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# 1765 Paxton Community News

PaxtonCommunityNews.com

March 20, 2023

## This One's For You Paxton!



Meet Mark and Karen!

*Photo Contributed*

*by Karen and Mark*

When it comes to community, Mark and Karen Packard are all about positivity. Local business owners Mark and Karen publish newspapers in Sterling, Princeton and now Paxton MA! The local papers focus on positive news and community

support. You will see your local clubs and hometown heroes doing great things, as well as information regarding upcoming events and meetings. Mark and Karen Packard feel that a local newspaper focused on one specific town is the way to strengthen a community and the local

economy. This is a free publication to all residents in Paxton. The way to support this publication is to hire and recommend the advertisers that have paid to support your community news. We look forward to bringing you the good news monthly from March through December.

Mark grew up in Princeton and Karen grew up in Westminster. They met working at Wachusett Mountain during the winter of their senior year in high school. After a few years they got married and started a landscape company in Ashburnham. The company grew fast and after 2 years they moved themselves and their 2 kids into the Sterling Greenery in Sterling MA. Sterling Greenery had been closed for 6 years before Mark and Karen brought it back to life in 2001. Karen ran the garden center

*"You will see your local clubs and hometown heroes doing great things, as well as information regarding upcoming events and meetings."*

and Mark installed koi ponds, patios and plantings. After 4 years Mark and Karen were able to move out of the greenery into a house just minutes from the store. When the kids were older, Karen stayed home while Mark ran the garden center. After taking a few years off from the greenery, Karen pursued her real estate career, and is now one of the top real estate agents in Central Massachusetts. Mark and Karen recently expanded their garden center into Paxton located where Pleasant View Nursery was. The new name is Sterling Greenery Too! The new store will offer trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, pond supplies, mulch, stone, loam and compost.

We hope you enjoy your own local newspaper, and we look forward to being a part of your community.

**FREE!**

How To Build A Pond Seminar - Saturday, March 23  
242 Pleasant St. Paxton  
9am - 11am  
Sterling Greenery TOO!



**More Players Needed For Paxton Little League**

Paxton Little League is looking for a few more players between the ages of 8-10 to play AAA baseball. Registration will stay open until they have 11 players per team.

Paxton Little League will also be looking for junior umpires for the 2024 season. Interested umpires should reach out to cfarrarpll@gmail.com.

**Paxton's Annual Town Meeting**

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6th at 7pm at Paxton Center School.

An override ballot question is expected to be on the ballot this year. The Selectboard recently released a statement regarding this. <https://www.townofpaxton.net/home/news/select-board-explains-need-override>

**TOWN OF PAXTON RECREATION ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAM 2024**

Pre-K (age 4) through 6th Grade Camp plus 7th and 8th grade Jr C.I.T program:

Located at Paxton Center School 19 West Street, Paxton

Come enjoy the summer with your friends and counselors. Your day will include scheduled fun activities, including sports (whiffleball, basketball, soccer, and volleyball), nature walks, water fun, arts & crafts, playground, fishing, swimming, field trips (extra fee) and much more. Rainy day activities planned.

**Starting June 18th to August 9th 8 weeks of fun! Additional fee for field trips.**

- There is a \$50 per week, per child deposit upon time of registration. This deposit will be applied to the balance on each week's fee.
- Payments may be made online or by cash/check payable to the town of Paxton.
- All balances will need to be paid in full by June 1st. After June 1st there will be an additional \$15 added to each week, and each child's fee.
- All balances are due at least one week in advance.
- There are no refunds or credits for cancellations or changes after June 1st.
- Early drop off from 8:00 to 9:00 is \$10.00 each day per family or \$40 per week per family.
- Half Days run 9:00 to 1:30 and Full Days run 9:00 to 4:00.

**For registration forms or more info, go to:**  
<https://www.townofpaxton.net/recreation>

**Easter Event**

**Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**11:00 to 12:30**



**Pictures with the Easter Bunny, Crafts, Games, Fire Trucks, and Egg Hunt at 12:30.**

**Paxton Bandstand (weather permitting) or Paxton Senior Center**

**A Basic Firearms Safety Course will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd 6pm-9pm at the Paxton Public Safety Building.**

This curriculum is taught by a licensed instructor and meets the Massachusetts safety certification requirements for Class "A" Licenses to Carry and Firearm Identification Cards.

Topics covered include:

- Handgun identification
- Handgun manipulation
- Safety handling procedures
- Home safety and proper storage
- Firearms licensing process
- Concealed carry and vehicle transportation
- Massachusetts and Federal firearms laws

Cost:

- \$50.00 (check only)
- Payable to: "Town of Paxton"
- To secure a spot in class, email the instructor in the next step and bring payment the evening of the class.

How to sign-up:

- Send an email to Lt. Guy Bibeau at [gbibeau@townofpaxton.net](mailto:gbibeau@townofpaxton.net)
- Please include "Firearms Safety Class" in subject line along with the full legal name, home address, and date of birth of any and all attendees.

What to bring:

- Pen and notepaper

\*\*\*Please register as early as possible to reserve your seat\*\*\*

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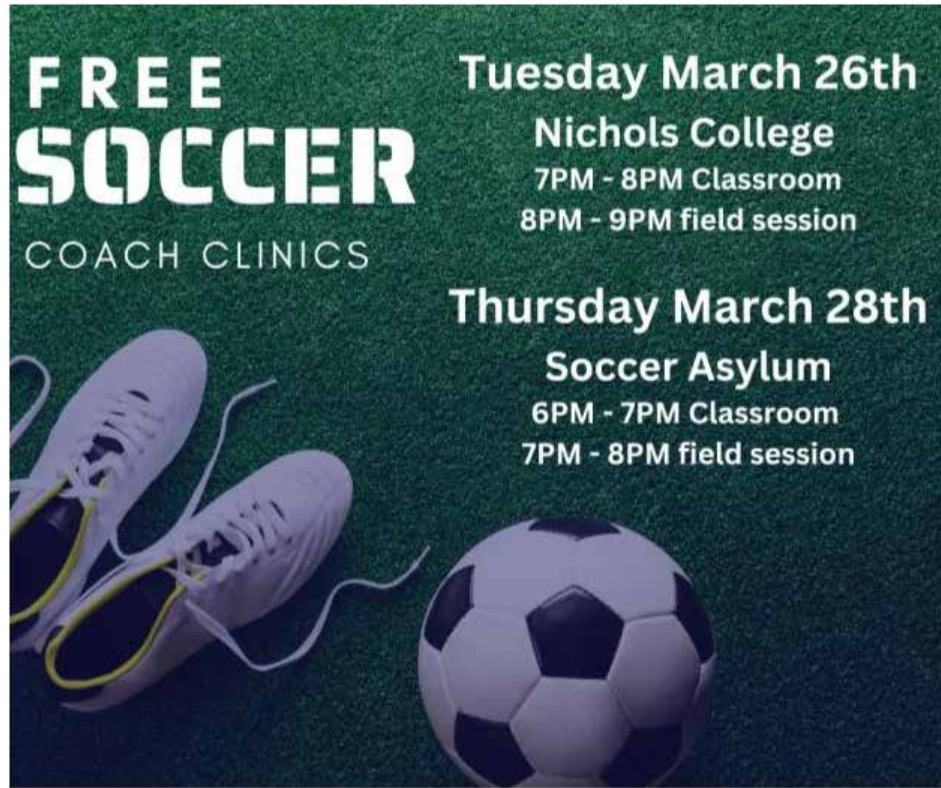
The next issue will publish April 20, 2024. Copy deadline is the first of each month. Items received after deadline will be included if space is available.

Publishers • Mark & Karen Packard  
Editor & Designer • Emmanuel Ortiz  
Contributors • Jen Kula

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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MA Youth Soccer is leading 2 free coaches clinics within our CMYSL (Central Mass Youth Soccer League) area. Here is the free clinic information:

**Tuesday, March 26th**

Location: Nichols College (Chalmers Field House and Conference room)

Address: 121 Center Rd in Dudley

Times: 7PM - 8PM Classroom // 8PM - 9PM field session -

**Thursday, March 28th**

Location: Soccer Asylum (Old Paxton Tennis & Fitness Center)

Address: 603 Pleasant St. in Paxton

Times: 6PM - 7PM Classroom // 7PM - 8PM field session

Coaches that are interested in attending can register via this Smartsheet form. MA Youth Soccer Coaches Education (smartsheet.com)

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/6a3bb65eaf5940f290a257aca272db7c>

**DCR Know Your Flood Risk Free Program Watershed Wednesdays Speaker Series**

**KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK**

MARCH 20, 6:30-7:30 pm

It's flood season! Join this interactive presentation by DCR's Floodplain Management Specialist. Part of the "Watershed Wednesday" series. One Wednesday each month DCR staff meet for engaging conversations with the community. All are welcome. Tea and hot chocolate will be available. Meet at DCR Water Supply Protection Headquarters Building, 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston. The main entrance is at the flagpole. Weather cancellations: The program will be canceled if West Boylston Schools are closed. For questions, please email [Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Parent@mass.gov) or call 617-352-4044.

**MACROINVERTEBRATES**

APRIL 17, 6:30-7:30 pm

Find out why we care about these aquatic creatures big enough to see without a microscope. Get your hands on samples to identify with Education/Outreach staff.

**CLIMATE RESILIENCY**

MAY 15, 6:30-7:30 pm

Hear how changes in climate affect the way storms and hazards impact natural, cultural, and recreational resources from DCR's Director of Climate Resilience.

The full schedule can be found online at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/wachusett-watershed-wednesday-events-2024/download>

**Document Shredding at Wachusett Recycling Center**

Document shredding May 18th from 9am-12pm at the Wachusett Recycling Center. This is open to residents of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston only.

Please bring ONLY confidential documents to be shred so we don't run out of space in the truck. Please recycle non-confidential materials (envelopes, folders, inserts) in your regular curbside recycling or in our Mixed Paper Recycling container in Center Circle on any day that we are open. We'll be holding 3 events in 2024: May 18, 2024, August 17, 2024, October 19, 2024.

The first 2 boxes are free and fees are \$2 for each box after that.

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# WHS Student Founds Wachusett Supporting Sisters



Wachusett Supporting Sisters 2024.

Photo Contributed

by Jen Kula

When Wachusett Regional High School student, Ellie Daly, has a good idea she doesn't hesitate to act on it. Last year, as a Junior, Daly recognized the need for a school club that would give girls the opportunity to get together and support each other in a safe and welcoming environment.

"I was joking around with my friends at lunch that Wachusett needed a club where girls could go and just do homework or talk," says Daly. "My friends told me that it wasn't an awful idea, so I started to really think about if I were to start a club what would it be called, what would we do, who would we be? With the help of my best friend and now vice-president, Grace Lannon, and one of our favorite former teachers we wrote up a summary and sent it off to the principal to get approved, and the rest is history."

With the support of the school, the Wachusett Supporting Sisters was born giving girls at the high school a place to form a strong community.

"The goal of the Wachusett Supporting Sisters is to create an environment where the young women of Wachusett have a safe space to talk with peers, meet new people, empower each other, help the community around us, and hopefully learn something new," Daly explains. "Everyone has a voice, so we make sure everyone is heard."

Once Daly got the support of a club advisor and submitted her idea to the principal it didn't take long for the Wachusett Supporting Sisters to become an official club, at which point they rapidly attracted members.

"We started an Instagram and gained followers quickly," says Daly. "We also hung posters around the school. The school hosted a club fair and WSS had a table and we got so many new Instagram followers and members from it. Finding members was actually quick and easy because

so many girls shared the same passion as us and we knew right away we were going to start something amazing with these girls."

Currently, the club has over 100 members as part of their Google classroom, with about 40 members attending regular meetings, which are held once or twice a month.

"In those meetings we usually discuss upcoming fundraisers or activities," says Daly. "We play fun games and talk with each other. In the school every month we paint the windows in the cafeteria to match either an upcoming holiday or season or event."

While connecting with peers is important to the club, another major focus of WSS is giving back to other girls and women in the community.

"Some of the fundraisers we have done so far include a raffle basket fundraiser where our girls and people in our community donated self-care items to the WSS raffle basket," Daly says. "We had so many donations and ended up making over \$300. That money is being used to donate items to the organization Abbey's House, a women's domestic abuse shelter in Worcester. Our other fundraiser we just had was a bake sale where we raised over \$700. We plan to use that money for future fundraisers and activities for our girls and the community."

While the whole school community has been supportive of the Wachusett Supporting Sisters, Daly has particularly appreciated help from Mr. Pratt, the interim high school principal.

"He has come to a few of our meetings just to poke his head in and see what we are up to," she says. "He makes sure we have everything we need and goes above and beyond to help us out whenever we need it."

With Daly and Lannon graduating in the spring, the girls plan to hold elections to fill the positions of president and vice-president for next year.

"We also want to open a treasurer and secretary spot for underclassmen" Daly says, who plans to attend Nichols College in Dudley, MA next fall. "We want the club to continue at Wachusett for years to come and ensuring we set

up a system for our future sisters is essential."

For Wachusett High School students or parents who are interested in learning more about the Wachusett Supporting Sisters, visit [wachu\\_supporting\\_sisters](https://www.instagram.com/wachu_supporting_sisters) on Instagram.

Generously Sponsored by PCS PTO



**GEAR SWAP & FIELD CLEAN UP**  
\*Clean Up is pending field conditions and weather.\*

**SATURDAY APRIL 6TH. 10-12**  
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You do NOT need to bring something to take gear for your players!

**Want to drop off gear BEFORE 4/6?**

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**  
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PCS Donation Bin, lobby by gym

**Can't drop off? No problem!**  
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**GOT GEAR?**  
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Soccer Balls  
and MORE!





# Garden Guru

By Mark Packard



The spring birds are back and the temperatures are rising! The first full day of spring is March 21st!

Spring cleaning should wait until the temps are consistently in the 50s to avoid disturbing or harming beneficial insects, bees, and butterflies. Be careful when clearing leaves and debris because Crocus and Daffodil bulbs will be popping up underneath them. Removing all leaves and debris from around shrubs and trees early in the season will prevent rot and fungus growth. If you are going to spread mulch around your trees and shrubs, pull excess mulch away first and discard it. New mulch should be applied to existing beds every year but be careful not to bury the bottom of trees and shrubs. Burying the bark of trees and shrubs with mulch could rot the bark and kill them. Mulch breaks down 1 inch per year and amends the soil naturally. It also creates a weed barrier and holds moisture in the ground helping to prevent your plants from drying out. For additional weed prevention sprinkle Preen on the beds before mulching. This product does not kill existing plants but does help prevent new weeds from growing.

Some people are starting to use decorative stone in their beds instead of bark mulch but this is not recommended. The stone holds heat and dries out your plants, it doesn't create a weed barrier, and does not break down to amend the soil naturally. You should however do a 1-2 ft. wide apron of stone around your house or commercial building to help prevent fire hazard, insects, and drip edge runoff. You should also maintain a 6 in. minimum distance between the ground and the siding on your house.

Fertilizing your flower gardens with a well balanced fertilizer like 10-10-10 will promote root growth and more flowers. You can sprinkle this granular fertilizer on the ground before mulching and gently rake into the soil to help with bigger and longer lasting blooms. Adding a thin



layer of certified organic compost in your vegetable gardens will restore needed nutrients to your raised beds.

Pruning should be done to remove any winter damage. Prune close to the main stalk or right after new growth. Do not prune back Hydrangea, Rhododendron, Azalea, Andromeda or other plants that have buds from last fall. You will be cutting off your flowers. A good general rule is to prune plants right after they flower.

Gardening questions? Email [mark@sterlinggreenery.com](mailto:mark@sterlinggreenery.com)

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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)

Hello again from Liberty Tax Service! It's tax time yet again and even though we are in the heart of tax season, there is no time like the present to set yourself up for success next year. We cannot change 2023 but we can certainly plan for 2024 and beyond. Proper tax planning starts with knowledge and awareness. While this article will list a number of adjustments for retirement in 2024 I am excited for my future articles to cover even more topics this year.

Retirement really is one of my favorite topics, maybe because I just can't wait to retire myself. Since there are so many let's dive right in. The SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 strongly supports retirement savings, containing over 90 provisions with different effective dates. Here are a few changes that are taking effect this year. If you are under age 59½ you now can take more penalty-free early withdrawals from IRAs and 401(k)s. Up to \$10,000 for domestic abuse victims and \$1,000 for emergencies can be taken without paying the 10% additional tax. Regular income tax would still be due. Roth 401(k) owners no longer need to take required minimum distributions. This conforms to the rule that applies to owners of Roth IRAs.

In regards to IRAs, key dollar limits on workplace retirement plans and IRAs increase in 2024. The maximum 401(k) contribution is \$23,000. Those born before 1975 can contribute an extra \$7,500. In 2024 the contribution cap for traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs is \$7,000, plus \$1,000 as an additional catch-up contribution for anyone 50 years and older. More good news in 2024, deduction phaseouts for traditional IRAs increases to a range of \$123,000 to \$143,000 for joint filers covered by work retirement plans and \$77,000 to \$87,000 for single filers and heads of household. If only one spouse is covered by the plan, the phaseout range for deducting for the uncovered spouse is \$230,000 to \$240,000.

One of my favorite tools is a Health Savings Account (HSA). Individuals can now contribute up to \$4,150 to their HSA accounts for 2024 while families can contribute up to \$8,300. For more information about 2024 medical

savings account contribution limits, consult a tax professional and financial advisor to see if they're right for you.

This question has come up many times this year, so for anyone wondering what to do with extra money in your 529 plans they can be rolled over tax-free to a Roth IRA. Remember there is a \$35,000-lifetime cap, the account must have been open for more than 15 years and yearly rollover amounts can't exceed the annual pay-in limit for Roth IRAs, which is \$7,000 for 2024.

I look forward for another great year in 2024. Tax law changes every year, in our ever changing world of taxes make sure you are planning with current information to save you time, money and give you the piece of mind you deserve. Whether you have or have not filed your taxes yet, consider sitting down with a professional to make sure that you have all the tools and information to plan for your financial future.



Garden center - Pond store - Stone yard

**3 YR GUARANTEE**  
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## Mulch - Stone - Loam - Compost

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Dense Grade	(Gray)	\$44
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3/8" Trap Rock	(Gray)	\$44
3/4" Trap Rock	(Gray)	\$44
1 1/2" Trap Rock	(Gray)	\$44
Mason Sand	(Tan)	\$60
3/8" Round	(Tan)	\$60
3/4" Round	(Tan)	\$60
2" Round	(Tan)	\$60
3/8" River Rock	(Gray Mix)	\$150
3/4" River Rock	(Gray Mix)	\$150
Loam		\$44
Compost	(Organic)	\$88
Planting Mix	(50/50)	\$66

Prices are by cubic yard. Prices are subject to change.  
Delivery trucks will not leave the driveway.





# Karen's Market Analysis March 2024

By Karen Packard

The market is heating up! Spring is right around the corner and buyers are watching for new houses to come on the market! As soon as the temperatures started getting into the 50's my phone started ringing off the hook with buyers and sellers looking to get ready for the spring market. Now is the time to start planning your strategy.

If you are looking to sell this spring, you should talk to a real estate agent first. The right agent will tell you what you need to do to maximize your list price and get the most money possible. Small projects or quick fixes can go a long way to getting you the best purchase price possible. I was at a listing appointment yesterday and after going through the house with the sellers, the only thing they needed was a little touch up to their baseboard paint and some fresh towels in the bathrooms. It can be that simple in some cases, but in other cases we would talk about the options you have for bigger projects and what the return on your investment would be. Only an experienced agent can tell you what projects are worth doing for resale.

If you are thinking of buying, now is the time to talk to not just a Real Estate Agent but also a lender. If you have your financials ready and your preapproval in hand, you can make an offer on a house as soon as the right one goes up for sale. If you are not prepared with your preapproval, you might miss out on a new listing that sells in the first few days. So, it is important to talk to both a Real Estate agent and a lender to be ready for your new home.

As most people have heard, the interest rates have increases over the past year and a half and that has affected the real estate market. But, house prices in our area continue to remain strong especially with the low inventory and I expect this spring to be another strong market for home sales.

As of the beginning of March when I sat down to write this market analysis, I looked at single family homes in town statistics. Sterling has 8 single family homes sold already this year. 2023 had a total of 48 single family homes selling in total so that is an amazing start to the



year especially considering that January and February are some of the slowest months for real estate in New England. We have only 5 houses actively available for purchase in Sterling today and 3 under contract hoping to close in the next month or so.

So with temperatures warming up it is time to get your spring real estate plans in place. I would love to meet with anyone thinking selling their home this year to discuss the best way to market and sell your house in the current market conditions.

Please feel free to call or text me at 978-407-2568 to set up a time to meet. Or if you would like to attend on of my seminars, I am having a few seminars this March for anyone interested in buying, selling or investing in real estate.

**\*\*Paxton has 7 single family homes sold already this year. 2023 had a total of 41 single family homes selling in total so that is an amazing start to the year especially considering that January and February are some of the slowest months for real estate in New England. We have only 2 houses actively available for purchase in Paxton today and 6 under contract hoping to close in the next month or so.**

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# March and April 2024 Listing: Richards Memorial Library Programs

**MARCH NOTES**

**A New Catalog Experience is Coming Soon**

Our library catalog will be getting an upgrade in early March to bring you a better online browsing experience. The catalog's new features include: search suggestions and predictive text, spell check, faster searching, accessibility options, and the ability to check out digital content as well as physical items.

All of your current checkouts and holds will carry over to the new system. When you log in to the new catalog, you will sign in with your pre-existing library card number and PIN/password.

If you have any difficulty accessing your account, please contact us at (508) 754-0793 or richards@cwmar.org. Read more here or visit the CW Mars blog.

**REMINDERS**

All holds must be picked up within one week of the notification. Please contact us if you need an extension.

Please bring your library card when checking out books. Lost it? We will replace it for free.

The roof repairs have been completed. Gutter work should be starting soon.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mini Art Show, everyone enjoyed it. Your art is now ready for pickup. Please come in this month to pickup your art.

Richards Memorial Library  
**CHESS TIME**  
at the Library  
Thursdays  
\*\*New time: 3:30-4:30pm\*\*  
All ages and experience levels welcome!  
Drop by the Library for some relaxed chess.  
Play  
Learn  
Teach  
check rmlpaxton.org for updates  
44 Richards Ave. Paxton, MA  
(508) 754-0793 www.rmlpaxton.org

Drop-in Crafts for Youth: Clover Scratch Art and Pot O' Gold kits. Sponsored by the Friends of Richards Memorial Library.

**EVENTS**

Tuesday  
3/26 from 6-7:30pm  
**The Softer Side of Celtic**  
Musician and raconteur Jeff Snow combines the music, stories and a wee bit of history from Scotland, Ireland and England into a concert event that will keep you on the edge of your seat. Sponsored by the Friends of Richards Memorial Library.

Wednesday  
3/27 through 4/12  
**Mario Scavenger Hunt**  
Celebrate Mario Day with a Mario Riddle Scavenger Hunt at the library. Drop in any time during open hours 3/27 (WRSD 1/2 day) through 4/12 to solve the riddle and earn a small prize.

RML Paxton  
**THE SOFTER SIDE OF CELTIC**  
WITH MUSICIAN JEFF SNOW  
MARCH 26, 2024  
Jeff plays the guitar, autoharp and bouzouki, and shares the music and the stories behind the music of Scotland, Ireland, and England.  
6-7:30PM  
You'll see singing, laughing, lots of smiles and perhaps a few tears as we travel through time.  
Jeff's music has been described as "quiet and relaxing."  
Sponsored by the Friends of Richards Memorial Library  
Richards Memorial Library, 44 Richards Ave., Paxton, MA 01612  
(508) 754-0793 www.rmlpaxton.org

Richards Memorial Library  
**Spring Charcuterie Workshop**  
Includes:  
A palm leaf platter and board accessories  
All the ingredients  
Step-by-step instruction on how to build your board.  
Bring your friends with you for a night of laughs, cheese & fun!  
Registration and upfront payment required; space is limited  
tinyurl.com/RMLCharcuterie  
Tuesday  
April 2, 2024  
6-8pm  
charCUTERie\_woo Friends of RML Fundraiser  
custom cheese boards  
44 Richards Ave. Paxton, MA (508) 754-0793 www.rmlpaxton.org

**ALL MONTH**

**Ready, Set, Grow: Seed of the Month Club**  
March: Whirlygig Mix Zinnia Flowers  
One packet per person, available when you check out an item; no holds or reserving; while supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of Richards Memorial Library.

**Dinosaur World Live at the Hanover Theatre**  
Visit the library 3/1 through 3/23 and enter to win a Family 4 Pack of tickets to Dinosaur World Live at the Hanover Theatre & Conservatory. Dinosaur World coloring sheets available. Winner announced on 3/26, show date: Thursday, April 25, 6:30pm.



RML Paxton  
**Ready, Set Grow!**  
Seed of the Month Club

**March**

Whirlygig Mix  
Zinnia Flower

Flower seeds & vegetable seeds  
available at the beginning of the month  
**1 per person, while supplies last**  
**\*Available when you check out an item\***

Richards Memorial Library, 44 Richards Ave., Paxton, MA 01612  
(508) 754-0793 [www.rmlpaxton.org](http://www.rmlpaxton.org)

Thursday  
3/28 from 2-3pm  
**Friends of Richards Memorial Library Meeting**  
Anyone interested in joining the board or attending the meeting is encouraged to come to the library.

Thursday  
3/28 from 6-7pm  
**Health Plan Options for Seniors**  
Presentation & discussion with Luisa from BCBS covering:

- Medigap, Medicare Advantage, and Medicare Part D plans.
- Which plan might be best for you.
- Understanding when you can switch plans.

**Weekly Events**

Tuesdays  
3:30-4:30pm  
**LEGO Challenge**  
Ages 5+ (due to small pieces). Join the building fun. Try a new challenge each week, or free build. We supply the LEGOs, you supply the imagination. Drop-in, no registration required.

Wednesdays  
10:30-11:15am  
**Outdoor Story & Play Time**  
Join us for healthy outdoor play and learning in the library yard. We sing songs, go on scavenger hunts, tell stories, do art & experiments, and have fun.

Thursdays  
3:30-4:30pm (\*New time as of 2/1/24)  
**Chess Time at the Library**  
Play, learn, and teach chess together. Other board games available. All ages and skill levels welcome.

**Youth Book Club**

**Graphic Novel Book Club (ages 8-12)**  
Receive a book and activity or treat each month. Optional in-person meeting the last Wednesday of each month, 4-4:40pm, for discussion & fun activities.  
March's book: When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed.  
Register: [Rmlpaxton.org/tweens](http://Rmlpaxton.org/tweens)

**RML FUNDRAISER SPRINGTIME CHARCUTERIE WORKSHOP:**  
Tuesday, April 2, 2024 6pm-8pm - Go to <https://rmlpaxton.org> to register.

# The Winners of the 3rd and 4th Grade basketball Tournament



"What a great and fun 3rd and 4th grade basketball tournament we had on Friday March 8th. Thank you to all the players and coaches. You all played awesome. Thank you to Hayley Newton for signing the National Anthem. You are amazing.

Congratulations to the 1st place team: The Purple Polar Cats.  
And to the 2nd place team: The Heat

Thank you to the referees Luke Putney and Kiara Kelly. Thank you to Violet Putney for running the scoreboard. Thank you to Layla and all the 8th grade helpers running the snack table.  
Thank you!"

**Written By Kathy Card**



# Expert Interior Design Holiday Prep

*dear josh,*



**Help us get ready for the holiday season!**

Here are my favorite universal tips:

**Bring the outside in.** Greens and garland make your spaces feel lush and welcoming. Pinecones, wreaths, sprigs, and holly berries work well for filler.

**Break out the vintage decor.** Adding in vintage pieces will lend a personalized and unique feel to your space. Works all year!

**Crank up the cozy.** You can never have too many throw pillows and blankets. Incorporate different textures into your setup, it'll make your space feel so cozy!

**Get things lit.** Lighting plays a part in the atmosphere of your home. Make sure you have plenty of tabletop and standing lamps, and incorporate twinkle lights to amp up the happy vibes.

Have a wonderful holiday season!  
-All of us at Joshua Allen Design.

**Take this quick quiz to find your holiday decorating style,**  
Then scan the QR code to shop your results!

**Your favorite color palette?**

- A: Red & green - timeless.
- B: Silver & gold - classy.
- C: Multicolor - whimsical.
- D: Neutrals, always.

**You can never have too many \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A: Outdoor elements.
- B: Ornaments.
- C: Bottlebrush trees.
- D: No there's always a limit on clutter.

**The best holiday scent?**

- A: Balsam fir.
- B: Warm cinnamon.
- C: Christmas cookie.
- D: Clean mint.

**The ideal x-mas break getaway spot is...**

- A: Skiing in Colorado.
- B: Sitting on my own sofa.
- C: New York City.
- D: Anyplace warm.

**Your all time favorite holiday dessert?**

- A: Yule log.
- B: Grandma's classics.
- C: A new Pinterest recipe.
- D: Pumpkin pie.

**Tally up your answers and scan below to shop your results.**



**Time to update your living room?**

Keep an eye on our social stories starting Dec. 1st for our '25 Days of Design' advent calendar!

Visit our website [www.joshuaalendesign.com](http://www.joshuaalendesign.com) follow us on instagram [@joshua.allen.design](https://www.instagram.com/joshua.allen.design) or speak to us directly at **508.901.9919**

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# FINANCIAL FOCUS®

## Time for financial spring cleaning?

Spring is almost here, which means it's time for some spring cleaning. This year, in addition to tidying your home and surroundings, you might want to consider sprucing up your financial environment, as well.

Here are some suggestions for doing just that:

- **Improve your vision.** Once the days are warmer and longer, you may want to get outside and clean all the winter grime and smudges from your windows, allowing you to see the world more clearly. And you may want to bring more focus to your financial vision by asking some key questions: Is my investment strategy still appropriate for my needs, goals and family situation? If not, what changes should I make? And am I prepared for changes in my life, such as health challenges or a need to retire earlier than planned? The answers to these and other questions can help you clarify where you are, in terms of your financial picture, and where you want to go.
- **De-clutter.** As you look around your home, you may find things such as expired health care products, old prescriptions, ancient cleaning solutions, and so on, in addition to duplicate household items (how many blenders do you really need?) and non-working equipment — printers, laptops, etc. Most people find that eliminating this clutter gives them a good feeling — and more livable space. As an investor, you can also find clutter in the form of redundant investments — for example, you might own several nearly identical mutual funds. You might be better off selling some of these funds and using the proceeds to find new investments that can help you further diversify your portfolio. As you may know, diversification is a key to investment success, but keep in mind that it can't prevent all losses.
- **Plant seeds of opportunity.** Whether they're planting camellias and crocuses or carrots and cilantro, gardeners are busy in the spring, hoping

their efforts result in lovely flowers and tasty foods. And when you invest, you, too, need to plant seeds of opportunity in the form of investments that you hope will grow enough to enable you to make progress toward your goals. So, you may want to review your portfolio to ensure it's providing this growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance.

- **Reduce dangers.** You may not think about it that much, but your home and surroundings can contain potential hazards. You might have ill-fitting caps on cleaning products with toxic chemicals, or sharp cutting instruments protruding from shelves in your garage, or heavy, cracked tree branches hovering close to your roof. Spending some time on a spring-cleaning sweep can get rid of these dangers — and devoting time to consider the possible threats to your financial security, and those of your family, can pay off, too. For starters, review your life insurance to determine if you've got enough. Your employer may offer some coverage as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient, so you may need private coverage. And the same is true for disability insurance, because if something were to happen to you, and you couldn't work for a while, you'd still want to protect your family's lifestyle.

Spring is a great time for brightening your physical space — and your financial one, too.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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Book your \$49 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!

PaxtonCommunityNews.com • March 20, 2024

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# REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2024 BAY STATE SUMMER GAMES

**PRESS RELEASE**

Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

“We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their ‘Time to Shine,’” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games.”

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will

qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit [www.stategamesofamerica.com](http://www.stategamesofamerica.com).

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org).

For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

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