing me on the adjustments I need to make and how to focus on the task at hand."

Jackson's best game was last year in a tough battle against Brookline. His effort was strong and his play at the net was solid but Natick couldn't survive, losing in five sets. "I blocked well and got some key kills that helped us build some momentum," he recalled. "Although we lost, all of the players gave 100 percent and stayed committed against one of our prime rivals."

When it comes to personal goals, Jackson doesn't point to adding to his kills and block. It's more about building team

spirit and team chemistry. "I'm honored to have been chosen a captain and I've strived to be a quality leader who's supportive and encouraging," he offered. "I also want to keep learning so I can improve my game."

Improvement for Jackson has been on an upward swing ever since he started playing volleyball (at age 14). He played on the jayvees as a freshman but unfortunately his sophomore season was wiped out because the MIAA canceled the 2020 spring sports season because of covid-19. As a junior, he was selected to a pair of all-star teams — the Boston Globe and the Metrowest Daily News.

Jackson is a top-notch competitor in academics, too. He's a National Honor Society student who has a 3.40 GPA. The Natick native hopes to keep playing volleyball in college, even if it's at the club level at the University of New Hampshire.

Calling his parents (Lyman and Katherine) role models for their support and encouragement, Jackson focused on soccer long before he began excelling in volleyball. He started playing soccer at the youth level at age five and was a member of Natick's freshman and jayvee squads before competing for the

varsity last fall on defense.

Relying on an athletic philosophy that includes winning, reaching one's potential and having fun, Jackson has mixed emotions about his final season wearing Natick's colors.

"I'm definitely excited to see how the playoffs unfold," he said. "My sports career at Natick is coming to an end but I'm glad I got to compete. I have lots of fond memories and I'm optimistic about going to college and continuing to play volleyball."

Although Jackson had a prolific season last year, he and his teammates didn't get the playoff result they wanted. The Redhawks went 10-4 in the regular season, posted a 2-1 record in the Bay State League tourney, then bowed out in the first round of the state tourney, losing to Lincoln-Sudbry.

"Losing in the first round was frustrating and disappointing," he said. "We were all surprised to be eliminated early. We felt we should have advanced deeper."

Kendall Jackson and his teammates will be a bit more cognizant this time about what's needed to produce a deep tourney run.

A state championship will be a neat going-away present for a competitor who displayed plenty of desire and dedication.

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LIBRARY

continued from page 12

side at the library: Big Bubbles with Mr. Vinny the Bubble Guy

Join us on the lawn for running, jumping, and bubble-popping fun! Mr. Vinny is bringing his hand-made, giant bubble wand to create floating blobs of soapy goodness. The kids can chase and pop to their heart's delight, while Mr. Vinny tells jokes and answers questions. It will be good clean fun!

Book and Film Clubs - all are held on Zoom, please register in advance

Mystery book club:
Thursday, June 2 @ 1 pm *
with author visit

Girl in Ice by Erica Ferencik
Register here:

<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/mystery-book-club-with-author-erica-ferencik/>

History book club:
Thursday, June 9 @ 11 am
Moloka'i by Alan Brennert

Register here:
<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/history-book-club-june-3/>

Environmental book club:
Tuesday, June 21 @ 7 pm

Under a white sky: the nature of the future by Elizabeth Kolbert

Register here:
<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/environmental-june-3/>

Nonfiction book club:
Saturday, June 25 @ 10 am
The Checklist Manifesto by Atul Gawande

Register here:
<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/nfjune2022/>

Cinephile movie discussion club:
Monday, June 27 @ 4 pm
Movie TBA

Register here:
<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/cinephile-monday-june-3/>

Tuesday night book club:
Tuesday, June 28 @ 7 pm
Yellow Wife by Sadeqa Johnson

Register here:
<https://baconfreelibrary.org/event/book-club-2022-06/>

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Senior Center News

UPCOMING DAY TRIPS-

please call the center for more details 508-647-6540 or email skirby@natickma.org

Newport Spectacular- The Breakers Mansion, Wed., July 20
Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Tuesday, Sept. 20
Turkey Train, NH, Monday, October 17

Boston Holiday POPS, DATE TBD announced by August

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION- ZOOM & IN PERSON

Every Thursday with Sharon 2:00-2:40 pm, free, register by calling 508-647-6540. This meditation is audio only and participants are muted during the meditation portion. Everyone is welcome to join for some guided meditation, some quiet sitting and some reflection with Q & A and sharing.

MONDAYS AT A MUSEUM- ZOOM

Mondays from 3:00-4:00 pm, free, register by calling 508-647-6540. We visit museums all over the world and view artwork with

commentary by artists, docents, curators and others.

June 6- Art Deco-What's in a Name?

June 13- Holbein, Gainsborough

June 20- Juneteenth Holiday Center is closed

June 27- JMW Turner- Turner's Modern World, Kimbell Art Museum

MEET UP at the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA

Tuesday, June 7, 1:30 pm, free, Registration Required, call 508-647-6540.

Join us for this special exhibit of Georgia O'Keeffe, Photographer is the first exhibition devoted to O'Keeffe's work as a photographer. Nearly 100 photographs from a newly examined archive reveal the American Icon's Modernist approach to the medium along with paintings and drawings to represent the full scope of her career.

WHAT WAS JOHNNY PESKY REALLY LIKE? - IN PERSON

Wednesday, June 8, 10:30-11:30am, free, register by calling 508-647-6540.

People ask me all the time, what

was he really like? I've interviewed and gotten to know hundreds of Sox players. I'll be picking one notable Sox player from each decade - Pesky, Alex Cora, Rich Gedman, Yaz and Bill Lee! Q&A and open discussion after. Join Herb Crehan, Red Sox historian, has written more than 150 feature articles for RED SOX MAGAZINE. He has authored three books on the Red Sox, including The Impossible Dream 1967 Red Sox: Birth of Red Sox Nation and contributed to five others.

FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT NATICK CSC- IN PERSON

Monday, June 13, 11:30am-12:30pm, free, registration required call 508-647-6540.

Enjoy a boxed lunch from Honey Baked Ham- choice of ham classic or roasted turkey classic sandwich with chips and cookie, water or vegetarian Cobb Salad. And travel with us virtually to various National Parks with amazing photography - Kenjai Fjords, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park; Carlsbad Caverns, Bryce Canyon, Dry

Tortugas. Registration required. Sponsored by Riverbend of South Natick. Providing Exceptional Short-Term Rehab & Skilled Nursing Care.

AYURVEDIC DAILY ROUTINE "DINACHARYA" - IN PERSON

Wednesday, June 15, 11:30am-12:45pm, free, register by calling 508-647-6540.

Ayurvedic practice will support a life of optimal wellness through routine, detoxification and nourishment. When we are healthy and balanced, we are able to fulfill our dharma, our essential life's purpose, allowing us to feel our best and share our gifts with the world. Anjana Bhargava, an Ayurvedic Wellness Practitioner and a Weston resident will guide you through the fundamental self-care practices of Dinacharya into your life, with an easy-to-follow daily routine goals.

Virtual Travel with Beyond- All About New Zealand - ZOOM

Tuesday, June 21, 4-5 pm, free, register by calling 508-647-6540.

New Zealand is well-known for the beauty of its landscapes and the friendliness of its people. We will travel to beautiful landscapes and diverse scenery and I will tell stories about our people. We will talk about how we protect our unique environment and how we integrate our fantastic culture. New Zealand is a progressive nation of creative idea-makers delivering new solutions while always caring for people and places. Zoom Link sent out a week in advance.

UNDERSTANDING LIBRARY SYSTEMS AND PROTOCOLS- ZOOM

Genealogy with Seema program

Wednesday, June 22, 1:30-2:30pm, free, register by calling 508-647-6540.

Libraries are wonderful places to research. Understanding their systems and protocols will make your research trip more enjoyable and, possibly, more fruitful. Are you familiar with a Call System that uses Pull Slips? Are you bringing things that are not allowed in the facility? Join us for a look at a few New England Libraries, their Systems and Protocols.

BORROW OUR MEMBER PASSES!

Passes must be reserved in advance by calling our Center at 508-647-6540 x1908 between 9:00 am-4:00 pm on Monday-Thursday and 9:00 am-2:00 pm on Friday.

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Garden Hours

Mon.-Thurs., 10 am-7 pm

Fri.-Sun., 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Our pass admits two people and may be picked up from the Center between 9:00-9:30 am the day of your visit.

The pass must be returned the same day of your visit before 4:00 pm on Monday-Thursday and before 1:00 pm on Friday.

Our pass is available to borrow on Monday-Friday (not on weekends).

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Senate Passes Major Climate Bill



State Senator Karen Spilka

Amid alarming reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Massachusetts Senate passed a major bill, S.2819, An Act Driving Climate Policy Forward, or the Drive Act. The bill addresses climate change in three primary areas—clean energy, transportation, and buildings—with the aim of achieving the Commonwealth’s ambitious goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, which the Legislature codified into law in 2021.

“Combatting climate change requires an honest assessment of the challenges before us, and constant work to change the course we are on,” stated Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). “I’m proud to say that the Senate has never shied away from either, and that we continue to lead on taking action to combat climate change. The Drive Act takes important steps to expand clean energy, encourage the adoption of electric vehicles, reduce emissions from the building sector, and foster a workforce for our future, while two additional bills will help homeowners dealing with oil spills and protect open spaces. I’d like to thank Senators Barrett, Creem, Gobi and Eldridge, Senate Ways and Means Chair Rodrigues, and all of Senators who offered amendments to make this climate package stronger.”

“Today’s passage of an Act Driving Climate Policy Forward is a reflection of the Senate’s strong commitment to an all-hands-on deck approach to boldly confronting our climate challenges head on,” said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “Thank you to the Senate President and her team for their leadership and guidance,

and thank you to Senator Barrett, Senator Creem, their staffs, the Senate Ways and Means team, and all the members of the Senate for lending their voices and contributions throughout this process. With the passage of this comprehensive climate package, we are another step closer to ensuring the Commonwealth meets its ambitious goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.”

“We know climate change is relentless, so we think Massachusetts needs to be relentless, too,” stated Senator Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Senate Chair of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee. “No one’s around to give out ‘As’ for effort. What matters are results. An Act Driving Climate Policy Forward pushes back against global warming on multiple fronts, and with an emphasis on innovation and smart experimentation. It’s about thinking long-range but executing now, in the short term. It’s about problem-solving, confidence, and even optimism.”

“The Drive Act will help Massachusetts reach net-zero emissions by 2050 by paving the road to clean transportation, clean buildings, and clean electric and thermal energy,” said Majority Leader Cynthia Creem (D-Newton), Chair of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change. “It is an impressive achievement, one that should give every resident of the Commonwealth hope about our ability to mitigate climate change. I’m grateful to every member of the Senate who contributed to this landmark legislation, and especially to Senate President Spilka, Chair Rodrigues, and Senator Barrett for their steadfast commitment to addressing climate change.”

Clean Energy

Around 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts come from the power plants that fuel its energy grid, making support for clean energy alternatives necessary to meet the Commonwealth’s goal of having net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Recognizing this, the Drive Act includes significant provisions to deploy clean energy infrastructure, including those related to offshore wind energy, solar energy, and energy storage. Acknowledging the importance of growing the Commonwealth’s

green economy, this bill allocates \$100 million to a Clean Energy Investment Fund to support infrastructure development in the clean energy industry.

To assist with the financial viability of offshore wind energy projects, this legislation updates the procurement process for new offshore wind energy investments to ensure that the Commonwealth receives as many competitive bids as possible, that all projects maximize equitable economic development opportunities, that environmental impacts are mitigated, and that ratepayers are protected throughout the process. The bill also provides more flexibility to offshore wind developers by adjusting the existing price cap for offshore wind projects, allowing for price increases of up to 10 per cent of the previous procurement. It also requires that any increase in price must be the result of economic development investments for low- and middle-income populations and diversity, equity and inclusion programs. This crucial change will give offshore wind developers more flexibility, protect ratepayers from significant price increases, and ensure that offshore wind investments support equitable economic development in the Commonwealth.

To support the advancement of solar power, the bill permits agricultural and horticultural land to be used to site solar panels, eliminates the so-called ‘donut hole’ for on-site solar energy net metering to promote residential solar; and requires the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to make recommendations for the successor program to the current SMART solar incentive program.

In addition to wind and solar power, the bill addresses other innovative sources of clean energy such as fusion and geothermal power, and amends Massachusetts law to ensure that the state can consider potential options for the development of safe, clean energy sources. Acknowledging the harmful health and environmental impacts of biomass facilities, this legislation removes biomass from the list of energy-generating sources that are allowed to receive state incentives for clean energy. To ensure that the Commonwealth has adequate storage systems to accommodate all the clean energy that Massachusetts

will be adding to its energy portfolio, this bill directs a study of how to optimize the deployment of long-term energy storage systems.

Transportation

As the transportation sector is the largest source of fuel emissions in Massachusetts, the bill takes steps to encourage the use of electric vehicles, including codifying into statute, expanding, and allocating \$100 million for the state’s MOR-EV electric vehicle incentive program, which provides rebates to individuals who purchase electric vehicles.

Under the Drive Act, the rebate amount will increase by \$1,000, to \$3,500, for passenger cars and light-duty trucks. Moreover, electric vehicle purchasers who trade in their emission-producing vehicles will be eligible for an additional incentive of \$1,000. For the first time, rebates provided through the MOR-EV program will be administered at the point of sale, rather than through a rebate that can take up to 90 days to receive. The bill also makes used vehicles eligible for rebates. Further, the bill directs the department of energy resources to conduct an outreach campaign to promote awareness about the MOR-EV program among consumers and businesses in underserved and low-income communities, as well as in communities with high proportions of high-emission vehicles.

To expand access to electric vehicle charging stations, this bill convenes an interagency coordinating council to develop and implement a charging infrastructure deployment plan, and allocates \$50 million to this coordinating council to deploy charging infrastructure in an equitable and comprehensive manner.

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) would be required to set vehicle electrification and greenhouse gas emission requirements for electric vehicle companies. In addition, to ensure that zero-emission vehicle charging remains affordable for consumers, the bill requires all electricity companies to submit proposals to the department of public utilities for how they will offer reduced electricity rates for consumers who charge their zero-emission vehicles at off-peak times.

Finally, the bill takes historic steps to address emissions that

come from MBTA bus fleets. Starting in 2028, this bill would require every passenger bus that is purchased or leased by the MBTA to be a zero-emission vehicle. By the end of 2040, the MBTA would be required to operate exclusively zero-emission vehicles. Underserved and low-income communities would be prioritized for the equitable deployment of these zero-emission buses.

Amendments adopted during the debate include those to:

Allow the MOR-EV program to offer an additional \$1,500 rebate for low-income individuals;

Require the state to examine historic and present participation of low- and moderate-income households in the MOR-EV program and recommend strategies to reduce disparities in uptake;

Require the MBTA to develop and implement short-, medium-, and long-term plans for electrifying the commuter rail fleet, with new purchase of diesel locomotives to be phased out in the coming years;

Require MassDOT to assist Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in creating an Electric Bus Rollout Plan for transitioning to zero-emission bus fleets; and

Direct the state to prepare a report on the estimated cost of converting school buses to zero-emission vehicles, as well as recommendations on how to structure a state incentive program for replacing school buses.

Buildings

To tackle the difficult issue of emissions from the building sector, the bill creates a 10 municipality demonstration project allowing all-electric building construction by local option. Participating municipalities must receive local approval before applying into the demonstration project.

The Drive Act makes targeted enhancements to the Mass Save program, which provides rebates and incentives for owners and renters related to efficient appliances and other home energy improvements. Under the bill, priority for Mass Save projects will be given to those that maximize net climate, environmental, and equity impacts. Beginning in 2025, Mass Save funds will also be limited in most instances from

SENATE BILL*continued from page 17*

going to any fossil fuel equipment.

This bill requires the DPU to conduct an adjudicatory proceeding prior to approving any company-specific plan under the DPU's future of heat proceedings. In addition, the bill requires DPU to convene a stakeholder working group to develop regulatory and legislative recommendations for how Massachusetts can best align the Commonwealth's gas system enhancement program with the state's 2050 net zero goal. The working group must submit its final recommendations to the Legislature by July 31, 2023.

Amendments adopted during the debate include those to:

Require utility companies to report to the state annually the total amount of natural gas and electricity used by large buildings over 25,000 square feet, and for the state to make the data publicly available on a building-by-building basis;

Require the state to consider the historic and present participation of low- and middle-income households, including renter households, in the Mass Save pro-

gram, and provide recommendations to promote equitable access and reduce disparities in uptake; and

Direct electric and gas distribution companies to collect and report on data related to ratepayer bills in communities that are involved in the demonstration project, as well as those who are not.

S.2821: An Act relative to the remediation of home heating oil releases

The Senate also passed S.2821, An Act relative to the remediation of home heating oil releases. Over 650,000 homeowners across Massachusetts use home heating oil to heat their homes. Every year, over 100 of those homeowners report to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that there has been an oil spill associated with their home heating oil tank. These spills can cost anywhere from tens of thousands to millions of dollars to clean up, causing a potential financial crisis for a family.

"I would like to thank the Senate President, Chairman Rodrigues, and Senator Feeney for their steadfast support in moving this bill through the Sen-

ate," said Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Worcester), the sponsor of the bill. "This legislation is a necessity for homeowners' protection and peace of mind. The cost of remediation is expensive and can force residents to seek risky financial maneuvers. It is only fair that the state takes action to protect its citizens from this danger. I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate, for their unanimous support today. I urge the House of Representatives to move quickly on this legislation; it is in the best interest of the residents of Massachusetts."

The Legislature previously took action on this issue in 2008, adopting a bill that would require release prevention devices to be installed for residential heating oil systems, as well as and mandate all homeowner insurers in Massachusetts to offer coverage for home heating oil cleanups. While this bill made insurance coverage available, it was not successful in leading to high uptake rates. Currently, only seven per cent of homeowners who use home heating oil have insurance coverage for a potential spill. Many homeowners with home heating oil falsely assume that their current

policy covers a potential clean up, or are unaware that such insurance coverage exists. This means that every year, hundreds of families are hit with unexpected and expensive cleanup bills that they are unable to cover themselves.

The bill adopted by the Senate today addresses this problem by requiring that all homeowner insurance policies cover a potential home heating oil spill. This is a common-sense measure, considering that homeowner insurance policies already cover other potential risks, including natural gas line explosions. This legislation will help prevent families from having to deal with the tragic situation of paying for the cleanup of home heating oil spills by themselves.

S.2820: An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth

In addition, the Senate passed S.2820, An Act preserving open space in the Commonwealth. This bill would prevent the loss of natural resource lands that are covered under Article 97 of the Massachusetts constitution. The bill requires that any municipality or state agency that is disposing or changing the use of any Article

97 protected open space must replace that land with comparable land, which would protect open spaces across Massachusetts.

"I am very proud to join my Senate colleagues in passing the Public Land Protection Act to safeguard public lands for future generations," said Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton), the sponsor of the bill. "I'm grateful to Senate President Karen E. Spilka, Senate Ways and Means Chair Rodrigues, and Senate Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee Chair Becca Rausch for their work on this important environmental bill that will protect open space across Massachusetts."

Since the Drive Act builds off a previous climate bill that was passed through the House, the differences will need to be worked out by both branches before the bill advances to the Governor's desk. The open space bill also amends a similar bill that was passed through the House, and so differences will need to be reconciled on that bill as well. Having only passed in the Senate, the home heating oil spill bill will now go to the House for further consideration.

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Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Date	Natick	Amount
5/18/2022	70 Fairway Circle	\$700,000
5/17/2022	33 Sherman Street	\$1.03 mil
5/17/2022	11 Cooper Road	\$629,000
5/17/2022	15 Village Hill Lane	\$265,099
5/16/2022	50 Rathbun Road	\$1 mil
5/13/2022	17 Westlake Road	\$1.60 mil
5/12/2022	51 Macarthur Road	\$926,000
5/11/2022	33 Pine Street	\$1.45 mil
5/11/2022	56 Highland Street	\$1.84 mil
5/11/2022	10 Nouvelle Way #S1204	\$1.02 mil
5/10/2022	30 Indian Ridge Road	\$1.25 mil
5/10/2022	39 Union Street	\$1.52 mil
5/10/2022	11 Graystone Lane	\$2.06 mil
5/09/2022	10 Harvard Street	\$895,000
5/09/2022	1 Hemlock Drive	\$800,000
5/06/2022	18 Huntington Street	\$1.06 mil
5/06/2022	11 Macarthur Road	\$885,000
5/05/2022	17 Morgan Drive #104	\$660,000
5/05/2022	7 Harvard Street	\$951,000
5/04/2022	234 Speen Street	\$1.43 mil
5/04/2022	21 East Street	\$650,000
5/03/2022	43 Burning Tree Road	\$843,000
5/02/2022	196 West Central Street	\$715,000
5/02/2022	12 Curve Street	\$900,000
4/29/2022	61 School Street Ext #A	\$1.10 mil
4/29/2022	121 N Main Street	\$510,000
4/29/2022	44 Beacon Street	\$1.54 mil
4/28/2022	2 Phillips Pond Road	\$1.20 mil
4/28/2022	6 Peterson Road	\$710,000
4/28/2022	36 Wellesley Road	\$1.62 mil
4/28/2022	1 Oakridge Avenue	\$1.15 mil
4/28/2022	192 Speen Street	\$775,000
4/28/2022	3 Western Avenue	\$950,000
4/28/2022	63 School Street Ext	\$950,000
4/28/2022	2 Phillips Pond Road	\$1.20 mil
4/28/2022	49 School Street Ext	\$1.40 mil

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 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">30 Wellesley Avenue Natick - \$739,000</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">Kensington Place, (Ava Marie Model) Millis - \$519,000</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">10 Sanford Street Hyde Park - \$679,000</p>
SOLD	NEW LISTING	SOLD
 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">21 East Street Natick - \$649,000</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">150 Spring Street Millis - \$469,000</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">51 Lincoln Street Natick - \$1,250,000</p>
SOLD	PENDING	PENDING
 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">78 Fisher Street Medway - \$699,000</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">60 Forest Street Millis - \$749,900</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 5px 0;">7B Hawthorne Village Franklin - \$429,900</p>



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