Mendon Selectmen Approve First Marijuana Host Agreement

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

During a June 17 meeting, the Mendon Board of Selectmen approved the town's first marijuana host agreement with the Avon based company Green Era LLC. According to the agreement, the business will operate a nonmedical marijuana retail facility at 25 Cape Rd.

“The agreement is pretty straightforward,” said Town Counsel Cindy Amara of the Mendon/Mendon Board of Selectmen to discuss the town’s new water and wastewater rates. Department of Public Works Director Dennis Westgate was present to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2020 rates, which the Selectmen eventually approved unanimously.

Westgate explained the water and wastewater bills are broken up into three segments consisting of a customer service charge, a water rate charge for water that’s used, and a surcharge.

The surcharge rate, he said, is somewhat fluid. Information provided explained that the water and wastewater division’s surcharge rates are adjusted quarterly based on total consumption and abatements from the previous quarter, capital outlay, and 50 percent of the total debt (the remaining 50 percent is assessed to the tax levy).

“This year’s capital outlay for both divisions totaled $100,000. However, $100,000 of retained earnings were applied to offset that amount in order to avoid a large increase in the surcharge. Because the surcharge rate is a moving target and changes quarterly, it is impossible to state what the rate will be for the upcoming fiscal year. However, it is possible to provide an estimate,” said Westgate.

The proposed water division was requesting a 1.83 percent increase in the consumption rate with no increase in the customer service charge of $18.08. As a result, the increase that the $0 to 3,000 gallons used quarterly will increase from $3.62 to $3.69, 3,001 to 7,500 gallons used quarterly will increase from $4.89 to $4.98, the 7,501 to 20,000 used will increase from $6.45 to $6.57, and more than 20,000 gallons will increase $9.14 to $9.31. The customer service surcharge will remain the same as last year at $18.08.

“Based on that recommendation, the average water-only customer would see a $5 increase per quarter on their billing,” said Westgate.

Concerning the wastewater division, Westgate proposed a 3.95 percent hike, which shows an increase from $10.11 to $10.50 for all thousand gallon amounts used quarterly and the customer service surcharge of $85.05 remaining the same.

The almost 4 percent increase shows the biggest impact will be to those who are sewer-only customers, of which there are only six in town. The average quarterly cost for those six will increase from $391.85 to $407.13 Combined water and sewer users will see an average cost increase from $627.72 to $647.32 including the surcharge. Still Westgate believes that $20 increase per quarter will likely be lower due to the wastewater debt coming off.

Upton Selectmen Approve Increased Water / Wastewater Rates

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

A public hearing was held during Upton’s June 18 Board of Selectmen’s meeting to discuss the town’s new water and wastewater rates. Department of Public Works Director Dennis Westgate was present to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2020 rates, which the Selectmen eventually approved unanimously.

Westgate explained the water and wastewater bills are broken up into three segments consisting of a customer service charge, a water rate charge for water that’s used, and a surcharge.

The surcharge rate, he said, is somewhat fluid. Information provided explained that the water and wastewater division’s surcharge rates are adjusted quarterly based on total consumption and abatements from the previous quarter, capital outlay, and 50 percent of the total debt (the remaining 50 percent is assessed to the tax levy).

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Mendon and Upton residents celebrated Independence Day, July 4th, in a variety of ways. The Upton Men’s Club held their very successful Fireworks Festival on June 20 and the Mendon Firefighters Association their annual Horribles Parade on July 3. Shown is one local home, like many in the area, displaying an American Flag to celebrate the nation’s 243 birthday.

Jane Bigda photo
Trinity Episcopal Church Celebrates the Sounds of Its Rebuilt Organ

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/  
Columnist

The original Hook & Hastings organ had filled Trinity Episcopal Church with music since it first opened its doors in 1877. However, as the Church continued to expand, the instrument did not meet its musical needs and wants.

According to Randy Bloom, the Church's Minister of Music, the former organ was nine ranks. Pipes in an organ are grouped together in rows, or ranks, according to the particular sound that the pipe makes. "Back in the day, it was adequate, but over time we began to realize it didn't suit the needs of our Church," said Bloom.

Logistically, there were difficulties as well. Because of where the organ was located, the organist and the choir couldn't see each other. As a result, the parish realized it was time to move on from their historic organ. However, in order to restore the nearly 145-year instrument it would cost upwards of $40,000. After investigating other options, the Milford Parish turned to organ builder Timothy Smith of Smith & Gilbert out of New York.

Smith, who is a church musician himself, rebuilds organs from pipes and parts he collects from all around the country. He's then able to create custom-made pipe organs to suit the needs of each parish. "Pipes can last centuries," explained Bloom.

Because it's a very complex instrument, the pipes were installed a little at a time beginning last year. Now that its finally complete, "We have a 21-rank pipe organ," said Bloom. "It plays all sorts of music but was designed so it's not overpowering. It's definitely one of the larger pipe organs in the Milford area."

A capital campaign was started approximately two years ago that not only funded the organ but also other needs for Trinity Episcopal, including air conditioning in the Parish Hall. The rebuilt organ cost approximately $150,000. However, Bloom estimates an organ built completely from scratch would have run nearly $500,000.

On June 14, the Church hosted a performance given by Smith that was designed to show off the range and versatility of the new pipe organ.

An Evening of Art and Music at the Whitin Mill

The Art of Seeing, a new exhibit featuring two talented artists will open with a reception from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery, The Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. The exhibit will feature the whimsical, vibrant paintings of Dominic Killiany and the thought provoking, hand cast bronze sculpture of Nicholas Baker Swearer. The artists will be on hand to discuss their processes and what inspires them to create their artwork.

The opening has been scheduled on the same evening as the second in this summer's Free Summer Concerts on the Community Plaza at the Mill. The Blackstone Valley Bluegrass Band will be playing from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Plaza, just outside the Gallery.

Killiany, who has been featured on CBS, uses art to express himself. Swearer is a "hands-on" sculptor who works primarily with cast and fabricated metals in his own studio/foundry.

The exhibit ends August 30. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and weekends and evenings by special appointment. The Free Summer Concert Series is every Thursday night beginning July 11 and ending with the last concert on August 29.
Explore the Blackstone River Valley Waterways

Explore the waterways of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor this summer with volunteers of the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club. Group paddles are hosted on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Participants must have their own canoes or kayaks and life jackets. Arrive by 6 p.m. for 6:15 p.m. launch. For complete details on each paddle, visit BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/events or ricka-flatwater.org/bvca. Before leaving for any paddle, check the Paddle Club’s message board for changes and cancellations to trips at Members.boardhost.com/FLATWATER. If paddles are cancelled due to weather, the Paddle Club will try to offer it the following day, Wednesday. To participate in the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club’s events, a Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association (RICKA) membership fee of $15 is required, as is a $10 membership fee for the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club. These fees provide a family membership and are good for the entire season. For information about the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club and membership, contact Cheryl at Stonefordfarmjuno.com or 401-497-5887. Group paddles are:

- July 9, meet at the Blackstone Gorge parking area, County St., Blackstone, for a paddle to the Millville rapids
- July 16, enjoy a paddle at the scenic Valley Falls Marsh including a trip up the Blackstone River to Fratt Dam, meet at the Central Falls Landing, 30 Madeira Ave., Central Falls, R.I.
- July 23, explore the tranquil Bowditch Lake at the George Washington State Campground and Management Area, 2185 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, R.I.
- July 30, travel to Bold Point Park, Waterfront Dr., East Providence, for an urban paddle along the Providence River passing the Waterfire braziers into Water Place Park to the confluence of the Woonasquatucket and Moshassuk Rivers.
- August 6, explore Manchaug Pond in Sutton, meet at the State Boat Ramp on Torrey Rd. This paddle is suitable for all and a great place for a swim.
- August 20, paddle at Spring Lake in Burrillville, R.I., meet at the Black Hut boat access on Black Hut Rd., Burrillville.

Group paddles are:

- July 27, a paddle at Stump Pond, 307 Farnum Pike, Smithfield, R.I.
- September 7, a paddle of the Blackstone Gorge within site of the Millville Rapids, meet at the end of County St. Blackstone at 12:30 p.m.
Indigenous People Poster Display

A different perspective on the indigenous peoples of the Americas and around the world can be seen at the Milford Town Library during July. Stephen Lewis is displaying 25 posters from his extensive collection of over 8600 items that depict indigenous peoples. Not only do the posters offer interesting graphics, they also impart information about the history and cultures of these native peoples, many of whom were almost obliterated as different groups, primarily Europeans, discovered and conquered their lands. Two posters depicting Native Americans focus on the involvement of the Navajo people during World War II, the famous US Army Code Talkers, who used their language to help defeat the Japanese. The other depicts one of the athletic achievements of Jim Thorpe. Other posters focus on the First Nation peoples of Canada and the aboriginal people of Australia.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Milford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Lewis has been collecting political posters for 20 years and has been staging exhibits around Massachusetts for the past 15 years. He attributes his love for the posters and creating exhibits, to his background as a political activist and a union leader. For more information, email him at Lewisposters@gmail.com

Putting One Foot in Front of the Other

Brenna Ashby, a UConn student from Hopedale, summited Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa and helped raise over $65,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Contributed photo

Submitted by Brenna Ashby

In September of 2018, I texted my mom in the middle of the afternoon telling her I had just paid a $300 registration fee to be part of a Choose-A-Challenge fundraiser to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. At our first meeting, and I found out we would each be fundraising a minimum of $6,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Make-A-Wish is especially meaningful to me because my family was able to experience their magic firsthand when my brother was diagnosed with leukemia.

Due to the generous support from friends, family, classmates, and businesses, my fellow UConn students and I were able to raise over $65,000 for Make-A-Wish, a charity that helped my family when we needed it most. And thanks to this support I and 10 other students were able to summit Kilimanjaro, one of the world’s tallest mountains on May 29.

Climbing Kilimanjaro was one of the most mentally and physically challenging experiences of my life. I had hiked many New England mountains and thought I was prepared. The overestimation of my abilities hit on day one. What I thought would be a relatively gradual ascent over four days turned into a grueling trek through jungle, alpine desert, and rain. Looking up at the summit at 2 a.m. of the fifth day, running on an hour of sleep after hiking for eight hours the day before with another 17 hours of hiking to go before we reached camp, I definitely questioned my training.

I questioned it when we were halfway to the summit and drinking water left me breathless, when my water froze and I was nauseous from altitude sickness, and when the doctor turned the other two girls in the group back due to lack of oxygen. But I kept putting one foot in front of the other until both of them were planted at 19,341 feet. I have never felt more accomplished than when I was looking out at the sun rise above the glaciers on the peak, finally getting to see that simple wooden sign scrawled with graffiti and paint chips after four days of non-stop hiking, surrounded by a group of students I had met just days earlier yet now had become my mountain family. My friends and family from home had gotten me to the mountain, but my new family helped me get to the top.

Thanks to the donors who helped me raise over $6,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Marie Atkinson, Kim and Roy Ayers, Amy Broderick, Lisa Busa, Maria Farragher, Casey and Steve Hogan, Cameron O’Connor, Talythia Oliveri, Carol Suffredini, Main St. Pediatrics, PR Running and Dell Technologies; plus the Clement, Correa, Crepeau, Cote, Day Family, Dykhoff, Elfland, Espanet, Huse, Romano, Seaver, Siefring, Smith, Waswill, Wood and Wyspianski families.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please call TOLL FREE Central Admissions at 844.322.3648 or Fax 978.522.8329

20 Claflin Street, Milford, MA 01757 • www.elderservices.com • Family Owned & Operated
By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Walking into Catherine Villani's living room in Milford, one is immediately struck by a large, framed photo of a handsome soldier in his dress blues. He looks strong and stoic in the picture, just as a soldier should, and yet one can sense a kindness in his face as well. The photo is of Catherine's son, Staff Sergeant Joshua Nunnally, a highly decorated soldier who served his country for nearly 20 years and who tragically took his own life in 2017.

Up until now, Catherine wasn't ready to speak about her son's suicide. It was too difficult. However, hearing more and more of the suicide rates among veterans and active military soldiers, she felt it was time to speak about Joshua in the hopes it may help someone.

Growing up in Milford, Catherine said Joshua was a very obedient child. "If he was punished for some reason, he never did it again. He was always helpful and protective of his brother and sister," she said.

He also had a very patriotic side to him and enlisted as an infantryman in the Army National Guard at the age of 19. "He just loved the United States and felt this was a way of making a living but also serving his country," said Catherine.

Within a year of enlisting, he entered active duty service and was stationed in Germany and then reassigned to Fort Campbell, Ky. After he was honorably discharged, he moved on to civilian life and began taking college classes and working by developing E-Commerce web platforms.

After a move to New Orleans to pursue a career in industrial construction, Joshua was forced to relocate to Arlington, Texas in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and then entered active duty service once again as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. He was deployed to Iraq during the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission followed quickly by a second and third deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"I think he saw a lot of atrocities; all the soldiers do," said Catherine. "They see such bad, bad things that are devastating and disruptive. I think he was in a lot of pain after all that but I had no idea how much pain. I wish I could have helped him." Upon his return from Afghanistan, he was assigned to the 204th Military Intelligence Battalion in Fort Worth Texas. Sadly, on November 15, 2017, Joshua took his own life by hanging himself. A neighbor found him. "His blood alcohol level was three times the legal limit," said Catherine.

Catherine believes her son was likely suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. "I would have to say yes, he was. It's a term that's thrown around like water these days," she said. "It's a very complicated issue and I think there's a lot that needs to be done for these men and women." Even after two years, Catherine says she's still having a difficult time wrapping her head around her son's suicide but says therapy has helped. "I kept everything private for a long time because there's still such a stigma attached to it. When I started talking about it, it was like coming into the light," said Catherine.

And that's what Catherine hopes soldiers, veterans, and their families do — talk openly and frankly about mental health issues and seek help. "We equip these men and women with weapons to protect their bodies. We need to help them equip their minds and seek help. "We equip these men and women with weapons to protect their bodies. We need to help them equip their minds and seek help."

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And that's what Catherine hopes soldiers, veterans, and their families do — talk openly and frankly about mental health issues and seek help. "We equip these men and women with weapons to protect their bodies. We need to help them equip their minds too and let them know it's okay to reach out. They need to know, if they reach out, it brings resilience," she said.

For more information and resources available for active military members and veterans, see adjacent story.

**State’s SAVE Program Established for SuicidalVeterans**

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

In an article in USA Today, veteran Danny O’Neil admitted he tried to kill himself.

O’Neil, who served in Iraq, said the violence he witnessed, including the deaths of his fellow brothers from his same deployment, made civilian life unbearable. He attempted to kill himself. Luckily, he said, he failed and avoided becoming one of the 20 veteran and active duty suicides who kill themselves daily.

Sadly, O’Neil is not unique when it comes to experiencing mental health struggles among veterans and active duty service members. Yet, many of these men and women struggle to discuss issues such as isolation, depression, and anxiety because there can be a stigma attached to seeking out therapy.

However, according to Anthony Preston, Director of Legislative and Media Relations for the Department of Veteran’s Services in Massachusetts, a ground-breaking program in Massachusetts, staffed by trained veterans, is here to help. Led by the Department of Veterans Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Statewide Advocacy for Veteran’s Empowerment (SAVE) is an innovative, peer-to-peer program built specifically to help veterans in Massachusetts.

"Its primary mission is to prevent suicide and mental health distress by proactively identifying issues facing veterans when they return from service and provide them with access to benefits and services which results in positive transitions back to civilian life," explained Preston.

SAVE is staffed by 15 veterans who have been trained in suicide prevention, peer support, and substance abuse recovery. SAVE staff work with veterans to identify key challenges they face when they return from duty. To contact the SAVE Team, call 1-888-844-2838 or call save@massmail.state.ma.us

Preston notes that Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates in the nation for suicide deaths and suicide by firearms is lower than the national average, due partly to the state’s strict gun laws. However, the issue of suicide among veterans and non-veterans is still a critical problem that must be addressed.

**Other Suicide Prevention Resources**

Outside of the Department of Veteran’s Services, there are other resources available for suicide prevention. Call or text the Samaritans Statewide Helpline at 1-877-870-HOPE or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (Veterans should press 1).

**Veteran’s Agents**

Massachusetts is the only state in the country which has a veteran’s service agent in each community. Veteran’s can be a resource on where to seek assistance or help. In Milford, the Veteran’s Agent is John Pilia, who can be reached at 508-634-2311 or email gpillar@townofmilford.com; Mendon Veteran’s Agent Robin Fletcher can be reached at 508-966-2857 or email veterans@mendonma.gov; and Upton Veteran’s Agent Patrick Morris can be reached at PMorris@townofumpsona.gov.

**Chapter 115 Benefits for Veterans**

Veterans can talk to their town’s veteran’s agent or visit Mass.gov/veterans about Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws, a needs-based means program of financial and medical assistance for needy veterans and their dependents in the state. Qualifying applicants receive necessary financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, fuel, and medical care in accordance with a formula which takes into account the number of dependents and income from all sources. Eligible dependents of deceased veterans are provided with the same benefits.

When people ask you where do you bank, I say “I have the best bank in the whole wide world.”

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MENDON MUSINGS
By Kevin Rudden

I have a friend who sells and installs snow plows. About this time of year, he begins to get quite annoying by posting photos of winter storms on his Facebook page with messages such as “Winter is only XX days away!” He obviously must have been a fan of Game of Thrones and its slogan, “Winter is coming.” After this spring’s soaking rains, I’d like to enjoy at least a few nice, sunny summer days. But, in truth, we’ve already passed the longest day of the year – which means we are inevitably headed for the bleak, dark afternoons of post-daylight savings time.

I guess the weather can be a metaphor for our lives. Some sunny days, some rainy days and some cold and darker days. But, how we react to them is up to us.

I chose to embrace them all.

Since most of Mendon depends on wells, rainy days mean a healthy water table. Sunny days mean we can enjoy the outdoors – and our air conditioners when we’re indoors.

Fall and winter days mean we can enjoy sitting near a comfy fireplace or wood stove. The summer days mean we need a fan. The summer sign) – again, the rain and sun, and then the ground.

July brings us both National Hot Dog Month and National Ice Cream Month – fitting for summertime.

It also brings many of us vacation time which is why I’m cutting this column short and taking mine!

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Free, nourishing meals offered monthly to all in the local community.

Second Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Dimmer. St. Mary’s of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by Food with Friends. 508-473-2000

Last Wednesday
4:30-6 p.m. Dimmer. Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org. 5:30 p.m. Community Pasta Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt.135), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Connection. 508-435-4336 or StPaulHopkinton.org.

Every Thursday
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Dimmer. St. Mary’s of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Society. 508-473-2000

Third Thursday
5:30 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation, three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192

Last Friday 4:30-6 p.m. Dimmer, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Sponsored by First Methodist Church of Milford volunteers. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org.

SUMMER BREAK JULY 15 - 30

LETTERS
Letters may be edited for length and clarity and will be published on a space available basis.

Opinion

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Mendon's annual Household Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, August 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Highway Barn, 66 Providence St. This event is for Mendon residents only; proof of residency is required. It is a first come first served event.

E. L. Harvey will be providing document shredding event the same day as the Household Hazardous Waste Day. Mendon residents can bring unwanted files, papers, old documents and confidential documents and they will be shredded. Residents will have the option to watch their documents being shredded.

Items accepted for disposal are: oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, strippers, solvents, automotive fluids and cleaners, household cleaners, acids, polishes, photo chemicals, swimming pool chemicals, antifreeze and adhesives.

Items that will not be accepted are: explosives, asbestos, empty containers, shock-sensitive materials, radioactive, ethological, biological, medical waste, ammunition, fireworks, empty gas cylinders, button batteries, mercury thermostats, fluorescent lights bulbs and car batteries.

For more information, please contact the Board of Health office, 20 Main St., 508-634-2656, stop by Monday through Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., or visit MendonMA.gov.
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park July Programming

The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park will sponsor the following events this month. All programs take place at River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or registration call 508-278-7604.

**Nature Story Hour**-Friday July 5, 19 and 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Rain or shine, enjoy a nature themed story time, followed by a short nature walk and a craft activity. Appropriate for ages 3-6, siblings are welcome.

Woodlands and Waterways-Saturday July 6 and 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. Enjoy a two-mile walk along the banks of the Blackstone Canal and through areas of field and woodland. Learn about how the canal and agriculture shaped the landscape. Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes; bring water and insect repellant.

Hike to Lookout Rock, Saturday July 13, noon to 3 p.m. Meet at 366 East Hartford Ave, Uxbridge. Rice City Pond Parking Lot for a moderate, three-mile hike along King Philips Trail to a scenic lookout on a forest trail.

Canal Walk-Sunday July 14, 21 and July 28 from 1 to 2 p.m. A two mile guided walk along the Blackstone Canal to learn about the canal’s historical and cultural significance and its role in the farm to factory transformation of the Blackstone Valley. All walks end at start location. On July 14 meet at the Blackstone Gorge, Blackstone; on July 21 meet at the Blackstone River Greenway; 95 Canal St., Blackstone, and on July 28 meet at the Millville Lot of the Blackstone River Greenway; 44 Hope St., Millville.

Hike along the Blackstone Greenway from 7 to 9 p.m. 4EverFab has played in more than 125 area.

For more information or to register call Ranger Viola, 978-318-8417.

**Be a West Hill Dam Junior Ranger**

The Hopedale Cultural Council is pleased to have 4EverFab, a Beatles tribute band return to the town park bandstand on Wednesday, July 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. 4EverFab has played in more than 125 summer concerts in cities and towns throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Their tag line is Brown Bag Along the Blackstone-Thursday July 18, from 12 to 1 p.m. Pack a lunch to celebrate Preservation Month, by watching watch an episode of Along the Blackstone, an award-winning series of videos by the National Park Service featuring the impact of the civil war in the Blackstone Valley.

Boats Along the Blackstone-Thursday July 18 from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Join an interpreter in a two-mile leisurely walk along the towpath while discussing the story and history uncovered in the episode of Along the Blackstone watched during Brown Bag along the Blackstone!

Night Sky-Friday July 19, 8 to 10 p.m. Explore the stars and the magic views the night sky has to offer through a telescope. Join Volunteers and staff from Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, Skyscrapers Club, and Civil Air Patrol as they share their knowledge and love of astronomy in the field next to the River Bend Farm parking lot. Program will take place rain or shine.

Reading New England’s Forests-Saturday July 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn about the historic stone walls and man-made features that make up local forests on a 2.5-mile hike along the Blackstone Canal to Goat Hill Lock on an uneven path.

**Beatles Tribute Band**

Learn how to change a tire. Additionally, there is no day-use fees for the 2019 season at the park, which is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily now through September 8.

The Beatles - Nicely Played. There will also be pre-concert fun for the kids from 6-7 p.m. with DJ Mike. Refreshments are available and a Red Sox raffle.

This is one of a series of free summer concerts being held in Hopedale Town Park each Wednesday evening through July 24.

**West Hill Road Access to West Hill Dam is Closed**

Historically, West Hill Park has been accessed by visitors through the use of West Hill Road. Officials recently learned that the majority of West Hill Road is privately owned and not a public road. As a result, there is currently no public access to West Hill Park from West Hill Road.

While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working towards a resolution of this issue, visitors who are interested in accessing the West Hill Reservoir and Dam Project are encouraged to park at the West Hill Dam Project Office, 518 E. Hartford Ave., Uxbridge. Access to West Hill Park and associated trails and beach may be reached from that parking area.

Additionally, there is no day-use fees for the 2019 season at the park, which is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily now through September 8.

**Be a West Hill Dam Junior Ranger This Summer**

Youths, ages 6 through 12, who would like to experience working in the out-of-doors with animals, plants and people should have their parents contact the staff at West Hill Dam about the Junior Ranger Program. The program will have two sessions, July 15 to 19 and July 22 to 26. The group will meet daily from 1 to 3 p.m. at West Hill Dam Project Office, 518 E. Hartford Ave., Uxbridge, and must attend all five days in the session to graduate. A parent, guardian, other adult or teen family member is required to stay nearby on the grounds during the program. Participants will lead hikes, age trees, collect animal tracks and learn to lead others outdoors plus will experience the duties of a Park Ranger, explore various habitats, band birds and collect other wildlife samples and learn water safety skills and practice environmental ethics. Former graduates are eligible to complete their Level 2 sessions.

For more information or to register call Ranger Viola, 978-318-8417.
MYC Summer Camp

The Milford Youth Center Summer Camp registration is filling up. The camp runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with an extended day option until 5 p.m. Camp begin July 8 and runs through August 16 for youths ages 8 through 14. Weeklong, single day and extended day options are available. Field trips include Urban Air Trampoline & Adventure Park, Water Wizz, Canobie Lake Park, Pizz, Skating, Hopkinton State Park, Paw Sox Game. For the calendar of activities, more information and for registration form, visit MilfordYouthCenter.org.

Each year local businesses and organizations help sponsor campers for the summer. For more information about sponsorship visit the website, email milfordyouthcenter@comcast.net or call 508-473-1756.

Milford Community School Use Summer Programs for Children

The Milford Community School Use Program is now accepting registrations for its Summer Day Camps & Specialty Camps, which run through August 2. Day camp is for students who have completed grades K-7. Camps are open to both residents and non-residents and participants have a choice of weeks. Summer camp includes many indoor/outdoor activities matched to grade level, indoor swimming, field trips and special activities. There is a Counselor in Training for teens who have completed 8th and 9th grade. Participants, who have a choice of weeks, will be working with experienced counselors and under the supervision of the CIT Coordinator.

Various specialty programs are also available such as Tennis, Spanish, Creative Legos, Girls Lacrosse, Space Wars Robotics, PreK Art Party and Track Exploration.

Online registrations as well as paper registration, accompanied by a payment made payable to Town of Milford - MCSUP, are being accepted. Forms and more information are available at MilfordCommunity.com.

The Circus Comes to Mendon

MENDON—On Monday, July 15, the Zerbini Family Circus will present two shows under the Big Top at 5 and 7:30 p.m. for the enjoyment of all in Mendon in the Fino Lot, at corner of North Ave. and Rt. 16. The show is a one ring presentation under the Big Top tent featuring performing camels, a liberty horse act, and amazing trained dogs. The program is rounded out with clowns, acrobats, aerialists, and jugglers.

Advanced discount tickets of $10 each will be sold at Charles River Bank (Mendon Branch), Dean Bank, and Willowbrook Restaurant, Mendon. Tickets on the day of the show are $15 with youngsters age three and under free. The Circus is sponsored by the Mendon Lions Club. Free parking will be available at Clough Field and the town field off of North Ave.

Upton Summer Concerts

Upton Recreation Commission’s free summer concerts at Kiwanis Beach are back! The concerts are held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bring a blanket and chair to enjoy the music. The grill will be open for food purchases.

The schedule is:

- July 10—Narragansett Soul
- July 17—South Street Band
- July 24—4Ever Fab
- July 31—Classic Groove
- August 7—Mac Odom
- August 14—Fast Times
- August 21—The All Is Well Band
- August 28—Adrenaline

Advance Tickets at:

- Willowbrook Restaurant
- Dean Bank - Charles River Bank
- All seats $10 - Day of show $15
- Children under 3 FREE

Under the Big Top - Rain or Shine

MENDON

Monday, July 15th

5:00 & 7:30 pm

Fino Property
Corner of North Ave & Rt. 16
Sponsored by Mendon Lions Club

Advance Tickets at:

- Willowbrook Restaurant
- Dean Bank - Charles River Bank
- All seats $10 - Day of show $15
- Children under 3 FREE
Town of Mendon Board and Committee Vacancies

Submitted by the office of Mendon Selectmen

The Town of Mendon has several vacancies to fill on various boards and committees. Most of these vacancies require little time commitment, meeting only once per month. To become involved, please submit a letter of interest to the Mendon Board of Selectmen, by either mail at Mendon Town Hall, Board of Selectmen, 20 Main St., Mendon, MA 01756 or email, bosadmin@mendonma.gov

For specific questions concerning each board/committee, please email directly through the Town of Mendon website at MendonMA.gov/boards. For questions about the appointment process visit MendonMA.gov/board-of-selectmen/pages/policies-and-regulations.

Mendon Town Calendar

Thursday, July 11
Zoning Board of Appeals, Public Hearing for 4 Morrison Dr. and 61 Providence St., Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, July 15
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

All meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. For the most up to date information on Mendon meetings, including agendas or cancellations, view www.mendonma.gov/town-calendar

DINING GUIDE

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Farewell to Troop 44’s “Mr. K”

Mendon’s Troop 44 Boy Scouts said farewell to Alan Koufos as their Scoutmaster last month by presenting him with a banner celebrating his achievements. Known as “Mr. K,” Koufos founded the Troop in 2014 and served as its first Scoutmaster for several years. He returned to that post a few years ago, serving until the end of last month. At the Troop’s annual June Court of Honor, Mr. K was treated to a slide show depicting all the Scouts he’s worked with over the past 15 years. The banner includes the names of the Troop’s 28 Eagle Scouts, many of whom attended his farewell ceremony. At the end of the Court of Honor, Koufos bestowed his campaign hat to new Scoutmaster Ed Shea. Contributed photo

Town of Mendon Board Calendar

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A Magical Intro into a Universe of Stories

On June 25 the Taft Public Library kicked off its 2019 Summer Reading Program: A Universe of Stories. Scott Jameson entertained and mesmerized children and adults with his juggling, illusions and his magic. Many thanks to the Mendon Cultural Council for partially sponsoring this kick-off program. Shown are Zachary Krager, left, assisting Jameson in a balancing act. Taft Public Library photo

Testing the Aerodynamics of Falling Eggs at the Taft Library

Over 50 kids – a record number - participated in Taft Public Library’s annual egg drop challenge on June 27. Participants had the chance to use recyclable materials and their ingenuity to build a structure that would protect their raw egg from a fall at two different heights. Library Director Andrew Jenrich is pictured here “testing” one of the entries. Those eggs that weren’t scrambled from the drop moved on to the second round where they were dropped from the full height of a bucket on a fire ladder truck. The Egg Drop Challenge is one of many fun events scheduled for this year’s Taft Summer Reading Program “A Universe of Stories.” Contributed photo
Daniels Farmstead Farmers Markets and Tours

Submitted by Jane Hennedy
Each Sunday, July 7 through September 29, the Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, will be open for a Farmers Market and for tours offered by knowledgeable guides from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The farmstead, which was owned by ten generations of the Daniels family through 1998, teaches visitors about farming life from the 18th Century to the present. The site has been a farm since 1885, with the oldest existing part of the farmstead dating back to 1760, while the majority of the Greek Revival structure was built between 1798 and 1820. Justine Brewer, a descendent of the Daniels family, is a founding member of the Daniels Farmstead Foundation which has been working to preserve the property and share it with the community. Its most recent efforts are centered around the remarkably intact apple cider mill. About the tours and Farmers Markets, she said, “I think that my Aunt Dot and Uncle Charlie cared so much about this place and about their family that it is perfect to tell their stories to other visiting families, and to let everyone enjoy the fresh organic produce grown right here.”

Not only can people tour the house and grounds in about half an hour, they can also fill up their pantries with fresh produce, freshly-baked goodies from Doris’ Kitchen and an array of vendors with locally grown or made produce and crafts. Visitors can plan to stay for the afternoon with a picnic lunch fresh from the grill and cold soft drinks kept on ice. They can also enjoy music by local performers. All of these activities are free of charge. Donations are gratefully accepted. For more information, visit DanielsFarmstead.org or call 508-726-2042.

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Preventing Ticks on Your Pets

With the wet weather this spring and summer, backyards and parks can be as loaded with ticks as can the seashore or overgrown areas. Pets, especially dogs, are very susceptible to tick bites, tick-borne diseases and bringing ticks into the home. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), while vaccines can help, they cannot prevent all tickborne diseases and won’t keep a pet from bringing a tick into the house. For these reasons, it’s important to use a tick preventive product.

Tick bites on pets can be hard to detect. Signs of tickborne disease may not appear for 7-21 days or longer after a tick bite, so watch your pet closely for changes, especially if it spends time outdoors.

To reduce the chances that a tick will transmit disease to you or your pets:

- Check your pets for ticks daily, especially after they spend time outdoors.
- If you find a tick on a pet, remove it.
- Reduce tick habitat in your yard by clearing brush, leaves and debris, keeping the lawn mown, discouraging unwelcome animals from your property; and installing a three-foot wide barrier of stone or wood chips between wooded areas and your lawn.
- Talk to veterinarian about tickborne diseases; ask for tick check at each exam; and discuss tick preventatives.

Two ways to deal with ticks chemically are to kill the insects with an acaricide or to repel them with other chemicals. Acaricides that can be used on dogs include dusts, impregnated collars, sprays, or topical treatments. Some acaricides kill the tick on contact and other are absorbed into the pet’s bloodstream to kill ticks that attach and feed. Repellants usually are dusts, sprays or topical treatments that prevent ticks from contact with the pet or have anti-feeding properties that keep a tick from biting. Both have their pros and cons. The CDC warns that cats are extremely sensitive to a variety of chemicals.

With a Wi-Fi garage door opener, you’ll always know your little ones are protected. You can check if the garage door is open - right from your smartphone.

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The Greenleaf Garden Club ended its 51st year with its annual dinner meeting in June at which the 2019-2020 officers were installed by former President Candy Skorupa. The 2019-2020 Board members are President Teddi Weber, Vice-President Gail Reichert, Corresponding Secretary Elaine McNanna, Co-Recording Secretaries Phyllis Foley and Fran Stone, Treasurer Patsy Timmons and Directors Barbara Brasher, Nancy Courtney and Judy Thomas.

Weber presented the club’s accomplishments for the year by summarizing the many programs and activities of the past year. The club sponsored Junior Gardener workshops for 3rd and 4th graders, Garden Therapy floral design sessions with residents of the Countryside Health Care Facility, and maintained the library sidewalk garden and the downtown civic plantings. She declared the 51st year a successful one and commended the club’s membership for their efforts in making it all work.

The program included the presentation of the 2019 Unsung Hero Award to longtime member Carol Burke for her many contributions to the club. Burke has served as President, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries and always is the first to volunteer her time for the club’s many projects. The club looks forward to a new year with plans for exciting programs in horticulture, gardening, environmental preservation and floral design.

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

Several members of the Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford (GGC) networked with garden clubs from around the state at the Garden Club Federation of MA Annual Meeting in Dedham. The club received the Arrangers of Marblehead Flower Show Award for Staging for their NGC standard flower show, Celebrating Our 50th Anniversary, held June 2018 at Memorial Hall. Two members participated in the NGC Design Specialty Flower Show, What in the World, held in conjunction with the annual meeting. GGC member Hazel Schroder received a first place award for her small flower show, I’m Putting on My Armor. She was commended for the design’s harmonious color palette.

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

Hazel Schroder stands next to her winning petite design, The Sling Went Round and Round and Round. Sandra Tosches received an Honorable Mention for her angular petit design in the class entitled, I’m Putting on My Armor. She was commended for the design’s harmonious color palette. The GGC is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com.

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Hazel Schroder stands next to her winning petite design, The Sling Went Round and Round and Round. GGC photo
111th Eagle Scout for Upton Boy Scout Troop 132

Upton Bay Scout Troop 132's newest Eagle Scout, Nicholas Herd was recognized for his achievement at a Court of Honor Ceremony June 9 at Kowans Beach. Nick is a 2018 graduate of Nipmuc High Regional School who, during his 12 years in scouting, earned a total of 21 merit badges, completed a 10-day, 120-mile trek through the Philmont Scout Ranch, N.M., and led the planning and construction of 100 feet of footbridges to help create a new trail on the Stefans Farm Conservation Land in Upton as his Eagle Project. He is attending Bridgewater State University, pursuing his passion for blacksmithing and sculpture. Nick is shown with his father, Troop 132 Assistant Scoutmaster Mark Herd (left), his mother Jackie and the Troop Scoutmaster Shelley Cook (right). For information about Troop 132, Troop132Upton.org. Troop 132 photo

Starting off Summer with a Flash and a Bang!

Celebrating the start of summer, the Upton Men's Club hosted their annual Fireworks Festival on June 20 at Blackstone Valley Tech School. Hundreds of area residents took advantage of the beautiful weather to enjoy food, fun and fireworks. The display, which was enjoyed by all, was the first of many that mark summer fun and the July 4th holiday.

To see more photos of the Fireworks Festival by Town Crier photographer Harry Platcow visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.

Upton News

Upton Women's Bowling League

The final results for the Upton Women's Bowling League 2018-19 season are:

First Place - Shear Excitement: Nancy Girouard, Marty Jo Henry and Jan Cooper
Second Place - The Little Coffee Bean: Brenda Thompson, Patty Snell and Maureen Spratt
Third Place - Beth Bailey Sponsor: Jean Warden, Margaret Danis and Mary Anne Gormley
Fourth Place - Peak Heating
Fifth Place - ECP Floral Designs
Sixth Place - Village Mortgage
Seventh Place - Barlow Builders
Eighth Place - Rose Garden
Ninth Place - Village Mortgage #2
Tenth Place - Milford Woodworking

More information about this fun, social, candlepin bowling league, including sponsorship and membership, is available by calling Jan Cooper, 508-529-4228

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*1.000 minimum balance required to open account and earn APY. Rate effective as of the publication date. Penalty for early withdrawal. All accounts are subject to approval and Milford Federal Bank reserves the right for any reason to refuse a deposit or to return all or any part thereof. Rates subject to change without notice.

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

July 5, 2019

For more information visit milfordfederal.com or call 508.234.8256.

Shellscapes

By Marilyn Peck Holman

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Troop 132 photo

July 5, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

15
On June 1, the Hoberg family hosted a 90th birthday cookout for their parents, Joyce and Richard Hoberg of Upton. Both grew up in Hopedale, graduated together in 1947 and married in 1950. They lived in Mendon for a few years and moved to Upton in 1959. Richard “Dick” worked for Draper’s and then the Town of Hopedale. Joyce was the school nurse for Mendon-Upton Schools. Also in attendance and reaching that same “90” milestone recently was their brother-in-law, Murray Drisko, of Maine, formerly from Hopedale and Barbara Burzie, a longtime Upton resident, co-worker and travel companion, and now living in Maine with her son. But, Marjorie Sears, Joyce’s sister, of Carver, formerly from Mendon, beats them all at 95. Family and friends traveled in from New England, New York and all at 95. Family and friends traveled formerly from Mendon, beats them in Maine with her son. But, Marjorie Sears, Joyce’s sister, of Carver, formerly from Mendon, beats them all at 95. Family and friends traveled in from New England, New York and Indiana for the celebration.

On Friday June 14, a group of local grandmothers visited the Massachusetts State House to receive a proclamation signed by Governor Charlie Baker declaring the date Grandparent Alienation Awareness Day. The proclamation supports the importance of the relationship between grandchildren and grandparents, no matter what the state of the parent’s marriage. The group visited the Executive Office to speak about the alienation. They also visited Joint Committee for Elder Affairs Office and Judiciary Committee Office, which is working on Bill 1534 submitted by petition to improve the visitation rights of grandparents.

Celebrate 90 Years

Grandmothers Visit the State House

Upton Heritage Day

The Museum of Upton History will hold its annual Heritage Day on Saturday, September 28. In addition to the Annual Craft and Vendor Fair, there will be events at the Upton Town Library, United Parish and the Fire Department. It is hoped the Upton Grange and the town’s Economic Development Committee will also offer new events.

Other Upton groups are invited to participate. This can be done in many ways—plan an activity, have a booth at the fair, hold a contest or plan activities for kids, the ideas are endless! Additional assistance is needed to organize the craft/vendor fair as well as coordinating between all the participating groups.

Anyone who would like to help or any group wanting to sponsor a Heritage Day Event is asked to contact the Upton Historical Society at 508-529-6600. More details about Upton Heritage Day will be shared soon.

Dress for Success Collection

Celebrate June with sunshine and love by donating a gently-used handbag for Dress for Success Worcester at Chevere, 336 North Main St. Uxbridge, through Saturday, July 6. With the help of all of Chevere’s amazing customers and friends, the store has collected over 1,200 handbags during the last few years and hopes to collect 400 this month. For more information on Dress for Success visit WorcesterDressforSuccess.org.

Prisoners Visit the State House

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The Upton Center

The Upton Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff is available by phone from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities are subject to change. Please call 508-529-4558 with any questions.

Friday, July 5
Trip to Dairy Queen and Kelly’s Farm Stand, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 8
COA Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Senior Moore’s Office Hours, 1:15 to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, July 9
Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Oxford, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis at 5:15 p.m. for 6 p.m. Concert

Thursday, July 11
Summer Cookout at 5 p.m. with Live Band Music at 6 p.m.

Friday, July 12
Shopping Trip to Walmart, Northbridge, 9:15 a.m.
Ice Cream Social with Fun & Games, 12:45 p.m.

Monday, July 15
Trip to the Ice Cream Lady, Douglas, 12:30 p.m. Departure

Tuesday, July 16
Boston State House Tour with Rep. Muradian, Depart at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, July 17
Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Foppema’s, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 9:15 a.m.
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis at 5:15 p.m. for 6 p.m. Concert

Friday, July 19
Peter Pan Performance at Nipmuc at 11 a.m.
Birthday Bash, 12:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23
Shopping Trip to Hannaford’s, Uxbridge, 9:15 a.m.
Craft Time with Betty, 10:45 a.m.
Lunch Trip to Geiger’s Surf & Turf, Mendon, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis at 5:15 p.m. for 6 p.m. Concert

Thursday, July 25
Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Hudson, 9 a.m.

Friday, July 26
Nutrition Talk with Wendy, 10:45 a.m.
State Rep. Muradian’s Italian Lunch, 12 p.m.

Monday, July 29
Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Foppema’s, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 30
Afternoon Movie, Walk the Line, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31
Shopping Trip to Northborough Crossing Loop, Wegman’s, Kohl’s, TJ Maxx, 10 a.m.
Blood Pressure Checks at the Center with Town Nurse, 12:30 p.m.
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis at 5:15 p.m. for 6 p.m. Concert

Monday
Te Q’r, 1 p.m.

Tuesday
Card Players Group, 10 a.m.
WI Games, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Computer Class, 9 a.m.
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
Library Table, 11 a.m.
Canasta, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday
Knit and Crochet Group, 10 a.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.

Friday
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.

Help Wanted

HOMEMAKERS/ PC AIDES WANTED
Part Time Jobs Flexible Hours
MUST HAVE CAR Work in Milford, MA area
Call PRIMARY HOME CARE
(508) 478-3500
for more information

NOW HIRING 10+ DRIVERS
Transportation Drivers AND
7D School Van Drivers and Monitors needed (Milford, MA area)

WE HAVE 10 POSITIONS AVAILABLE
OPENINGS FOR BETWEEN 20 – 39 HOURS

SIGN-ON BONUS
(New applicant sign on bonuses. Restrictions apply. Inquire at office.)
$1,300 bonus if you have a valid 7D License
$1,000 bonus if you do not have a 7D license

WANTED:
• Regular transportation drivers - no special licenses required.
• 7D drivers wanted to transport students to and from school in company vehicles. If you are interested but do not have a 7D license we have all the paperwork to get your license and walk you through the process. It’s very easy.
• Must be 21 years old and have a valid driver license for at least three years.
• Hours are early morning and mid afternoon. This is a split shift.
• Great if you are retired! Shifts available from 20-55 hours per week.

Monitors also needed!

Call Mark’s Transportation at 508-473-3600 for more information and to apply.

FLOWER GROWERS WANTED
Fivefork Farms, a sustainably-grown cut flower farm in Upton, is looking for qualified individuals to fill several Field/Harvest Crew positions.

Please visit www.fiveforkfarms.com/jobs for more information and to apply.

A Universe of Stories Begin's for the Upton Town Library

A Universe of Stories, the Upton Town Library’s Summer Reading Program kick-off was held on June 20. The Little Red Wagon, a traveling children’s theater troupe from the University of New Hampshire’s Theater Department, visited to perform the play ‘Who Came Up With That?’ at Nipmuc Regional High School. Performers traveled through time to meet famous inventors such as the ones shown, Thomas Edison and Johannes Gutenberg with audience member Jasper Hahn, far right, helping reenact how the printing press worked. Upton Town Library photo

American Legion 100th Anniversary

The Marshall Leland American Legion Post 173 celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the national organization by mounting a display at the Upton Town Hall. Contributed photos

Upton Center Thank You’s

The Upton Center thanks the many people and organizations who have supported it during the last few weeks. Thanks to Ranger Viola Bramel of West Hill Dam for leading a tour of Roger Williams Zoo in Providence; Betty Braftl for being a star volunteer who drives for Meals on Wheels and leads craft programs supplying all needed materials; Nipmuc Regional High School students and staff who helped at the Center during their 21st Learning Day by doing gardening using mulch supplied by Greg Tussell of Hartford Farm, serving breakfast, helping with Meals on Wheels and redosing bulletin boards; State Senator Michael Moore, D. Millbury for the strawberry shortcake social, Unibank of Upton for a pizza party; and former Council on Aging member Maria Griffin, who recently resigned for all her efforts.

Our office is located at 51 East Main St. (Route 16) in Upton, is looking for qualified individuals to fill several Field/Harvest Crew positions.
Updated Small Business Fair

UPTON-The Upton Economic Development Committee is sponsoring a Small Business Fair for all Upton small businesses on Heritage Weekend, Saturday September 28 at United Parish Church. For details and to register for this event, which is free for all Upton small businesses, contact Steve Rakitin of the Economic Development Committee at steven.rakitin@gmail.com.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar

UPTON-United Parish of Upton is planning their festive annual Holiday Bazaar for Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whitinsville Christian School, Whitinsville. Vendors and sponsors are now being sought for this event highlighting goods and services.

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

AREA-The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce will be holding the following events. For more information or to register visit BlackstoneValley.org, email administrator@blackstoneValley.org, call 508-234-9090 or stop by the chamber offices, 670 Linden Ave. Bldg A, Suite 5, Whitinsville.

Green Living Expo, Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Whitinsville Christian School, Whitinsville. Vendors and sponsors are now being sought for this event highlighting goods and services.

The Mists in Circum

MENDON-On Monday, July 15, the Zerbini Family Circus will present two shows under the Big Top at 5 and 7:30 p.m. for the enjoyment of all in Mendon in the Pine Lot, at corner of North Avenue and Rt. 16. The show is a one ring presentation under the Big Top tent featuring performing camels, a liberty horse act, and amazing trained dogs. The program is rounded out with clowns, acrobats, aerialists, and jugglers. Advanced discount tickets of $10 each will be sold at Charles River Bank (Mendon Branch), Dean Bank, and Willowbrook Restaurant, Mendon. Tickets on the day of the show are $15 with youngsters age three and under free. The Circus is sponsored by the Mendon Lions Club. Free parking will be available at Clough School and the town field off of North Ave.

Rising Toward Unity, a Reading of Frederick Douglass’s Words

GRAFTON-On Friday, July 5, five works of a different sort will be set off on the Grafton town Common in celebration of Frederick Douglass imitated 1852 speech, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” at 8 p.m. Douglass, an advisor to President Lincoln, urged his audience to consider the legacy of slavery and how race affects the American social contract. The reading is part of a series of events supported in part by Mass Humanities.

Douglass, who had been enslaved, became an activist campaigning for equality. Hundreds of years later, his words challenge Americans to consider inequality, especially amidst national conversations about race.

The annual Holiday Bazaar is being called "Rising Toward Unity, when not all voices were equal," a collection of Grafton nonprofits including the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton, Grafton Historical Society (UUSGU), Grafton Public Library, and the Grafton Free Public Library and Tree Area.

Before the reading, the Grafton Common Community Chorus will present a short music program of Spirituals with singers from Apple Tree Arts, Blackstone Valley Chorus and UUSGU. A discussion led by Chuck Arning and Donna Maria Cameron will be held after the reading.

Attendees should bring lawn chairs, water will be provided. For more information, visit UUSGU.org/rising-towards-unity.

Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Events

AREA-The Milford Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will be holding the following events. To register visit MilfordChamber.org, email info@milfordchamber.org, call 508-478-6700 or stop by the offices, 258 Main Street, Suite 306, Milford.

Thursday, July 25, Social Media Workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Chamber Offices.

Saturday, July 27, Hot to Trot 5K from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Upton VFW, 15 Pleasant St., Upton.

Sunday, September 8, The Fair will begin following Mass and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds 151 Mendon St., Upton. Ten foot spaces are available at $25. Tables and tents are also available for rent. Please contact Brian Gallagher at gallagbh1@gmail.com, or 508-529-660 for more information or an application.

Vendors Wanted for St. Gabriel’s Fair

UPTON-Applications are being accepted for St. Gabriel’s 8th annual Harvest Fair, September 28, to be held Sunday, September 8. The Fair will begin following Mass and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds 151 Mendon St., Upton. Ten foot spaces are available at $25. Tables and tents are also available for rent. Please contact Brian Gallagher at gallagbh1@gmail.com, or 508-529-660 for more information or an application.

Green Living Expo, Saturday September 28 at Westboro High School, 65 Pleasant St., Upton, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the biggest and best fair in Upton, and a wonderful opportunity to tap into the pre-holiday shopping crowd. Vendors are invited to sell crafts, products and services. Booth spaces are limited and accepted on a first come basis.

For more information and an application contact: Donna MacNaulty, Vendor Chairman Fall Fair at donnamac23@verizon.net or 508-473-3173.

United Parish Town-Wide Yard Sale

UPTON-SAVE THE DATE: United Parish is planning a town-wide yard sale in conjunction with Upton’s Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday, September 28. Last year’s event was a success with over 30 locations throughout the town.

Interested sellers will be able to register soon at the church and will receive signs and information to help plan for their individual sales. A new feature this year will allow out-of-town or Upton residents to set up tables at the VFW, 15 Pleasant St. Table registration on the church grounds will be available soon.

Craigslist will be listed on the map, and buyers will be able to purchase a map for $3 listing all the sales on the day of the sale.

Stop back to United Parish for lunch and dessert. The sausage & peppers and burgers on the grills will be cooking, snack bars available and an apple crisp booth, featuring the homemade treat served with real whip cream throughout the day.

New CEO and President for UniBank

UniBank announced recently that Michael W. Welch has been named chief executive officer. The bank also announced today that Christopher D. Foley, currently the interim president, has been appointed president immediately.

“We are incredibly excited that our new executive team brings together two talented people whose outstanding skills complement one another so well,” said Timothy P. Wickstrom, chairman of UniBank’s board of directors. “With Michael Welch’s track record of leadership and deep roots in the community, and Christopher Foley’s broad experience in banking, we have a combination that will preserve our values, continue our mission and take us to a new level of growth.”

“This is a brilliant decision, to combine the talents of two of the area’s most respected individuals to lead a well-regarded financial institution,” said Denise H. Brookhouse, CFO of Koopman Lumber and a UniBank board member. “It’s an incredibly powerful leadership team, with local roots, financial services expertise and sterling reputations in the community.”

Welch comes to the job with a long history of running educational institutions and atlases to Central Massachusetts. A Worcester native, he graduated from St. John’s High School in Shrewsbury and later returned to serve 15 years as the school’s headmaster. In that role he oversaw a successful capital campaign, boosted financial aid and scholarships and dramatically upgraded facilities. He is a graduate of Mariquette University and holds two graduate degrees from Boston College.

Welch is a former teacher and assistant principal for the Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, S.D., one of America’s poorest communities. Most recently he served as special assistant to the school’s president.

“I am excited to come home to the community where I grew up,” said Welch. “This is a unique opportunity for me to work with some of the most experienced and dedicated banking professionals in the region. I plan to help strengthen the connections with our customers and build new relationships.

Foley, who has 33 years of banking experience and has been at UniBank since 2000, will continue to run the day-to-day business of the bank - his area of exceptional expertise.

“This bank is small enough to have personal connections with our customers and big enough to give them all the modern banking tools they need,” said Foley. “I look forward to working with Michael on what we have already created.”

Foley has been a resident of the Blackstone Valley for 20 years. He is active in the community and serves on a number of non-profit boards, including Milford Hospital Healthcare Foundation and the Blackstone Valley Educational Foundation. He has a bachelor’s degree from Bentley University and an MBA from Suffolk University.

UniBank, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, serves Central Massachusetts, Metro West, the Blackstone Valley and beyond. The bank provides a range of services to businesses and consumers.

Superior 5-Star Ranking for Milford Federal Bank

Milford Federal Bank has achieved another Superior 5-Star Rating from BauerFinancial, the Nation’s Premier Bank Rating Firm. In the 30-plus years that Bauer has been analyzing banks, there has been a rise of increasingly complicated investments as well as burgeoning regulation. Each has added another hurdle when it comes to earning a 5-Star Rating from Bauer, yet none have been a problem for Milford Federal Bank. Not only has the bank maintained safe capital levels, well in excess of 10 percent, but for 37 consecutive quarters Milford Federal Bank has been helping its neighbors and local businesses grow their community with prudent lending and innovative solutions – all without compromising its own financial health in the process.

“This is the beauty of community banking,” notes Karen Dorway, president of BauerFinancial. “The success of a community bank directly correlates to the success of the community it serves. Community banks don’t need exotic investment instruments to make money for their shareholders. They much prefer to invest in local businesses and reap the benefits along with their neighbors. This approach has served Milford Federal Bank very well as Milford Federal Bank has earned and maintained Bauer’s top 5-Star rating for 37 consecutive quarters. Now, after 132 years, Milford Federal Bank operates through four offices in Milford, Whitinsville and Upton and can also be found online at MilfordFederal.com.
Hospital Receives Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

Milford Regional Medical Center has, once again, received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

Milford Regional earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

"Milford Regional is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines-Stroke initiative," says Dr. Jeff Hopkins, medical director of the emergency department. "The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes."

Milford Regional has also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department.

"We are pleased to recognize Milford Regional for their commitment to stroke care," said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national chairperson of the Quality Oversight Committee and executive vice chair of neurology, director of acute stroke services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. "Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates."

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the fifth cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Hospital Receives an ‘A’ for Patient Safety

Milford Regional Medical Center was awarded an ‘A’ from the spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. The designation recognizes Milford Regional’s efforts in protecting patients from harm and providing safer health care. The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’, ‘D’ or ‘F’ grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care.

"Patient safety is a high priority at Milford Regional," says Edward J. Kelly, president and CEO of Milford Regional. "Attaining an ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade by Leapfrog is a testament to the diligence of our staff at every level to ensure that quality and safety standards are continually checked and met in the care of our patients. While this recognition by Leapfrog affirms these efforts, Milford Regional is committed to providing the resources necessary to support our staff in maintaining the high standard of patient safety and quality care noted in this recent award."

"To be recognized nationally as an ‘A’ hospital is an accomplishment the whole community should take pride in,“ said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “Hospitals that earn an ‘A’ grade are making it a priority to protect patients from preventable medical harm and error. We congratulate hospital leaders, board members, staff, volunteers and clinicians who work so hard to earn this A."

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To see Milford Regional’s full grade details, and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

Pelliccia Joins Charles River Bank as a Mortgage Consultant

Charles River Bank (CRB) announces the addition of Mortgage Consultant Kim Pelliccia, who will guide homebuyers and homeowners through the mortgage financing process, provide loan pre-qualifications for those looking to purchase, offer expert advice on home equity options, and coordinate educational programs for Realtors’ and potential customers.

Pelliccia brings a combined 20 years of customer service, sales, marketing, administrative and real estate experience. Holding a high honors Business degree from Fisher College, she has held support roles in the retail, manufacturing, and construction industries, and was a real estate paralegal and a prior licensed Realtor® in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Originally from Providence, Pelliccia now resides in Seekonk with her family.

Having acquired her first home in 2017, navigating through a complex short-sale purchase, Pelliccia will share her personal experience and knowledge of the industry. She can assist with first time homebuyer programs, fixed and adjustable rate loans with terms from 10 to 30 years, jumbo loans, purchase with rehab programs, Mass Housing loans, construction loans, home equity loans, and potential eligibility of her customers for down payment and closing cost grants through the Federal Home Loan Bank’s Equity Builder Program.

Kim Pelliccia

Pelliccia is based out of Charles River Bank’s Bellingham office, on Rt. 140 at the Bellingham/Franklin town line and can be reached at kpelliccia@charlesriverbank.com or 508-321-3160.
Submitted by Tara Winstead, Children’s Librarian

Taft Children’s News July

Southbridge Park is undergoing improvements and are we having a great time! Don’t forget to register for our programs for all ages and claim your prizes. Log into TaftPublicLibrary.org for information on how to register and for a list of events. Hope to see you around the Taft!

July Events

Tuesday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.: Sparky’s Puppets will perform “Stories from Outer Space” at the Taft Public Library. Follow the adventures of a space traveler who makes a rocket ship and flies to the moon. Watch the Aeops’s Fable of “The Sun and the Wind”—and find out which one is more powerful.

Tuesday, July 9, 1 to 3 p.m.: Character Design and Illustration Workshop through the study of comics for ages 9 through 17. Learn to manipulate and combine simple geometric shapes to create original characters. Registration is required and limited. Two session class, please register for each session, Tuesday, July 9 and Thursday, July 11 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, July 10, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.: It’s Cookie Time!! Who doesn’t love Oreo’s? Build an Oreo tower in 30 seconds and see if it can remain standing by itself for five seconds. Registration is required. No eating the cookies, but don’t worry, since the races are complete, there will be milk and cookies for all!!

Thursday, July 11, 1 to 3 p.m.: Second Character Design and Illustration Workshop through the study of comics for ages 9 through 17.

Thursday, July 11, 3:30 p.m.: Legoos Building and stories for all ages. Registration is required.

Tuesday, July 16, 1 to 4 p.m.: Giant Game Day at the library for all ages. Drop in to play life-sized Jenga, Checkers and more.

Wednesday, July 17, 10 a.m.: Visit Blueberry Farm, Mendon to hear Lisa Vandervalk read stories followed by blueberry picking. Registration is required.

Tuesday, July 23, 11:30 a.m.: Visit the Mendon Senior Center, Providence, to hear some stories and then enjoy lunch. Registration is required.

Tuesday, July 23, 6:30 p.m.: The 21st Taft Public Library Great Cardboard Boat Race at the Mendon Town Beach, Lake Nipmuc. All boats must be registered with the Taft Library before 5 p.m. on Friday, July 12, no exceptions. Pick up a registration packet at the Children’s Circulation Desk. Registration is required and limited.

Wednesday, July 24,10:30 a.m.: Mendon Police Officer David Sinko will read stories and tell about his job. Registration is required and limited.

Library Book Discussion Groups

The library hosts monthly book discussion groups. All groups meet in the Library Gathering room, for about one hour. New members are always welcome.

Library Book Group – meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and alternates fiction and non-fiction titles. On July 31, The Library Book, by Susan Orlean, a history of the disastrous 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Public Library, will be discussed.

Upton Reads – meets on the second Tuesday at 12:45 p.m., and the following Thursday at 6:45 p.m. to read an eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction. BowloWays by Elizabeth McCracken, a novel of three generations of an unconventional New England family who own and operate a candlepin bowling alley, will be discussed on July 9 and 11.

Beginning Bridges, CFCE July

Facebook Beginning Bridges CFCE – BeginningBridgesCFCE.weebly.com/ ~ Emurray@smoc.org

Beginning Bridges CFCE, a non-profit offering free services, supports parents and children’s first, best and most important teachers in Mendon, Upton, Northbridge and Uxbridge. Offering a variety of programs for children and parents, it’s up to us to support parents as they guide their children to reach their optimum potential and works with similarly-minded community partners. Funding for the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant (CFCE) is provided by the Massachusetts Dept. of Early Education and Care and sponsored by South Middlesex Opportunity Council.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, July 10: Read Around Uxbridge at Sunburst Blueberry Farm, 44 Rawson St., 10 a.m. Enjoy a drop-in storytime featuring local children’s author Dave Barnaby picking optional, at your own expense.

Thursday, July 11: Roots in Nature, Bonds to Nurture at Upton Community Garden 508 Mechanic St., 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Escape to nature and connect with other parents. Dress to get dirty and be prepared for the weather. Registration at Emurray@smoc.org or 508-278-5110.

Friday, July 12: Read Around Northbridge at West End Creamery, 481 Purgatory Rd., Northbridge, 10 a.m. Drop-in for a great story and learn about the creamery.

Wednesday, July 17: Read Around Mendon at Vandervalk Farm, 25 Lovell St., 10 a.m. Lisa Vandervalk will read a story. Blueberry picking will be available. Registration required at TaftPublicLibrary.org.

Wednesday, July 17: Read Around Uxbridge at Uxbridge Fire Station, 25 S. Main St., 10 a.m. Drop-in to see the new fire station and hear a story read by a firefighter.

Friday, July 19: Muffins with Mom at Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave., Mendon, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Muffin House Café and the Taft Public Library this is a free drop-in event for up to 15 families. Light refreshments are served, family-friendly resources are available and socializing encouraged.

Friday, July 19: Read Around Northbridge at the Northbridge Police Department, 1 Hope St., 10 a.m. Drop-in to learn about the Police Department and hear a story read by an officer.

Tuesday, July 23: Read Around Mendon at the Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St., 11:30 a.m. Come and hear seniors read their favorite stories and share lunch. Registration required at TaftPublicLibrary.org.

Wednesday, July 24, 1 and 2 p.m.: Blue Star Planetarium is bringing outer space to the Taft with fully portable planetarium dome. Registration is required.

Thursday, July 25, Escape Room with a Wizard’s Tower and puzzles. Registration is required.

Thursday, July 25, 6 p.m.: A Masterpiece paint night with local artist, Christin Banberry. Registration is required.

Tuesday, July 30, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.: The 11th Annual Taft Public Library Worm Race will offer a crawl of a race. If you’ve never experienced the glory and the pagestry that is worm race day, stop by to cheer on the participants as they encourage their worms across the finish line! Registration is required.

Tuesday, July 30, 5 p.m.: Johnney Peers and the Muttville Comix will present a slapstick comedy dog show like no other at the Clough School Cafeteria. Registration is required. Animal Pet stars, they have appeared with Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey Circus, David Letterman Show, Primetime Live, Circus of the Stars, and at Disney’s Busch Gardens, the Big Apple Circus, the Royal Hannford Circus, even The White House.

Wednesday, July 31, 12 to 6 p.m.: 3rd Annual Taft Library Mini-Golf Event in the library. No registration is required to play the nine-hole course. Each player will be supplied with a putter, golf balls, and a score card. Adults and children are welcome.

UPTON TOWN LIBRARY

2 Main St, Upton • 508-320-6272 • uptontownlibrary.org

Tu, Wed, Th 10-8 • Fri, Sat 10-4 • Sun & Mon closed

Reading Groups

Baby Storytime, for youngsters from birth to age three, will run all summer long with occasional visits from our Music & Movement friend, Deb Hudgins. This program takes place every Friday beginning at 10:30 a.m. for up to 14 participants and caregivers.

Preschool/Storytime’s Read Around the Town series will take place throughout the summer on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Each week, Mrs. Murphy will visit a new location in town for stories and songs, with the July 11 program at the Upton Fire Station. Visit UptonLibrary.org for the schedule.

The teen group, CARP, the Creative Artistic Reading Team for ages 10 through 16, will run throughout the summer, every Tuesday, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Each month the group works on a different theme with activities, crafts, and movies.

Summer Reading Events

See our summer calendar, online or in the library, for more details.

Night Sky Traveling Planetarium, July 9, at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., Memorial School. Registration required.

Science Tellers space science, July 9, at 10:30, Memorial School for ages 3 through 12.

Movie Night, July 17 at 5:30 p.m., Upton Library. A PG-13 movie.

Lunar Landing Marsmallow workshop, Thursday, July 19 at 5:30 p.m., Upton Library. A PG-13 movie.

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School News

School’s Out for Summer

On Wednesday, June 19, school buses at Valley Tech lined up for the final bus ride of the 2018-2019 school year. With waving hands and honking horns, students, teachers, and staff gathered to say good-bye and wish each other a safe and happy summer. The last day wave is an annual tradition held on the 193rd day, the official start of BVT’s summer vacation.

Students are encouraged to keep reading, check out a book this summer, and visit their local town libraries. The Valley Tech Summer Reading lists are available on the school website at ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/summerreading.

Summer projects at the BVT include refinishing floors and painting the entire Automotive Technology department, repairing and maintaining the football field and track, and a top-to-bottom cleaning and maintenance.

The new school year will kick off with a Welcome Barbecue for incoming freshmen, new students, and their families on Thursday, August 15.

Green Light for Valley Tech FY20 Annual Budget

Submitted by Elise Bogdan
Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee received unanimous approval of their fiscal year 2020 budget from all 13 member towns. In March, the committee approved the District’s proposed $24.7 million budget, up 3.5 percent from last year’s $23.9 million fiscal 2019 budget. BVT’s 13 town budget approval process included 40 Districtwide presentations over the past eight months.

The District’s FY20 budget designers acknowledge the eventual likelihood of a revised state formula for educational funding but remain cautious regarding the true impact of next year’s state aid. Relief in the form of additional state aid for education may be on the horizon but is unlikely to have a significant impact on this budget cycle. Thus, the overall BVT budget increase for FY20 is limited to 3.53 percent.

Consistent with past practice, BVT’s new budget incorporated multiple cost saving components, including acquiring grants for capital improvements particularly under the Governor’s Economic Improvement Bond and donations of major furniture upgrades secured through the business advisory committee network. The budget plan applies $715,000 from a blend of state-certified E&D funds coupled with previous MSRA reimbursements to avoid bond debt to cover the initial phase of the roofing repair project. Encouraged by collaboration with town administrators, the District embarked upon a major

wellness campaign which resulted in a zero increase in employee health premiums by their principal provider, Harvard Pilgrim. Successful collective bargaining by the BVT School Committee further adjusted employee health insurance contributions and expanded an HSA option to advance health benefit savings. Prompted by earlier discussions with several district finance committees, the District ramped up its other post-employment benefits (OPEB) contributions by a recalculation of 2015 delayed pension billing by the Commonwealth. This independent audit reviewed action enabled the District to deposit more than $183,000 of its reserves to OPEB obligations.

Additional efficiencies were attained via plant maintenance work completed by BVT students and technical personnel, a transition from independent vendor business relationships to the State contract for phone services, and competitive bidding.

“Valley Tech administration and staff continue to seek ways to improve processes and reduce energy consumption and waste in order to contain costs, manage spending, and promote a positive and healthy learning environment,” said Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director. These efforts, coupled with high levels of student achievement, continue to garner accolades and awards, including the recent spotlight on BVT by the national school superintendents’ association, as one of the country’s 25 “Most Innovative School Districts.”

Grafton Upton Unitarian Universalist Scholarships

The historical presence of the First Unitarian Society in Upton was recognized at high school graduations this year. Several scholarships were awarded to Upton students continuing their education at the college level. Scholarships were awarded to Kali Scirrocco, who graduated from Nipmuc Regional High School and will be attending Assumption College; and Olivia Harris, a graduate of Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School who will be attending Brigham Young University. The scholarships are sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton.

Friends of Mendon Elders Award Scholarships

Congratulations to recent Valley Tech graduates and Senior Center volunteers Sebastian Vasquez and Vella Ross, this year’s recipients of the Friends of Mendon Elders scholarship. Each will receive $250. Vazquez will attend WPI to pursue a degree in computer science. Ross will attend UMass/Amherst Honors College where she will begin her pre-med studies.

Brothers of the Brush Award Two College Scholarships

The Brothers of the Brush awarded two $1,000 college scholarships to graduates this year. Brothers President Bruce Clifton (center, right) hands the award to Jillian Plumb (center left), who graduated from Norfolk County Agricultural High School and plans to attend the University of Rhode Island. The other scholarship winner, Daniel Danielson (not seen), graduated from Mount Saint Charles Academy and plans to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Kevin Rudden photo.

Dean’s List

The following local students were named to the Dean’s List at their respective schools for the Spring 2019 semester.

Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater: Mendon-Laura Brady, Mark Dionisio, two Morton, Katherine Ryan, Joanna Salavuici, Emily Santos and Jennifer St. John; Upton: Nicholas Herd and Julia Morris.

Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I.: Mendon-Brittany Gaulin, class of 2019; President’s List for a 4.0 GPA; Michael Allen, class of 2021; and Jake Reding, class of 2022. Upton-Julia Parchemlenok, class of 2019; President’s List for 4.0; Nathan Churn, class of 2022; Kathryn Hall, class of 2020; Bryan Seesman, class of 2020 and Nathan Zaskol, class of 2020.


St. Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y.: Mendon-Marin Murphy, Class of 2019, majoring in philosophy and English.


University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa: Upton-Steven Rybak, President’s List for a 4.0 GPA.

University of Delaware, Newark: Mendon-Juliet Allegranza, University of Hartford, West Hartford, Conn.: Mendon-Andrew Rudder.


GRADUATES

State Call/Volunteer Firefighters

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik presented certificates of accolades and awards, including the recent spotlight on BVT by the national school superintendents’ association, as one of the country’s 25 “Most Innovative School Districts.”

Friends of Mendon Elders

Two College Scholarships

The Brothers of the Brush awarded two $1,000 college scholarships to graduating seniors this year. Brothers President Bruce Clifton (center, right) hands the award to Jillian Plumb (center left), who graduated from Norfolk County Agricultural High School and plans to attend the University of Rhode Island. The other scholarship winner, Daniel Danielson (not seen), graduated from Mount Saint Charles Academy and plans to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Kevin Rudden photo.

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GRADUATES

State Call/Volunteer Firefighters

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Class #77 on June 26. Wednesday, June 26 the Department of Fire Services, Snow. The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. The 36 graduates, five women and 31 men, represent the 16 fire departments. Among the graduates were Nicholas Aicardi, Kevin Anderson, Christopher Jarvis and Aram Taft of the Mendon Fire Department, and Jason Basoli, Gwyneth Costello, Dniell Schiloski and Satt Young of the Upton Fire Department. Contributed photo.

JULY 5, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

21
Leaver Left an Indelible Mark on Nipmuc Sports

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Longtime Nipmuc High School coach and athletic director Bill Leaver passed away early last month following a battle with brain cancer, but not before impacting the lives of countless athletes and students and earning the respect and admiration of his peers.

Jim Grant hired Leaver as a soccer coach in the mid-1980s after getting a recommendation from Upton’s Joe Cummings, who was coaching soccer at Holy Cross at the time.

“Bill had been at Tahanto Regional when I hired him,” Grant recalled. “He turned our boys’ soccer program into a very competitive program that rivaled Sutton and Bromfield. Year after year, his soccer teams were competitive at the top of the Dual Valley Conference and in Central Mass.”

The success culminated with a state title in 1994, the first in the history of a program that has since become a powerhouse. Leaver’s success on the soccer pitch led to his induction into the Massachusetts Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame as well as a state Coach of the Year honor.

Grant’s son, Michael, was on that title team and this year will be riding the Pan-Mass Challenge forraise money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in honor of his former coach.

“In the world of education we spend a great deal of time talking about the teacher/coach model. Coach Leaver was the original,” Michael Grant wrote in an email to his PMC supporters.

When Jim Grant stepped down as athletic director, it was his turn to make a recommendation. He wanted Bill Leaver to fill his position.

“He did a fine job until his retirement,” Grant said of his successor. “Bill was a fine educator, coach, and most importantly a great friend of mine.”

“I think it’s difficult to put into words what Bill meant,” added current Nipmuc Athletic Director (AD) Chris Schmidt. “He was an incredible coach and an incredible leader for our athletic department!”

In addition to his contributions to Nipmuc sports, Leaver taught English at the middle and high school level for 25 years and was a valued member of the faculty.

Schmidt said the impact he had on his students and athletes was palpable. “You could see it in the athletes I met at Bill’s services, the respect they had for him and what they thought of him as a mentor,” he said.

Like Grant, Schmidt met Leaver through soccer and ended up succeeding him as AD when he retired.

“He was one of those types of people,” Schmidt said, “from the moment you meet him, you could tell how much he meant to his former players, colleagues friends, anyone whose lives he touched.”

Post 59 Continues to Roll, Starts Week 10-2

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Legion baseball team began the week riding the high tide of a 10-game winning streak, turning an 0-2 start into one of the best records in Zone 4. “I think our depth has been key,” said Milford manager Steve DiVitto. “A lot of guys have been contributing thought the lineup; our pitching staff has done a really nice job and a lot of guys have been called upon in different situations.”

Several players with Upton and Mendon ties have helped Post 59 on its run to the top part of the zone standings. Blackstone Valley Tech rising senior Justin Metcalf and BVT graduate Nick Kazarian have buoyed the pitching staff.

“Metcalf has been in starting and relief roles and Kazarian has done a nice job in the late inning role,” DiVitto said.

Nipmuc rising junior Dominic DeCarlo has been a pleasant surprise for the Post 59 staff, amassing a double digit inning total through the first 12 games. “He is a young kid who is working to get better and wants to get better,” DiVitto said. “He wants to get better, ask a lot of questions, which is great. We see a lot of potential out of him as he continues to mature.”

“All around the pitching staff has done a nice job,” the manager added. “They’ve kept us in games.”

Mount St. Charles graduate Danny Johnson, a Mendon resident, has been anchoring the middle of the order for Milford and has spent time catching as well as playing the corner infield positions. Nipmuc graduate Jacob Beder has also taken on some of the catching duties.

Hopedale’s Jonathan Rice, who just finished his freshman year playing for Coppin State, bounced back from a tough first start to settle in and become the ace DiVitto expected him to be. Hopedale’s Chris Brunst and Milford High graduate Matt Shaver have formed a solid middle infield. Hopkinton High products Ben McKenzie and Stephen Simoes are hitting at the top of the order and have been near-.500 hitters.

The talent and depth of the squad have become evident, but DiVitto says another aspect of his roster has been equally important.

“We have a really good group of kids, which is important,” he said. “They support each other and they come to the field every day ready to play. As coaches, it makes our lives a heck of a lot easier when your kids are into it and they want to get better every day.”

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Nipmuc Eyes Inaugural HOF Class in 2020

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After more than a year of planning, Nipmuc Regional High School is planning to roll out its first athletic Hall of Fame class in the spring of 2020 after forming an executive committee and putting together a series of bylaws to guide the new endeavor.

Athletic Director Chris Schmidt, who also serves as the Hall of Fame committee’s president, said the work on the bylaws was wrapped up this past spring and the goal is to induct up to eight individual athletes, coaches or contributors along with two teams next year. The contributor category could include administrators, longtime volunteers and others who have supported Nipmuc athletics.

If all goes according to plan, the inaugural class will be named in the spring and celebrated with a banquet at the high school in March of 2020.

The committee assembled to work on the Hall of Fame is made up of Nipmuc graduates and many of them are current or former teachers and coaches.

“It was really important that we create a board that represented the history of Nipmuc in terms of making sure we had gender equity and people over different eras,” Schmidt said. “Putting together a committee like that, you want to make sure we have fair representation as we begin to look at people who are being nominated.”

In addition to Schmidt, Nipmuc principal John Clements will serve as a “permanent” member of the committee with the rest of the members serving one, two, or three year staggered terms. The group includes Carl Ambrosien as vice president, former coach and longtime teacher Michael Clements as secretary and current Nipmuc softball coach Bernie Curtis as treasurer.

Roundout the committee are Nipmuc baseball coach Steve Dellavorewe, Brittany Kahler, a Nipmuc grad and current basketball coach at Blackstone Valley Tech and former coaches Brenda Webster and Rick Grady.

Even with the committee in place, Schmidt said the Hall of Fame is still seeking community involvement and is planning an informational meeting in August.

“We are looking to bring in more people to begin to do the work,” he said. “It’s going to be a lot of work so we are reaching out to community members, graduates, people with a vested interest in Nipmuc High School to help support what we are trying to do and put together a Hall of Fame that will best represent the high school and the community.”

Upton’s Bradford No-Hits Defending Champs

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford Senior Ruth head coach Jason Barney discovered Upton’s Colin Bradford could pitch by seeing a roster from his middle school league. With a shortage of arms, he decided to give Bradford the ball against defending league champion Marlboro and the rising Nipmuc Regional High School freshman rewarded his coach’s faith by throwing a no-hitter.

“He caught us by surprise,” Barney said. “I told him we were hurting for arms and that he as getting his chance to shine, it just happened to be against the best team in the league.”

After winning the title a year ago, Marlboro started season undefeated before running into Milford and Bradford. He kept the opponent off balance all day, striking out two and walking around four walks in a 2-0 Micross win. “He just kept throwing the fastball for strikes,” Barney said. “He got a lot of ground balls and we made the plays behind him.”

Just 14-years-old, Bradford has been a find for the Micross this season, catching every game with the exception of the no hitter twisted against Marlboro. He’s driven in a pair of runs and become a steady presence in the Milford lineup.

Dan Corsini has led the Micross offensively, hitting .471 through the first five games of the season. Another Milford High product, Mario Lee, is also hitting north of .300 through the early part of the year. Barney said he plans to use Lee on the mound more once his AUU season comes to a close.

Milford posted a 3-2 record through the first five games of the season. Another Milford High product, Mario Lee, is also hitting north of .300 through the early part of the year. Barney said he plans to use Lee on the mound more once his AUU season comes to a close.

20th Annual Statewide Against the Tide Event

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) is holding its 20th annual statewide Against the Tide multi-sport event on Saturday, August 17 at Nickerson State Park on Cape Cod from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. Participants can enjoy Flax Pond’s pristine beaches and water locales for the half-mile paddle board, competitive one-mile swim, half-mile and one-mile recreational swims, and two-mile kayak events. The USAF-certified 5K and 10K and three-mile fitness walk route boast a paved tree-lined rolling course through Nickerson State Park. All ages and abilities are welcome to choose from up to four of these exciting activities. The event also offers an Aquathon “Splash and Dash” component, where participants “splash” in the competitive one-mile swim and immediately “dash” in either the 5K or 10K run, chosen by the participant.

Register as an individual or as part of a team. Registration is $40 per adult per event activity, $25 per student per event activity and children under 10 are free of charge. Participants are encouraged to fundraise beyond the registration fees, as all proceeds support MBCC’s unique goal of breast cancer prevention. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest swim, run, and Aquathon athletes, top age-group finishers, and top fundraisers. MBCC will be honoring firefighters at all of their 2019 athletic fundraisers. MBCC invites firefighters and their families to walk as guests at the Against the Tide event by emailing info@mbcc.org or calling 1-800-649-6222.

Visit MBCC.org/swim or call 617-376-6222 for more information and to register.

Adult Education Programs

The Milford Community School Use Program, has the following Adult Education programs available for registration:

STRONG by Zumba combines body weight, muscle conditioning, cardio and plyometric training starting Tuesday, July 30 for six weeks from 7 to 8 p.m. at Memorial Hall and golf programs at Maplegate Country Club, 160 Maple St., Bellingham—After Work Coed Adult Group Lessons Monday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. After Work Work Coed Adult Group Lessons Monday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The complete list of class details may be found on the Milford Community School Use Program MilfordCommunity.com under Adult Summer.

Registration forms may be printed from the website and returned online or mailed Milford Community School Use Program, 31 West Fountain St., Milford, MA 01757. Senior Citizens (65 and older) pay 10 percent discount of fee listed, except for pool programs. For further information, 508-478-1119.
In one month, the 40th Pan-Mass Challenge will roll through dozens of towns across Massachusetts, with thousands of cyclists raising millions of dollars to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

I’ll be out on the road once again, participating in my ninth PMC. The community is thousands strong. Last weekend, at the Charleston, S.C. airport, I met a man who is about to set out on his 19th PMC. The father of a close friend of mine will be riding this summer for the first time. Others have been at it through all 40 years of the event’s existence.

While the temperature, the number of riders, the number of PMC events and the dollars raised — more than $650 million coming into this year — are all increasing, so too are the number of people we keep in our thoughts as we train and ask for donations.

This year, the local athletic community lost two icons to this dreaded disease, with the passing of longtime Nipmuc High School coach and athletic director Bill Leaver and Hall of Fame Milford volleyball coach Linda Zacchilli. It’s sad to no longer have them as part of our community, but they also serve to inspire us to continue to do the work needed to achieve the ultimate goal of a world without cancer.

Cycling can be tough. Riding more than 100 miles and, in some cases, nearly 200 miles in a single weekend is both a physical and mental test. But remembering the cancer.

Joel Anderson is playing for the Milford Micros before reporting to Parris Island for Marine Bootcamp. Contributed photo

Joel Anderson

To donate to Chris’ ride, please visit PMC.org/CV0042

Anderson Spends Summer on the Diamond Before Marines

By Chris Villani

Blackstone Valley Tech graduate Joel Anderson is preparing to ship off to basic training next winter when he joins the U.S. Marine Corps, but first, he has one more summer on the baseball diamond ahead of him as a member of the Milford Micros Senior Babe Ruth team.

“I wanted a summer baseball team and I didn’t have an AAU team,” Anderson said. “I went for the legion team but didn’t make it, so I decided to play for the Micors.”

He joined the Milford Senior Ruth program last year and came back for a second summer after a positive experience in 2018. “I haven’t enjoyed it,” he said. “The guys there are really cool, down to earth and they’ll help you out if you need it. It’s been really fun.” Anderson suffered a separated shoulder while diving for a ground ball during the Beavers’ final game this spring, and the injury has limited him to designated hitter duties through the first several games of the Micros season. He hopes to contribute more in the outfield as the season progresses, but he has been able to swing the bat in the wooden bat league.

A Milford resident, Anderson said he enjoyed getting the chance to play with athletes from other towns during this time at Valley Tech and helping the program push back against the idea that tech schools do not have strong athletic programs.

After one more summer playing with his fellow Milfordians, Anderson is shipping off to Parris Island, S.C. and training to be a Marine. “It’ll be intense,” he said. “It’s obviously going to be a lot of changes in lifestyle and scenery from what I am used to, but the military has been in my family my entire life. I feel like I was my duty to serve.”

Anderson, his mother, Lara Allison, spent 20 years in the Coast Guard, following in the footsteps of her father, Joel’s grandfather. Anderson said he felt compelled to blaze his own path in a different branch and found a home in the Marines. Spending four years at a vocational school helped Anderson decide to look into doing helicopter maintenance.

“I have always loved working with my hands, doing the dirty work,” he said. “So I was naturally drawn to that.”

Anderson has a specific goal in mind for his final summer before trading in his baseball uniform for a military uniform. “This is my last summer playing baseball, I want go out by winning the league,” Anderson said. “ Winning the championship.”

There are many great organizations doing tremendous work out there. But if you haven’t found a home in your community, if you haven’t drawn to that. “This is my last summer playing baseball, I want go out by winning the league,” Anderson said. “ Winning the championship.”