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July 17, 2024

Sterling Gym's Stephen Nedoroscik Makes US Men's Gymnastics Team for Paris Olympics



Stephen Nedoroscik and family at the Olympic Trials in Minneapolis, MN

Photo by Cheryl Nedoroscik

by Staff

Sterling Gym Alum Stephen Nedoroscik secured his spot on the 2024 Men's Gymnastics team on Saturday July 29th in Minneapolis, MN, with his unbelievable

performance on the pommel horse. His score of 14.50 on night 1 of the trials was the highest of the night on that apparatus and night 2 earned him an even higher score of 14.850 coming in 2nd on that apparatus that

night just behind Patrick Hoopes with a 15.0.

Stephen is a 4 time US Pommel Horse Champion, which is tied for the most in US history. He trained for years at Sterling Gym before

heading off to Penn State to train and compete on the collegiate level. The Paris Olympics starts at the end of this month. We all look forward to watching Stephen compete and hopefully bring home the gold!

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Crayons for a cause: Paxton students collect nearly 100 lbs of crayons for nonprofit work

By Samantha Aeschbacher

Violet Putney, Ophelia Foley and Olivia Duffy, 7th graders at Paxton Center School, hadn't heard of The Crayon Initiative until Foley's mom read about it and shared the organization's goal.

The Crayon Initiative, which was established as a nonprofit in 2014, aims to reduce crayon waste by repurposing unused crayons by melting them down, and reshaping them to be large and three-sided for children in hospitals. The three-sided design allows for easy gripping and prevents the crayons from rolling away.

"We wanted to collect old crayons because we figured that would be something people here would have a lot of," Putney said.

The girls approached science teacher Scott Wahlstrom about their idea and set the wheels in motion. "We have a community service requirement here in the school for 8th graders and these young ladies approached me, said they wanted to do this, and I immediately jumped on board as an advisor," Wahlstrom said.

According to Wahlstrom, Paxton Center School aims to provide chances for students to have leadership opportunities and implement projects they themselves can head up.

"My role is mostly to say "how do you think you wanna solve that, how would you go about doing it?" Wahlstrom explained. "This is part of that goal as well, learning to talk to adults in different contexts and honing leadership skills."

Foley, Putney and Duffy got to work printing out posters, collecting boxes, creating a sign up, getting approval from the principal, and then presenting their project to participating classrooms. Throughout the collection period, they included a box decorating competition between classes and then gave them two to three weeks to collect as many crayons as they could.

"After the collections ended, we

weighed each box separately and added them all together to get the total," Foley said. "We ended up collecting 92.5 lbs of crayons to donate."

At the conclusion, the class with the most collections received a certificate and a trophy. Foley's mom took over the task of taking their collections to a local Staples, who will ship to The Crayon Initiative for free.

"It went really well," Putney said. "I'm relieved it's over because we had to use a lot of our homeroom block time for planning, and then scheduling. Olivia made a form for the teachers to sign up on and it took a while for all of them to sign up, and then the time it took us to do all the presentations... But I feel like it went really well."

Wahlstrom stated that for him, it's

easy to be involved because it gives him the chance to watch his students go and do great things because they had the dream to do it and make it happen. "Olivia, Violet and Ophelia were really the brains and the idea behind the operation," Wahlstrom concluded.

For more information on The Crayon Initiative and how you can get involved, visit www.thecrayoninitiative.org.



Students from Paxton Center School with a box of crayons collected for The Crayon Initiative. Clockwise- Violet Putney (reclining Center), Marley Clunie, Kelsey Larson, Olivia Duffy, Ophelia Foley, Vivian Broberg, Isaiah Hagan
Photo Courtesy of Scott Wahlstrom

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 August 21, 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
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Ava DePasquale, Matt LaBarre, Kristen Levine

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

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Portland Harbor Lights and Sights Cruise July 23rd with Paxton-area Seniors

PRESS RELEASE

At 8:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 23, 2024, Wilson Bus Lines will depart Paxton Senior Center at 17 West ST (Route 31 just south from Paxton's single traffic light) headed for Jonathan's Restaurant in Ogunquit, Maine, for a delicious luncheon followed by a 1 ¼-hour cruise out of Portland Harbor.

This cruise out of busy Casco Bay allows travelers to experience the iconic lighthouses and sights of bustling Portland Inner Harbor and main shipping channel as well as picturesque Diamond Pass which ferries summer residents and their groceries to and from the various islands. Enjoy seeing as many as four lighthouses and four forts, lobster boats, seals and seabirds. You will get a close-up view of Portland Headlight, Maine's oldest and most photographed lighthouse. We may make a quick stop at the Kennebunk Service Plaza for sustenance on our way home, completing this fun day.

We expect to arrive back at Paxton Senior Center at 7:15 p.m.

Our entire day costs \$132 which includes the delicious lunch at Jonathan's, the one and 3/4-hour cruise on Casco Bay and the Luxury Wilson Bus Motor Coach.

Payment is due July 2, 2024. Payment is non-refundable unless ticket can be resold.

Now back to Jonathan's: Choose between Chicken Piccata (boneless breast of chicken sauteed with lemon, capers, butter and wine); Lemon Baked Scrod with lemon beurre Blanc and seasonal crumbs; and Roast Pork Loin finished with natural pan gravy. All entrees are served with house salad, vegetable, starch and dessert, along with coffee or tea.

For reservations, call or email Deb Grensavitch (508)754-6366 or grensavitchd@aol.com. Please make payment to FOCO (this stands for Friends of Paxton COA) and mail to Deb Grensavitch, 88 Laurel ST, Paxton, MA 01612-1234.

Day Trip To Crane Estate, Ipswich, For Paxton-Area Seniors

PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Paxton Friends of Council on Aging and area seniors depart from Paxton Senior Center, 17 West ST (Rte. 31 just south of traffic light at Paxton Common) on a day-long motor coach trip to the historic Crane Estate, Castle Hill, a country estate on the seacoast in Ipswich, MA.

First we will have lunch at historic Beverly Depot, which is not only an award-winning restaurant but it is an 1890's railroad-themed working train station. We may hear and see a train. Choose between Sirloin Steak, Chicken Marsala or Baked Haddock. All entrees are served with salad, starch or vegetables. French Vanilla Ice Cream, coffee, and tea nicely finish the meal.

The Crane Estate (the Crane of plumbing fame), a 2,100-acre coastal estate now owned by The Trustees of Reservations, is flanked by four miles of Atlantic Ocean-facing Crane's Beach, Essex Bay and the Crane Wildlife Refuge. The one-hour tour of The Great House has us greeted at the door by household staff and treated as house guests of the Crane

family in 1929 after a long journey! Many luxuries and conveniences not common in 1929 will be at our disposal. After touring the house, all are encouraged to visit the estate's well-landscaped grounds, restored Grand Allee and gardens for an additional hour.

We will end our day at Kimball Farm Grill and Seafood Shack in Westford, enroute back to Paxton. Enjoy a sandwich, burger or seafood, etc. and/or one of 50 flavors of homemade ice cream on your own. Expected return to Paxton is at 8:00 p.m.

The entire trip costs \$123 and includes the delicious lunch at Beverly Depot, guided tour of Castle Hill on Crane Estate, a quick supper and/or ice cream on your own, and travel in a luxury Wilson Bus Motor Coach. Payment is due July 30, 2024, and is non-refundable unless ticket can be re-sold.

For reservations, call Deb Grensavitch, 508.754.6366 or email her at grensavitchd@aol.com. Please make payments out to Paxton FOCO (Paxton Friends of COA), and send them to Deb Grensavitch, 88 Laurel ST, Paxton, MA 01612-1234.



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Local Towns Compete in the 97th Annual Wachusett Fire Muster Competition

By Samantha Aeschbacher

Under clear blue skies, fire muster teams from seven cities took to Wachusett Regional High School on June 15 for the 97th annual Fire Muster Competition.

The day kicked off with a parade of teams tossing candy from shiny, old-school fire engines to spectators lining the course for the day with their tents and chairs, ready to watch Bolton, Harvard, Holden, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston duke it out for the title of first place.

Muster competitions give participants a chance to show off their firefighting skills in several events, with teams first completing the Tower, which combines hose hookup, racing up a ladder with the hose, and shooting a target down with water. Other events mimicked night-time calls, complete with lullabies and cots, needing to “split” the hose for multiple targets, running women’s only crew, and a race for the “old-timers.”

Brendan Smith, a Sterling firefighter with 12 years of service under his belt, said the pump event qualifies as his favorite event during the musters.

“It’s the only event that actually uses the truck to pump the water into the hose, while for the other events, you just drive the truck,” Smith explained.

Over the last 12 years, Smith said things have changed quite a bit when it comes to muster competitions. In addition to having a shortage of people joining the firefighter ranks in general, the muster teams feel it too.

“It used to be a lot more cutthroat back in the day - there used to be fistfights to get on the muster team and if you screwed up, you got kicked off,” Smith laughed. “Now, it’s just like the fire service, it’s hard to get guys to show up.”

With just two practices and three new muster members, Smith said they were just there to do the best they can with what they got. For the Sterling Muster Team, or “Ster-caster” as it was affectionately nicknamed for their members from both Sterling and Lancaster, two practices sufficed, with the group taking second overall.

“Preparation is what firefighters do,” said Philip M. Conners, a Princeton

CONTINUED PAGE 9



From L to R: Tom Conners, Tracy Conners, and their father, Philip M. Conners, in front of the Princeton Fire Truck.

Photo by Samantha Aeschbacher



A member from the Harvard Women’s Team shoots a target with a fire hose.

Photo by Samantha Aeschbacher



Top Photo: Participants of the 97th Annual Fire Muster Competition.

Photo by Samantha Aeschbacher



Garden Guru: Too Late To Garden?

By Mark Packard



I get the same question almost every day at this time of year. "Is it too late to plant?" The simple answer is no. If you can stick a shovel in the ground, you can plant. Here's the long answer. If you are planting annuals my advice would be to wait a few weeks until mums, kale and other fall annuals are ready. If you are planting perennials, shrubs or trees, you will just need to water more frequently until the weather cools down this fall. I don't recommend moving or splitting plants in this weather. I once planted a tree in the middle of January and never touched it again. I didn't water it or fertilize it or prune it and it is still doing fine. Nature is amazing. An oak tree will drop an acorn and it will get covered by some leaves to eventually grow into a nice, straight, and healthy tree without any help from us.

If you are looking for a fun and educational project with the kids this summer, I can't think of a better one than building a pond! Building a pond has a little of everything. You start with the creative part by drawing and visualizing the design of your pond and waterfall. You measure

and write a material list. The digging can be done with machinery to build hand-eye coordination or the old-fashioned way using leverage and physics. You will use geometry and mathematics to calculate depth, area, and volume of water. The mechanics of the pond are simple but are a great way to understand plumbing and fittings. Geology can be taught when installing the different types of rocks. Then there is biology with the plants, fish, and frogs! Don't forget the lighting for some basic electrical! Next is musicality. When building the waterfall, you want to create 3 different sounds. White noise from water splashing off the rocks, low tones from water pouring into more water and of course the babbling brook noise that happens when water rolls over round stones. After the pond is built there will be botany when planting around the pond and of course photography! Don't worry, we have all the products you need and we are available 7 days a week if you have any questions along the way!

Gardening questions? Please call 978-407-2568.



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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)

Over the past year and a half, I have been fortunate enough to share my love of taxes through this article. Some articles have been more specific than others but my hope through all is to remind every taxpayer that there is no one-size-fits-all strategy and there are so many intricacies to our tax code that there are always new and (for some) exciting nuances to learn about. This month I wanted to dive into a nuanced topic that has a lot of taxpayers confused, the SALT cap.



What is SALT? SALT was introduced by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 and it stands for State and Local Tax. This deduction cap limits state and local taxes that can be deducted on Schedule A to \$10,000. In a state such as Massachusetts and living in certain high-tax towns this had a significant impact. Prior to 2018 there was no limit. For certain residents of Princeton, Paxton, Sterling, Holden and other nearby communities the property taxes well exceed that \$10,000 cap. This cap effectively increases taxable income for those individuals.

to deduct PTE taxes from their federal taxable income. Though the IRS has stated that additional guidance is forthcoming, no expectations for the timing for such guidance have been provided to date.

The cap on SALT deductions is here to stay until at least the expiration of TCJA in 2025, however the future is still unwritten, so there is no guarantee that it may not be continued. Despite this, there may be strategies we can use as homeowners to mitigate tax liability. We can bunch deductions that apply to itemizing, consider all of your deductible expenses including charitable contributions, property taxes, out of pocket medical and dental expenses and maximize these in a given year. Tax-efficient investments or state tax credits can also help lower your liability.

Generally speaking, the workaround would impose a state tax on the pass-through entity (PTE), then the PTE owners would receive a state tax credit (deduction) on their personal income tax return. Additionally, the state taxes paid through the PTE would reduce the owner's share of federal taxable income. Depending on the facts and circumstances of the PTE and the states laws this workaround can either be fluid or burdensome if handling multi-state businesses and owners. Like most worthwhile tax strategies, complexities are inevitable.

There is one workaround that has been discussed more and more in the past few years and Massachusetts is one of the states where the PTET workaround may help you. In late 2020, the IRS issued Notice 2020-75 that for the most part 'blessed' the PTE taxes as a workaround for individual owners of PTEs

Tax, estate, and financial planning all have something in common, understanding your current position and staying informed is crucial. Whether you have never planned or you have met with professionals in the past, the landscape we live in is constantly changing and evolving. Consult with professionals that can tailor a personalized plan and provide advice. Credits you may not have qualified for in the past may apply to you now, if you are a business owner the structure you created may not be right for you anymore. Building personal wealth and more importantly protecting that wealth starts with education and there is no time like the present.



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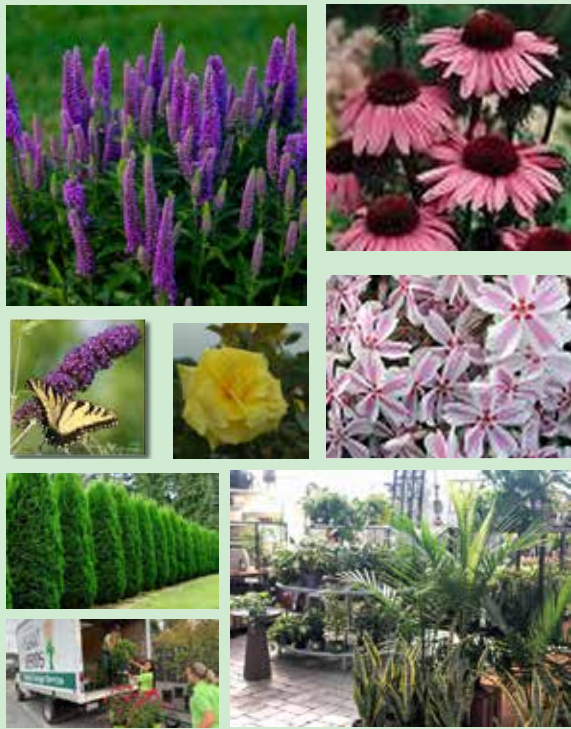


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The Current Real Estate Market: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities

By Karen Packard

The real estate market is an ever shifting landscape where dreams of home ownership or investing is defined by both challenges and opportunities. As we move into mid-2024, several key trends are shaping the industry, influencing everything from housing prices to rental markets and investment strategies.

One of the biggest aspects of today's real estate market is the persistent rise in housing prices. This trend plus the limited housing inventory, has significantly altered many people's ability to buy. In the Wachusett area prospective homeowners often find themselves competing for the limited supply of properties, driving up prices beyond the means of many.

For first-time buyers, this situation poses a huge challenge. The dream of home ownership now requires navigating a complex landscape of mortgage rates and down payments that sometimes feels overwhelming. It is key to have a qualified team of real estate agent, lender and attorney helping you navigate this process to reach your dream of home ownership.

For investors, the rental market has also seen many challenges. With remote work becoming more prevalent, there has been a noticeable shift in rental preferences. Many individuals and families are opting for larger spaces and renting single family houses versus apartments. Our area has experienced



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increased demand and a rise in rental prices in the past few years as well. This does make it a good time to invest in real estate if you are looking to purchase single or multi family homes as a rental opportunity. But keep in mind the cost to maintain homes and property tax has risen as well. So, make sure you have a qualified person guiding you on what makes a good rental investment home before buying.

For those looking to buy a new home and sell their current home, there are still challenges to getting homes with contingencies accepted in this competitive market. Talk to your agent about other possibilities like home equity lines of credit or bridge loans to possibly buy a new home without it being contingent on selling your current home. If your current home is priced correctly, you should be able to sell quickly but getting an offer accepted on your new home can be a challenge if it is tied to your current home selling. It is important to talk through strategies with your agent to make sure you are putting yourself in the best position to accomplish your real estate goals.

The real estate market is always changing! The key to being successful with buying or selling is knowing what is happening in the current market and having the right plan in place to purchase your dream home! As always, I am happy to meet with anyone if you have questions about the current market conditions or how to plan the best strategy for selling or buying your next home. Feel free to reach out to kpackardrealtor@gmail.com.

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Discover All Your Public Library Has To Offer For Your Children

by Matt LaBarre

Perhaps the most un-recognized community resources, in most any community, are the Children's Rooms! Children's Rooms, or Youth Services sections and departments, along with the professionals who lead the programs and provide services to our young people and their families, no longer simply provide what these departments did when I was young (oh so many years ago), but have become community education and meeting venues. These community centers still provide books and DVDs to be sure, but also much more.

Libraries are places where very young children and toddlers can come to learn how to play and interact with one another. Kristin Steinmetz, the Youth Services Librarian at the Richards Memorial Library in Paxton explains "Socialization is one of the most important aspects of library programs, with the youngest of children learning by simply watching other children, and in that way they learn from each other, as well as from watching the adults who are with them."

"Young children come to libraries and library programs like StoryTime and learn how to be friendly, sharing, kindness, including others in play, as well as about personal boundaries and not being aggressive," she continues. "It's also valuable for children to receive direction from an adult other than a caregiver, and learn to be re-directed at times."

Steinmetz also asserts that "StoryTime and other library programs help caregivers learn how to play with children, and signals to the child how important the child is to us, that we value the world of play, and helps caregivers get to know the child."

Nicole Abady, Youth Services Coordinator at the Princeton Public Library agrees. "Our programs can be especially important for children who don't have siblings." She states. "These programs and activities also give children exposure to speaking with other adults, which the child will have to do when attending school." Many children do not or are unable to attend day care or pre-school, and libraries can fill a major void.

"Princeton doesn't have many 'traditional' neighborhoods, so having a space for people, particularly young people from toddlers to high school students to get together is really valuable." Abady maintains. "Our elementary and middle schools don't employ librarians, so I'm able to help in a number of ways, such as organizing 3 book clubs for different age groups."

Alisa Ianuncci, Youth Services Director at the Conant Free Public Library in Sterling echoes what Abady and Steinmetz state. "Our goal is to foster a place where children and families can meet and learn with one another."

"Children come in looking for other children!" she says. "Our Children's Room is small, so we have to ask that people register ahead of time for StoryTime and other programs, (fire



Children's room is ready for fun and learning!

Photo Contributed

codes restrict the Conant Library Children's Room to about 12 children at a time) and children are always excited to make new friends here! Because of the space restrictions, Ianuncci runs her StoryTimes in six-week sessions, so many children have an opportunity to participate.

"Children's Rooms are not quiet floors!" Ianuncci exclaims. "We have a picture book paired with a craft, and on other days we will have a variety of activities from baby time to art days to STEM challenges, as well as after school programs designed for older children."

"Libraries have begun understanding that people, including children, learn and read on devices such as audiobooks." Abady suggests. All three libraries are equipped to guide people who utilize various media formats.

"If children view storytimes and other library programs as joyful experiences in the company of other people, they learn that it can be fun to be with other people!" Steinmetz says. "So many people of all ages lead lives that are so isolating, making this a very important lesson."

Libraries are filling needs that are perhaps unique to our society in this decade, and children's/youth departments and librarians have become an indispensable and unrecognized asset to the entire community!

Go to your local library this week and prepare to be amazed! Not only will you find books, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs, but you will find puzzles for all ages, games, toys, and so much more! Libraries are terrific venues for playdates! Bring your child, your grandchild, your nieces and nephews to the library to have fun while learning, as well as

learning how to get along with others! At the same time, you will meet others who may share some of your interests!

Libraries have become community centers. Just don't expect quiet, at least not in the Children's Room!

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What to know before ‘reversing’ your retirement

If you’ve retired, you may have thought you closed the book on one chapter of your life. But what happens if you need to “reverse” your retirement?

Due to higher inflation and rising interest rates, many retirees are taking out more money from their retirement accounts than they had originally anticipated. As a result, some are headed back to the workforce. If you’re thinking of joining them, you’ll need to consider some factors that may affect your finances.

First, if you’ve been taking Social Security, be aware that you could lose some of your benefits if you earn over a certain level, at least until you reach your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. Specifically, if you are under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which, in 2024, is \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, which, in 2024, is \$59,520.

Social Security will only count your earnings up to the month before you reach your full retirement age, at which point your earnings will no longer reduce your benefits, regardless of how much you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amounts to credit you for the months your payments were reduced due to your excess earnings. Social Security also allows you to pay back early benefits received if you withdraw your application within 12 months of starting benefits. This move could help you receive substantially higher benefits at full retirement age.

Your Social Security isn’t the only benefit that could be affected by your earnings. Your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are based on your

income, so they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, your extra income could push you into a higher tax bracket.

Nonetheless, you can certainly gain some benefits by returning to the working world. Obviously, you’ll be making money that can help you boost your daily cash flow and possibly reduce some debts. But depending on where you work, you might also be able to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And regardless of where you work, you’ll be eligible to contribute to an IRA. By putting more money into these accounts, you may well be able to strengthen your financial position during your retirement years. You might also be able to receive some employee benefits, such as group health insurance — which could be particularly valuable if you haven’t yet started receiving Medicare.

In addition to the potential financial advantages of going back to work, you might get some social benefits, too. Many people enjoy the interactions with fellow workers and miss these exchanges when they retire, so a return to the workforce, even if it’s on a part-time basis, may give you an emotional boost.

In the final analysis, you’ll want to weigh the potential costs of going back to work against the possible benefits. There’s no one right answer for everyone, but by looking at all the variables, you should be able to reach a decision that works for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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

FIRE MUSTER from page 4

firefighter who’s been with the department since 2004. “This is an older version but a lot of what we’re doing here is what still happens on a fire route.”

For Conners, he spends the majority of the musters behind the wheel of the department’s 1939 Ford truck. According to Conners, the department acquired it after an accident in the 1940s or 50s and then pieced it together to be a fire engine. The truck was retired from use in 1971 after its final run to a summit house on Mount Wachusett.

“For a number of years before I joined, it was dormant in someone’s field,” Conners explained. “The fire department restored it, put pieces back together, and it was still a work in progress when I joined in ‘04, and it’s still a work in progress. But it’s a labor of love, this truck.”

Now 20 years later, things on the muster team have evolved for Conners into a family affair, with his son, Tom, and daughter, Tracy, also competing alongside him for Princeton.

Tom, who favors the Tower run, joined the department as a volunteer in 2010. Tracy joins in on the competition as a former member of the Women’s Auxiliary, and now association member. She likes the Bed competition since it’s a crowd favorite.

“It’s a fun one,” she said. “It’s different and there’s a lot more going on, and we end up in our gear. But I don’t like running in my giant boots.”

Between all three Conners, they shared a history of the department, the engine, and stories of changes from over the years. For the most senior of the Conners, he said that although these competitions get a little bit harder for him year after year, having his family



The Sterling Fire Muster team prepares to race in the ladder competition.

Photo by Samantha Aeschbacher

around has made him a fortunate man.

“Regardless of the fire department or not, I’m a very fortunate man to have such good kids,” Conners stated. “They’ve both done well, not just helping out the department and being a member of the department, but also in their private lives and in our family life. I’m a very lucky man.”

Tom and Tracy shared their father’s sentiments, attributing their strong family structure and the further support of the fire community as a positive aspect of their involvement over the years.

“It’s an extended family,” Tracy said.

“You can’t really parallel it.”

With a decline in volunteer firefighters over the years, not just in Massachusetts but across the country, Tom said if people want to get involved with a department, they should look into joining as a volunteer or getting involved with the Princeton fire association.

According to the town of Princeton’s website, the association stays active in the community and funds go towards equipment purchases, a relief fund, a scholarship fund, the muster team, and other charitable pursuits.

Individuals with an interest in

supporting their local fire station can find information through their local department.

As events concluded and the “old timers” wrapped up the day’s muster, Holden came out on top, followed by Sterling with Harvard taking third. Holden also took home this year’s Sportsmanship award. Next year’s muster will be hosted by Sterling, with the current date set for Father’s Day weekend.

For details on future competitions, information can be found on the Wachusett Muster League Facebook page.

Monty Tech Nites CTI Program Graduates 53 Students

PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday, June 12th, the Career Technical Initiative (CTI) program at Monty Tech Nites graduated 53 adult students who completed 200 hours of training in the Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, and Carpentry trades. Funded by the Commonwealth Corporation in partnership with the MassHire North Central Career Center, CTI provides job seekers with short-term training in high-demand fields to combat the skills gap created when seasoned workers in the trades retire at a higher rate than younger workers enter the field. Ranging in age from their late teens to their 50s, this class included entry-level workers trying to enter the trades and older workers seeking career change. Training included specific trade skills, job readiness skills, resume, and cover letter writing, as well as first aid, CPR, OSHA, and other industry credentials required for each field.

Among the 200 guests in attendance were key staff from the MassHire North Central Career Center, the Honorable Sam Squalia Mayor of Fitchburg, members of the Monty Tech School Committee, and family and friends of the graduates. Faculty member Emily Turner delivered the commencement address, acknowledging the graduates' hard work, perseverance, and commitment to their training. Graduates were presented Certificates of Completion by Trish Woodliff, Monty Tech Nites Director, Autumn Kelly, CTI Program Manager, and their instructors: Shane Brogan (Carpentry), Benjamin Suppa (Electrical), Rob Keyes and Bill Kemp (Plumbing), and Jerry McKee and Ethan Looman (HVAC). In addition, graduates Logan Kirwan (Carpentry), Ryley Saisa (Plumbing), Daniel Lynch (HVAC), and Alyssa Washburn (Electrical) were presented with the Dillon Deshaies Memorial Award for their passion for their trades, positivity, encouragement



of their fellow students. Electrical Student Assistant, Cameron Saladini received a special scholarship award to support his participation in the Monty Tech Nites Journeyman's Electrical program in the fall. Electrical Instructor John Bussiere thanked Cameron for his two years of service as a Student Assistant and his exceptional work in supporting the CTI Electrical program. After the ceremony, students, staff, and guests enjoyed a celebration dinner served by CTI culinary graduates from December 2023. Graduates also received tool kits specific to their trade and safety jackets to ensure a smooth transition into their new

careers. Autumn Kelly, Monty Tech's CTI Program Coordinator shared, "We are doing our part to address the ongoing need for workers in manufacturing, and construction trades by increasing training capacity for local residents, our team has trained 197 adults with the funding support from Commonwealth Corporation over the past two years." In the coming school year, the Monty Tech Nite's CTI program will offer additional training in Carpentry, HVAC, and Plumbing. Prospective applicants are encouraged to attend Information Sessions during July and August at the Monty Tech

campus. "We value employer participation in the CTI program, especially through input on the type of workforce needs [so] that training providers can design curriculum that provides jobseekers with industry-based credentials within a specific field", says Trish Woodliff, the Director of Adult Education & Workforce Development. Employers can also participate by interviewing graduates, offering internship opportunities, job shadowing, and more. To learn more, visit <https://www.montytechnites.com/nocosttraining> or call the Monty Tech Nites office at 978-345-9200, ext. 5220.



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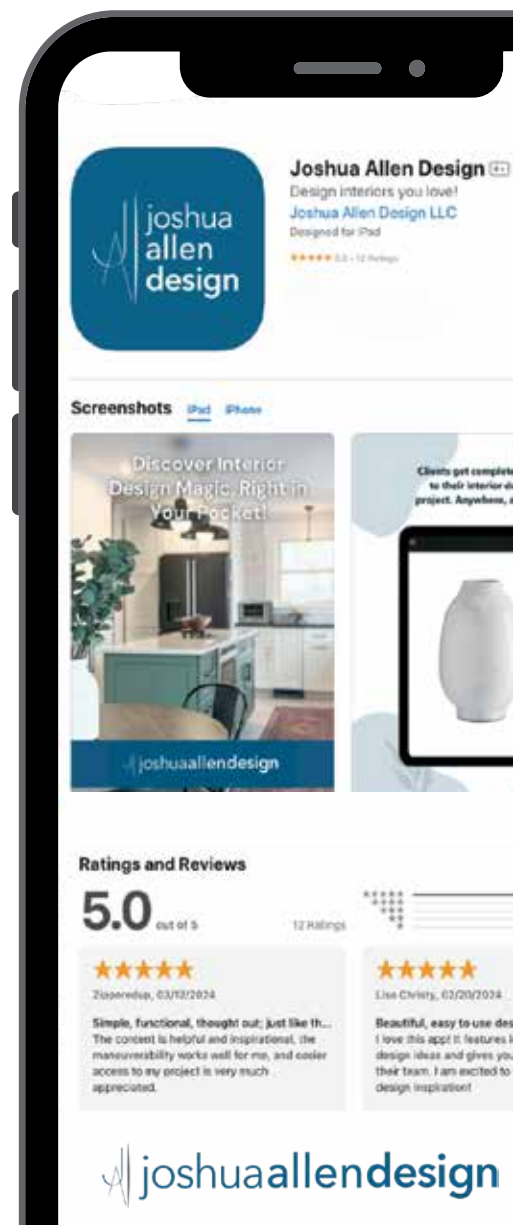
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Paxton Library Events - July & August 2024

Notes: FY25 Budget Update: The library will be operating on a reduced budget in FY25, which begins July 1st.

All Month

July Book Displays by Kristina: Olympics, Shark Week, and Travel.

Drop-in Crafts for Youth: Popsicle Stick Extravaganza! Community Art Project.

Summer Reading Puzzlers and Coloring Sheets

Sponsored by the Friends of Richards Memorial Library (FRML) and a donation.

Events

Indoor Scavenger Hunts

Endangered Animals Scavenger Hunt now through 7/19.

Shark Scavenger Hunt 7/23 through 8/2.

Solve each riddle by searching for clues in the J/Y room and earn a small prize!

New indoor scavenger hunts every 2 weeks during Summer Reading. Sponsored by FRML.

Wednesday 7/17, 10:30-11:15 am

Storytime at the Pond with Kristin Meet at Illig's Pond behind Paxton Center School. Rain date: July 24 For young children and their caregivers and families. Sponsored by FRML.

Thursday 7/18, 6-7pm

Read to Shamrock

Ages 5+. Bring or borrow a book to read to Shamrock in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Shamrock is a miniature labradoodle, certified through Therapy Dogs International, and is a great listener!

Tuesday 7/23, 6:30-7:30pm

Creative Space for Teens: Bad Art

Unleash your inner bad artist! Choose among a variety of materials to create the best bad art you've ever seen. Library will provide all supplies. For ages 12-18. Sponsored by FRML.

Friday 7/26, 10:30-11:30am

Read to Shamrock

Ages 5+. Bring or borrow a book to read to Shamrock in a relaxed, outdoor setting. Shamrock is a miniature labradoodle, certified through Therapy Dogs International, and is a great listener!

Tuesday 7/30, 6:30pm - 7:30pm

• Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals

Bring a stuffed animal, if you can! Registration required (30 vet kits available): <https://bit.ly/DrRosieRML>. Sponsored by FRML.

Bring your stuffie for a special check-up with local author/illustrator team Jennifer and Rozillia!

After sharing their book, "Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals," they will show you how to diagnose and treat common ailments that your stuffie might experience -- skills used by real life veterinarians!

Best for children ages 4-8, but older and younger siblings welcome.

Wednesday 7/31, 3:30-4:30pm

Squish Painting

Come and paint a painting of your favorite squishmallow! Feel free to bring a squishmallow (or a picture or idea of one) to paint. All materials provided, including squish outlines. Ages 5+, dress for mess! Sponsored by FRML.

Summer Reading Program

The summer reading program is generously sponsored by the Friends of Richards Memorial Library. The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Through 8/1/24

Read, Renew, Repeat

Children (up to age 11)

Registration is underway (visit the library to register). Earn reading prizes & attend fun programs. Help reach our community goal of 1,000 reading hours.

Young Adults 12-17

Registration is underway (visit the library to register). Earn tickets by: Reading. One hour = 1 ticket.

Earn 1 extra ticket each time you

1) write and submit a book review - see rmlpaxton.org/teens for details - or

2) complete a Mass Teen Choice Book Award Nominee.

Enter to win one of the following prizes. One winner per prize. The more you read, the better your chances!

- An autographed photo of Bruins player David Pastrnak
- Beats Solo3 Headphones
- Five Below Gift Card
- Dunkin Donuts Gift Card
- Dairy Queen Gift Card

Adult Summer Reading Program (SRP). Sponsored by FRML

Each day you check out books, you will receive an entry ticket. One adult reader will win a gift card each week.

Gift Card dates: 7/2, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, and 8/1

After the weekly winner is drawn, we will start over, so come in often! You may win only one time this summer.

BONUS Prize: All adults who participate in the SRP will be entered to win a Kindle PaperWhite. (There will be one winner announced on 8/2).

Weekly Events

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm

Chess Time at the Library Play, learn, and teach chess together. Other board games available. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Paxton 5K Race Winners



Congratulations to all the winners in the Paxton 5K Race last Saturday June 15th. Congratulations to the overall 1st place winner Michael Leahy at 21:23. 2nd place Josh Spooner at 22:45 and 3rd place Joe Alfaro at 23:34. Thank you so much to Central Mass Striders for running the race.

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“If I had my way, I’d remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead.”

— Roald Dahl