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Play Ball! Old-timer game now open to all

GARDNER

BY ANDREW MANSFIELD
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Local residents — whether old or young man or woman — are invited to take part in an exhibition of the national pastime on Labor Day.

On the morning of Monday, Sept. 4, the 54th annual Lefty

Labor Day event needs players

Proulx Baseball Game will take place at Stone Field, on Cross Street behind Helen Mae Sauter School.

Batting practice will start at 9 a.m. and the game at 10 a.m. Participants are asked to wear shoes and not cleats, but other than that, it will be a game played the

old-fashioned way.

"It's for a good time. It's still wooden bats and baseball. ... That's what it's all about," said Gardner resident Ed Yablonski, who is one of the organizers.

Anyone interested is welcome to show up ready to play. Yablonski

said that after playing in the annual game for quite a few years, he began helping to organize it "just to keep it going" after some of the older people who traditionally played couldn't do it anymore.

His son Michael has been helping out to get it going again this year and so has Bevan Popolizio, who along with Ed will be a coach.



TGN file photo

PLAY 4 Mayor Mark Hawke bats last year.

When life gives you lemons ...

MAKE LEMONADE

Local family works to find childhood cancer cure

GARDNER

BY ANDREW MANSFIELD
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There are gold ribbons all around downtown Gardner to catch your eye for a cause worth giving to.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Todd and Alice Mauck, their 5-year-old son TJ and 3-year-old daughter Savannah have displayed gold ribbons at City Hall, the police station and Monument Park.

The cause of raising awareness in hopes of raising money for childhood cancer research is near and dear to the family, as TJ was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and after treatment has been in remission since.

Alice Mauck cited that only about 4 percent of the roughly \$5 billion annual budget of the federal government's National Cancer Institute goes toward pediatric cancer.

"It is vastly underfunded. It is the most underfunded cancer research out here," she said. "It is not very much when you look at the big picture."

Since moving from Maryland to Gardner a few years ago when Todd Mauck became the pastor of First Bible Baptist Church, on Church Street, the family has been active in spreading the word about the issue of childhood cancer.

This is the second straight year they have displayed gold ribbons in the month of September on public property for people to see,



News staff photo by ANDREW MANSFIELD



Courtesy photos



The Mauck family is running a lemonade stand at their home at 45 Nichols St. throughout this month to raise money for childhood cancer research. Siblings 3-year-old Savannah, left, and 5-year-old TJ, who is in remission from cancer, will help out at the stand.

an initiative the city has given its support to.

The Mauck family is also running a lemonade stand at their home, at 45 Nichols St., throughout the month to raise money. Alice Mauck said they are still considering where exactly to give

the funds to, but are considering donating to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, toward the institute's research efforts.

"Any money that comes in will go to childhood cancer research," she said.

She said the lemonade stand be open today, Sept. 2, from noon to 2 p.m. After that, the stand will be open on Mondays through Fridays this month from noon to 2 p.m., and possibly Saturdays as well.

LEMONADE 4

New round of bidding for senior center

Debt exclusion override vote planned for Oct. 24

HUBBARDSTON

BY CHRISTINE SMITH
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Building Committee members are hoping that a larger selection of general contractors will express an interest in the town's proposed senior center project as they enter a second round of bidding with a potentially much lower cost projection for the building.

This time around, Architect John Catlin of Catlin & Petrovick Architects will begin early in the week after the Labor Day holiday to advertise through online bidding services for general contractors to submit bids for about \$2 million of the overall estimated \$2,679,000 cost of the construction project.

Only one general contractor applied during the first round earlier this year, and had bid about \$500,000 more than town officials were willing to accept. Building Committee members and Project Manager Anthony DiLuzio of Cardinal Construction Inc. of Worcester had said this could have brought total construction to over \$3 million, including contingencies and other project costs.

Bids will be expected back by Oct. 4 and the committee is scheduled to vote on the bids the following day.

A special Town Meeting has been set for Oct. 24 for voters to consider the \$2.67 million that will be needed to fund the project, which would include the new, lower bid price hoped to be around \$2 million plus the contingencies and other project costs. It would be paid for with a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion tax override, in which taxes would go up for the length of the loan, then go back down.

Catlin told Building Committee members on Friday that the electronic bidding process should bring more general contractors into the ring who may be interested in a smaller municipal project like the one Hubbardston is proposing.

SENIOR CENTER 4

Sunny Knoll offering freshness on Main Street

WESTMINSTER

BY DONEEN DURLING
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A few weeks back, a truck delivered a wooden booth with wheels to the farm at 83 Main St. in Westminster. Within days, fresh garden vegetables, mums, raw honey and maple syrup were available for the hungry pedestri-

an or the drive-by cook on the way home to fix dinner in need of a fresh zucchini or a clove of garlic.

Barbara Heins of Sunny Knoll Farm, 100 Dean Hill Road, picks corn, tomatoes, beets, cucumbers, squash and onions fresh each morning and brings it to Main Street.

"We are way on the other side of town sandwiched between the Ashburnham and Fitchburg line," said Heins of her family farm.

Heins said it was the first time Sunny Knoll has set up on Main Street. Everything on the cart is grown and provided by the farm.

This year, the crops have come in about two weeks behind schedule. Along with green peppers, she had lovely purple peppers that, if left, would turn orange.

"We do pumpkins as well, but those are a little late this year," said Heins.

SUNNY 5



Barbara Heins works at the Sunny Knoll Farm farm-stand, which is operating at 83 Main St.

News staff photo by DONEEN DURLING

WEATHER

TODAY:
PARTLY CLOUDY,
HIGH 71

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Labor Day

The Gardner News will not publish on Monday, Sept. 4, in recognition of Labor Day.

