

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Local
Postal
Customer

1765 Paxton Community News

PaxtonCommunityNews.com

October 16, 2024

Field of Dreams Therapy Farm Looks To Bring Healing To Our Community



Drazek and Krueger pictured with Sully, a pony suffering from blindness and cataracts.

Photo by Caitlin V. Reidy

by Caitlin V. Reidy

With a second chance at life, Laurie Drazek's horses frolic in wide open fields and greet her warm embrace with their bobbing heads and cheerful neighs. This differs from their earlier days of experiencing trauma and being neglected throwaways.

"Horses that have been abused usually don't trust humans," Drazek said. "At least humans can talk and share their feelings if they want to. Unfortunately, horses can't."

Drazek has rescued four horses and

one pony from auction houses and horse rescues in the last few years, she said. She rescued two miniature horses from the Central New England Equine Rescue in West Brookfield, she said. Cute and clunky, these horses look like basset hounds and take up little room in the barn.

Drazek also rescued two standard horses and more recently, one blind pony named Sully. One horse, Sophia, came from Camelot Auction House in New Jersey, currently known as Cranberry Sales Stables, she said.

Now, Sophia bounces her head up and down in excitement for pats and hay, but her previous existence reveals a darker past.

When Drazek adopted Sophia, she had strangles, a bacterial disease in horses that can be fatal, Drazek said. Sophia received two months of veterinary care and almost died. When Sophia recovered, she refused to be touched and it took a year for Sophia to let Drazek pet her, Drazek said.

"Horses are like people who have

had trauma or abuse," Drazek said. "Oftentimes, they always remember."

Drazek's most recent rescue, a pony named Sully, lived in several foster homes and was shipped from Maine when it was discovered he couldn't be a riding horse due to his blindness and cataracts, she said.

Drazek said she was at the grain store when she saw a listing for Sully with Hearts and Hooves Rescue and Sanctuary about three months ago.

"He came running to me and I was

CONTINUED PAGE 3

TOO!

STERLING GREENERY.COM

Garden Center - Pond Store - Stone Yard

Open 8-6
Every Day!
242 Pleasant St.
Paxton





Hildene is Paxton-area Seniors' Destination for Oct. 24, 2024

The Paxton-area Senior bus trip season is flying by quickly! Our next-to-last trip for the 2024 traveling season is Thursday, October 24, 2024.

We'll depart at 8:15 a.m. from Paxton Senior Center (Council on Aging, 17 West St (Route 31), just south of the traffic light at the Paxton Common. Our first stop, other than a short break at the eclectic Guilford (VT) Welcome Center, is for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Publyk House in Bennington, VT. We depart there at 1:15 p.m. And within one half hour we will arrive at Hildene, the Lincoln Family home in Manchester, VT.

Robert Todd Lincoln was the only child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive to maturity. We will enjoy a self-guided tour of their property which consists of a lot of choices: Fourteen (14) historic buildings, including the Georgian Revival mansion, formal gardens and observatory on this now 412-acre estate, Welcome Center, the Museum Store in the historic carriage barn, 1903 Pullman (train) car, Sunbeam (British auto) and the Hildene Farm.

We will make a quick stop (pmt. on your own) at the Brattleboro McDonalds on the way home, arriving back at the Paxton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. The price for the entire day is \$126 and includes the delicious lunch, including gratuity, at the Publyk House; the self-guided tour at Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home; and the luxury Wilson Bus motor coach transportation. It does not include the bus driver's gratuity.

The Lincolns built the home as a summer home at the turn of the 20th Century. Robert first visited Manchester as a young man. Some 40 years later he returned to purchase 392 acres to build what he had called his ancestral home. Robert was president of the Pullman Company, the largest manufacturing corporation in the country, at that time.

Lunch at The Publyk House in Bennington begins with a salad of mixed greens, seasonal vegetables and Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing. Choose your entree from Roast Turkey dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, pan gravy and cranberry sauce); Homemade Layered Meatloaf (mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy and cheddar cheese); Baked New England Cod (cheddar and cracker crumb topping with lemon beurre blanc, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetable medley); or Penne Pasta Primavera (tri-color peppers, broccoli, mushrooms, tomatoes, carrots and onions, tossed with pasta in olive oil, garlic, butter and white wine). All entrees come with salad, coffee/tea and seasonal fruit crisp or cobbler with fresh whipped cream for dessert.

Again, the tour date is Thursday, October 24. For reservations, call Deb Grensavitch (508.754.6366) or email Deb at grensavitch@aol.com. Please make payments to FOCOA (or Paxton FOCOA) and send them to Deb Grensavitch at 88 Laurel St, Paxton, MA 01612-1234.

Paxton Woman's Club Scholarship Toll Road

We would like to extend our thanks to: the Paxton Police Dept. for an officer to keep the Common area safe, the Paxton DPW for supplies to help keep our collectors safe, the Paxton Lions Club for generously allowing the use of their toll road equipment, and especially the traveling residents of Paxton and neighboring towns whose generosity will help us support Paxton students in the future. Many thanks to all.

The Paxton Woman's Club

PAXTON COA SENIOR HALLOWEEN PARTY

Paxton Council on Aging is planning a fun new event. Seniors are cordially invited to a special holiday Halloween Party on October 26th from 2:00 to 4:00PM at the Paxton Senior Center, 17 West St. in Paxton.

Costumes are optional. Denis Cormier will entertain us with musical selections and frightful Halloween tasty treats will be served. Enjoy a variety of fun contests including best costume, a donut eating contest, and more. Come learn some simple line dancing steps and have fun in our spooky decorated Senior Center.



Wachusett Watershed Fall Coming Events

Saturday 10/12/24, 9-10:30 am: Hike to the Narrows

About 2.5 miles round trip as we find the shore at the narrowest part of the reservoir. Discover the geology and history, discuss legends and lore of the misfortunes that surrounded the area during construction of the reservoir. Meet at Wachusett Reservoir Gate 8, Parking near the intersection of Cross Street and Route 70, Boylston.

Wednesday, 10/16/24, 6:30-7:30 pm: Loons on the Reservoir

Loons are an excellent indicator of water quality. Learn all about how we protect them and meet natural resources environmental analyst. Meet at DCR Water Supply Protection Headquarters Building, 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston.

Saturday, 10/19/24, 9-10:30 am: Sterling Rail Trail and Pond Loop

About a 3 miles round trip on easy terrain. Take in the water's edge fall foliage and enjoy all the scents and sounds the season has to offer. Meet at Central MA Rail Trail (Sterling) 25 Gates Road, Sterling.

Saturday, 10/26/24, 5:45-7 pm: Halloween Luminary Walk

Take a spooky lantern stroll and hear scary stories, listen for wildlife, and enjoy the scents and sounds of autumn. Dress in costume for this slow-paced easy one mile walk. We will start at sunset and return in darkness with lanterns guiding our way. Meet at Central MA Rail Trail (Sterling), 25 GATES Rod, Sterling. Glow sticks will be provided to warn the Will-o The-Wisp away!

Wachusett Reservoir Watershed

Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection
180 Beaman Street, West Boylston MA 01583

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 or mail to: Sterling Meetinghouse News, 35 Redemption Rock Trail, Sterling, MA 01564.

1765 Paxton Community News

Paxton Community News is published by Sterling Media Inc. 35 Redemption Rock Trail, Sterling, MA 01564 PaxtonCommunityNews.com 978-407-2568 SterlingMeetinghouseNews@gmail.com For advertising information send email to: SterlingMeetinghouseNews@gmail.com

The next issue will publish November 20, 2024. Copy deadline is the first of each month. Items received after deadline will be included if space is available.

Publishers • Mark & Karen Packard Editor & Designer • Emmanuel Ortiz Contributors • Matt LaBarre, Caitlin V. Reidy, Cami Stephen

Sterling Meetinghouse News is mailed free of charge to all postal patrons of Sterling. We are not liable for typographical errors in advertisements.

In This Issue

Letters & Announcements	2
Hometown Heroes	3
Town News	4, 8, 11-12
Business News	5
Gardening Tips	6
Finance News	7, 9
Library News	10

in love,” Drazek said. “He’s a lovebug.” Dana Mcquire, Drazek’s childhood friend, said Sully felt “grateful to be saved.”

A 2001 Boston College graduate, Drazek is also a licensed clinical social worker in Massachusetts. In 2021, she bought a 21-acre field in Paxton, Massachusetts, building the “Field of Dreams Therapy Farm,” while also living on the property with her life partner Kristine, she said.

At the time Drazek was rescuing Sophia nine years ago, she was working with an eight-year-old boy who faced “trauma and abuse issues,” she said.

“Usually when you’re working with people with trauma, you don’t bring it up unless they do,” Drazek said.

Drazek told the boy she was rescuing a mistreated horse, Drazek said. When Sophia’s ears were touched, she would become agitated, implying she had been mistreated. The boy wrote notes to Sophia for Drazek to bring to the barn, she said.

One note told Sophia that it was going to “take time,” but eventually she would be able to “trust Laurie,” Drazek said. Drazek said this moment gave her a “vision.”

“For the past ten years I have wanted to put my two passions together,” Drazek said. “Now we will have kids with special needs come and work with the horses and receive one-on-one therapy.”

Drazek’s plans to combine her experience as a social worker with her love of rescuing horses began in March. In addition to one-on-one therapy, Drazek is working with

Seven Hills Foundation in Worcester, MA, which focuses on helping people with disabilities live dignified lives, according to their mission statement.

Jodie Krueger, who works with Seven Hills Foundation, brings a group of 10 individuals with special needs to Field of Dreams Therapy Farm to interact with the horses and help with farmwork, she said.

“This helps an undervalued group of individuals learn about farm life,” Krueger said. “Here, they’re accepted as they are, welcomed as they are, and loved as they are.”

Krueger said she met Drazek one year ago and started bringing her friend and roommate, Beth, to Drazek’s farm. Beth started living with Krueger through a program funded by the Department of Developmental Services called shared living, Krueger said.

“Shared living is when individuals are placed with families in their homes opposed to other living situations, like group homes,” Krueger said. “As I became friends with Laurie and she needed volunteers at the farm, Beth would come with me because we go everywhere together.”

Krueger said Beth wanted to help when she saw her cleaning the stalls. She also said she would want to do more each week they went to volunteer at Field of Dreams Therapy Farm.

“Now, Beth is the one reminding me we need to go to the farm on Saturdays to help with the horses,” Krueger said.

Beth said she comes to the farm to see the horses and because they make her feel “happy.”



Sully the pony enjoys a sweet carrot after frolicking around the farm.

Photo by Caitlin V. Reidy

Krueger said when she saw how much she was enjoying her time on the farm, she spoke to Laurie about putting something together so people could be a part of the farm if they wanted to. “My experience working with people with various disabilities and Laurie’s experience working with rescued horses and therapy just seemed like a good fit,” Krueger said.

Krueger said she spoke to her supervisor about bringing individuals who would be interested in farm life to Field of Dreams Therapy Farm. She said her supervisor thought it was a great idea, and that’s how a once-per-month program began for 10 individuals to come and “experience farm life.”

“They got to learn about the animals and farming; they get exercise and companionship,” Krueger said. “It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Drazek said horses are highly empathetic and sense trauma and anxiety in humans. The bond fostered when an abused horse is cared for by a person who has suffered trauma is “magical,” she said. “We are their voices,” Drazek said, referring to her horses. “Every person has a story, every horse has a story.”

Drazek is offering one-on-one therapy at Field of Dreams Therapy Farm is an LLC and is located in Paxton, MA. Appointments can be made for therapy by phone at 774-696-3203.

No one does more marketing for your house

More Marketing = More Showings = More Offers = Higher Sales Price

- ✓ Professional pictures on all listings
- ✓ Paid advertising on over 20 web sites
- ✓ Direct mail over 4000 postcards
- ✓ Paid social media advertising
- ✓ E-mail promotion to top real estate brokers
- ✓ E-mail promotion to list of buyers
- ✓ Paid open house promotion
- ✓ Paid print advertising

2024 Average list to sale price 105%

KAREN PACKARD

REAL ESTATE



The local expert you can trust when selling your most valuable asset

978-407-2568

kpackardrealtor@gmail.com

35 Redemption Rock Trail, Sterling MA

Seven Saws Brewing Company: Crafting Community Connections, One Brew at a Time

By Cami Stephen

Seven Saws Brewing Company is authentically “brewnique” raising the bar not just for breweries, but companies overall. The brewery’s originality stems from the owners’ pioneering in crafting a company that welcomes people from all different walks of life: a community. Alongside the diverse community, Seven Saws’ founders encompass a distinctive group as well. The founders consist of five partners, Tom Anderson, Troy Milliken, Paul Mulroy, Tom Mulroy, and later Greg Cedrone joined the brewing team! In conjunction with their partnership, the 5 men have day jobs, each ranging from being a dentist to a property manager to financial planning and analysis for a university, to software sales, and finally, investing. As one of the brewery’s partners, Troy states “We are friends, we are partners, we are brewers,” which emphasizes the brewtiful dynamic between the five men and their dedication to Seven Saws.

Even though the brewery partners initially began brewing due to their interests and passions, the business has blossomed immensely. Alongside the brew house and taproom located on Industrial Ave in Holden, the brewery has expanded to the sports complex, Soccer Asylum, in Paxton. The Paxton location is located within a multi-use field facility where there is a



Photo Contributed

CONTINUED PAGE 12

OVER 90 YEARS....



**Fraticelli Oil
& Propane**

The Place to Save Heating Dollars

**239 LITCHFIELD STREET
LEOMINSTER, MA 01453**

978-537-3637 • FRATICELLI OIL CO.COM

MENTION THIS AD FOR ADDITIONAL SAVINGS!!



The Biggest Myths in the Housing Market Right Now

By Karen Packard



Sold Single Family Homes Sold in Paxton in September 2024

- 9 Grove St. Sale Price \$365,000
- 3 Larchwood Rd. Sale Price \$440,000
- 47 Asnebumskit Rd. Sale Price \$675,000
- 13 Shanandoah Dr. Sale Price \$795,000

There is no question the housing market has been a challenge for buyers the past few years. Ever since 2020 with COVID, the prices for homes have been increasing and inventory has been decreasing. Add higher interest rates on top of that for the past couple years and there are a lot of buyers confused on how to move forward especially now that interest rates are going down.

I work with buyers and sellers all the time and one of the most common statements I hear from buyers is "I'll get a better deal with the housing market crashes so maybe I should just wait". Anyone waiting for the housing market to crash might be waiting a long time in my opinion. There is no indication that we are heading into a crash. From what I am seeing, the market in our area is still strong and will continue to show steady sales for a while.

Most of my listings are still seeing multiple offers, most are selling over the asking price and buyers are still needing to be competitive to get their offers



accepted. Houses are also still selling quickly. If realtors are not getting their buyers into these properties in the first few days, there is a good chance the house will be gone. Realtors and buyers need to be aggressive and not wait days or weeks to act on a house. This is another reason I don't predict a housing crash. There are too many buyers still wanting to buy properties compared to the number of properties available for sale.

Another common statement buyers say to me is "I can't buy yet because I don't have a 20% down payment saved". If you haven't talked to a lender or real estate agent yet but think you need 20% down in order to purchase a house, you are wrong. Lenders and banks have various loan programs to offer and many of which do not require a large downpayment. Depending on your credit, where you are looking for a home and your price range there are options for 3-5% down payments. You can also work with your realtor to wrap some or all of your closing costs into the offer in some cases so you can essentially finance your closing costs and not need to have that money out of pocket either.

The most important thing if you are looking to buy or sell is to hire a local expert to assist you. That is the best way to achieve your goals in this market. The local agent will know specifically what is happening with the houses in the area you are looking to buy. He or she can guide you on how to get your offer accepted. If you have any questions on buying or selling in this area, feel free to contact me at 978-407-2568 or kpackardrealtor@gmail.com. If you are trying to move to another area or state, feel free to reach out to me for a qualified agent in that area to work with. I work with agents all over the country and can help point you to someone that can help you.

Electrical Work


William Jackson 978-400-6580
Electrician
Rutland MA






Fully licensed and insured electrician serving residential and commercial customers in the Central MA area.
LIC#59759-B

Residential - Commercial
New Construction - Old Work
Additions - Remodels
Knob and Tube Rewires

Veteran Owned



Like us on  [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wj.electrician) wj.electrician@gmail.com



FUNERAL HOMES

Pre-Planning ~ Burial ~ Cremation Services
Honoring Lives & Celebrating Memories

Our commitment goes beyond the funeral. It extends to everything we do.
This is the kind of service you expect from people you rely on.

1158 Main St., Holden, 508-829-4434 • 100 Worcester Rd., Sterling, 978-422-0100
Richard Mansfield & Ricky Mansfield, *Funeral Directors*

www.milesfuneralhome.com



RUTLAND, MA
LOCAL & DEPENDABLE
FULL SERVICE DEALER - HEAT & AC
(508) 886-6823

Get noticed!

Advertise in

1765 **Paxton** Community News

Contact us at sterlingmeetinghousenews@gmail.com
or call Karen Packard at 978-407-2568

Holmquist & Sons

General Contractors LLC
Licensed and Insured

Randy Holmquist
978-833-2884 | rholm1964@gmail.com
www.HolmquistConstruction.com
Sterling, MA 01564



Garden Guru: Is It Too Late To Plant?

By Mark Packard



It's not too late!

Every year at this time I always get the question "is it too late to plant?" We plant new plantings right up until the ground freezes! One of the nice things about planting at this time of year is the plants are going dormant so they don't need to be watered after the initial installation. Just water them in when planting and leave them alone! You and your plants will be a step ahead next spring!

It's time to say goodnight to your gardens. If you haven't cut back all your perennials yet, now is the time. All perennials including perennial grasses should be cut back close to the ground. Some people like to leave their ornamental grasses tall, but if you cut them back it reduces the risk of rot and keeps your grasses healthy. If you have Rose bushes or other ornamentals that are prone to winter kill, it helps to put a fresh layer of mulch or straw around the base of the plant to help insulate them. If you are in a high wind area, you might want to wrap evergreens like Arborvitae or Cypress with burlap to keep them from drying out over the winter. Broadleaf evergreens like Rhododendron, Andromeda, and Mountain Laurel can be sprayed with Wilt Proof or moisture guard. This will lock the moisture in the leaves to help prevent winter damage. If you have trouble with your hydrangeas getting big beautiful leaves but no flowers, cover them or wrap them for the winter to protect the canes from freezing in the early spring. Another great thing to do right now is preventative winter pruning. Cutting back sagging branches or overgrown Hydrangea trees is a good way to prevent ice damage.

Horizontal branches hold ice build-up easier than vertical branches so pay close attention when pruning and shaping plants in the fall.

Fall decorating is a great way to add curb appeal. A couple corn stalks, a few hay bales and some mums are a great way to enhance the end of your driveway. Make sure when you decorate, you don't block your house number. This will make it easier for emergency services and delivery drivers to find your house. Your mailbox is the first place people look to find your house number and as the sun sets earlier, it gets harder and harder to find addresses.

Landscape lighting is always busier in the fall. If you are leaving your house before the sun comes up or get home after it sets, landscape lighting is a nice thing to have. Landscape lighting does add curb appeal and makes your landscape look great after dark, but there are other benefits as well. Landscape lighting was originally used for safety and security. If you have steps leading to your front door you should light them up so no one trips or falls because they can't see the steps. If you have shadows under big plants, you can install landscape lighting to prevent places for potential criminals to hide. It's nice to be able to look out into your yard at night and see everything if you hear a weird noise or if you are expecting company. Finally, landscape lighting is a great way to add curb appeal. If you are trying to sell your house in the fall, it makes your house visible during the drive by hours and could increase showings.

Gardening questions? Please call 978-407-2568.



Garden Center - Pond Store - Stone Yard

**Fully Stocked for fall!
Mums, Asters, Kale**

3 YR GUARANTEE
ALL TREES AND SHRUBS

242 Pleasant St, Paxton MA

SPECIAL!
1/2 Bushel Mums
\$25 ea.



Pumpkins, gourds, straw, cornstalks arriving soon!

Open 8-6 Every Day! www.sterlinggreenery.com 508-304-7887



Tax Talks

with Jennifer Lovett, IRS Enrolled Agent (EA)

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

On the heels of yet another riveting tax article I wanted to stay with the retirement topic but dive into the vast world of self-directed IRAs, also known as SDIRAs. I will use the example of IRA, but this can extend to 401k's, HSAs, Roth IRAs and others. A while back I stumbled upon a podcast about a woman's retirement accounts owning spaceships and I cannot stop thinking about it. Since then, I continue to ask myself, "What else can my retirement accounts do for me? And how can I have more fun?" Before going into this month's article, as always, you should consult with a tax professional, attorney and/or financial professional to help with your estate planning and to navigate the rules for self-directed IRAs. Knowledge is power, so consult, consult, consult and vet out anyone you choose to work with.

Back to the fun stuff. You may be like many of my clients who want to own a rental property but don't want to sink all of your cash or maybe don't have the cash on hand. Maybe it is cryptocurrency, rentals, cows, maybe NFTs like a spaceship in the metaverse. My personal HSA is about to own NFTs in the metaverse, and I cannot be more excited. Self-directed IRAs are unique because they offer the freedom and flexibility to invest in a wider range of assets beyond traditional investment options like stocks, bonds and mutual funds. They can be used as an untapped source of capital to improve not only your life but your beneficiaries, your community or your retirement.

Yes, there are always risks, which is why my opinion is to stick to what you know and love when investing. But what if you love something like real estate, but you may not be an expert? Why not partner? Your IRA can be just one partner in a partnership, which can take all sorts of forms. You can always have a combination of partners; an individual, a Roth IRA, an IRA, and HSA, another LLC. The combinations are endless, and the potential is truly incredible.



I have to focus in on just one of many tax benefits; imagine your Roth IRA owning a rental growing your assets and account balances tax advantaged. Even further, you pass your Roth IRA on to you beneficiaries, any remaining cash and assets inside the account are still tax-advantaged and can be distributed to the beneficiary. Your beneficiary can draw any cash, and they can distribute any rental income tax-free each month. Added bonus, they can keep the funds in the account and continue investing.

I wish I could take up this entire newspaper writing about this topic, and believe me I could write 40 pages, there are so many facets and avenues to go down. Topics like how to avoid UBIT and UDFI, what are the rules, how do I begin? Who are reputable firms? Yes, there are dedicated firms, including mine, that can start you down a self-directed path. I want this article to serve as a reminder that the world of taxes and estate planning can actually be fun and is so much vaster than you may know. In short, I want to create an urgency for everyone to get out of the "set it and forget it" mentality, now you may just have a good reason to get excited about retirement planning.

John J. Olivieri Jr.
Steven Olivieri
Owners
MPL 10307



TOP TIER

MECHANICAL

Plumbing • Heating • Air Conditioning
Radiant Heat • Snow Melt
Commercial and Residential

Office: 978-563-1696
jolivieri@top-tier-mechanical.com
solivieri@top-tier-mechanical.com

www.top-tier-mechanical.com

J.F. GRAY

LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION & PAVING

*"From Pavers to Paving,
We've got you covered"*

John Gray Jr. 508-958-1312

- Excavation
- Drainage
- Grading
- Loam Spreading
- New Lawns
- Walkways
- Patios
- Retaining Walls
- Asphalt Paving



A Boy Scout Story



by Matt LaBarre

“What is your child doing now to build character and values, learn citizenship and leadership while having fun?” asks Mark Barbnitz, Scout Executive and CEO of the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America. “We have only a short period of time. Perhaps nine or ten years, to work with our kids to develop leadership and character traits, and scouting is a terrific way of instilling those traits and offer our children opportunities to have fun while they learn!”

The Heart of New England Council is comprised of Scouts and Scout Leaders from most of Central Massachusetts. Barbnitz and a small staff provide leadership training, encouragement, and supplies to troops throughout the region.

The official date when Boy Scouts of America will transition to a

new name: Scouting America, is February 8, 2025, the anniversary of BSA’s founding. However, many scout leaders are already identifying themselves as Scouting America to reflect the inclusion of girls in their programs. In fact, according to Barbnitz, girls have been participating in troops for at least a decade. The name change will reinforce that girls and boys are equally welcome.

“The Scout Oath and Scout Law reinforce family values,” Barbnitz says. “These values stay with scouts throughout their lives, giving scouts guidance for how to live and make decisions.”

Scouts may participate in a wide range of activities. “Camping is a big part of scouting, but if you are not interested in camping, there is still a lot to do, a lot to choose from, and a lot of things

you can learn!” Barbnitz explains. “Scouting is a lot more than tying knots!”

Merit Badges are earned through participating and learning about a subject or topic. Scouts can determine which of 135 badges to earn, and the list of merit badge topics offers something for everyone! A few of the topics include: crafts, trades, sports, business, chemistry, cooking, camping, graphic art, programming, swimming, photography, chess, First Aid, and kayaking. So no matter what your child’s interests may be, there are activities and learning opportunities, to say nothing of opportunities to make friends and have fun!

“Everything has a purpose,” Barbnitz continues. For instance, participating in the Pinewood Derby is an opportunity to spend time with family members

and build a car together.” “Scouting is about learning while having fun and making friends, and in the process learning how to be leaders.” He states. “What participating in Scouts did for me, beginning when I first became a scout at 8 years old, I want to share with others.”

According to Barbnitz, it costs about \$160.00 to become a scout, including some of the basic uniform. The costs can be offset through the popcorn fundraising sales, and financial assistance is available as well. “Costs should never be a factor for anyone interested in joining!” Barbnitz emphasizes.

For additional information or to find troops near you, contact the Heart of New England Council office at: 978-534-3532 or visit: Beascout.org. or go to the Heart of New England website.



Photos Contributed



FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Watch Out for Investment Scams

We all hope to enjoy long, healthy lives, retaining the ability to think clearly and make our own decisions. But life doesn't always work out that way — which is why you need to prepare for a potential incapacity that could affect your independence and possibly create financial problems for your family.

So, in thinking about incapacity planning, you may want to consider the following arrangements:

- Health care power of attorney – When you establish a health care power of attorney, you name someone, such as a spouse or adult child, to make medical decisions on your behalf, should you become incapable of making them on your own due to disability or illness. These decisions include choosing doctors, treatments and care facilities.
- Financial power of attorney – With a financial power of attorney, you designate someone to assume a variety of duties for you in case you become incapacitated. These tasks include investing, selling property, paying bills and debts, collecting Social Security benefits and adding or changing insurance policies.

When establishing a health care or financial power of attorney, you may need to decide whether it's "durable" or "springing." A durable power of attorney typically takes effect immediately after you sign it, have it notarized and witnessed. So, the person you've chosen to have power of attorney — sometimes called an "agent" — can act on your behalf whenever you choose. On the other hand, you could select a power of attorney that "springs" into effect only when you become incapacitated — hence, the "springing" designation.

One issue affecting a springing power of attorney involves the speed with which it can be enacted. Generally, it won't go into effect until a licensed

physician declares in writing that the person granting the power of attorney is indeed incapacitated. This could cause a problem if your chosen agent needs to act quickly on your behalf. It's because of this potential delay that a durable power of attorney is often favored over a springing power of attorney. However, everyone's circumstances are different, so if you have a choice between a durable or springing power of attorney, you may want to consult with an estate-planning professional for guidance.



Apart from the health care and financial powers of attorney, you may also want to consider one other incapacity-related legal document — a living will. When you establish a living will, you describe the steps you would or wouldn't want taken to keep you alive, along with other medical decisions, including pain management and organ donation. Obviously, the decision to create a living will is highly personal, involving your feelings about self-sufficiency and the circumstances that define the quality of life you wish to have. But the mere fact of having a living will can relieve your loved ones of having to make potentially agonizing decisions.

Planning for an incapacity may not be the most pleasant task — but it's an important one. Of course, you may never become incapacitated at all, but by making the proper arrangements, you can make things easier for yourself and your family — just in case.

For more information please contact Christina Lashua at Christina.lashua@edwardjones.com

Get Your Real Estate License!

Help people achieve the American dream

Learn how to manage challenging transactions

Learn how to protect your clients

Learn how evaluate a home's value

Learn the laws of Real Estate

Learn how to get your client the most money

Learn how to provide exceptional service

Learn marketing tips and tricks

Central Mass Real Estate School

a Massachusetts certified real estate school

New class November 4-15 Monday - Friday 6-10PM

- 40 hour mandatory pre-licensing class
- Live, in person classes
- Taught by experienced real estate brokers
- 2 week class M-F 6-10 PM
- Classes taught in Sterling MA

Class size - 18 students
 Sign up today! 978-407-2568
centralmassrealestateschool.com
 \$299 per student

Richards Memorial Library Programs October - 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/>

Library News

Edible Garden Grant

Youth Services Librarian Kristin Steinmetz received a grant for an Edible Garden in September 2024. Thank you to the Paxton Garden Club for this innovative and generous grant.

Water Bottle Filler Grant

The library is pleased to announce that we received a generous grant to replace the defunct water bubbler with a water bottle filler. This grant will bring a drinking water source back to library patrons, while also contributing to a reduction in plastic waste. Thank you, Fidelity Bank!

All Month

October Book Displays

- Killer Thrillers
- Off with their heads
- World Space Week (Oct 4-10)

Drop-in Crafts for Youth

Explore Watercolor Pencils; Plus Fall and Smokey Bear Coloring Sheets

Events

Friday, 11/4, 10-11am

Leaf Man w/Community Connections

Join Community Connections (wachusettcfce.com) for some fall fun! For young children and their caregivers. Outdoors if possible; indoors if not.

Friday, 11/4

MA Teen Choice Book Award Winner Announcement

We can't wait to discover this year's winner! Thank you to all the library teens who voted in our state's only book award chosen by young people in grades 7-12.

Wednesday 10/16 through Wednesday 11/27

Smokey Bear Reading Challenge

Help Smokey celebrate his 80th birthday by learning how to prevent wildfires and help the environment! Read 3 books on wildfire prevention or the environment and earn 4 activity badges. Complete the challenge to earn nature- and Smokey-related prizes! Visit the library starting October 16 to register and receive your Challenge Sheet. Geared to ages 4-10 but all welcome!

Thursday, 10/17, 6:15-7:30pm

Ssspectacular Sssnakes!

The Reptile Nook will join us for this "spooktacular" program. Dive into learning about 4 snake species and what makes each one unique. Participants will be able to see snake sheds up close and touch three of the four snakes present, if they choose. Best for young scientists ages 4-12. Registration required: bit.ly/RMLSnakes

Thank you to Fidelity Bank for generously sponsoring this program!

Tuesday, 10/29

7-8pm NEW DAY AND TIME

Friends of Richards Memorial Library (FRML) Board Meeting

FRML meets on the last Tuesday of each month and is seeking new members to attend meetings to discuss book sale volunteering and donation days, as well as fundraising. FRML is currently looking for several volunteer roles on the Board.

Graphic Novel Book Club Registration is Now Open

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.

October's book is *Measuring Up* by Lily LaMotte.

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

Weekly Events

Tuesdays, 10/22, 10/29

3:30-4:30pm

LEGO Challenge

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.

Wednesdays - 10/16, 10/23, 10/30

10/9 - Special Visit to the Paxton Fire Station. Meet at 576 Pleasant Street.

10:30-11:15am

Outdoor Story and Playtime

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

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

Upcoming

Tuesday, 11/5, 6-7pm

UFOs in New England - with Ronny LeBlanc

Join us for an evening of the strange and mysterious with *Monsterland: Encounters with UFOs, Bigfoot and Orange Orbs* author Ronny LeBlanc.

Ronny can be seen on the Travel Channel/Discovery+ television series *Expedition Bigfoot & Paranormal Caught on Camera*.

He will be here to talk about UFOs of New England and will highlight some historic and recent sightings. The truth may be closer to home than you think!

Tuesday, 11/12, 1-2:30pm

Medicare Questions with Luisa from BCBS

Please drop by the library with your Medicare questions.

Tuesday, 12/3

6:30 - 8pm

A Perky Pairing: Coffee and Fine Chocolates with Kim Larkin

Registration opens soon.

PLANT NERDS



QUALITY PLANT MATERIAL
SOURCED FROM:



Mobile Design Service

*3 YEAR GUARANTEE
ON ALL TREES & SHRUBS




HOW DOES IT WORK?

STEP 1

Book your \$99 appointment by going to www.plantnerds.design.

Then, send pictures of your yard, your contact information, and any preferences you may have to 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!



CASA Project Worcester County hosts record-breaking fundraising and awards event



Photos Contributed

PRESS RELEASE

CASA's 6th annual Champions for Children signature fundraiser brought in a record-breaking \$150,000+ to support their mission to advocate for and support youth impacted by the foster care system in Worcester County. The event was hosted for the second time at the Top of the Tower, Worcester's newest and hottest event venue located at 446 Main Street, owned and managed by Synergy, a Boston-based real estate investment and services company. An evening to celebrate and sustain CASA's work, honor supporters, and share stories of impact, the event shattered last year's record of \$110,000 raised.

Champions for Children was held on Thursday, Sept. 12, and featured several local restaurants and food vendors serving their unique multicultural cuisine, live entertainment, and a chance for guests to win a trip to Costa Rica. The event honored select members of the CASA community, thanking them for their important roles in advancing the work of the organization. Honorees included District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.; Mary O'Coin, director of the United Way of South Central MA; and long-time volunteers Deborah McDonnell and Elizabeth Young.

Under the leadership of executive director Julie Bowditch and event chairwoman and board member Liz Estabrooks, the event celebrates the diverse community of Worcester County and brings together supporters from all over the region. Attendees included city and state representatives such as Mayor Joe Petty, school committee member

Molly McCullough, state senators Robyn Kennedy and Michael Moore, state representative David Lebeouf, and Governor's Councilor Paul DePalo, as well as business and community leaders in the region. Lead sponsors included Top of the Tower, Lee Tesconi & Family, JoyGuru Humanitarian Services, Inc., Central MA Productions, Wednesday's Child, Plumb House, Carr Financial Group, and Peter Wyman & Family.

Bowditch said, "We are overwhelmed with gratitude. Each time I believe our community cannot outdo itself in supporting the youth and families we serve, it does!" During her remarks at the event, she challenged guests to remember a pivotal adult who positively changed their lives when they were growing up and reminded them that each of us has the power to fill that role for today's most vulnerable youth – as family members, neighbors, educators, mentors, and as part of the CASA community.

CASA Project Worcester County is a nonprofit organization appointed by juvenile court judges to the most challenging cases to provide best-interest, unbiased information to the court and amplify the needs and wishes of the youth on the cases. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are carefully screened and trained community volunteers who support hundreds of foster-involved youth throughout the county each year. CASA Project Worcester County is a member of the National CASA Association and the oldest and largest of seven programs of its kind in the state. Learn more or get involved at www.thecasaproject.org.



gym, and an indoor pool, and Seven Saws operates what the Soccer Asylum calls the "bar and lounge," section of their facility. Although the Paxton and Holden locations differ in their facility "layouts," they both emulate the company's mission statement "Drink Well. Do Good.," as the locations encourage an enjoyable experience with the pairing of fresh, local beer, good company, and a focus on giving back to the community!

As the Seven Saws Brewery's name suggests, the company specializes in crafting its rotating beer options. The brewery offers wine from a local winery, seltzers, hard ciders, and non-alcoholic beverages, allowing for a beverage that serves everyone's needs. The company is notorious for its widespread selection of beer, and as Troy stated, even those who do not particularly enjoy beer have a chance at finding a drink they are fond of. For instance, the brewery offers a "full-spectrum" of beers from light loggers, to "citrusy" German-style wheat beers, to heavy IPA beers, all the way to seasonal flavors such as their smoked maple porter. In conjunction with the expansive drink menu, the Industrial Drive location offers food truck options if you are feeling a bit peckish!

It is essential to note that Seven Saws is more than just the quintessential brewery, it is a place that crafts an exquisite sense



Photo Contributed

of community. The business partners are dedicated to not only brewing but to the communities they serve as well. From every detail down to the company name, Seven Saws, which is a historical reference to the mills in Holden, the partners are devoted to giving homage to the community. Furthermore, Troy explained that "Our expansion and our goal to grow is not necessarily bigger is better. We like the approach that we are taking which is let's find an area that could use a community gathering hole and would embrace their local brewery. As Troy emphasizes, Seven Saws is dedicated to brewing in an environment that provides joy to all.

So, what does community mean for the brewery? Well, as Troy emphasizes, the brewery is not only family-friendly

but pet-friendly too! Seven Saws has also been "home" to a variety of events from baby showers to weddings, the options for events are expansive with the company. Furthermore, unlike typical bars/breweries, the company takes an "anti-bar," approach where even seating arrangements are organized to curate conversation (or as Troy exclaims, whatever experience you want to make of it during your time at the brewery!). For instance, Troy highlighted that the brewery does not have bar seating, rather there is "communal/table" seating, as well as an open-concept layout.

Alongside the innovative seating and open layout, the brewery offers fun activities: live various trivia games, music bingo, a craft fair during the

holiday season, as well as cornhole tournaments. But, the excitement does not end there, as the brewery offers live music as well!

Furthermore, the company is involved with bringing awareness/working with different charities. Furthermore, the brewery also has had fundraisers to raise money for good causes. During the interview process, it was apparent how much Troy (and the other four partners) value giving back to the community.

Seven Saws is a wonderful place if you are looking for great beer and a welcoming environment. By supporting the brewery you are not only supporting a local business, but you are also supporting a company that values the community and cares about giving back, which is a brewtiful thing!

GAF MASTER ELITE
SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR

TIP TOP ROOFING

245 W Boylston Street
West Boylston, MA 01583

Free Roof Estimates

Contact **Tip Top Roofing** today for a quote on our affordable roofing rates, delivered by industry professionals with a wealth of experience among all our foremen and contractors.

Ask About our 0 percent financing!

CALL US AT (508) 835-4777 • WWW.TIPTOPROOFS.COM

"In October, any wonderful unexpected thing might be possible."
— Elizabeth George Speare