

\$1M raised for courtyard

GEF spearheading O'Maley project

The Gloucester Education Foundation recently surpassed the \$1 million mark in its \$3 million capital campaign to finance construction of a new courtyard at O'Maley Innovation Middle School.

The foundation also reports it has secured \$200,000 for Gloucester High School's new Medical Assisting program, adding to the \$256,000 already raised.

Emily Siegel, GEF's executive director, said of the \$1 million raised so far for the courtyard project, \$400,000 will be used for the feasibility study and design phase.

"The rest of what we've raised so far will go towards the construction budget, which is estimated at \$1.5 million to \$2 million," she said. "Our campaign goal is \$3 million, however, to fully cover the costs of feasibility, design, construction, an owner's project manager, permitting and contingencies."

Siegel said the front of O'Maley has enormous potential, but currently misses the mark. The concept for the 0.8-acre concrete slab calls for several recreational areas as well as trees and picnic tables to give kids places to sit.

"A reimagined O'Maley courtyard won't simply be a nicer outdoor space," she said. "It will be a visible shift in how students experience school every day. A few years from now, success will

look like students choosing to spend time outdoors because the space invites movement, connection and creativity."

Siegel said teachers will eventually use the courtyard as an extension of the classroom — for science, writing, discussion and reflection — because it supports learning in unique ways.

"During the school day, students who need to move, socialize or reset will have places that feel safe and welcoming, intentionally designed with their needs in mind," she said. "Performances, assemblies and school events will take place in the courtyard on a regular basis. The space will feel alive, cared for and student-centered."

Siegel said the project partners — GEF, city officials and the school district — are "grateful for the enthusiasm the project has generated" and for the "significant investments that donors have made" since the concept was unveiled last fall during the foundation's 20th anniversary gala.

"We also have a long way to go to reach our \$3 million goal," Siegel said. "We hope this milestone will galvanize individuals, families, businesses and foundations to get engaged and support this ambitious project. Students deserve it, teachers need it, families are hoping for it and the community will appreciate it for years to come."

Siegel said securing the \$200,000 for the medical



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Seamus and Meghan Buckley, siblings who attended O'Maley Innovation Middle School, speak at a Gloucester Education Foundation "courtyard campaign" gathering on the impact of GEF on their education, as well as the opportunity presented by the courtyard renovation project for future generations. Meghan is a member of Gloucester High School's Class of 2028 and Seamus is a Gloucester High Class of 2023 alumnus and a rising senior at Dartmouth College.

assisting program shows the local philanthropic community, as well as contributor the Philadelphia-based Ware Foundation understand the value of "opening new programs and career pathways for Gloucester students."

"It says that they are willing

to kick-start a new vocational track that the district couldn't afford to get off the ground on their own, with their tight operating budget, using private dollars," she said. "It also speaks to the demand for healthcare workers, as the population locally and

nationally ages and looks to the next generation of medical professionals and caregivers to keep them healthy."

Over a four-year period, the Gloucester Public Schools and the Gloucester Education Foundation partnered with a wide network of healthcare

“The space will feel alive, cared for and student-centered.”

— Emily Siegel,
Gloucester
Education
Foundation

professionals to make the medical assisting program possible by vetting new program tracks, building a Program Advisory Board, getting approval from the School Committee, and learning from other schools.

However, Siegel said the Gloucester Education Foundation does not do anything alone, but strives to "be a connector, a catalyst and a convener who helps big ideas come to life."

"Gloucester Public School teachers, students, families and leaders are the ones who do the hard work of creating, implementing and strengthening programs and projects in our schools," she said. "People are inspired to give to projects like medical assisting and the O'Maley courtyard because they see the high level of need, they see the hardworking school staff working to improve our schools and they want to be in a place where families can raise their children and give them every opportunity."

~ Stephen Hagan

It's your government and you have a right to know

Jim Zachary



All government business is your business.

Government can only be

of, by and for the people when it is out in front of the people.

State Sunshine Laws that demand governmental transparency should not only codify the public's right to know, but also facilitate access to both records and meetings. Meanwhile, there should be real penalties when elected and appointed officials block or stall access.

Unfortunately, in the vast majority of states public access laws have little to no teeth, and in the states that

do have stiff penalties for violations, enforcement is sparse at best.

That needs to change.

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So, whether it is Congress, the state's General Assembly, county commission, city council or the board of education, it is your right to know all the people's business.

When you attend local city, county or school board meetings, and ask questions and hold elected representatives accountable, you are not minding their business, you are minding your own business.

When you make a public records request, you are not asking local records custodians to give you something that just belongs to them or the office where they work. You are simply asking for your own documents. Those custodians need to understand that.

The Bill of Rights guarantees the freedom of the press for very important

reasons. The founders built a hedge of protection around the media because the press, as the Fourth Estate, guards and fights for the public's right to know, holding government accountable.

Journalists help keep an eye on government, shine the light on its actions, fight the good fight for access to documents and meetings, champion transparency and defend the First Amendment because of a core belief in your basic, fundamental rights — principally, your right to know.

Access to public information, though, is not just for the press. It is for each and every one of you too.

Jim Zachary, our director of newsroom standards & practices, can be reached at jzachary@cnhi.com.

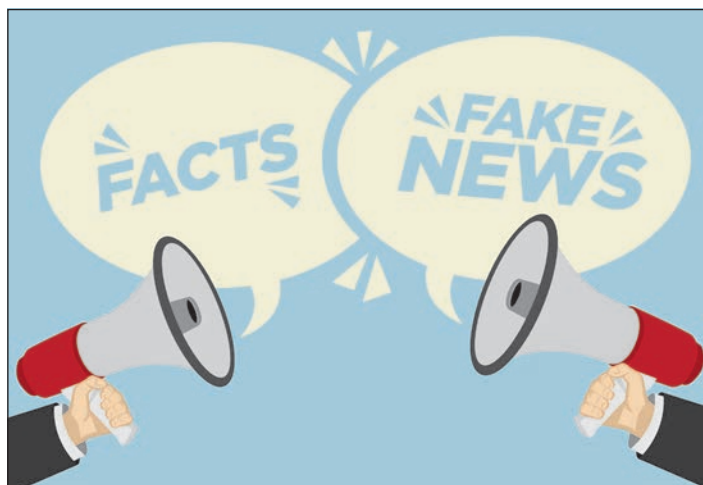
Looking to combat fake news?

Here are some resources to help you determine if what you've read is true:

» **Politifact** is the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact checking operation run by the nonprofit Poynter Institute. The site fact-checks statements by politicians and debunks myriad Facebook hoaxes. <https://www.politifact.com/>

» **FactCheck.org**, run by Annenberg Public Policy Center, performs much of the same tasks, and also let's you ask questions of the fact checkers. An example question: Did the Supreme Court rule that it is illegal to take the oath of office with anything but the Bible? (The answer is no.) <https://www.factcheck.org/>

» **Snopes** is the original fact-checking website. Use the site's search bar to get to the bottom of political statements, viral videos and urban myths. <https://www.snopes.com/>



» **A Google reverse image search** is the best way to find out if that photo you saw making the rounds on Twitter or Facebook is real. This story from PC Magazine walks you through how to do it on your desktop or your phone. <https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2492468,00.asp>

» **Still need help?** Contact us at the Eagle-Tribune, and we'll get the answer for you, no matter the topic. Email editor Tracey Rauh at trauh@eagletribune.com.



REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

How the program works

Everything you need to know about Real News in Schools

Who: It involves local schools participating in the Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times Newspapers in Education program, Real News in Schools.

What: Students and faculty at these schools are granted full access to SalemNews.com and GloucesterTimes.com and receive print copies of the monthly Real News in Schools publication you are currently reading.

Where: These free digital subscriptions are accessible on all electronic devices within participating schools. The schools currently enrolled include Amesbury High School, Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School, Gloucester High School and Austin Prep.

When: As soon as a school administrator contacts the Salem News or Gloucester Daily Times to set-up access and a sponsor is secured for that school, it is enrolled into the program. This process typically takes two to three weeks to complete.

Why: Local businesses understand the importance of local journalism and endeavor to strengthen their communities. The Real News is Schools program is designed to battle the fake news proliferating on social media, and introduce students to trusted news sources.

How: Teachers use the local newspaper and partner website SalemNews.com/RealNews or GloucesterTimes.com/RealNews to design course work. This curriculum utilizes news stories to teach reading, vocabulary, math, geography and civics.

If you are a school administrator or business looking to get involved in this program, please contact the Salem News or Gloucester Daily Times at (978) 946-2200.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Date	Time	Opponent	Location	
Fri.	Sept 18	5:00 PM	St Mary's Lynn	Away
Fri.	Sept. 25	6:00 PM	Revere High	Away
Fri.	Oct. 2	7:00 PM	Winthrop High	Home
Fri.	Oct. 9	7:00 PM	Salem High	Home

BOYS SOCCER

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	
Mon.	Sept. 21	4:30 PM	Salem High	Home
Wed.	Sept. 23	4:00 PM	Beverly High	Away
Mon.	Sept. 28	5:00 PM	Saugus Middle High	Away
Wed	Sept. 30	4:30 PM	Swampscott	Away
Mon.	Oct. 5	4:30 PM	Marblehead	Home
Wed.	Oct. 7	4:30 PM	Winthrop	Home

GIRLS SOCCER

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	
Mon.	Sept. 21	4:30 PM	Salem High	Away
Thurs.	Sept 24	4:30 PM	Winthrop	Home
Mon.	Sept. 28	4:30 PM	Saugus	Home
Wed.	Sept. 30	4:30 PM	Swampscott	Home
Mon.	Oct. 5	4:30 PM	Marblehead	Away
Wed.	Oct. 7	4:30 PM	Winthrop	Away

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

Date	Time	Opponent	Location	
Tues.	Sept. 22	4:30 PM	Malden Catholic	Home
Thurs.	Sept 24	7:00 PM	Peabody High	Away
Fri	Sept. 25	4:30 PM	Manchester/Essex	Home
Mon.	Sept. 28	6:15 PM	Peabody High	Away
Thurs.	Oct. 1	4:30 PM	Danvers High	Home
Tue.	Oct. 6	4:30 PM	Beverly High	Home
Fri.	Oct. 9	3:45 PM	Danvers High	Away



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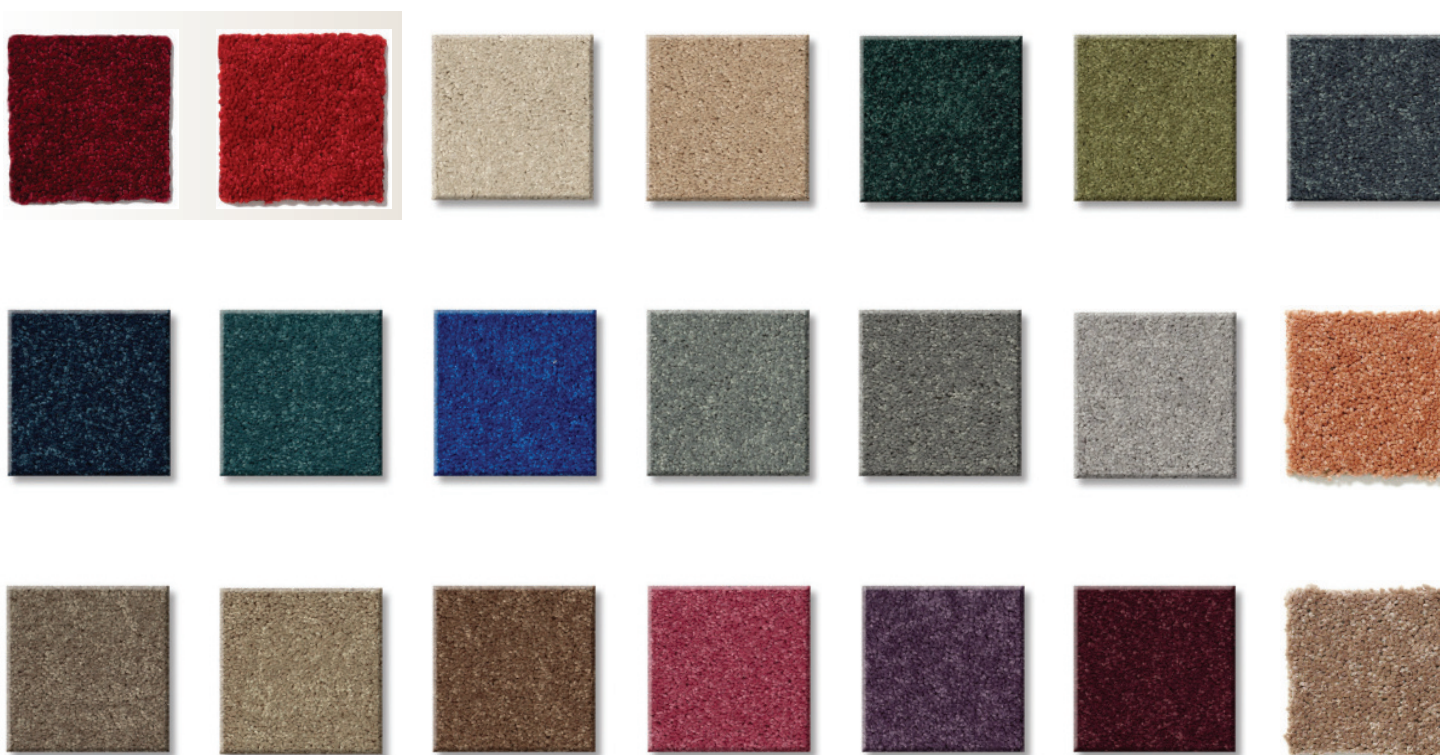


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Salem High names new athletic director

SALEM — Principal Glenn Burns announced that Michael Daly, former director of athletics and co-curricular director at Deering High School in Portland, Maine, has been named Salem High School's new athletic director.

Daly, a Boston native, is replacing former athletic director Reilly Christie, who was at Salem High for four years before accepting the athletics director role at Malden Catholic High School in July. Daly will start on Sept. 17.

Burns said Daly's career reflects a deep belief in the power of athletics to develop character, connection, resilience and leadership.

"Michael brings a remarkable record of educational

leadership, athletic administration, coaching, program development, and student-centered service. We are excited to welcome him to the Salem Witches family and to the broader Salem Public Schools community," said Burns.



Michael Daly

Daly brings more than a decade of experience in secondary-school athletic administration and educational leadership, along with 20 years in collegiate athletics administration and coaching at the NCAA Division I and

II levels.

His accomplishments include two Division II national championships as the head women's lacrosse coach at Stonehill College, extensive experience at University of New Hampshire, Merrimack College, Saint Anselm College, and induction into the Hall of Fame at Stonehill College and the Northeast-10 Conference.

"Most importantly, Michael shares our commitment to creating exceptional experiences for every student-athlete," Burns said. "I am confident that his vision, energy, and collaborative leadership will strengthen our programs and honor Salem's proud athletic tradition."

At Deering, Daly's leadership helped add new sports and co-curricular programs, build successful cooperative teams, increase student involvement, and create pathways for students to belong, lead, and thrive, according to an announcement.

He's spent many years visiting Salem, running races through the Willows and Salem Common, and exploring the city. Daly said he's very excited to join the community and lead the Witches' athletic programs.

"I am honored and thrilled to join Salem High School, Salem Public Schools, and the Witches Athletics family as Athletic Director," he said. "From my first conversations

with Salem students, staff, coaches, and alumni — and from meeting community members at Bertram Field — I immediately felt Salem's special sense of community, strong athletic tradition, and deep pride in Witch City sports. I knew that I belonged here."

Daly is a 1990 graduate of UNH where he earned his bachelor's degree in communication and business administration. He moved on to receive his master's degree from Northeastern in 1996.

More recently, Daly received a registered middle school athletic administrator certification from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) in 2023 and

his certified master athletic administrator (CMAA) from the NIAAA in 2024.

"I look forward to partnering with student-athletes, coaches, families, faculty, staff, and Principal Burns' leadership team to create exceptional athletic and life experiences through sports at Salem High School, Collins Middle School, and throughout the NEC," Daly said. "As athletic director, I am committed to strengthening a sense of belonging for all, expanding meaningful opportunities for Salem students both in school and beyond the playing fields, and developing the student and community leaders of tomorrow."

~ Michael McHugh

Area grads receive Topsfield Fair scholarships

TOPSFIELD — Several North Shore graduates were among 36 high school students across the region who were recently awarded a scholarship from the Essex Agricultural Society.

In all, the organization that runs the Topsfield Fair distributed \$157,000 in 36 scholarships to students graduating from 18 local high schools.

This year's scholarship recipients include:

► **Amesbury:** Samantha Porter (Amesbury High School)

► **Andover:** Olivia Correia-Branco (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

► **Beverly:** Della Gouker (Beverly High School)

► **Danvers:** Skylar Demsey (The Governor's Academy); Sofia Longo (Bishop Fenwick)

► **Groveland:** Bella Poore and Aiden Napolitano (Pentucket Regional High School)

► **Haverhill:** Seana Kane (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

► **Ipswich:** Erin Kielbania



COURTESY PHOTO

Twenty-one of the 36 scholarship recipients at the Topsfield Fair's annual volunteer picnic in August along with Topsfield Fair officials.

(Whittier Regional High School), Marlon Sousa (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School), Breanne Doucet, Madelyn Marini, Vance Sousa (Ipswich High School)

► **Lynn:** Savannah Finnegan (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High

School)

► **Lynnfield:** Gigi Tanner (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

► **Manchester-By-The-Sea:** Evan Foley (St. John's Prep)

► **Marblehead:** Megan Eaton (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High

School)

► **Merrimac:** Emin Sargut (Landmark High School)

► **Methuen:** Alexandra Armano (Central Catholic)

► **North Reading:** Ava Constantine (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

► **Peabody:** Allyson Bua

(Peabody Veterans Memorial High School); Adriana Soares (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

► **Reading:** Carson Beaulieu (Reading High School)

► **Salem:** Sarah Silva (Salem Academy Charter School)

► **Salisbury:** Samuel Palmisano (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School), Ian Warcewicz (Triton Regional High School)

► **Stoneham:** Caden McCarthy (Stoneham High School)

► **Swampscott:** Lucy Kline (Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School)

► **Topsfield:** Anna Gustafson, Drew Gustafson, Elise Moore, Lance Ponikvar (Masconomet Regional High School), Robert Hanson (The Governor's Academy)

► **West Newbury:** Julia Swiniarski (Pentucket Regional High School)

► **York, Maine:** Isabella Parotta (York High School)

"This year we were very pleased to award \$157,000 in scholarships to high school

seniors who are furthering their education by entering college," Topsfield Fair General Manager James O'Brien said. "We are proud to be able to contribute this much toward the rising cost of education. These scholarships don't include thousands in additional financial assistance distributed by several of our departments, including beekeeping, rabbits, the sportsmen building and many others."

Also included in this year's total aid were scholarships from the Essex County Farm Bureau Association, the Essex County Fruit Growers Association, and the Charles E. Larner Family Foundation.

"Once again, this year's scholarship applicants came from students who are very involved in their communities and many who have volunteered at the Topsfield Fair over the years," O'Brien added.

Scholarship applications for students graduating high school in 2027 are expected to be available at www.topsfieldfair.org in early 2027.

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