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# 1765 Paxton Community News

PaxtonCommunityNews.com

December 18, 2024

## Look Good, Feel Good: Wachusett Botox Launches in Princeton



Alixis Van Horn launches Wachusett Botox.

Photo Contributed

*by Melissa Southwell*

Have you ever wondered how you would feel if you looked in the mirror and saw less lines on your face?

Princeton resident Alixis Van Horn recently launched Wachusett Botox to help community members who want to boost their confidence in their appearance.

"I find that most people want to feel better about the way they look," she said. "The effect of Botox when it's given well can give you a more youthful, rested appearance."

Van Horn is a professional nurse practitioner with a specialty in neurology and palliative care who has trained specifically in administering Botox. She began using Botox in 2016

to treat stroke and migraine patients. When she realized her family and friends were interested in the cosmetic benefits of Botox treatment, she invested in extensive further training.

"I view it as a medical procedure and understand the mechanisms around how the drug works," she said. "It gives me a deeper understanding of how to customize treatment and give people the outcomes they want."

Van Horn favors a natural look and is dedicated to ensuring clients are happy. After an initial consult, Van Horn will offer to proceed with treatment immediately or give clients time to think about it.

"My approach is to do a conservative injection the first time and bring clients

back in two weeks to learn about what they like and finetune as needed," she said.

Botox is a drug made from the botulinum toxin produced by bacteria. The drug temporarily relaxes muscles around the injection site. Botox has many medical uses but is most commonly known for its cosmetic use to reduce the appearance of wrinkles and fine lines. The effect is temporary and requires repeated applications for ongoing results.

"You can still move your muscles, to smile or raise your eyebrows for example, but the lines don't appear as pronounced," explained Van Horn.

Van Horn understands that a lot of people are cautious about Botox

– and she agrees that is appropriate. She advises that clients make sure the person administering Botox is reputable, trained, and reviews risks and pre-existing conditions with them. Van Horn notes that people with certain medical conditions or who are pregnant or breastfeeding shouldn't get Botox.

There is also a limit to what Botox can do. The effects are subtle. It won't change jowls or smoker lines. It should enhance the way you look – not change it.

Wachusett Botox is a partnership with JC Aesthetics in Princeton, where Van Horn practices. Services are provided by appointment only. To learn more or make an appointment, call or email Alixis Van Horn at 774-239-6700 or alixisvanhorn@gmail.com.

**TOO!**

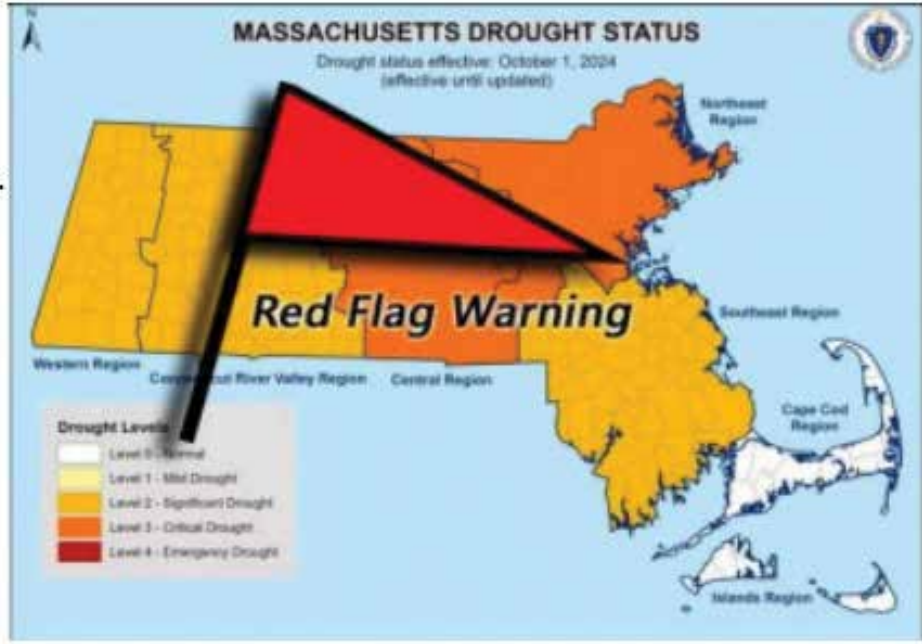


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**Level 3 Critical Drought:**

**Water Conservation, Wildfire Information, Background**

Most of Central Massachusetts, is currently in a Level 3 (Critical) drought. At Level 3, the state allows only essential water use, which is defined by Mass DCR as:

- for health or safety reasons; by regulation;
  - for the production of food and fiber;
  - for the maintenance of livestock; to meet the core functions of a business.
- All other water use is banned.

**Why are we in a Level 3 Critical drought?**

New England is seeing rainfall deficits of between 5 and 9 inches since September 1, 2024. The outlook for precipitation over the next two weeks is not encouraging, and predicted rainfall will be insufficient to get us out of this drought.

Climate change is helping to fuel “weather whiplash,” extreme contrasts between weather events. Notice in the Drought Frequency chart at right that the frequency and severity of droughts have increased in the past decade.

The Northeast is also experiencing heavier rainstorms thanks to climate change; hotter temperatures and drier soils mean any heavy rain is more likely to end up as runoff rather than sinking in beneficially.

In the past dozen years, note that there have been four critical drought periods, while in the previous dozen there was only one.



**RAPTORS, RODENTICIDES, COLLATERAL DAMAGE, AND BETTER OPTIONS**

**JANUARY 15, 2025 AT 7 P.M.**  
(Inclement weather date: January 22)  
**Town Hall Annex,**  
**4 Town Hall Drive, Princeton, MA**





**Join us as we welcome Jane Newhouse,**  
**founder of Newhouse Wildlife Rescue!**  
**Meet “Stanley” the groundhog!**



**Rodenticides kill raptors and other predators.**

**Second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides (SGARs)**--those often used by pest control professionals to control rats and mice in homes and businesses--**have a deadly impact on raptors and other predators.** They also pose **grave risks to pets and children.**

Jane will share information on this important topic, and offer **safe and effective alternatives for controlling pests.** Learn too about her wildlife rehabilitation efforts!

*Sponsored by the*  
**Town of Princeton's**  
**Agricultural Commission**  
**&**  
**Environmental Action Committee**

Questions about this event?  
Email [princetoneac@gmail.com](mailto:princetoneac@gmail.com) or [prozzo@icloud.com](mailto:prozzo@icloud.com)



Located in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, Newhouse Wildlife Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, providing rehabilitation services to orphaned and injured wildlife. With 6 years of veterinary technician experience and 9 years of wildlife rehabilitation experience, Jane Newhouse is the founder of the organization.

(Photos courtesy of Raptors Are the Solution and Newhouse Wildlife Rescue.)

**Raptors, Rodenticides, Collateral Damage, and Better Options**

On January 15, 2025 at 7 pm. at the Town Hall Annex (4 Town Hall Drive, Princeton, MA), the Town of Princeton will host an informative and “wild” evening with Jane Newhouse, founder of Newhouse Wildlife Rescue (home of local celebrity Nibi the Beaver). In case of inclement weather, the “snow and ice” date will be January 22. Meet Stanley the Groundhog, Newhouse Wildlife Rescue’s Educational Ambassador! Learn about the dangers of rodenticide poisoning to raptors, other predators, pets, and children. Jane will offer safe and effective alternatives for controlling pests, and will share stories about her wildlife rehabilitation efforts. All are welcome to this family-friendly event! Sponsored by Town of Princeton Agricultural Commission and Environmental Action Committee. Questions? Email [princetoneac@gmail.com](mailto:princetoneac@gmail.com) or [prozzo@icloud.com](mailto:prozzo@icloud.com)



**NO  
STREET  
PARKING**

**Winter Parking Ban through 04/15/2025**

REMINDER! There is a Winter Parking Ban in the Town of Paxton from November 15, 2024 through April 15, 2025.

Per the Town's Bylaw, parking is prohibited on all public ways, annually from November 15th through April 15th. Any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, parked, day or night,

on any street in the Town, so as to interfere with the work of removing or plowing snow, removing ice, or sanding the street may be removed or towed away under the authority, discretion and direction of the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee. The registered owner of a motor vehicle which is removed pursuant to this bylaw shall be fully responsible for all charges and expenses incurred for the removal and storage of said vehicle.

**Letters to the Editor**

Letters should be no more than 300 words, and must include the writer's name, address, phone number and signature. Only name, street name and town will be printed. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. On occasion, letters up to 500 words may be published as opinion pieces, at the editor's discretion. Send email to [sterlingmeetinghousenews@gmail.com](mailto:sterlingmeetinghousenews@gmail.com) or mail to: Sterling Meetinghouse News, 35 Redemption Rock Trail, Sterling, MA 01564.

**1765 Paxton Community News**

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The next issue will publish **March 19, 2025.**  
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Melissa Southwell

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# District Attorney Partners with Autism Resource Center to Expand Adaptive Swim Class Offerings for Neurodivergent Children

**Press Release**

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. recently partnered with the Autism Resource Center to help expand adaptive swim program offerings to more families of neurodivergent children across Worcester County.

The classes include basic swim skills, as well as water safety training. They also include a home safety workshop for parents/caregivers to provide information and resources to protect against elopement.

“We know that children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are 160 times more likely to drown than their peers without adequate water safety instruction,” said Mr. Early. “We want to prevent such tragedies. These swim classes will help children be safe, help give parents some peace of mind, and also allow children to have fun in an environment adapted to their needs.”

The Autism Resource Center first began setting up the Adaptive Swim Program last year with the support of the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

“The Swim and Safety Program is truly about prevention and accessibility. Our goal is to provide swim lessons to as many children and young adults with autism as possible,” said Kristen Cariglia, Director of the Autism Resource



(from left to right) Lainie Petrou from the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office, Logi Nathan from the British Swim School of Blackstone Valley, Julie LeBeau of the Autism Resource Center, Janine LaPrade, swim instructor at Worcester Fitness, Kristen Cariglia, Director of the Autism Resource Center, Kelly Sampson of the Worcester JCC, Eileen Shea from the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office, and Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.

Photo Credit: Caitlin V. Reidy

Center. “By training more Water Safety Instructors across our region to increase the number of adaptive lessons and funding for participants, children are able participate in these potentially lifesaving lessons in close

to home.

We are beyond thrilled to be partnering with the Worcester County District Attorney’s office. With their support, we are able to make these lessons accessible

to double the number of children and train more swim instructors to provide them.”

Through the funding provided by the District Attorney’s Office, the

CONTINUED PAGE 11

## Expect more when selling your most valuable asset

	Average Real Estate Agent	Karen Packard Real Estate
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# Worcester County Juvenile Court Hosts National Adoption Day Celebration Event



**Press Release**

The National Adoption Day celebration held on Friday, Nov. 22 at the Worcester County Juvenile Court was a heartwarming day for all involved. Six judges facilitated the legal adoption of 30 children by 25 families across Worcester County. Attendees included city and state representatives including State Senator Michael Moore, a representative from Senator Robyn Kennedy's office, Mayor Joseph Petty, and Governor's Councilor Paul DePalo. The event was heavily supported by community partners and friends of the court to provide food, activities, gifts, professional photos, parking, and more to the families who participated in the event.

Judge Mary Beth Keating, First Justice of the Worcester County Juvenile Court and chairperson for Worcester County's National

Adoption Day committee, stated, "National Adoption Day is a day to celebrate the amazing families who have opened their hearts to these children. This day is the culmination of hard work and dedication by social workers, court staff, and judges. While 30 children found permanent homes through adoption today, there are still many children who are desperately waiting for a family. We hope that National Adoption Day will encourage and inspire others to open their hearts and homes to these children."

Senator Michael Moore (D- Second Worcester) reflected, "With so many youth involved in the child welfare system, it's meaningful to see and celebrate permanency achieved for 30 of them today. All children deserve a stable and safe home, and families deserve the support and resources to make that possible."

CONTINUED PAGE 12



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# Planning for the Spring Real Estate Market

By Karen Packard

Recently I have spoken to many clients looking to buy and sell in the coming year. The big question they are asking is what is my prediction for 2025. How will the market look in 2025? Every election year causes some changes in the real estate market, that on top of the changing interest rates has myself and many other experts optimistic about the real estate market for 2025.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about mortgage rates and the low inventory that we have been experiencing the past few years. This does make it harder for buyers to purchase. It also makes it harder if you are trying to buy a new house and sell your current home at the same time. Another factor that I have been discussing with my clients lately is the effect of new construction. While we are seeing more new construction homes which should help our inventory a bit, the cost of land and building materials has made new construction difficult to afford for many buyers. New Construction homes in the Wachusett area that sold in the last 12 months are an average of almost \$800,000 in purchase price.

The good news is that I do anticipate the lower interest rates are going to help the overwhelming demand for housing in the Wachusett district. Inventory has been improving and there has been a nice variety of homes coming on the market in various price points. So, if you are a first-time buyer looking on the lower end, we have been seeing more homes available. Also, more homes have been listed in the larger house market for people looking for 4-bedroom homes with 2500 + sq. ft. to possible buy something with more living space than they currently have. Some experts like CoreLogic are predicting that home sales will increase by about 9 percent in 2025 compared to 2024.

The other reason I am optimistic for 2025 is that as the interest rates decrease, homeowners who were able to refinance a couple years ago to a 3-4 percent rate might be open to making a move again if the rates come down. Many potential home sellers were locked in at an extremely low rate and have been hesitant to make a move even if their current

### Sold Single Family Homes Sold in Paxton in November 2024

105 Holden Rd. Sale Price \$564,900

home doesn't fit their needs anymore. A lower interest rate will make it easier for those homeowners to buy something new without the fear of the 7 percent interest rate we saw in 2024. Those low rates were amazing but, in some cases, stalled the housing market making people stay in homes solely because of their rate not because that was the home they wanted. Lower rates may ease that burden for some and open up new opportunities in 2025.

Many people ask me if I think the house prices will go down. My answer... No, I do not see a decrease in the cost of homes for the next few years. I think that if agents and sellers are pricing the home correctly and marketing it properly, we will still see homes selling at or above asking prices. But I believe we will see less multiple offer situations and less bidding wars. I also think we will see a healthy number of buyers at open houses not the dozens and sometimes 50-100 buyers we saw the last few years. Overall prices should remain strong in 2025. The past few years have seen houses selling with extremely high offer prices, waiving home inspections, cash buyers and appraisal waivers. Moving into 2025, I believe we will see a return to negotiating purchase prices, home inspections becoming standard on most homes and normal closing timeframes and contingencies.

The key moving into 2025 and beyond is making sure you have a qualified real estate agent working for you. Whether you are buying or selling, there are changes happening and having someone who is ready to manage the changes is key. The past few years have shown record numbers of people getting into the industry because the market was so robust. Now, it is more important than ever to hire someone with experience. Marketing the house will be important moving forward and, in this industry, experience matters.

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# Garden Guru: Gardening Brings Happiness

By Mark Packard



As the year comes to a close, I always find myself looking forward to Spring. I think about projects I would like to get done, and how I can improve on what I did last year. It always reminds me of the quote “Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts”.

I truly believe that gardening and landscaping brings happiness to everyone including the owner, the installer, and everyone that gets to experience the colors and beauty we create like your neighbors, friends, and family. We like to think we are making the world beautiful one yard at a time. It is a rewarding trade because it brings beauty and happiness to the world and a feeling of instant gratification that keeps getting better over the years. In addition to beauty, plants have functional benefits as well. They can provide shade, erosion control, privacy, security, moisture absorption and more. Using the correct plants for each function is just as important as aesthetics.

There is a lot to know about landscaping. From choosing the correct plants so your landscape has color at all times of the year, to maintaining them correctly so they don't outgrow their selected environment and blossom to their full potential. There are more than 2200 different types of plants that grow in Massachusetts, and there are many different varieties of each species. There are over 50 varieties of Hydrangea alone and the growers keep inventing more! That's a lot to learn, and a lot of additions to keep track of! Landscapers also need to be careful of drainage, water runoff, structural integrity, sunlight, wind, irrigation, lighting, sound and

more. To get the most out of your landscape you need someone who has experience with all of these segments of the landscape industry. I am happy to help anyone that wants to get into this industry so we can continue to make the world beautiful together.

Gardening questions? Please call 978-407-2568.



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#### STEP 1

Book your \$99 appointment by going to [www.plantnerds.design](http://www.plantnerds.design).

Then, send pictures of your yard, your contact information, and any preferences you may have to [plantnerdsdesign@gmail.com](mailto:plantnerdsdesign@gmail.com).

A member of our design team will reach out to you prior to the appointment to better understand your needs and to make sure the right plants are selected to thrive in their new home!

#### STEP 2

Our designers will pick a selection of flowers, shrubs, and trees from our garden center that will compliment your yard and suit your individual needs.

Once they arrive at your house, all of the plants will be laid out in the exact spots that they will be planted.

#### STEP 3

Once the design is complete and you're happy with the selections, the plants stay right where they are. You can request that our install crew return and plant them for you at an additional cost, or you can choose to install the plants yourself. And that's it!



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# Tax Talks

with Jennifer Lovett, IRS Enrolled Agent (EA)

(Owner/operator of Liberty Tax Service in Holden, Clinton, Framingham, Marlborough, Worcester, Spencer and Athol)

Holiday seasons mean something different to everyone. No doubt the Holidays are a magical time for friends and family to get together and celebrate. The Holidays bring a much-needed time of cheer for us, and we cap off the Holiday season by ringing in the New Year. Although it is still fun, for tax professionals this is our last chance for some relaxation before we start our tax season. We have to get busy studying all the changes the IRS so graciously gifts us every year and get ready to meet and advise clients in the upcoming tax season.

While some of you may have just started to think about your 2024 tax return, the IRS has announced their changes for the 2025 tax year and how it may affect you. This is important for so many reasons, while it is important to take a look back at what we did last year, it is so much more important to look ahead and plan for our future. Without boring you with numbers, as expected with inflation, the IRS increased amounts for the standard deduction, earned income tax credit, alternative minimum tax (AMT) and others including the ability to contribute \$500 more to your 401(k). While IRA limits have stayed the same for individuals aged 60-63 you can make contributions or up to \$11,250 which is \$3,750 higher than other catch-up amounts, starting in 2025.

The year 2025 may not have any shocking changes like we saw during 2020 and 2021, yet there is a massive elephant in the room that many of us have forgotten about. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA). This Act is set to expire December 31, 2025, which gives our incoming lawmakers a small window of time to structure tax policies that are both fair and account for economic growth and tax revenue needs. No one has a crystal ball, but whoever controls congress will have weight on whether these provisions are extended, reformed or put out to pasture.

TCJA has some major implications if reformed or sunset. Just some high-

lights of the TCJA, it cut corporate tax rate to 21%, capped tax deductions for individuals to \$10,000 (SALT cap), doubled standard deductions and increased the child tax credit. If TCJA does not renew things like bonus depreciation and QBID (qualified business income deduction) could go away, which is a deduction of 20% of qualified business income. Individual tax rates may increase, a lower standard deduction could come back and a rollback of the child tax credit to \$1000 versus \$2000 with lower income thresholds to qualify.

Instead of going into every detail of each potential change, this boils down to what I preach in every article. Tax planning, estate planning and financial planning are important pieces of your financial strength and wellness. All of us should be concerned about future changes and keep in the know to make the best decisions we possibly can. Having a team by your side who have expert knowledge of the tax code will save you money not just in the present but provide ongoing support that is tailored specifically for you. Happy Holidays and Happy Tax Season!



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# Our Gift To You



Your free local newspaper is brought to you by Mark and Karen Packard. The purpose is to strengthen our community by bringing inspiring and uplifting local news to the people in our community. In a world of negative news, we decided to create a newspaper that would highlight the good in people and show the community that we care about the good things they are doing. There are so many people in our community that give back, help others, create opportunities, and support the community in general. We have amazing people in public services like our police, fire, DPW, and others that we all appreciate. We have charity groups and people that just go out of their way to bring happiness to others. We like to say “thank you” by offering a way to get your message to the people of your community.

How is it free, you might ask? Isn't it expensive for you to pay writers, designers and editors? Doesn't it cost a lot of money to have thousands of copies printed and delivered by the local post office? Yes, it is expensive. That's why we would also like to thank all of our advertisers that have joined us to bring you this free publication. They too are supporting your community by paying for ad space so you can continue to get all the good news delivered to your door 10 times a year. These advertisers know the value of a strong community. Their businesses survive off your loyalty and willingness to support them. This is the backbone of our community. Local businesses and the people of the community supporting each other keeps the local economy strong. Thank you for supporting them and enjoy our gift to you. See you in the spring!

If you would like to be a part of our local publication, please don't hesitate to reach out to Karen at 978-407-2568 or [kpackardrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:kpackardrealtor@gmail.com)







## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### Are Your Protection Plans In Place?

Have you ever thought about how much you have to protect? Between your family, your finances, your independence and your legacy, it can be quite a lot — and that’s why it’s important to have the right protection plan in place.

Let’s look at these areas of need and some possible protection solutions:

- **Protecting your income** – An injury or severe illness could prevent you from working for some time. And if that happened, your family’s finances could become strained. To help guard against this possibility, you may want to consider disability income insurance. Your employer may offer some type of coverage, but it’s likely to be short term and may not be enough to help close the income gap you might face, so you may want to consider purchasing your own policy.

- **Protecting your family** – If you were no longer around, how would your family’s lifestyle be affected? Could they stay in the same house? Could your children afford college or another type of post-secondary education? If you have adequate life insurance, the answer to these questions can be “yes.” Again, you might get some coverage from your employer, but it may be insufficient, so you may want to explore additional protection through a personal policy. In determining how much coverage you’ll need, you’ll want to weigh several factors: size of mortgage and other debts, number of children, spouse’s income and needs, and the legacy you’d like to leave.

- **Protecting your goals** – You may have some important financial goals, such as sending your children to college and achieving a comfortable retirement. To protect these goals, you’ll need strategies to help prepare for them, which could include investing in an education savings

plan and contributing regularly to your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement plans.

- **Protecting your financial independence** – Hopefully, you will be able to remain financially independent your entire life. But this independence could be threatened by the need for some type of long-term care. Consider this: A private room in a nursing home costs, on average, more than \$116,000 a year, while the services of a home health aide are more than \$75,000 a year, according to Genworth, an insurance company. Medicare generally does not cover these costs or types of needs and would typically only pay for a short period. You might be left with significant bills or creditors and possibly dependent on family or loved ones. To help protect yourself from these threats, you may want to consult with a financial professional, who can offer long-term care solutions.

- **Protecting your legacy** – When you work hard your whole life, you may want to leave something behind to your loved ones. A comprehensive estate plan can help ensure your family — and the charitable groups you support — will receive the resources you’d like them to have. An estate plan can be somewhat complex, involving various documents and arrangements, including a will, living trust and various powers of attorney, so you’ll need to work with a qualified legal advisor, and possibly your financial professional.

As we’ve seen, “protection” can take many forms. So, try to follow all the protection strategies you need to enjoy the life you’ve envisioned for yourself and your family.

**For more information please contact Christina Lashua at [Christina.lashua@edwardjones.com](mailto:Christina.lashua@edwardjones.com)**

# Thank you for a great season!



Garden Center - Pond Store - Stone Yard

## See you in the spring!!!

### Re-open March 21st 2025

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# Richards Memorial Library Programs November - December 2024 Events

The Paxton Library is located at 44 Eichards Avenue, Paxton, MA 01612  
For more information about their events please call 508-754-0793 • Website: <https://rmlpaxton.org/>

## HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

We would like to share our condolences for the family of Joan Bedard, who previously worked for 10 years at Richards Memorial Library as an Assistant. Serving on the Library Board of Library Trustees was just one of the many ways Joan Bedard contributed to the Paxton Community.

The library would like to thank the Bedard Family for thinking of the library by requesting that donations be made in her memory to the Friends of the Richards Memorial Library (in lieu of flowers).

Dick Bedard let us know the library was Joan's happy place. We understand completely. - Richards Memorial Library staff

## ALL MONTH

### Mini Canvases Available

Please pick up your two canvases for the 3rd Annual Mini Art Show by Humans. The Art Show will be on display at the library in January and February. This is an all-ages event. Canvases will be due back on December 21.

### December Book Displays

Warm up with a Good Book - with a special treat  
Perky Pairings Books (Coffee and Chocolate)  
Just One Word (titles)

### Drop-in Crafts for Youth

Ugly Sweater Contest plus winter & holiday coloring sheets

### Friends of the Library Membership Appeal

The Friends are passionate library advocates and dedicated volunteers who support the library through fundraising. They support compelling and fun programs for children and adults, museum passes, stimulating lectures, art workshops, craft programs and musical performances. Thanks for your support by renewing your membership or becoming a member here: <https://rmlpaxton.org/friends>

## EVENTS

### Letters for Santa

Through 12/17

Drop your letter to Santa in our special outdoor mailbox by December 17th! Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and you'll receive a reply.

### Snowflake Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, 12/19 through Saturday, 1/4

Drop in anytime during open hours to search for geometric snowflake shapes in the J/Y room. Complete the scavenger hunt and earn a small prize.

### Drop-in STEM Challenges

Saturday, 12/21 through Tuesday, 12/31, 5pm

Stop by the library during school vacation for a rotating series of brain building challenges, including Magna-Tiles, Lincoln Logs, Dominoes, Hexbugs, Pentominoes, Perpetual Puzzles, and more.

Tuesday, 12/24 & Wednesday, 12/25

The library is **closed**. There will be no interlibrary delivery.

Tuesday, 12/31

Library is **closing** at 5pm.

Wednesday, 1/1/25

**Closed**

The library is closed. There will be no interlibrary delivery.

### Graphic Novel Book Club

Ages 8-12

Each month, receive a featured graphic novel, along with a small treat. Read and enjoy!



Optional: Join other graphic novel fans the last Wednesday of each month, 4-4:40pm, for discussion and fun activities related to the book.

The next meeting will be December 4 due to the holiday.

Register now: <https://rmlpaxton.org/tweens>

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### LEGO Challenge

Tuesdays

3:30-4:30pm

Take the weekly challenge or build from your imagination. Completed challenges will be displayed at the library. All materials provided. Ages 5+ due to small parts. No LEGO 12/24 and 12/31 due to the holidays.

### Outdoor Story and Playtime

Wednesdays

10:30-11:15am

Join us for outdoor play and learning in the beautiful library yard or fun indoors in inclement weather.

We sing songs, go on scavenger hunts, read stories, create, and play!

No Storytime 12/25 and 1/1/25 due to the holidays.

## WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

RML Storm Closing Policy

The Richards Memorial Library may be closed due to inclement weather if the Wachusett Regional School District is closed. When WRSD is delayed or canceled, library programs are canceled for that day.

The library may be opened at the discretion of the director, after the weather has improved and the parking area and sidewalks have been cleared.

Please check the website [www.rmlpaxton.org](http://www.rmlpaxton.org) or call ahead (508) 754-0793 for the open status.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees November 9, 2021

## CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Call for Volunteers (7)

POSTED ON: SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 - 12:41PM

The Town of Paxton is seeking seven residents to serve on a Charter Review Committee. This is a unique opportunity for any resident who is not currently involved in town government to learn about how the town operates and have a direct impact on Paxton's future. The committee will review the town's charter and recommend updates or changes. Volunteers must not be current employees, appointed officials, or elected officials of the town. All members will be appointed by the Select Board. This effort is part of the town's initiative to ensure the charter remains relevant and effective in governing local operations.

## These New Books Are Now Available At The Library!



### The Peculiar Garden of Harriet Hunt

By Chelsea Iversen

A lush, enchanting story of a woman who must use the magic of the fantastical plants that adorn her crumbling estate in Victorian London to thwart the dark plots of the men around her...

Harriet Hunt is completely alone. Her father disappeared months ago, leaving her to wander the halls of Sunnyside house, dwelling on a past she'd rather keep buried. She doesn't often venture beyond her front gate, instead relishing the feel of dirt under her fingernails and of soft moss beneath her feet. Consequently, she's been deemed a little too peculiar for popular Victorian society. This solitary life suits her fine, though – because, in her garden, magic awaits.



### Heavenly Tyrant

By Xiran Jay Zhao

After suffering devastating loss and making drastic decisions, Zetian finds herself at the seat of power in Huaxia. But she has also learned that her world is not as it seems, and revelations about an enemy more daunting than Zetian imagined forces her to share power with a dangerous man she cannot simply depose. Despite having vastly different ideas about how they must deconstruct the corrupt and misogynist system that plagues their country, Zetian must join this man in a dance of truth and lies and perform their roles to perfection in order to take down their common enemy, who seeks to control them as puppets while dangling one of Zetian's loved ones as a hostage.



### Mechanize My Hands to War

By Erin K. Wagner

The debut novel from Erin K Wagner is a chilling nonlinear sci-fi that examines androids as a labor force in conflict with both human farmers and homegrown militias in near-future Appalachia

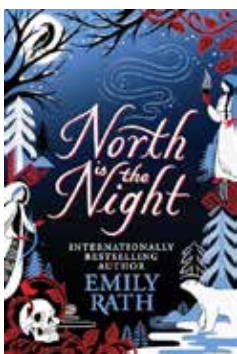
Deep in the hills of Appalachia, anti-android sentiment is building. Charismatic demagogue Eli Whitaker has used anger toward new labor policies that replace factory workers with androids to build a militia—and now he is recruiting child soldiers.



### What the Woods Took

By Courtney Gould

Devin Green wakes in the middle of the night to find two men in her bedroom. No stranger to a fight, she calls to her foster parents for help, but it soon becomes clear this is a planned abduction—one everyone but Devin signed up for. She's shoved in a van and driven deep into the Idaho woods, where she's dropped off with a cohort of equally confused teens. Finally, two camp counselors inform them that they've all been enrolled in an experimental therapy program. If the campers can learn to change their self-destructive ways—and survive a fifty-days hike through the wilderness—they'll come out the other side as better versions of themselves. Or so the counselors say.



### North Is the Night

By Emily Rath

Two bold young women defy the gods and mortals, living and dead, in this darkly mythical, Finnish folklore-inspired fantasy duology for readers of T. Kingfisher's Nettle & Bone, Danielle L. Jensen, Thea Guanzon, Jennifer L. Armentrout, and The Witch's Heart by Genevieve Gornichec.

In the Finnish wilderness, more than wolves roam the dark forests. For Siiri and Aina, summer's fading light is a harbinger of unwelcome change. Land-hungry Swedes venture north, threatening the peace; a zealous Christian priest denounces the old ways; and young women have begun to disappear..



### Glow of the Everflame

By Penn Cole

The threat of war has arrived at Diem's doorstep, along with a new discovery that could save her people. To use it, she must survive the next thirty days by forming a devil's bargain with the people she hates most: the royal family of House Corbois.

But as she dives into the world of the Descended elite, Diem quickly realizes good and evil aren't as simple as they seem. Old prejudices are challenged, and new loyalties blur the line between friend and foe.

## AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER from page 5



Reagan Busch participates in an adaptive swim class taught by Janine LaPrade at Worcester Fitness

Photo Contributed

program has been training additional instructors and expanding to new locations across Worcester County. Classes are currently offered at Worcester Fitness, the Worcester JCC, British Swim School of Milford and Orchard Hill Athletic Club in Lancaster. There are plans to add additional classes soon.

“Providing water safety skills to the community is at the forefront of preventing drowning incidents,”

said Janine LaPrade, the adaptive swim class instructor at Worcester Fitness. “Many times, accessibility is a substantial roadblock to acquiring these survival techniques. The partnership created by the District Attorney’s office, the Autism Resource center, and swim academy sites of Worcester County will increase the number of trained instructors, the number of sites providing lessons, as well

as an increase in families served all in hopes of reducing the tragic accidents that can occur, especially within this population.”

The District Attorney’s office provided \$10,000 to help cover the cost of swimming fees and additional staff training needed to expand the adaptive swim program. The prevention program money was funded through the office’s Drug Forfeiture Community Reinvestment

Program, which uses money seized from drug crimes to provide funds for community initiatives in Worcester County as a crime prevention and intervention tool.

These swim classes are open to the entire community and registration is free. Contact the Autism Resource Center at [www.autismresourcecentral.org/swim](http://www.autismresourcecentral.org/swim) for additional information and registration.



“Today’s celebration embodies the hope and joy that adoption brings to families and children alike,” said Senator Robyn Kennedy (D - First Worcester District). “While we celebrate these 30 adoptions, we are reminded of the thousands of children still waiting for a loving home. We are grateful to everyone who considers the transformative impact of opening their hearts and homes to a child in need.”

Julie Bowditch, executive director of CASA Project Worcester County, a nonprofit organization that provides Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers to youth in the Juvenile Court noted, “This day is a tremendous celebration, but also a reminder of the ways our society fails children and families which often necessitates

foster care and adoption. We are grateful to our partners at the court and in the community who make this day extra special.”

National Adoption Day is observed each November on the Friday before Thanksgiving. Courts and communities in the United States come together to raise awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are in need of adoptive families and to celebrate finalizing local adoptions. In Worcester County alone, about 2,000 children are currently in child protective custody awaiting permanency. That number grows to over 9,000 across the Commonwealth. In total, more than 85,000 children have celebrated adoptions in the U.S. on National Adoption Day since it was founded in 2000.

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“Of all the months of the year there is not a month one half so welcome to the young, or so full of happy associations, as the last month of the year.”

— Charles Dickens