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Friday, SEP 04, 2009

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- SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULES ALERT!
- HOMETOWN WEEKLY VIDEOS **NEW**

NEEDHAM: Fastpitch off to a swinging start



PHOTOS BY DIANE THOMAS. Former Red Sox minor league player (and son of former Red Sox third baseman Frank Malzone) John Malzone led Needham Fastpitch players in a specialty clinic last week. Pictured above, players practice their pitching skills, following Malzone's lead. More photos from the clinic can be found inside on page and online at www.hometownweekly.net

Needham Fastpitch, Inc., a non-profit softball organization, launched in impressive fashion last week. Forty players on the program's U14, U12, and U10 fall travel teams took over the Claxton Field Complex for a comprehensive clinic held over four afternoons. The girls worked with professional instructors, college and high school varsity players, and coaches to develop their skills, learn the rules of advanced play and build team spirit in a fun and supportive environment. The three teams

This Week's Highlights HEADLINE NEWS

- Schilling throws name into Senatorial ring
- DOVER/SHERBORN: Lemon 'aid' for Kira's Cruisers
- WESTWOOD: WYWC celebrating 50 years
- WALPOLE: Walpole girls run into new season

WESTWOOD

- Slap shot
- Dirt Dawgs post perfect season
- Health care forum rescheduled for tonight
- Home gardeners asked to donate surplus produce
- Historical Society exhibiting items from Westwood's past

WALPOLE

- Freshman get ready
- Civic Association to discuss taxes
- Berger to speak about health care reforms
- Adams Farm collecting food for pantries
- Football coach sentenced to 2 years

NEEDHAM

- Garden Club exploring color

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will be playing this fall against other towns from the area in a league hosted by Sharon Youth Softball.

"Our mission is to create a sustainable travel girls softball program to complement the recreational 'Bird League,' which has provided Needham girls the opportunity to play intramural softball for decades," explained Bill Paulson, president and co-founder of Needham Fastpitch. "My daughters' and my experience with informal winter indoor travel teams, the Needham Varsity and on Newton tournament teams last spring really opened my eyes to the world beyond in-town softball. Most of the surrounding towns offer travel teams to their young players and we will do the same."

Paulson reports that the founding sponsorships of Needham Bank, Louise Condon Realty, The Exchange Club, and Provider Insurance Group, all Needham-based, funded the purchase of team equipment for the new program.

Walt Wright, Needham Fastpitch's training director and co-founder, maintains "it was Bill's vision to start an official organization for advanced softball that would last from season to season and cut across age groups. I have coached and helped organize a number of travel teams for Needham and other towns at the middle school and high school levels which played in the summer, fall, winter and spring; there's a demand for a Needham softball program to consistently offer travel teams and competent instruction to committed softball players at all age levels. Both of us have organized successful youth initiatives in the past and know what it takes to build a real organization. We are thrilled with the parental assistance, community support from service organizations, businesses and town government, volunteer instruction by Needham Varsity players and alumni, and most of all by the enthusiasm and energy of this special group of girls determined to have fun playing travel ball for Needham."

Needham Fastpitch is taking registrations now for a Saturday morning clinic series this fall for dedicated players that will play in high school this spring or next, led by Malzone Baseball/Softball. Other programs are in the planning stages for this winter and spring to help Needham's players develop their strength, conditioning, mental approach and softball skills. Send an email to NeedhamFastpitch@gmail.com for more information.

more . . . HEADLINE NEWS

- 03.SEP.09 Schilling throws name into Senatorial ring
- 03.SEP.09 DOVER/SHERBORN: Lemon 'aid' for Kira's Kruisers
- 03.SEP.09 WESTWOOD: WYWC celebrating 50 years
- 03.SEP.09 WALPOLE: Walpole girls run into new season
- 03.SEP.09 NEEDHAM: Fastpitch off to a swinging start
- 03.SEP.09 MEDFIELD: Varsity gets ready
- 27.AUG.09 WESTWOOD: Practicing with the pigskin
- 27.AUG.09 WALPOLE: Summertime treats
- 27.AUG.09 NEEDHAM: Male singers invited into Glee Club
- 27.AUG.09 MEDFIELD: An eye for beauty
- 27.AUG.09 DOVER/SHERBORN: Summer Drama presenting 'Seussical' this weekend
- 20.AUG.09 Chris Fitz Band to play Common Tues.
- 20.AUG.09 WESTWOOD: Goal!
- 20.AUG.09 WALPOLE: Football's back!
- 20.AUG.09 NEEDHAM: Girl Scouts restore a community resource
- 20.AUG.09 MEDFIELD: For the love of the bike
- 20.AUG.09 DOVER/SHERBORN: Bend it like Smith

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13.AUG.09 DOVER/SHERBORN: 'Row, row, row your boat'
 13.AUG.09 WALPOLE: Walpole's Flynn named one of top teachers in nation
 13.AUG.09 NEEDHAM: Babe Ruth in full swing
 13.AUG.09 MEDFIELD: Graffiti vandals have police seeing red
 13.AUG.09 WESTWOOD: Sliding home
 06.AUG.09 NEEDHAM: Concert Band brings jazzy tone to concert series
 06.AUG.09 WALPOLE: Gazebo gets the blues

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