Despite Canceled Meetings, Mendon’s Budget Preparation on Track

By Michelle Sanford Staff Reporter/Columnist

During a February 5 meeting, the Board of Selectmen gave their support to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) to seek funding for an analysis of the former Holy Angels Church.

According to Committee member Steve Rakitin, the EDC was planning to request $10,000 from the Finance Committee’s reserve fund to complete a structural engineering analysis of the former church as well as lead paint and asbestos testing. Rakitin came before the Board that evening to get the Selectmen’s support to move forward with the request.

The analysis of the structure is one step toward a much larger measure to revitalize the downtown area. On January 23, approximately 100 residents attended a public forum concerning the revitalization project to voice their concerns and make comments. From that meeting, a working group of approximately 40 residents volunteered to meet several times to discuss their issues and visions for the measure.

“We need this funding because we had quite a number of interested residents in the revitalization,” said Rakitin to the Selectmen. “One of the things the EDC is committed to doing is providing the working group with facts so they can make informed decisions and we clearly need facts about the condition of the church.”

The funding will help determine the structural integrity of the building, the hazardous materials that are present, and approximately how much it will cost to remediate those materials and costs for structural improvements.

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Valley Tech Graduates 20 in its Practical Nursing of Class of 2019

The countless hours of studying, exams, assignments, and 1090 hours of course and clinical work met with success and celebration on January 23, as 20 members of the Blackstone Valley Tech Practical Nursing of Class of 2019 took part in the 8th commencement ceremony honoring their achievements. The 20 practical nursing graduates received certificates in Practical Nursing and are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN). The 8th commencement ceremony featured special guests State Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) and State Representative Joseph McKenna (R-Webster). Superintendent–Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick thanked lawmakers and stakeholders for their ongoing support of the program. Dr. Fitzpatrick addressed the Class of 2019, “After tonight, I encourage you to shape your wellness training path with the realization that you have the potential to make a difference. Map out your next steps. Build new relationships. You are now a polished product of Valley Tech.”

The guest speaker, Joyce Gilmore, RN (Advisory Board Member) spoke of the dedication and commitment that was required by the Class of 2019 to achieve their dreams of becoming a practical nurse. This was the 5th graduating class under the leadership of Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA, Practical Nursing Coordinator. Monks addressed the Class of 2019, “Tonight’s graduation is an acknowledgement of all your hard work. You are ready to be professional nurses and lifelong learners.”

The Class Vice President, Jennifer Lang of Southbridge, delivered the class address and echoed the hard work and accomplishment of the Class of 2019. “We all share one thing in common, we are all nurses and we all made it.” Among the BVT Post-Secondary Practical Nursing Class of 2019 were the following local graduates:

- Bellingham – Monday Pray and Shelley Wyllie (Perfect Attendance Award)
- Blackstone – Jamie Bourgery
- Grafton – Carol Parlante (Perfect Attendance Award and Outstanding Academic Achievement Award)
- Milford – Maria Sonia Dos Reis-Soares
- Northbridge – Maria Luiza Costa (Faculty Recognition Award) and Samantha Libby
- Uxbridge – Sierra Thibeault
- Whitinsville – Brianna Beaupre and Savannah Veau

The BVT Post-Secondary Practical Nursing Program (PNP) was established in 2009 to provide adult learners with a life-changing opportunity to pursue a career in healthcare. The PNP has approval from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing (MABORN) and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The PNP is a part time program that provides 1090 hours of course work and clinical experiences. Applications are currently being accepted for the class starting in August 2019. To learn more about the BVT Post-Secondary Practical Nursing Program, contact Monks at 508-529-7758 ext. 3014 or ValleyTech.k12.us/practicalnursing.

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Helping Unpaid Members of the Coast Guard

Thanks To Yanks, a local charity/501c3, dedicated to serve those who serve in the military, made a donation in support of those in the Coast Guard, who were not paid their salaries during the recent federal government shutdown. This money was earmarked for food purchases. For more information about Thanks To Yanks, visit ThanksToYanks.org or on Facebook. Thanks To Yanks
2018 Challenging for Milford Regional as it Strives to Remain a Community Hospital

By Jane Bigda

2018 was a challenging year for Milford Regional Medical Center, Inc. as it strives to remain an independent, non-profit community hospital according to officials in the corporation’s annual report.

Despite increases in total operating revenue last year, MRMC’s expenses were twice that amount resulting in a total operating loss of $2.5 million. According to the fiscal 2018 Statement of Revenues and Expenses presented at the corporation’s annual meeting, January 28, the largest expense increases were about $5 million each in two accounts – Salaries, Wages & Benefits and Supplies & Expenses. Another significant increase was in the Bad Debt account ($3.2 million). Offsetting the losses were a $9 million increase in Patient Service Revenue plus reductions in the Uncompensated Care, Depreciation and Interest accounts.

Referring to the financial picture in his Annual Report letter, MRMC President and CEO, Ed Kelly said, “Fiscal Year 2018 challenged” everyone “throughout Milford Region’s vision of our future. In a healthcare climate where operational costs increase and reimbursements drop, we kept our focus on delivering the highest quality care through innovation, hard work and a personal commitment to the patients we serve”.

Looking toward the future of keeping MRMC independent, Kelly went on, “The importance of vision today for a community hospital cannot be understated…Milford Regional has remained steadfast in our determination to keep our independent roots in the fabric of the communities we have served since 1903.”

Part of that determination is reflected in the Annual Report theme of Building Momentum. According to Kelly the momentum rests on various factors including the hospital’s partnership with four academic medical centers – Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary with MRMC, Brigham and Women’s, which enhanced its radiation therapy services locally by adding a second linear accelerator, UMass Memorial Healthcare, which expanded the robotic surgeries offered at Milford; and Boston Children’s imaging and other services on Rt. 140 in Franklin across from Garelick Farms this spring.

The hospital itself will continue to change with the $7 million renovation of the fourth floor from a wing for up to 44 patients in multi-bed rooms to a 15 private room ward for oncology specialists and primary care physicians, attracted by the hospital and the Milford Regional Healthcare, which expanded the robotic surgeries offered at Milford; and Boston Children’s radiation therapy services locally by adding a second linear accelerator; UMass Memorial Healthcare celebrated its 10-year anniversary with MRMC; Brigham and Women’s, which enhanced its partnership with four academic medical centers – Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which joined its determination is reflected in the Annual Report theme of Building Momentum. According to Kelly the momentum rests on various factors including the hospital’s partnership with four academic medical centers – Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary with MRMC, Brigham and Women’s, which enhanced its radiation therapy services locally by adding a second linear accelerator, UMass Memorial Healthcare, which expanded the robotic surgeries offered at Milford; and Boston Children’s imaging and other services on Rt. 140 in Franklin across from Garelick Farms this spring.

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Shown during the open house of the new Mendon Historical Museum are officers of the Mendon Historical Society, l-r: Patrice Doucette Collection Administrator, Amy Dewitt, Vice President; Kathy Schofield, President; Ruth Cassetelli, Secretary; and Lisa Lepore, Collection Administrator. Missing from the photo was Jane Lowell, Vice President. Christin Barnett photo.

The Mendon Historical Society celebrated the opening of the town’s new Historical Museum at 15 Hasting St. (Rt. 16) with an open house in mid-December. The two-story home was donated to the Historical Society by Berneta DeVries, who passed away in 2014. The daughter of Putt Lowell of Lowell’s Dairy Farm, DeVries was a lifelong Mendon resident and member of the society. She resided with her husband, Herman, in the house that had been in their family since the 1800s.

The members of the society spent over a year fundraising, renovating the structure, and collating and moving their collection from their former location. The museum had been located in Founder’s Park with additional Historical Society items housed in the red-bricked, town-owned Record Room on Main St.

Utilizing their newly expanded space, members of the society plan to highlight different parts of their collection, which documents much of Mendon’s 352-year history, throughout the year. Currently highlighted are an exhibit of the History of Southwick, through an exhibit of Mendon’s History of Southwick, located in Founder’s Park with additional Historical Society items housed in the red-brick, town-owned Record Room on Main St.

The Museum, which offers free admission, is open Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sundays from 12 noon to 4 p.m.; and by appointment. For appointments or for a group visit, email MendonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or call 508-488-9620.

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A Visit from the Mistress-of-Disguise

The only woman known to have hoodwinked George Washington's army by disguising herself as a man, is coming to Mendon. In celebration of Women's History Month, the Mendon Historical Society will host a portrayal of Massachusetts heroine Deborah Sampson. Corpusl Sampson will reveal details of the victories, frustrations and close calls she experienced as a poor Colonial farm girl who risked humiliation and imprisonment to fight for her country as a soldier. Farm Girl on the Front Lines, Deborah Sampson's story will be presented on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Unitarian Church, 13 Maple St., Mendon. The snow date is Monday, March 25 at the same time and place.

"We thought that a visit from Deborah Sampson would help us celebrate Women's History Month in a way the entire family could enjoy," said Kathy Schofield, president of the Mendon Historical Society. "As the only woman known to have disguised herself as a man and serve as a soldier in the Continental Army without detection, she is unique in American history."

Janet Parnes, founder of Historical Portrayals by Lady J of Millis, will portray Deborah. Parnes brings women from the Colonial, Federalist and Victorian eras out of the shadows and onto the stage to reveal lesser known life stories that give American history its unique richness.

"Deborah intrigues me, because she honored her dream by achieving it against all odds," said Parnes. "She’s a role model, teaching us, particularly children and young adults, that we don’t need money or connections to achieve a dream. We need to use our inner resources to create a plan, march forward and, if we stumble, pick ourselves up and continue to believe in our goal and achieve it, in her own words."

Attendees age seven through adult are welcome to participate, with young attendees being invited onstage to demonstrate period games and participate in tongue twisters.

For more information, call 508-488-9620 to speak to a member of the Mendon Historical Society or visit MendonHistorySociety.org.

Nomination Papers Now Available in Mendon

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

For those residents interested in running for office, nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk’s office and are due back on March 26. Mendon’s Town Election is scheduled for May 14.

There will be two Board of Selectmen’s seats on the ballot this year. Selectman Mark Roll’s three-year seat is up for re-election. He has previously stated he plans to run again. In addition, the Board decided when Rich Schofield resigned last fall, not to hold a special election right away but instead to wait until the annual election in May to fill his seat. As a result, the remaining amount of his term, one year, will be on the ballot as well.

Other offices, their term length, and current office holder up for re-election include Moderator for one year, Jay Byer, Mendon- Upton Regional School Committee for three years, Diane Duncan; Assessor for three years, Kenneth O’Brien; Board of Health for three years, Andrew Fiske; Planning Board for five years, John Vanderschans; Park Commissioner for three years, Allan Byrne; Water Commissioner for three years, Kevin Ruddin; Tree Warden for three years, Alan Tetreault; Housing Authority for five years, Diane Stevens; and two Taft Public Library Trustees for three years, Amy Fahey and Sharron Luttrel.

The last day to register to vote in the May election is April 24 at 8 p.m. The Town Clerk’s office will have extended hours that day until 8 p.m. for those interested in registering. Anyone may also register online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/.

Residents are reminded that Mendon’s Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place Friday, May 3. The last day to register to vote at the May Town Meeting is April 12 at 8 p.m.

Residents with questions on their voter registration status should contact Town Clerk Ellen Agro at 508-473-1085 or eague@ mendonma.gov. Regular business hours for the Town Clerk’s office are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

There are the businesses that contract to advertise in The Upton and Mendon Town Crier at least 12 times a year. They receive a frequency discount, feature advertising and their business minimum (1/4 page ad) and listing in this directory.

Business Name.................. Ad on Page
Bright Insurance Agency ............... 13
C.J. Cilley Construction ................ next
Cummins’ Mexican Restaurant ............. 9
Cook Company ....................... next
CPR Inc ......................... next
Creative Image Hair Studio .......... 14
Crystal Room ....................... 13
Frank’s Appliance ................... 11
Gibson’s Natural Pet Resort ............. 8
Golden Pond ....................... next
Isadora Plumbing & Heating ............ 11
Imperial Cars ..................... 20
Imperial Hyundai ..................... 1
I.G. Farming ....................... next
Jolcushe Overhand Door ................ next
Joyce Plumbing ..................... 11
Just A-Wee Day ...................... next
Koornman Paint & Stain ............... 10
LaRocce Medical Therapy .......... next
Liquor Plus ....................... next
Longtime Swan .................... 9
Maple Farm Dairy ................... 13
Maconett Electric .................. next
Medway Oil & Propylene Gas ......... 10
McGurk Plumbing .................. 4
Mendon Motors .................. 19
Mettrowest Oral Surgical Associates .... next
Michael Webster ................. 14
Mount St. Charles ................. next
Muffin House Café ................. 9
Nathans’ Jewellers ................. 17
New England Steak & Seafood ....... 9
Park Place Dental ................. 4
P.A.W.S. Bad & Boost ............. 8
Philly’s Security Agency .......... 7
Reliable Pet Sitting ................. 8
Riordan Power Equipment .......... 10
Robyn Naomi, Real Life Realty Group ... 4
Rose Garden Restaurant & Lounge .... next
Staci Smith Electric ............. next
Tompkins Tree Service ........... 10
UPS World Mail & Global Express .. next
Upton Foreign Motors ............... next
Wakamatsu Japanese Restaurant ....... 9
Wayne Center Electric ............. 11
Williams-Federson Funeral Home .... 4
Woodway ......................... 5
Women’s Total Body Wellness ........ 19
Wright’s Dairy Farm ............... next
WPC Pest Control ................. next
New Ad Club Members
Happy Valley Asian Bodywork ......... 13
Center for Image and Wellness ........ 7

ADVERTISING IN THE TOWN CRIERS MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE... WE DIRECT MAIL TO OVER 20,000 ADDRESSES!!!
Mendon voters will be facing some hard financial choices over the next couple of years in terms of the Police Station, Fire Department staffing, Senior Center expansion and—of course—funding for the regional school district.

For those who did not attend last November’s Special Town Meetings, we learned that—due to rising construction prices—an additional $1.4 million is needed to finish renovating the former fire station on Main St. into a new home for the Police Department.

If that debt exclusion is not approved, the fallback is to use the $800,000 authorization to borrow money approved at the Special Town Meeting. But, paying that debt off would mean taking at least part of the town’s operational budget for each year for the next 10 years to pay off that borrowing. Doing that means at least $880,000 a year would not be available to pay for town services.

Next comes the Fire Department staffing. At the various public meetings held over the past two years by the Board of Selectmen, Mendon residents made it fairly clear we want a local Fire Department with a local chief—not one run by a neighboring town.

We’ve now got a local chief—William Kessler—who already has done a great job in getting the Fire Department in shape. But, it will take not just the budget funds to bring full-time staffing up to either full-time 8 a.m.—8 p.m. coverage seven days a week or 24-hour coverage seven days a week.

Since the amount of property taxes the town can raise each year is limited by Proposition 2 1/2, that would most likely mean passing an operational override.

If those who don’t know the difference, a debt exclusion lasts only until the borrowing is paid off; an operational override does not go away.

The Senior Center expansion is scheduled to come before voters at the calendar year 2020 Annual Town Meeting. The current center is half the size it should be to meet today’s attendance of 50 people each day in 2018. By the way, the current Senior Center had an average attendance of 50 people each day in 2018.

With state-mandated prevailing wage schedules and the ever-rising cost of construction, the Senior Center project could cost at least $500 per square foot— or somewhere in the $4 million to $5 million range.

Finally, we have the Mendon-Upton Regional School District (MURSD). For the next fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2020), it is looking for a $1.9 million budget increase—which, frankly, is more than Mendon (and I’m sure Upton as well) would like to know.

If you figure another large increase in school funding the following year, an operational override must be in the future. For the next fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2020), MURSD is expecting to swell beyond 3,000 seniors.

By the way, the current Senior Center had an average attendance of 50 people each day in 2018.

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The Early Development of the South Side of Upton Common

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

During the first week they were available, four Upton residents took out their nomination papers for office and included a newcomer and three incumbents. Upton’s Annual Election is scheduled to take place on May 14.

As of February 9, David Ross took out papers for the Board of Selectmen’s three-year seat; the current office holder is Selectman Gary Daugherty. Three other incumbents also took out their nomination papers and included Dorothy Scally for the Mendon Upton Regional School Committee’s three-year seat, Glenn Fowler for Cemetery Commission for three years, and Michael Moran for Constable for five years. Other offices up for election include Town Moderator for one year; the incumbent is David Looper; Assessor for three years, the incumbent is William Taylor; Planning Board for five years, the incumbent is Paul Carey; Board of Health for three years, the incumbent is Richard Robinson; Recreation Commission for three years, the incumbent is Richard Porter; three trustees for the Public Library for three years, the incumbents are Judith Katz-Goodman, Kathleen Kelley, and Diane Czakak; Trustee for the Public Library for one year, vacant due to a resignation; Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds for three years, Michael Oliver is the incumbent; and four other constables for three years, the incumbents include James Bates Jr., Steven Driver, Sandra Hakala, plus one vacancy. Candidates may obtain nomination papers until Friday, March 22 by 5 p.m.

Upton Residents Begin Taking Out Nomination Papers

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

When was the Last Time You Reviewed Your Insurance Policies?
• If you expect sound advice and better value ... 
• Are tired of being treated like a number ... 
• Appreciate the little things that make a big difference ... 
• Value proper protection when you need it most ... 
• Want real people to answer the phone ... 

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Upton News

The Early Development of the South Side of Upton Common

Submitted by Tom Bai'a, Upton Historical Society
Ed Note: This is the second installment of a two-part series on the development of Upton Center. Material for this article was obtained from the Upton Historical Society archives. The development of Upton Center on the 1708 onward was not a smooth process.

Major conflicts such as the Revolutionary War and Civil War interrupted the progress. Nevertheless, by the late 1870s the South side of the Common was well established and would not change significantly for many years. Starting in the parking lot adjacent to the current V.F.W. there was Snow’s grist mill, Center Brook, the decommisioned second meeting house, the Unitarian Church, the Arcade Block consisting of three shops and shops down Grove St.

The decommisioned meeting house became the location of Temple’s Boston Branch Grocery store and the Upton fire department, where the Niagara pumper was kept. The second floor was a meeting hall, which was called Waverly Hall for a while.

Many local organizations held meetings there, including Town Meetings. By 1884 Upton had built the current town hall and the second meeting house became known as the G.A.R. Hall.

The shops in the Arcade Block, also called at one time, the Chamberlain Block, included King & Co. Dry Goods, A.A. Bowker’s store, which included the Bell Telephone Central Office, a meat market, a barber shop and others over the years.

The Post Office was located in these shops as well. Mail was left by the stage coach in West Upton and hand carried to the Post Office in the Center where residents came to sift through the basket of mail. The Post Office was also the location of the Town Clerk’s office.

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Staff Reporter/Columnist

During the first week they were available, four Upton residents took out their nomination papers for office and included a newcomer and three incumbents. Upton’s Annual Election is scheduled to take place on May 14.

As of February 9, David Ross took out papers for the Board of Selectmen’s three-year seat; the current office holder is Selectman Gary Daugherty. Three other incumbents also took out their nomination papers and included Dorothy Scally for the Mendon Upton Regional School Committee’s three-year seat, Glenn Fowler for Cemetery Commission for three years, and Michael Moran for Constable for five years. Other offices up for election include Town Moderator for one year; the incumbent is David Looper; Assessor for three years, the incumbent is William Taylor; Planning Board for five years, the incumbent is Paul Carey; Board of Health for three years, the incumbent is Richard Robinson; Recreation Commission for three years, the incumbent is Richard Porter; three trustees for the Public Library for three years, the incumbents are Judith Katz-Goodman, Kathleen Kelley, and Diane Czakak; Trustee for the Public Library for one year, vacant due to a resignation; Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds for three years, Michael Oliver is the incumbent; and four other constables for three years, the incumbents include James Bates Jr., Steven Driver, Sandra Hakala, plus one vacancy. Candidates may obtain nomination papers until Friday, March 22 by 5 p.m.

Completed nomination papers must be submitted to the Registrars of Voters for certification of names on or before 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. After certification, papers must be filed with the Town Clerk or before Tuesday, April 9 by 5 p.m. Those who wish to withdraw their nomination papers must do so through the Town Clerk’s office no later than Thursday, April 11 by 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the Town Election or the May 2 Annual Town Meeting is Friday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Town Clerk’s office will have extended hours that day. Residents with questions on the election or their voter registration status should contact the Town Clerk’s office at 508-529-3565 or kmcelreath@uptonma.gov. Regular office hours for the Town Clerk are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Upton Democratic Town Committee

The Upton Democratic Town Committee will be holding their next meeting on Tuesday, February 19, upstairs at The Rose Garden at 7 p.m. Drop by to meet members of the Upton committee and some invited guests. New members are welcome. To learn more about activities and events, connect on Facebook or at UptonDem1@gmail.com.
Upton Garden Plots Are Available

Upton residents, who want to raise their own food but don't have space for it can get a plot in the Upton Community Garden. Most plots are 4 by 16 foot, raised beds for growing organic vegetables, flowers and herbs. Plots are available to Upton residents and Upton based community groups. Elevated beds may be available for gardeners who have difficulty accessing the standard height beds.

There is a $5 participation fee to defray costs.

To sign up for the 2019 season send a note to: UptonMACommunityGarden@gmail.com by April 1.

Available plots will be assigned by lottery. A number of plots are reserved for Upton residents, who want to raise their own food but don't have space for it. Most plots are reserved for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and community groups. Please indicate if you fit into one of these categories.
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Scallop Ice Cream
Whole Clam ...and more!
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For Healthy Hearts we use only 100% unsalted cholesteral-free vegetable oil

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FREE ORDER OF ONION RINGS ON ANY RAINY DAY WITH ANY PURCHASE. (With this Ad)

Spring is just around the corner and so are we! We’re located on Route 16 at the Redwood in Mendon. Our order window is open Mon - Sat at 11am and Sundays at noon. Carhop and waitress service will begin on Wednesday May 2 and will be available every Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

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Experience a taste of New Orleans at our Mardi Gras party! Join us for Cajun and Creole food, specialty drinks, giveaways, live jazz music, and other festivities from 4:00pm to close.
Visit Galliford’s before March 1st to enter the Mardi Gras giveaway. We are giving away a variety of fantastic prizes, and one lucky winner will receive a grand prize valued over $600!

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
FEBRUARY 15, 2019
**Home Improvement**

**GGC Member Brings Flair to WAM’s “Flora in Winter”**

Greenleaf Garden Club (GGC) member Sandra Tosches created an airy, monochromatic design for Worcester Art Museum’s “Flora in Winter” to complement an 1802 Gilbert Stuart portrait. The piece created for this special event. This year, she was assigned the portrait of “Sarah Wentworth Apthorp: Mrs. Peret Mortier,” a 29 x 24-inch oil portrait by Gilbert Stuart.

In studying the painting, she noted that it was predominately white with an impressionist feel to the clothing. The subject’s character was expressed in the striking eyes and clearly defined face. Tosches chose to complement the painting’s soft impression by using light, airy Baby’s Breath in her traditional design. White Calla lilies and white roses give strength to the design while capturing the feeling within the painting.

The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.org.

**Milford Federal Bank Free Construction Loan Seminar**

The inventory in today’s housing market is historically low, making it difficult for individuals trying to find their perfect home. For buyers who are frustrated because the home they are looking for doesn’t seem to be out there, a construction loan might be the answer. Learn about all of the finance options available to build a dream home at Milford Federal Bank’s Free Construction Loan Seminar on Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Lowell’s Restaurant, Rt. 140, Mendon.

Hosted by Milford Federal’s Mortgage Loan Specialists, the free seminar will provide education and guidance on finance options including purchasing land to build a home, building on land already owned, and fixed versus adjustable rate loan programs. Participants will also learn about Milford Federal’s unique construction loan programs with only one loan closing, so no need to refinance after construction is completed.

A family style breakfast will be served to all attendees. Seating is limited, to RSVP call Beth Caico (NMLS #414859) at 508-234-2450 or Sherice Riel (NMLS #1376939) at 401-765-2900. Or RSVP by email at Beth.Caico@milfordfederal.com or Sherice.Riel@milfordfederal.com.

**Maple Sugar Days**

The sweet tradition of Maple Sugar Days continues at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State, River Bend Farm, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge on Saturday March 2 and Sunday March 3. Learn how maple syrup is made during free 90-minute tours, open to all at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 and 2 p.m. Free group tours will be Saturday, March 9, and Sunday, March 10, call 508-278-7604 to schedule or for more information.

Park staff and volunteers will take visitors through a guided tour so they can learn to identify maple trees, see trees being tapped, participate in gathering sap, and visit the steamy sugar house to watch syrup being made.

Tours are indoors and outdoors so dress for the weather and wear footwear for a half-mile walk. Co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Blackstone Heritage Corridor.

**Pretty in Pink Bags, Curbside Textile Recycling and More**

Starting this spring, Upton and Mendon residents will receive a pink garbage bag as part of the Simple Recycling Program. Residents will be able to put clothes, bedspreads, curtains or even rags and other items in the pink bags and set them out with their recycling. It is a free service. The goal is to reduce solid waste that ends up in landfills or incinerators.

It is hard to comprehend how much solid waste we produce. According to the non-profit Conservation Law Foundation and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, in 2015 the state burned approximately 3.25 million tons of waste in incinerators, burned almost 1.5 million tons in landfills and exported over 1 million tons to burn or bury in other states. Spread through this waste are toxins, from carcinogens to pharmaceuticals and many of the thousands of chemicals and pesticides sold on the market. When this solid waste is burned it pollutes our air; when buried, the landfill liners can crack or become porous allowing leakage, which can contaminate our water supplies and soil. It is a very serious, but soluble problem. The less waste we create the better for us and the environment. According to Simple Recycling, roughly 10 percent of the municipal waste stream is comprised of clothing and house goods. Paul Mazzuchelli, Milford Health Agent, calculated that in the first three months of the program in that town, trash was reduced by almost 16 tons.

An extra bonus is that Milford received $318 ($20/ton) from Simple Recycling and saved $1,082 in the disposal fees. Once you receive the pink bags and instructions in the mail, you just put the “pre-loved” clothes, textiles and other items in the pink bag out with their recycling. Stuck? Photo Simple Recycling.

The pink bag out on recycling day before 7:30 am. Simple Recycling sends out trucks to pick up the pink bagged items and leave replacement bags. Items collected include, clothes, sheets, rags, curtains, sleeping bags, pillows etc., even if they are ripped or unreliable. Other items include, jewelry, purses, backpacks, hats, toys, tools, silverware, dishes, pots, pans and other items that will be listed in the mailing you receive. All items must be clean and dry. What is done with all the items? To cover Simple Recycling’s costs for pick-up and sorting, some items are processed and resold to thrift shops. Most of the textiles are sold to rag markets, ground up for insulation, used in soundproofing material or reprocessed abroad. Other items are recycled. If you have other goods that don’t qualify for any of the recycling, but you want to give them away, check the online exchange site, Freecycle, Freecycle.org.

**New scuff-resistant paint protects high traffic areas**

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- Washable

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**ACT LOCALLY**

- Grafting
- Pruning
- Tree trimming

**FEBRUARY 15, 2019**

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
The Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, River Bend Visitor Center, Oak St., Uxbridge, will hold the following free programs for all ages. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For information or to register call 508-278-7604 or email blackstone.heritage@mass.gov.

Friday–Monday, February 15–February 18 Storywalk at Goodpud Sugarbush by Margaret Carney, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Get the whole family outside and enjoy reading a story as you stroll along the park. A short, easy, self-guided walk.

Saturday, February 16 Winter Wildlife, 1 to 2 p.m. Learn about the different animals that live in the park and what they do in the winter with the hands-on program. All ages welcome.

Water and Fire River Walk, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Take an easy, one-mile walk to the banks of the Blackstone River, gather around a campfire, and enjoy hot chocolate to talk about water quality and share stories of the river’s recovery.

Sunday, February 17 Canal Walk, 1 to 2 p.m. On a two-mile, guided walk down the canal towpath, learn about the canal’s historical and cultural significance and its role in the industrialization, and into to-day.

Thursday, February 21 Maple Sugaring Weather Watch, 1 to 2 p.m. Is it maple sugaring season yet? Let’s talk ways to decipher the history of these stone features are found across Massachusetts and look at ways to decipher the history of an area.

Ongoing Daily–River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The following the Flough exhibit explores the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European settlement through European style agricultural development, industrialization, and into-to day Guided tours for groups with advance notice. Accessible.

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Learning that Even Doing Little Things Can Help Others

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

Miscoe Hill School eighth-grade students Gavin French of Upton and Lilly Rezek of Mendon were chosen as this year’s Project 351 Ambassadors. After the welcome address, the two students boarded busses with other 8th graders for their day of service to the community of Boston. “I felt really great when I was being chosen to do this,” said Lilly.

Eighth-grade Miscoe Hill School students Gavin French of Upton and Lilly Rezek of Mendon were chosen as this year’s ambassadors for Project 351, a statewide youth service initiative honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Project 351 is a statewide youth-driven service organization that brings together eighth-grade students from across the commonwealth for “a transformative year of development, enrichment, and impact through unique service opportunities.” The number 351 stands for the 351 towns and cities in the state.

The project kicks off with a day of celebration and service on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, honoring Dr. King’s legacy and the students chosen by their schools to for their leadership qualities and ability to bring about change in their own communities.

“It was really great to hear the speeches,” said Lilly of the welcome student received by alumni ambassadors and their own communities. “It was so exciting to see young people out there who don’t have these things,” she said. “It gave me a good feeling that I could help get these items to people in need.”

Gavin spent his service hours at Cradles to Crayons, a non-profit organization that provides clothing and supplies to homeless and low-income children living in Boston. There, Gavin sorted clothing and put together packages of new and gently used clothing for children from ages newborn through 12.

“It made me really grateful for what I have,” said Gavin. “I never realized that there were so many people out there in need.”

Project 351 ambassadors are tasked with taking what they have learned about the value of service for others and bringing it back to their own communities to help their neighbors.

“This was life changing for me,” said Gavin. “I learned that I can help people and make a difference, even by just doing little things.”

Students are chosen to be Project 351 ambassadors based on their values of kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude; values that made both Lilly and Gavin excellent choices, according to Miscoe Principal Jennifer Mannion. “Lilly and Gavin were both chosen for being ‘unsung heroes’ and having great leadership capability among their peers,” said Mannion.

Their enthusiasm was evident from the first time we presented this opportunity to them. We look forward to the impact they can make as they develop their leadership skills.

Seal of Biliteracy

The School Committee approved a change to the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 School Calendars to include two early release days in March for Parent Teacher Conferences. This seal on their diplomas at graduation.

Students must meet several requirements including receiving a score of Meets Expectations or higher on their ELA MCAS and receiving a score of 4 or 5 on their foreign language of choice AP exam. Students will also be required to demonstrate fluency in the foreign language in the areas of speaking, listening, writing, and reading. “It’s a challenging bar,” said Maruszczak. “But it is something that is commendable.”

In a pilot of the new program last year, Maruszczak said that a dozen students received the Seal of Biliteracy. “I felt really lucky that we were awarded this grant,” commented Cohen.

Civic Education Grant

Miscoe Hill School students will host a Community Skate event on Wednesday, February 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school’s auditorium, hot chocolate, music, and even open gym time for everyone attending. Snack and drinks will be available for purchase. The event is free and open to the public weather dependent. No drop offs. Please check MiscoePrincipals.com at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the skate to check to see if the rink is frozen and ready for the event.

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School News

Whitinsville Christian School Second Quarter Honor Roll

The following local students were named to the Second Quarter Honor Roll at Whitinsville Christian School.

Grade
Honors
Georgia West - Mendon

Grade 9
Honors
Lauren Feoellner - Mendon

Grade 10
Honors
Madi Paul - Mendon

Grade 11
Honors
Beth Hatton - Milford

Grade 12
High Honors
Nadiya Chukal - Upton
Rachel Cozzens - Upton
Christina Leduc - Mendon

School Highlights
Mendon-Upton Regional
Compiled by Melissa Orf
Staff Reporter

- A chosen book and the reader's recommendation based on reading of "1-stans" and the "thumbs up, thumbs down" approach. All submitted reviews are prominently on display in the Library.

- The third-grade team, along with the specialists and the support staff, have been collaborating on an ongoing Longfellow project. This project focuses on the New England states, including Massachusetts and Mendon. Many of the project creations may be included in the student's year-long Massachusetts Scrapbook Project.

- Clough Art Teacher, Chelsea Greene, announces the following students whose artwork was chosen to be displayed at the Mendon and Upton Public Libraries through the end of February. This is a wonderful opportunity for these young artists to share their hard work with the community!

- The following students will have their work displayed at the Public Library: Marin DiEmanu, Helen Kotsianas, Avery Brennan, Lindsey Luce, Tara Kinn, Payton Smith, Lauren Nee, Alexis Amitrano, Maya Landry, Colton Woydaj, Logan Bertuglia, and William Best. The following students will have their work displayed at the Upton Town Library: Olivia Bagatta, Emma Akune, and Kenzie Buss. The following students will have their work displayed at the Town Library: Isabella Bagatta, Mary Anne Moran, and William Best.

- The following students attended the 100th day of school on February 5. Students in grades K, 1 and 2 participated in a variety of 100th Day learning activities in Math, Reading, and Writing.

- Clough Middle School held its 4th Grade Winter Chorus Concert on February 12. Parents and family members enjoyed watching the 4th grade students perform in chorus. Clough pre-K through third grade students also attended and cheered on their fellow students.

- MEMORIAL: The 4th Grade Chorus entertained families at their winter concert on February 6, performing several songs, which were enjoyed by all. The chorus also performed the National Anthem at the Worcester Knights Hockey game on February 10. Memorial School families enjoyed a fun afternoon at the game.

- On February 5, first grade students were proud to show off their 100 Projects and counting skills. In the last and kindergarten classes were invited to walk through the 100 Museum. Students counted 100 objects and made special clever creations including a replica of Gillette Stadium made from popsicle sticks, several marshmallow snowmen, Lego creations, and a grounding with 100 toothpick quirks.

- Students celebrated Valentine's Day on February 14 with special centers and activities. Students shared valentines with classmates and worked on several special projects.

- Memorial School will be celebrating Spirit Week after Winter Break, culminating on Friday, March 1 when classrooms acknowledge Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading many of his books.

DISTRICT: Winter Break: no school
February 18 through 22.

CLOUGH: Clough Critics reading incentive was a great success. Each week book reviews from students at all grade levels were submitted illustrating the main detail of a given book. Many of the reviews were very detailed. These reviews may be read in the School News.

FREE Construction Loan Seminar

Saturday, March 9th
9:30 am to 11:30 am
Lowell's Restaurant
75 Cape Road, Rte 140
Mendon, MA 01756

Learn about the finance options available:
- Purchase land and build or build on land you own
- Fixed and adjustable rate loan programs available
- One loan closing- no need to refinance after construction is completed

Hosted By Milford Federal Mortgage Specialists:
Beth Caico
Beth.Caico@MilfordFederal.com
Ph: 508-234-2450
NMLS# 414859

Sherice Riel
Sherice.Riel@MilfordFederal.com
Ph: 401-534-6995
NMLS# 1376939

Limited Seating - RSVP Today

Attendees will be entered into a drawing for a $100 Koolman Lumber gift card!*
Community and Schools Mourn Passing of Stacy Student

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

A Stacy Middle School student has died from a flu-related illness last week, leaving the community to mourn the loss of a “gentle, kind and caring soul.”

Kevin McIntyre, “Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family,” he said. The district offered counseling services during the day and evening throughout the week and into the next week for students who were struggling with grief. McIntyre’s letter also offered resources for families to support their children as they grieve the loss of their peer and friend. “We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Aaron,” said McIntyre in a statement to The Town Crier this week. “He was a beloved member of our school community. Our faculty, students, and families are grieving their student, classmate, and friend. We are focused on supporting our students through this difficult time.”

According to his obituary, Aaron loved to volunteer his time in support of the local Special Olympics program in Milford, played annually in Milford Youth sports including Little League Baseball, Biddy Basketball, and recently took a Ninja Fit class that he loved dearly. “Aaron will be remembered for his unselfishness and putting others first, for his playful spirit and the love of his family,” read the obituary.

Aaron leaves behind his parents Danielle and Joseph Zenus, Jr. of Milford, brother Jaxon, his maternal great-grandmother Rachel Candell of Upton, his paternal great-grandmother Claire Dano of Worcester, and grandparents Joseph and Donna Zenus Sr., of Hopedale and Wayne and Sandra Dano of Princeton along with several other aunts, uncles, close friends and relatives. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on February 6 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Milford and he was laid to rest at Hopedale Village Cemetery in Hopedale. Donations can be made in Aaron’s memory to the Friends of Milford Area Special Athletes (FOMASA), PO Box 81, Hopedale, MA 01747. Arrangements were handled by Roney Funeral Home. A GoFundMe page, GoFundMe.com/The-Zenus-Family, has been set up for the Zenus family to ease any financial burden that may present itself with the sudden loss of Aaron.

Exploring the Antarctic from the Classroom

By Melanie Orff
Staff Reporter

A few weeks ago, Middle School students at Touchstone School in Grafton are joining classrooms around the world on a weekly video conference connecting them to the Antarctic Weddell Sea Expedition 2019. The expedition’s goals include investigating the Larsen C Ice Shelf, studying the marine life of the western Weddell Sea ecosystem, and locating the wreck of Shackleton’s ship, the “Endurance,” which became trapped, was crushed, and sank into the Weddell Sea in 1915. The crew, which includes glaciologists, marine biologists, oceanographers and marine archeologists will deploy drones, autonomous underwater vehicles, and remotely operated vehicles as they research and explore. They will use a sediment corer to sample the ice and also hope to access the water beneath the ice for the first time.

The S. A. Agulhas II, which is owned by the South African Government’s Department of Environmental Affairs, is conducting variety of research and exploration projects in the Weddell Sea in Antarctica during the next few weeks. Students around the world, including those at Touchstone in Grafton, are holding video conferences with team members for the next few weeks. Contributed photo

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Our office is located at 51 East Main St. (Route 16) Milford, MA. Stop in the office to fill out an application from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
February Events at Cornerstone at Milford
MILFORD-Residents are invited to attend the following events at Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch St. All Events begin at 2 p.m.

Enjoy an Art For Your Mind presentation by Jill Sanford on February 22.

Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair
MILFORD-The Milford Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair is seeking exhibitors for the 25th Annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair which takes place on Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Milford High School Cafeteria. Businesses, agencies or programs which serve children and or families, are invited to be exhibitors. Tables are free, but space is limited. For more information, call 508-634-2356, or email familynetwork@milfordma.com by February 28.

Blackstone Valley Garden Club
WHITINSVILLE-The Blackstone Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church, 61 Newwood Ave, Whitinsville. parking is off Church St. at the rear of the building. Tina Remus of Remus Farm Nursery in Spencer will speak on Making a Tufa Trough. She will demonstrate how to make a succulent trough garden, beginning with the making of a hypertufa trough. Hypertufa is a compound which mimics the look of old stone and its appearance improves with age. Remus’ sample creation will go home with a lucky raffle winner. Guests are welcome for $5.

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop
HOPEDALE-The Twice Blessed Thrift Shop at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church will hold their annual sale featuring all home goods and more. Felt like you were walking into a hometown bank. Charles River Bank. We walked in and realized we were served. Tasting donations are $20 per person and the prizes will be drawn at 2:30 p.m. From noon to 1 p.m. the Blackstone Millville Regional Winter marching band, Winter Coat Guard and Jazz bands will perform. There will be hot or cold lunch for purchase. Cost of admission is $20.

Craft Fair
BLACKSTONE-The Blackstone Millville Music Association will host its 30th annual craft fair on Sunday, March 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Blackstone Regional High School, 175 Lincoln St., Blackstone in the cafetaria. The craft fair will feature over 60 vendors and crafters from all over New England. Raffle tickets will be on sale all day and the prizes will be drawn at 2:30 p.m. from noon to 1 p.m. The Blackstone Millville Regional Winter marching band, Winter Coat Guard and Jazz bands will perform. There will be hot or cold lunch for purchase. Cost of admission is $20.

Fundraiser for Brain Tumor Research
FRANKLIN-Join Mendon and Upton residents Deb Gault and Kate Bett for a “Best of British” tasting as they raise money for Brain Tumor Research. Why “Best of British”? Because they will be running the London Marathon in April in memory of Beet’s brother and Mark Adamo, who died from brain cancer. The tragic reality is that less than 20 percent of those diagnosed survive beyond five years.

The fundraiser will be Sunday, March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pur Richards Fine Wine & Spirits, 14 Grove St., Franklin. The “Best of British” tasting will include British beer, cider, gin cocktails and British themed wines. Light refreshments will also be served. Tasting donations are $20 per person and additional donations can be made for Raffle Prizes.

MUF Comedy Night
MENDON-MUFE (the Mendon Upton Eduction Foundation) announces that the MUF Comedy Night at the End Zone Sports Pub in Mendon will be Friday, March 22. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. Purchase tickets in advance for $25 at MUFE.org, $30 at the door. The 21+ event will also offer a cash bar and light appetizers. Proceeds from the event support this MUFE, which offers creative, innovative and sustainable programming grants to Mendon Upton Regional schools.

Pottery Glazing
MILFORD-The Millford Community School Up Program will offer a Pottery Glazing Event on Wednesday, March 20 with ceramic artist, Arti Bhola Goulata. Each student will start with a blank piece of pottery and glaze their masterpiece using various painting techniques, design principles and color theory. Children will choose between a pizza plate and a milk & cookies mug and adults will choose between a cup and a platter and a travel mug. Finished work will be left behind for firing and will be ready for pick up in a couple of weeks. No prior experience necessary. Sign up at MCS.Milford.ma.us. Please submit paperwork registration forms along with fees to the Millford Community School Up Program. Confirmed classes, locations and dates will be announced. Checks can be made payable to the Town of Milford - MCSUP. Please call the office at 508-478-1119 with questions.

Meat Raffle
MILFORD-The Blackstone Millville Music Association is hosting a Meat Raffle on Sunday, March 3 in the upstairs hall starting at noon. Twenty prizes of roasts, filet mignon, breakfast packages, cash and more will be raffled off. Each raffle costs $2 or all 20 for $35. Only 100 seats are available for this event and the rules are explained at the start of the raffle. Light snacks and soft drinks are available to purchase as well. This is a family friendly event and all proceeds after expenses go towards supporting Trinity’s Faith Funding.

Trinity Episcopal Meat Raffle
MILFORD-Thanks To Yanks, 17 Congress St. Milford, is hosting a Meat Raffle on Sunday, March 3 in the upstairs hall starting at noon. Twenty prizes of roast, filet mignon, breakfast packages, cash and more will be raffled off. Each raffle costs $2 or all 20 for $35. Only 100 seats are available for this event and the rules are explained at the start of the raffle. Light snacks and soft drinks are available to purchase as well. This is a family friendly event and all proceeds after expenses go towards supporting Trinity’s Faith Funding.

Living with Hearing Loss: Share Your Experiences
NORTHBOROUGH-The Hearing Loss Association of America-Central Massachusetts’ Saturday March 16 “meeting” at the Northborough Free Library from 2 to 4 p.m. will not be the typical chapter meeting. Instead, everyone will be the speakers during the meeting. Attendees will break into small groups to identify common issues experienced with hearing loss and brainstorm potential solutions. Everyone will come back together as a full group to find out what each of the groups came up with. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to interact with one another, share experiences, and learn from each other.

Light refreshments will be served and CART Provided (Computer Assisted Real-Time Captioning). First timers welcome. There is ample free parking in the back of the Northborough Library. For more information, please visit Northboroughlibrary.org/hours.aspx. Please email info@hearinglosscentralma.org for more information on Hearing Loss Association of America-Central Massachusetts and notification of future events.

Milton Area Chamber of Commerce Events
ARE: The Milton Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will be holding the following events. To register visit MiltonChamber.org. email bfralley@miltonchamber.org, call 508-476-6700 or stop by the offices, 258 Main Street, Suite 306, Milton.

CWL, Connecting Women Leaders, Luncheon on Wednesday, February 20 at 11:30 a.m. at Benchmark Senior Living, 4 Furge Hill Rd, Franklin, the 9th Anniversary Celebration.

St. Camillus
WHITINSVILLE-St. Camillus Health Center, 447 Hill St. Whitinsville, will be holding a job fair on Wednesday, February 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mission located adjacent to their skilled nursing building. Positions available include Nursing, CNA, Housekeeping and Dietary and include full time, part time and per diem. Additionally, a per diem Physical Therapist is being sought. St. Camillus offers both weekend and shift differentials for all staff. For more information, please call Shelley at 508-234-7506.

Upton Men’s Club Community Charity Auction
WORCESTER-The Upton Men’s Club is bringing back a Blast from the Past, the popular Community Charity Auction, will be held Saturday, March 9, from 6 to 11 p.m. at Maxwell Silverman’s Banquet Center, Union Station, Worcester. It will feature a keynote from New England Patriots Hall of Famer Matt Light and music entertainment by the Redneck Party Band.

The great night out for a great cause has been the signature event of the Upton Men’s Club since the club’s inception in 1997 through 2010, bringing together members of the community and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for various projects around town. As the clubs biggest annual, this event has helped fund student scholarships, athletic and arts programs, monthly senior dinners, police and fire safety equipment, and much more.

The beautiful new Union Station Grand Hall is the perfect place to meet community members, make new friends, dance, dine and win great auction items.

Visit UptonMenClub.org for information on the club and to get tickets for this event.

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MILFORD- A Blood Drive to benefit the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center in conjunction with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women’s Hospital will be held at DCH Toyota of Milford, 300 Fortune Blvd., Milford on Sunday, February 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The drive is also sponsored by Thanks To Yanks.

Donors must have a photo ID and should be well hydrated before giving blood. Appointments are recommended by contacting tinyurl.com/DCHFEB2019, but walk-ins will be taken as time allows. For more information about the drive or to donate, or call 617-632-3206. Donors will receive a Kraft Family Blood Donor Sweatshirt.
In Massachusetts, it is estimated that there are at least 1,800 young adults every year who experience homelessness. On January 30, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced at Framingham State University a comprehensive state-wide plan to end youth homelessness in the Commonwealth. The plan will deliver funding to 18 community partners throughout the state, in addition to the Massachusetts Student Housing Security Pilot to provide dorm rooms to homeless students attending community college, through partnerships with state universities. One of those partnerships includes Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) and Worcester State University.

The housing pilot was launched at four campuses earlier this month and each four-year institution will make up to five beds available for students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

According to QCC President Dr. Luis G Pedraja, three QCC students are either homeless or experiencing housing insecurity will be part of this initial program.

“It is truly gratifying to see our state step up and address an issue that impacts so many of our youth today,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. “Education is the key to self-sufficiency and having a stable place to live and adequate nourishment will allow students to focus on their education and help change their lives.”

Campsites will be reimbursed by the state for the cost of the dorm bed occupancy for an 18-month period for the remainder of fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2020, including all summer and semester breaks. Campsites will cover the cost of providing meals and snacks for students, with support from local service providers.

“Ours Administration has taken a targeted approach to addressing homelessness across the Commonwealth over the last several years, and this pilot program serves as another important tool,” said Governor Charlie Baker.

“We look forward to working with our community colleges and state universities to implement this program to give students a stable place to live so they can thrive academically and have access to the necessary supports in their own communities that will help them continue their path to self-sufficiency.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7531 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Call for Artists, Actors, and Wannabes

Art palette entries hanging in the gallery.

Beat the winter blues by doing something different and creative right here in the community. Participate in one or both of these (almost) spring events. The very popular 7th Annual Art Palette Contest and 10th Annual One Act Play Festival on the Mumford. Every year these two inclusive events bring hundreds of people of all ages and abilities together to celebrate creativity and win cash prizes.

In collaboration with The Artist Palette Studio, The Art Palette Contest, which invites participants to transform an ordinary wooden art palette into a unique work of art, will open on Friday, March 8 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery at the Whittin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. During the opening and through April 5, guests of the Gallery may cast their vote for their favorite palettes. Winners will receive cash awards in three different categories and age groups.

For more information about participating in the 7th Annual Art Palette Contest and 10th Annual One Act Play Festival on the Mumford please visit: OpenSkyCS.org/news-events/events. Please visit: OpenSkyCS.org/news-events/events. This event is sponsored by Jerry’s Artarama, ValleyCAST and Open Sky Community Services. Purchase palettes for $15 each now through February 22 at the Gallery. Completed palettes are due back to the Gallery by March 1. Voting ends April 5. Exhibit ends April 26, just two weeks after the opening of the Art Palette Contest, the public is invited back to the Whittin Mill to attend the 10th Annual One Act Play Festival on the Mumford. This two-day theatrical event takes place on Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. in the Singh Performance Center, 60 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. The festival will include comedies, dramas, published works and several original pieces presented by area theater companies and laymen alike. The Festival will be judged and trophies and cash awards will be presented after the last act on Saturday evening. Participants and attendees of the One Act Play Festival are invited to enjoy a reception in the Heritage Gallery on opening night, Friday, March 22 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. For more information about participating in the 10th Annual One Act Play Festival or to download a submission form visit: OpenSkyCS.org/news-events/events. This event is sponsored by ValleyCAST and Open Sky Community Services.

Scaling Kilimanjaro to Support Make-A-Wish

Submitted by Brenna Ashby

I am Brenna Ashby, a member of the Hopedale High School class of 2017 and a current University of Connecticut sophomore majoring in Digital Media Design. As a UCONN student, I have tried to be involved in community activities. One is a Mount Kilimanjaro fundraising effort. The public is invited to make donations to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is very special to me. My brother was diagnosed with leukemia in 2004 and he was granted a Make-A-Wish trip to Disney World, so I experienced first-hand what a huge difference they can make. This trip allowed us to experience what we hadn't been able to in years; what it's like to be a regular family without the thought of cancer looming over you.

Make-A-Wish provided my family with an incredible opportunity, and now I have been provided an incredible opportunity to pay them back. My goal is to raise $7000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Scaling Kilimanjaro will be the beginning of my challenge. Mount Kilimanjaro is a 19,000 ft tall snow and ice covered mountain in the heart of Africa. The climb is unique since its begins in tropical heat and ascends to oxygen-deprived, arctic like conditions. The six straight days of climbing range from two-hour warmup hike on the day one to a grueling 19 hour hike on the last. Hikers also have to endure lack of oxygen.

Up to 60 percent of those attempting the climb fail, altitude sickness being among the lead cause. It is hard to train for this sickness, caused by lower oxygen at higher altitudes.

As part of my conditioning, I have begun regular cardio and weight training at UConn, as well as rock climbing wall training. I am also taking advantage of the UConn Outing Club as frequently as I can by participating in climbing activities on local peaks like Mount Wachusett. Although I hope to accomplish both goals—raising the $7000 and completing the climb—my primary goal is raising the money for Make-A-Wish. I know what it meant for my family, and I want to do what I can to ensure that other families have that same opportunity.

If I am able to complete both challenges, I will have taken part in a once in a lifetime opportunity. If I am able to stay calm and focused, I am positive that I will be able to take on this mountain! I hope to share even more about my journey as the trip comes closer, and I am even more excited to share what happens after it is completed.

QCC Participates in State-Wide Plan to end Youth Homelessness

In Massachusetts, it is estimated that there are at least 1,800 young adults every year who experience homelessness. On January 30, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced at Framingham State University a comprehensive state-wide plan to end youth homelessness in the Commonwealth. The plan will deliver funding to 18 community partners throughout the state, in addition to the Massachusetts Student Housing Security Pilot to provide dorm rooms to homeless students attending community college, through partnerships with state universities. One of those partnerships includes Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) and Worcester State University.

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“It is truly gratifying to see our state step up and address an issue that impacts so many of our youth today,” said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja. “Education is the key to self-sufficiency and having a stable place to live and adequate nourishment will allow students to focus on their education and help change their lives.”

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“Ours Administration has taken a targeted approach to addressing homelessness across the Commonwealth over the last several years, and this pilot program serves as another important tool,” said Governor Charlie Baker.

“We look forward to working with our community colleges and state universities to implement this program to give students a stable place to live so they can thrive academically and have access to the necessary supports in their own communities that will help them continue their path to self-sufficiency.”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7531 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.
BVT Girls Hoops Battle Road Challenges

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ basketball team has a number of young players, including freshmen, in key roles, and with that has come the challenge of adjusting to the intensity of playing games at the varsity level.

“We have been struggling a little bit on the road, but we are young team,” said head coach Britt Kahler. “So that is not completely out of the norm.”

The “struggle” is relative for the 12-4 Beavers. BVT has lost just twice away from home, including a four-point setback last Friday at Advanced Math and Science Academy. Other games, such as a three-point win at Parker Charter or a two-point victory on the road against Monty Tech, have been close calls. Kahler said the team “did not look like itself” in the AMSA loss, and scored only 33 points, one of the lowest totals of the season.

With a tournament in Maynard coming up over the winter break and the possibility of road games in the state tournament and district tournament, Kahler said she wants the team to be able to get into a routine before games away from Pleasant St.

“I want them focused and watching the JV game, but I also want them to go to the locker room and get excited for our game,” she said. “At home, you have your rituals, but I don’t know if we have that on the road yet. I just want them to get into a rhythm before the game.”

Still, even in the losses, Kahler said her team is getting better with every game.

Junior Victoria Russian is a go-to scorer and “working her butt off” on the court. Kahler said. Emma Ballard, only a freshman, is handling the ball wire-to-wire and sophomore Madison Dopp has become a force on the boards.

“She is an unbelievable rebounder for us,” Kahler said. “When she is in the game you can see the difference in rebounding, we do not give up nearly as many offensive boards.”

Another sophomore, Madison Magri, controls the pace of the game, her coach said, and has been looking for her shot more as the season has progressed.

The Beavers began the week in position to at least grab a share of the Colonial Athletic League title with a home game on Valentine’s Day against Monty Tech. BVT still has the Maynard tournament, which opens next week with a game against Ayer-Shirley, as well as the state vike and the MIAA tournament on its schedule.

Young Nipmuc Boys Hoops Gets Trial by Fire

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

First-year Nipmuc boys’ basketball head coach Paul King has been impressed by the way his team has been able to compete through a challenging season, even more so because many of the players seeing significant minutes will be returning after this winter.

“We have been competitive in every single game.” King said. “Guys are getting used to the competitiveness and the high level of varsity basketball. I remember the first day of practice their eyes were poking out of their head a bit, but now it’s become routine for them.”

The Warriors began the week 4-13 overall, and King said his team is starting to “chip away” at some of the mistakes it made earlier in the season, such as turning the ball over too many times. Nipmuc dropped a two-point game against Hopedale and had other games at Blackstone-Millville and Sutton remained tight contests until the final minutes.

While still prone to scoring droughts, King said his team has been aggressive and competitive on the defensive end. Junior Nate Gould has been the leader of the defensive effort.

“I will put him on the other team’s best player, whether it’s a big or a guard,” King said. “He gets a ton of offense rebounds, he gets to the free throw line a ton, I can’t say enough about that kid.”

Another junior, Andrew Griswold, has boosted the team’s offense and four sophomores, Michael Quinn, Matt Fraser, Lucas Beder and Chris Broe, have also seen major minutes.

“The experience they are getting, it’s going to be huge,” King said. “None of these guys have played varsity minutes before. It’s going to bode well for the future.”

The Warriors will be graduating several seniors this year and, heading into the final week of the season, Nipmuc is looking to continue to be competitive in every game.

“With this type of record, you can expect teams to kind of pack it in, but the past two weeks of practice have been our best weeks of practice.” King said. “We are still in it.”

BVT Hoops Near Postseason Berth

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Nipmuc girls’ basketball team is getting closer to earning a spot in the postseason and finally has a fully-healthy roster, setting the Warriors’ up to be a potentially dangerous team if they find themselves in the district tournament.

The season marks a dramatic turnaround from a 5-17 regular season.

“Of course it’ll be cutthroat,” said head coach Missy Rhodes. “But the biggest boost to the team late in the season is health. Sophomore Sophie Vincens returned to 100 percent after suffering a broken nose early in the year.”

“Caleigh usually defends the other team’s best player and produces on offense,” Rhodes said.

Junior Sophie Sullivan has been another steady scoring presence, her coach said. But the biggest boost to the team late in the season is health. Sophomore Sophie Vincens returned to 100 percent after suffering a broken nose early in the year. “We have had a lot of injuries,” Rhodes said. “We have had girls dealing with bumps and bruises all year, but they push through when we need them.”

The Warriors had a road game against Worcester South on the schedule this week before an in-season tournament to close out the season. The level of improvement and the young talent on the team — and at the middle school level — has Rhodes optimistic for the future.

She also wants to see her team win at least two of the next three to become postseason eligible.

“We want to get back to tournament play,” she said. “We are not ready for the season to end.”

BVT Hoops Near Playoffs in Final Week

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech boys’ basketball team entered the final week of the season on the cusp of earning a spot in the district tournament, even after letting a second-half/lead slip away Monday night against rival Nipmuc.

The Beavers fell to 9-9 overall after falling to the Warriors, 59-57. Nipmuc had trained by double digits going into the fourth quarter, but rallied to outscore Valley Tech 25-13 in the final frame thanks to seven fourth-quarter points from Nate Gould and eight more from John Vernone. Chris Machione scored 11 points to cap off three Beavers in double figures. Nipmuc’s Michael Quinn led all scorers with 21 points.

BVT had its own second-half contributions, including Drew Galicki who netted 14 points after halftime and 17 for the game. Josh Mateo scored nine of his 11 points in the second half. The loss came after BVT moved to within one win of a tournament berth by beating St. Mary’s of Worcester on the road.

With a pair of games scheduled earlier this week, Valley Tech needed one more victory to secure a district tournament bid. The Beavers entered the week with a 4-5 record in Colonial Athletic League play, the third-best mark in the large school division. Worcester Tech and Assabet Valley Tech shared the large school league crown with matching 9-1 records. BVT was slated to take on Worcester Tech in its final home game on Wednesday before visiting Monty Tech on Valentine’s Day to close out the regular season.
Local Women Run London for Brain Tumor Research

Kate Bett has dealt with her share of tragedy, losing her brother-in-law to glioblastoma and her sister to sepsis just two years later. But the Upton resident is channeling her grief into something positive, running the London Marathon in April to benefit the Brain Tumour UK Research Fund.

And, best of all, she will have best friend there with her, stride for stride.

“She is my best friend and when she lost her brother-in-law and sister, my heart just broke,” said Mendon resident Deb Gaulitz. “When she got her bib to run the London Marathon, I thought ‘I could do that too, I could run with her and support.’”

So Gaulitz got a bib of her own, and the pair are teaming up to run 26.2 miles through the streets of London to raise at least £3,000 — nearly $3,900 — to benefit the charity.

“Deb and I ran Boston together [in 2009] and ‘we said we are going to start together and finish together’ and that’s what we are going to do here,” Bett said. “The pair have been training together, alternating runs between Upton and Mendon, just to change up the scenery. Their hilly hometowns figure to prepare them for the mostly flat London course, which neither has ever run.

“I have always wanted to do London and I am married to a Brit,” Bett said. “They are the most charitable marathon in the world, this year they are going to surpass £1 billion in charitable fundraising. It’s not about the time, it’s about the charities and being out there.”

Social media and past London runners posting online have given Bett and Gaulitz an idea of what to expect. "That race is going to be. It’s going to be the best. You’re not just running for yourself. It’s for the whole world."

Kate’s brother-in-law, Mark Adamo, died of the disease a few years ago. Contributed photo

Friends, Kate Bett of Upton, left, and Deb Gaulitz of Mendon and will be running the London Marathon in April to benefit brain cancer research. Kate’s brother-in-law, Mark Adamo, died of the disease a few years ago. Contributed photo

London is where I want to be. It’s the experience."

Kate Bett is running the London Marathon in their memory and to raise funds to help support brain cancer research. Contributed photo

Maspencock Rod and Gun Club Wins Contest

By scoring 1437 points, Maspencock Rod and Gun Club in Milford defeated DC Shooting Team, which has an 0-1 record and is with an 0-1 record, will compete against GRRP Air Pistol Team, which has an 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently leads by stepping out of my comfort zone. I will look back on it more for what I was able to help the other kids do … the record we had this season is because of those younger athletes on the team.

Maspencock Rod and Gun Club finishes the season in first place overall, with 1-0 record. Maspencock Rod and Gun Club was led by Riya Saleem, who shot a 366. Other team members were Manuel Snyderman, Logan Quinn, and Genan Su.

Maspencock Rod and Gun Club

Maspencock Rod and Gun Club will compete against Cowley County 4-H from Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record.

By scoring 1437 points, Maspencock Rod and Gun Club in Milford defeated DC Shooting Team, which has an 0-1 record and is with an 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record.
Nipmuc’s Hegarty Earns D1 Soccer Scholarship

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc goalkeeper Colby Hegarty has helped the Warriors soccer team to a state championship and an appearance in the state final, and now the Upton resident is planning to continue his soccer career at the Division 1 level at Northeastern University.

“It has a great reputation for a school, so that’s what sparked my interest first,” Hegarty said. “I just started looking into it and started to see how the soccer part would work into it.”

Hegarty said he liked the approach of the coaching staff and the vision they saw for the program. He watched a few games, explored the mechanical engineering program he planned to study, and knew he had found the perfect fit.

“I hope to be a critical component of the program and help the team out,” he said. “There are a couple of other keepers on the team now, but as my college career keeps going, I hope to make my way into a starting spot.”

Hegarty has been starting for one of the most successful soccer programs in the area at Nipmuc. He anchored the defense during the Warriors’ run to a Division III state championship a season ago and was back in goal as the team marched back to the state title game this year, falling on penalty kicks. “Even though we lost, it was still an incredible time,” Hegarty said. “I loved every second of it.” The accolades have not been sparse for Nipmuc’s goalie. He was named a Central Mass. all-star and earned all-state honors. But he said being named the team’s Most Valuable Player was particularly special. “That means more than the other awards, just because it’s more than ability and performance,” Hegarty said. “It’s how you work with the team and it was an honor to be given that. I worked hard to lead the team and it felt good that it was noticed.”

Hegarty’s career at Nipmuc is not over yet, he plans to play his senior season with the lacrosse team this spring. A club soccer player with the Boston Bolts, lacrosse provides a bit of a break from the pitch. After that, Hegarty will head to play his senior season with the lacrosse team this spring. A club soccer player with the Boston Bolts, lacrosse provides a bit of a break from the pitch. After that, Hegarty will head to play his senior season with the lacrosse team this spring.

“Going into the finals, playing against my former teammates, it was a lot of pressure, but a lot of fun,” the Upton resident said. “I hope to be a critical component of the program and help the team out,” he said. “There are a couple of other keepers on the team now, but as my college career keeps going, I hope to make my way into a starting spot.”

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Emma Ballard, a freshman at Valley Tech from Upton, has helped lead the BVTV Girls soccer team to a district title and scored 32 goals in a single season. She is now playing basketball for the school and is a starting point guard for the tournament-bound varsity girls team. Rousse Boisvert photo

“Ballard played the pressure of playing basketball was intense at first, but the success she and her teammates have achieved has made it worthwhile. She noted a double overtime win over Monty Tech as one example. On the soccer pitch, Valley Tech’s upset win over Sutton in the district tournament and win over Nipmuc in the district title game have stood out. “Going into the finals, playing against my former teammates, it was a lot of pressure, but a lot of fun,” the Upton resident said. “I hope to be a critical component of the program and help the team out,” he said. “There are a couple of other keepers on the team now, but as my college career keeps going, I hope to make my way into a starting spot.”

Ballard has been the starting point guard for the tournament-bound BVTV basketball team. Head coach Brett Kahler said her young guard has become a more vocal leader as the season has progressed. “It’s kind of amazing, because I threw her into the point guard spot,” Kahler said. “The ball is in her hands all day and all night. I rarely take her out. There is a quiet confidence about her, she is level headed the entire game and never gets down on herself.”

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Ballard said she has been able to adapt to the varsity level largely due to the support of her teammates. “The upperclassmen are supportive and great at teaching everyone the game and how it is at this level,” she said. “It took some getting used to, it’s a whole different level of pressure.” Despite the success in basketball, Ballard is already more than a year ahead in a soccer player. But, after the basketball season ends, she said she plans to try-out for the softball team. She did not make any predictions about whether she’ll become a three-sport varsity athlete in her first year. “I am not sure, it’s going to be tough,” Ballard said. “I am just going to work hard and see what happens.”

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