Fred Kelley Named Mendon's Senior Citizen of the Year

By Michelle Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Frederic (Fred) Kelley was recently named Mendon Senior Citizen of the Year and it’s easy to tell he couldn’t be more honored to be named this year’s recipient. The Council on Aging bestows the annual award to a Mendon resident who has exemplified a commitment to bettering the community, which Kelley has a long history of.

He grew up in Everett but came to know Mendon by spending his summers on Lake Nipmuc at his family’s cottage and fell in love with the small town. He graduated from Everett High School and went into the service and then spent 15 years working as a police officer in Everett. “When I retired from the police department, I decided to come to Mendon. I’ve loved Mendon all my life,” he said.

With the help of his wife, Peggy, he began a municipal collection business, Kelley & Ryan Associates, located in Hopedale. The Kelley's also once operated Kelley Green Acres, an award-winning Morgan Horse Farm in Mendon. Together they raised four children and were married for 52 years before Peggy's passing in 2013. Today, Fred's family also includes nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Throughout his life, he's always felt it was important to give back to his community and did so serving as a Selectman for four terms. During that time, he helped to hire two Mendon Police Chiefs. He also helped secure funding to be used for recreational fields and would also recruit his children to help with the town’s weekly clean up day. “I just hope I did a good job,” he said of his community service.

He also became involved in the Mendon Lion's Club, serving in the leadership role of “King Lion.” He was also an active member and volunteer at his church, the former St. Michael’s. “I tried to do a little bit of everything,” said Fred. “Basically, I tried to be helpful where I could be.”

When he received word he’d been chosen as this year’s Senior Citizen of the Year, he said he was very surprised. “Actually, I think shocked is a better word for it,” he said. “I found out my daughter Maggie nominated me and I couldn’t believe it.”

On September 15, the Mendon Lion’s Club will sponsor a ceremony and luncheon for Kelley and his family and friends. The event will be held at the Unitarian Church of Mendon/Uxbridge and begin at 11:30 a.m.

MURSD Back to School Dates

As summer draws to a close, the start of the 2019/2020 school year is close at hand. The following dates for the beginning of the new school year have been released by the Mendon Upton Regional School District.

- Monday, August 26 – Teachers report to school and informational meeting for Missie Hill Fall Sports at the school, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 27 – Teachers will have Professional Development Day.
- Wednesday, August 28 – Students in grades 1-12 report to school. Buses will be running and lunches will be served. Orientation for incoming Kindergarten students Pre K Meet and Greet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Clough School in Mendon and Memorial School in Upton.
- Thursday, August 29 –School starts for Pre K and Kindergarten.
- Friday, August 30 and Monday, September 2—Labor Day Recess, no school.
- Wednesday, September 18 –Open House, 6 to 7 p.m. at Clough Elementary School in Mendon for Pre K through Grade 2 and at Memorial Elementary School in Upton for Pre K, Grade 1 and Grade 3.
- Thursday, September 19–Open House, 6 to 7 p.m., at Clough Elementary School in Mendon for Grades 3 and 4, and at Memorial Elementary School in Upton Grades K, 2 and 4.
- Tuesday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 25–Open House Missie Hill School, Mendon.
- Thursday, September 26–Open House Nipmuc Regional High School, Upton.
If you are looking at starting a rewarding career in senior care, but have little to no experience, we can get you started.

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978.726.0709 or ehanks@egmcare.com

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A photo inside Whitin Lasell Manor, Whitinsville, taken by Debra Boucher of Woonsocket, which is part of the BHC Photography Ambassadors gallery show.
A Zoo-Brary for the Day

The Taft Public Library became a Zoo-Brary on August 7 as Southwick’s Zoo-Mobile stopped by to offer youngsters a general introduction to animal ecology. Here Southwick’s presenter Diana Waterman holds a Macaw and helped explain how animals are classified as birds, reptiles and mammals, how animals interact with their environment and how they interact with each other. The presentation was one of the many offered as part of the library’s summer reading program, A Universe of Stories.

Harry Platcow, Town Crier photo

Crawling to the Finish Line

Crawl is not the usual term for a race but it aptly described what happened at the Taft Public Library on July 30. The 11th Annual Taft Public Library Worm Race featured crawlers crawling into the winners’ circle. The photo on the left shows the worm lineup while on the right Joshua Denizlis proudly shows off his crawler. The ever-popular event is part of this year’s Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories.

Harry Platcow, Town Crier photos

Annual Household Hazardous Waste and Document Shredding Day

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 serve 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, waste oil, degreasers, poisons, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, 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 light 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.

Mendon Cultural Council Seeks Grant Applications

The Mendon Cultural Council is accepting grant applications for the upcoming year beginning September 1 through midnight October 15. Funds will be distributed for events supporting the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in our community.

Organizations, schools, and individuals may apply for funding. Applications are no longer accepted on paper, and must be completed online. To access the online form for submission, visit MassCulture.org.

The local grants are made available to Mendon from the Massachusetts Council, a state agency which distributes funds to the community. Massachusetts has one of the largest networks of local cultural councils in the nation, supporting over 329 Local Cultural Councils, serving all 350 towns in the Commonwealth.

In the past, the Mendon Council has supported events such as beach concerts, school field trips, events and activities at the Taft Public Library, events at the Senior Center, and many local artists providing school and community programs.

For more information or to receive dated listings of activities and events, visit the Mendon Cultural Council on Facebook.
Mendon News

Senior Tea Continues to be a Special Tradition

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

For nearly 20 years, the Mendon Senior Center has been hosting a Sunday tea that has been bringing together seniors for a special afternoon, and this year was no different. On the afternoon of July 28, a number of seniors, aged 85 and older, and their guests filled the Senior Center for a spot of tea, finger sandwiches, and some good conversation and laughs with friends.

The annual event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Mendon Elders and the Council on Aging. “The Council on Aging and I are so grateful to the Friends of Mendon Elders for continuing to co-sponsor this event and to the many Senior Center volunteers who put countless hours in to make sure everything was perfect,” said Senior Center Director Amy Wilson Kent. “A lot goes on behind the scenes to make this event such a success. Many thanks are owed to event coordinator Diana Carter.” BVT students Jacqueline De La Rosa and Abby Pontzer also volunteered their time.

In addition to tea and punch, guests were served cucumber sandwiches, and peach pie. Everyone was also treated to the piano playing of COA member Earl Pearlman throughout the afternoon. At one point, De La Rosa accompanied Pearlman singing a version of I Can’t Help Falling in Love with You.

When it was time to leave, all guests were given wrapped peach colored carnations with greens and baby’s breath to take home.

Mendonfest

It will be an evening of food, fun, and fireworks as the Mendon Festival Committee hosts the first “Mendonfest” on August 24 from 3 to 11 p.m. at Memorial Park.

The afternoon and evening will feature dozens of vendors and local organizations including youth and high school sports, and church groups. For the kids, and the kids-at-heart, there will be games and activities including a dunk tank, bounce house, inflatable obstacle course, and a Corn Hole Tournament.

Southbound Train and South Street Bands will perform live throughout the event and a beer and wine tent will be available for guests over 21.

Hungry participants can grab a hamburger or hotdog or a Chicken Dinner Plate, which can be pre-ordered for $20 at Store.Mendon1667.org. Nibblers can enjoy popcorn, ice cream, cotton candy, fried dough, and more.

The day will wrap up with a fireworks display at approximately 9 p.m. sponsored by Custom Home Realty of Mendon.

To volunteer email AJ Byrne at byrne2425@comcast.net. For more information, visit Mendonfest.org.
Mendon Selectmen Approve Appointments and Open Warrant

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

During a short 30-minute meeting, the Mendon Board of Selectmen checked off a number of items on the agenda on August 6, including approving several appointments, opening the fall town meeting warrant, and setting dates for upcoming meetings.

First up, the Board approved the appointment of Town Clerk Ellen Agro as the Ethics Liaison for an indefinite term. Immediately following, the Board also approved the appointments of Marly Jarstfer and Sue Rousseau to the Cultural Council for terms to expire in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Jarstfer stated to the Selectmen that she had been involved in cultural activities since she was a child and since retiring wants to give back to Mendon. Rousseau said she has some ideas for new events that she'd like to bring to town in the future.

The Board also appointed Tom Merolli as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Selectman Chris Burke questioned if Merolli had enough time to give to the ZBA given all his other commitments, including Chairing the Economic Development Committee and serving on the Historical Commission. “Absolutely,” Merolli replied. Selectman Chair Chris Burke was also selected to be the liaison to the Council on Aging.

Additionally, Selectmen opened the warrant for the fall Special Town Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on November 20 at Miscoe Hill School.

And finally, with summer coming to an end soon, the Selectmen will be getting back to their regular meeting schedule beginning in September. Future Board of Selectmen meetings are scheduled for September 9, September 30, and October 15. Meetings are held in the Town Hall and typically begin at 6:30 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change. For the most up to date meeting schedule view MendonMA.gov.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Selectmen congratulated Fred Kelley for being honored on September 15 with a luncheon at the Unitarian Church and typically begin at 6:30 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change. For the most up to date meeting schedule view MendonMA.gov.

Thank You

The Mendon Historical Society’s participation in the Town Wide Yard Sale on June 8, sponsored by the Mendon Senior Center, resulted in a profitable fund raising effort. A special thanks is owed to Jistine Brewer, Sue Zellmer, Bill Grady, Rachel, Ruth and Rich Cassinelli and Dick Grady, all who took time to organize items on tables, move furniture and, most importantly, assist customers. The Society also thanks the Senior Center for making this event so successful.

Spooky Trail and Party

On October 26, rain date, October 27, the Mendon Historical Society is sponsoring a Spooky Trail and Party. Residents who are willing to donate Halloween items such as masks, costumes and SCARY objects are asked to contact the Society by email. mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Veterans Exhibit

In November, the Mendon Historical Society will be featuring a special exhibit honoring Mendon’s veterans. Its collection does include some letters and photographs of those who served in the Armed Forces over the years but the Society is looking to expand this important part of Mendon’s history. It would be honored to receive any letters, photographs and memorabilia of those who served as a loan for the exhibit or as a gift for the permanent collection. The Society can be contacted by email at mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The owners and occupants of the following described parcels of land situated in the Town of Mendon in Worcester County and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and all other persons, are hereby notified that the taxes thereon, severally assessed for the years hereinafter specified, according to the list committed to me as the Collector of Taxes for the Town of Mendon, by the Board of Assessors of said Town remain unpaid, and that said parcels of land will be taken for the Town of Mendon on September 3, 2019 at 11:00 AM for the non-payment of said taxes, betterments and interest, if any, along with all legal costs and charges thereon, to the extent permitted by law, unless the same shall be previously discharged. Amounts due are as of August 7, 2019, with payments received as of August 1, 2019, and do not include the cost of advertisement associated with tax taking.

Jennifer Welch
Tax Collector
Town of Mendon
As August draws to a close thoughts turn to a change of seasons - crisp fall weather, leaves turning colors and going back to school. I was talking to my grandchildren the other day about their transition to the classroom and somehow the topic of safety drills, how the youngsters would react if an armed intruder entered their school, came up. My grandchildren talked about the drills much like they would a fire drill, something that just happens at school. While I know students all over the country participate in exactly the same drills, it still deeply bothered me that these innocent youngsters, aged seven and 10, spoke of the drills as a routine part of their school day.

Active shooter drills in our schools, people afraid to go to malls, moviegoers making sure they know where to hide or escape if guns are drawn, concert and club goers ready to flee at any unexpected sound. What has happened to us as a community?

Just reviewing the death toll in mass shootings at schools since Columbine, when 13 students were gunned down in August 1999, is chilling. According to most experts, a mass shooting has more than four victims. Using that metric there have been 11 mass shootings in American schools or campuses during the last two decades. This list is also limited to shootings done inside school buildings during the school year.

The largest number of victims were the 12 who died at Virginia Tech in April 2007, the most emotionally devastating were the 26 killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in December 2012 followed by the 17 who were massacred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February 2018 and 10 murdered at Santa Fe High School in Texas in May 2018. The list goes on to the nine killed at Umpqua Community College in Oregon in October 2015, the seven at Red Lake Senior High School in Minnesota in March 2009, seven more at Oikos University in Oakland in April 2012, the five killed at Aztec High School in New Mexico in October 2011, the five in West Nickel Mines School in Pennsylvania in October 2006, five at Northern Illinois University in February 2008, five at Santa Monica College in June 2013 and the four at Marysville-Pilchuck High School in Washington state in October 2014. Including Columbine, the mass school shootings killed 140 victims.

This list and the 140 victims does not include those who were shot in school incidents that had three or less victims, those shot on school grounds but not in the buildings, or those shot during school vacations. If you include all of those incidents there have over 500 school shootings in the United States in the last 20 years.

The list also does not include the almost 680 victims of 40 non-school, mass shootings that took place in churches, malls, nightclubs, concerts and workplaces in the same period. The most recent being the nine killed in Dayton on August 4 and the 22 murdered in El Paso on August 3.

When are we as a nation going to say enough is enough? When are we going to thoughtfully and effectively control access to high powered, military weapons designed for combat not for civilian use? When are we going to go to church, a mall, a concert, a club without worrying about mass murder? When are we going to send our children to school again without them having to participate in safety drills?

Some say controlling guns while protecting Constitutional Rights is too hard. Well, during the same week we once accomplished the daunting task of putting a man on the moon, responding to President Kennedy’s challenge, “We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not without them having to participate in safety drills? We choose to go to church, a mall, a concert, a club goers ready to flee at any unexpected sound. What has happened to us as a community?

Who Gives A Crap?

Who gives a crap? I do! I am sure many of you do too. Our consumerism has an environmental ripple effect here and abroad. We can make a difference each day with our purchases. Below are a few of my favorite things.

Who Gives A Crap
This 100-percent recycled paper toilet paper is septic-safe, soft, durable and saves trees. It is conveniently sold by the case with no plastic packaging. Each roll is wrapped in an attractively designed paper for pretty display of extra rolls. Trees are a precious resource soaking up carbon dioxide, providing oxygen and keeping water clean, but they are being cut down at an alarming rate, often without replanting. It seems a crime to destroy trees for toilet paper. WhoGivesACrap.org

Bamboo Utensils Sets
These nifty pouches hold a spoon, fork, knife and chopsticks and are convenient for take-out food, stirring your coffee or anytime you want to avoid using plastic utensils. EarthHero.com

Hydroflask Water/Coffee Bottle
Wherever traveling, carry the metal water bottle to avoid plastic bottles for your health and the environment. Hydroflasks will keep water cold or hot for many hours. More places offer water bottle refilling. Ask coffee shops to use your bottle for your cappuccino instead of a Styrofoam cup with a plastic lid. HydroFlask.com

Algreen Soil Saver Classic Compost Bin
This tool, made from recycled materials, efficiently mixes the ingredients in the compost bin to quickly transforming waste into compost. Lehmans.com

Bamboo Utensil Sets are nifty pouches with a spoon, fork, knife and chopsticks and are convenient for take-out food, stirring your coffee or anytime you want to avoid using plastic utensils. EarthHero.com

Wasp Nest Decoy
Bee paper lanterns to keep wasps away from your home. With the use of paper wasp nests, these paper lanterns makes it easy to keep wasps away from your home. EarthHero.com

Wasp Nest Decoys help to protect pollinators and keep wasps away from where people congregate. Instead of using pesticides, use these paper lantern-like decoy nests to encourage wasps to find other locations to build. Amazon.com

EarthHero.com

Who Gives A Crap is 100-percent recycled paper toilet paper that is soft, durable and saves trees. It is conveniently sold by the case with no plastic packaging. Plus, it comes in attractive wrappers for pretty display of extra rolls. WhoGivesACrap.org

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

Second Tuesday 6:7 p.m. Dinner, 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. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-846-4555 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

5:30 p.m. Community Pasta Supper, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (RI 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. Lunch, St. Mary's of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Society. 508-473-2000

3:00-5:00 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton.

Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192

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

Last Friday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Sponsored by the Hopedale Churches (Unitarian, Sacred Heart and Union Episcopal). 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

Graphics: Who Gives A Crap?
First Results in for Best Voting Community 2019/2020

With the results of the 2019 local elections now complete, the competition for the 2019/2020 Senator Louis Bertonezzi Foundation Citizenship Award has officially begun. The 19 competing towns will be vying for the title “Best Voting Community for 2019/2020.” The current title-holder for 2017-2018 is Douglas.

Five elections will determine the best voting community. The race began with 2019 local elections. The other four elections will be the 2020 local elections, Presidential Primary, September State Primary and November National Election. The town that has the highest percentage of registered voters who actually came out to vote in the five contests will be presented a $1,000 check, a plaque for the Town Hall and a huge banner proclaiming it “Best Voting Community.” Bertonezzi has represented the 19 competing towns. They are Auburn, Bellingham, Blackstone, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Northbridge, Oxford, Southbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster and Westborough.

Following the 2019 local elections, Millville is in the lead with a voter turnout of 34.72 percent, Upton is in fourth with 15.17 percent, Milford is eighth with 12.85 percent, Mendon is 11th with 9.96 percent and Hopedale is 15th with 6.15 percent.

Milford Regional Cited for Excellence in Lactation Care

Milford Regional Medical Center has received global recognition for its lactation program and the highly-trained team of maternity nurses that help protect, promote and support breastfeeding. It received the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant Care Award from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners ("IBLCE") and the International Lactation Consultant Association® ("ICLAC").

The award recognizes Milford Regional for its commitment to providing professional lactation support as an integral part of the hospital’s maternal-child services and its commitment to improving maternal and child health by making breastfeeding a priority. Milford Regional promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding by helping new moms attain their breastfeed goals. Experienced consultants are available in the hospital and when moms return home through the warm-line. Milford Regional also offers breastfeeding classes and support groups.

For more information, visit MilfordRegional.org/medical-services/maternity/breastfeeding.

Thanks To Yanks 9/11 Tribute Dinner Registration

The 13th Annual Thanks To Yanks Tribute 9/11 Dinner is now open for registration. This free dinner on Wednesday, September 11, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Milford, from 6 to 8:15 p.m., is only open to military members, veterans, first responders, and families. This non-political event is to simply say “Thank You” for the sacrifices they make to ensure our freedom and safety while remembering the heroes and victims of 9/11/01.

This special free tribute dinner recognizes all military members, veterans, first responders and their families, including Blue and Gold Star families. Registration is required for the event as seating will be limited and can be done at ThanksToYanks.org. The dinner will also include speakers, a Flag Tower, Missing Man Table Ceremony, Medal of Liberty Presentation and other ceremonies. For more information or to donate, please visit ThanksToYanks.org, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Building on their big plans.

This is Loretta and Henry. Together they run HPA Design, an award-winning architectural firm, with big plans to purchase and renovate a building for their business.

How did they keep it all connected and bring their plan to fruition? With powerful solutions from Charles River Bank, including financing for their new space and answers to the (many) questions they had along the way.

Visit CharlesRiverBank.com to read Loretta and Henry’s story.
A Double Eagle for Upton Boy Scout Troop 132

During a Court of Honor Ceremony on June 18 at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, Upton’s Boy Scout Troop 132 welcomed Eagle Scout Patrick Ober led the Eagle Charge, as the troop, their families and friends gathered to celebrate their achievements. For their Eagle project, David constructed a pollinator garden in front of the playground parking lot on Rt. 140 in Upton Center and Cole built a stone wall and a garden around the sign at the entrance to Lakeview Cemetery on Maple Ave. Besides donating several hours of community service, earning at least 21 merit badges and teaching younger scouts, the pair also completed a 10-day, 120-mile trek through the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. For information about Troop 132, visit Troop3132@upton.org. Upton Boy Scout Troop 132

Smiling Irish Eyes and Dancing Irish Feet

Upton residents Emily Morehouse (left) from the Sullivan Stewart School of Irish Dance and Anna Wyndham (right) from the Murphy Academy of Irish Dance, competed on the national stage on July 4th, at the North American Irish Dance Championships (NAIDC) held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The U15 Open Championship solo dancers competed on the national stage on July 4th, at the North American Irish Dance Championships (NAIDC) held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Another Upton Music Man

Session two of The Hanover Theatre Teen Youth Summer Program (YST) presents Meredith Willson’s The Music Man on Friday, August 16 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, August 17 at 2 and 7 p.m. The cast includes Upton resident Jacob Collard as Ewart Dunlop. Tickets to The Music Man are $20 and are available online at TheHanoverTheatre.org, by phone at 877-571-SHOW (7469) or at the box office, 2 Southbridge St., Worcester. Hanover Theatre photo.

An Index for Genealogy Records

The Museum of Upton History is pleased to announce the addition of an index to its genealogical notes and papers. Until recently, these were scattered throughout the museum shelves and cabinets, often with several copies of the same item in various locations. Now they are combined, sorted, and indexed.

Included in this collection are family group sheets, pedigree charts, original birth and death certificates as well as other documents, research inquiries, obituaries, newspaper articles, and photographs. A total of close to 2,000 articles are now more readily available to the public for genealogical and historical research.

While this collection is housed at the Museum of Upton History, it is certainly not entirely focused on Upton. Before computers, genealogical collaboration was done through letters, visits, and phone calls. Those who provided research services in previous decades looked at records for many of the surrounding towns and some donated their own family history research to this collection.

Soon researchers will be able to visit the website for the Upton Historical Society, caretakers of the Museum of Upton History, to view the high-level index of surnames included in this collection. For now, the information is available at the Museum as well as the Upton Town Library. Additional details about first names, birth and death dates, and spouses names are included in the detailed index at these locations.

In addition to this newly indexed collection, researchers may find information on ancestors and family members in several other collections at the Museum. There are many books of photographs as well as hundreds of historically significant artifacts about life in Upton at the Museum. Stop in for a visit Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday mornings, or call 508-529-6600 to make an appointment to visit at another time.

Genealogy clinics at the museum, on hold for the summer, will resume on Wednesday, September 4 from 3 to 6 p.m. The clinics are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Everyone is welcome to drop in during these hours and ask a question of the genealogist while she’s in the room.

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We are your reliable insurance neighbors!
A Host of Cuddly Friends Sleepover at the Library

Children’s Librarian Lee Ann Murphy was surrounded by 67 stuffed animals and friends during the Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Upton Town Library. Youngsters drop off their cuddly friends during the afternoon and pick them up the next day at the Library. The popular program is part of the Upton Town Library’s Summer Reading Program, which this year is exploring A Universe of Stories. Upton Town Library Photo

Upton Heritage Day

Upton Heritage Day 2019 will be held on Saturday, September 28, all around Upton Common. The event is sponsored by the Museum of Upton History. Vendor space is still available for the Historical Society’s Craft/Vendor Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the common. With good weather, the event will include entertainment, food, a petting zoo, and pony rides.

Other events are planned for the same day at the Upton Town Library, United Parish Church and the Upton VFW.

Other Upton groups are invited to expand the celebration by planning an activity, hosting a booth at the fair, holding a contest or planning activities for kids. Groups that would like to join the celebration should please contact the Upton Historical Society at 508-529-6600.

More details will be available soon for the Upton Heritage Day events on September 28.

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.

Saturday, August 17
Trip to Sheriff’s Annual Picnic in Shrewsbury, 8:45 a.m. Departure

Monday, August 19
Trip to Art Bradish’s in Grafton and Christmas Tree Shop in Shrewsbury, 11:45 a.m.

Tuesday, August 20
Departure for Indian Princess Lunch Cruise in Webster at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 21
Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Foppema’s, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 9:30 a.m. Trivia at the Center with Library Staff, 12:30 p.m.

Friday, August 23
Trip to Franklin Farmer’s Market, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, August 26
Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Hudson, 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, August 27
Cogneidi Brain health Workshop, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28
Blood Pressure Checks, 12:30 p.m. Shopping Trip to Walmart, Northbridge, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 29
End of Summer Hot Diggity Dog Cookout, 11:30 a.m.

Friday, August 30
Trip to JJ’s & Kelly’s Farm Stand, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, September 2
Tai Chi, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 3
Card Players Group, 10 a.m. Wii 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
Art and Crochet Group, 10 a.m. Bingo, 1 p.m.

Friday
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
Six Things to Know About Vaccinations

Courtesy of StatePoint Media

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) and medical experts remind everyone that vaccinations save lives.

“Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that vaccines are among the most effective, safest interventions to prevent illness and protect public health,” says Dr. Patrice A. Harris, president of American Medical Association (AMA).

The AMA is offering answers to six commonly asked questions about vaccinations.

1. Are vaccines safe? Yes, vaccines prevent individual illness and protect the health of the public. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. has the safest vaccine supply in history, though mild side effects can irritate at the injection site.

2. Is it true that if everyone else is vaccinated, my family doesn’t need to be? No. Vaccines not only protect the child or adult who receive them, but also the health of their communities. Some people cannot be vaccinated – very young children, cancer patients and immunosuppressed individuals. When immunization rates are high, people in these categories are protected because they’re less likely to be exposed to the disease.

3. What vaccinations do my children need? Children should be vaccinated according to the recommended schedule of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, designed to protect young children before they’re likely to be exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases and when they’re most vulnerable to serious infections. Visit CDC.gov/vaccines/schedules for the recommended childhood vaccination schedule.

4. What is the earliest age I can have my children vaccinated for preventable diseases? Children can receive their first flu vaccine at six-months. The recommended age for the first dose of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is 12 to 15 months. If you live in a community experiencing an outbreak, or if you travel internationally, your baby may be vaccinated as early as six months. Talk to your pediatrician for additional information.

5. I’m an adult, do I need to get vaccinated? Yes, adults need vaccines too. Some immunities from childhood vaccines can wear off and some adults need vaccinations because of other factors. Talk with your doctor to determine which vaccines you need, and visit CDC.gov/vaccines/adult-immunizations.

6. Hasn’t the U.S. eradicated the major diseases that require vaccines? One of the country’s greatest public health success stories is the remarkable decrease in infectious diseases as the result of vaccines. Unfortunately, that success has led some parents to stop vaccinating their children against diseases like measles, meningitis, polio and diphtheria. These diseases still exist, and can still debilitate and kill. Without vaccinating, diseases that were once considered eradicated could reemerge – like the U.S. measles outbreaks.

Visit CDC.gov/vaccines for information.

New School Year, New Bus Routes for Valley Tech

Blackstone Valley Tech announces the preliminary bus routes for the start of the 2019-2020 school year are available now on the school’s website: ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/busroutes. All bus routes are subject to change. Please continue to visit the school website often throughout the fall for the most up-to-date schedule and check carefully as bus number and bus stop may have changed from the previous year. Also, note that bus routes are subject to alterations due to changes in enrollment, student population, roadwork conditions, and ridership times.

Back to School Giveaway

Catholic Charities Milford office is holding a Back to School Giveaway on August 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 200 Main St. Milford. For info, call 508-234-3800.
**GRADUATES**

Ryan K. Bunce
Ryan K. Bunce of Upton has graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, Miramar, Fla., in January of 2019 with a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Bunce is a 2008 Nipmuc Regional High School graduate and earned a degree from Becker College in 2014 in Pre-Veterinary Science. Dr. Bunce practices veterinary medicine at First Pet Veterinary Hospital in Chandler, Arizona where he specializes in emergency medicine.

Jonathan Bagnell
Jonathan Bagnell of Upton graduated from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. this spring with a degree in Marketing.

Roger Williams University Graduates
The following local residents were among the students who received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2019 from Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I.

MENDON-Elizabeth Gilchrist graduated Cum Laude with a degree in B.S. in Biology and Sarah MacDougall graduated with a degree in B.S. in Marketing.

UPTON-Kristen Brien graduated Cum Laude with a degree in B.A. in Elementary Education; Timothy Brien graduated with a degree in B.S. in Architecture; Emerson Mulhern graduated with a degree in B.S. in Engineering/Electrical Engr Specialization; and Madison Neri graduated Cum Laude with a degree in B.S. in Architecture.

University of Rhode Island
The University of Rhode Island in Kingston held its 133rd Commencement on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, awarding degrees to about 3,400 undergraduate and 740 graduate students including the following local residents.

MENDON-Kristen Allaire received a Bachelor of Science in Education; Matthew Robert Dias received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Supply Chain Management.

UPTON-Brooke Elizabeth Jacquot received a Bachelor of Science Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design.

**DEANS LIST**

The following local students were name to the Spring 2019 Deans List at their respective schools.

Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.: Joshua Shrestha, of Mendon, a member of the Class of 2022, majoring in Liberal Arts.

Leonardo L. Morcone, Director of the Milford Community School Use Program, has released the schedule for the Fall Adult Education courses, which are to begin the week of September 9, 2019.

There are many classes and workshops offered in the areas of Arts and Crafts, Hobbies, Boating, Business, Cooking, Dance, Financial, Fitness, Language and other areas. The complete list of classes may be found on the Milford Community School Use Program website, MilfordCommunity.com under Adult Fall. The website also lists many free one night workshops.

Registration forms may be printed from the website and will be accepted immediately by mail to Milford Community School Use Program, 31 West Fountain St., Milford, MA 01757. Registrations with payment may be dropped off at the security kiosk in the front of Milford High School, West Fountain St., between the 7 a.m. and 2:20 p.m., and directly in the office from 2:20 to 4 p.m. Lastly online registrations are accepted at the website.

A separate registration form and a separate check are required for each course. Fees are included in each course description for residents and nonresidents. Senior Citizens (65 and older) pay 10 percent discount of fee listed except for pool programs. Checks should be made payable to the Town of Milford – MCSVU. Individuals paying in person with cash are asked to have the exact amount.

For further information, please call the office at 508-478-1119.

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**WANTED:**
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**Call Mark’s Transportation at 508-473-3600**

Our office is located at 51 East Main St. (Route 16) Milford, MA. Stop in the office to fill out an application from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Greenleaf Garden Club Takes Summer Excursion

The highlight of the Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford’s summer excursion was a visit to Bonsai West, where an historic collection of bonsai trees some several hundred years old are on display. The ancient art of Bonsai was presented showing various styles and plantings of many types of trees all trimmed and shaped to give an aged, weathered landscape. Shown are club members, l-r, Gail Reichert, Patsy Timmons, Gina Hylander and Teddi Weber at Bonsai West. The group also went to Cataldi’s Nurseries where they looked at lovely summer perennials as it full bloom and which give such much color to the garden. 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. GGC photo

UniBank Home Buying Seminar in Douglas

UniBank will be sponsoring a free home buying seminar at is Douglas branch, 4 Mechanic St., Douglas on Wednesday, August 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. Seminar speakers include: Pam MacDougall, UniBank Mortgage Consultant (NMLS #485225); Karen Mercure, Realtor, The Mercure Group at Keller Williams; Mark Wickstrom, Attorney, Wickstrom Morse, LLP; Paul Baker, Appraiser, Baker Appraisals, Kerri Pomfret, Insurance Agent at Ripple Effect Insurance; Sue Reider, Home Inspector, Keystone Home Inspections. Contact UniBank’s Karen Yacino (NMLS# 680961) at 508-476-2624 or karen.yacino@unibank.com to register. Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. To enter, individuals must be 18 years or older, register and attend the seminar. No purchase or account required to enter or win. All seminar attendees will receive a $25 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank. For up-to-date details, visit UniBank.com

Electronics Recycling

The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford, is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, September 14, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon in the church parking lot. The church ensures that 99 percent of dropped off items will be reused and recycled. All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, fax, copiers, printers, scanners and TVs can be recycled. Recycling fees range from $5 to $35 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost. A drive through process will allow those donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available. Cash payments only, please. For more information, contact Martha at 508-904-4471.
Hints For Homeowner,
When Storm Season Approaches, Ready Your Outdoor Power Equipment

(NAPSI)—At any time of year, storm preparedness is important. Hurricanes, floods and storms can damage property and endanger lives. The preparations you make ahead of bad weather, however, can help you recover faster and stay safer during the storm and the cleanup.

To help, the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)—an international trade association representing power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers—offers tips for home and business owners.

“Right before a storm, people can rush, and it’s easy to skip key steps in getting their outdoor power equipment ready,” said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of OPEI. “At all times of the year, keep your equipment in working order, have the right fuel on hand and know where your safety gear is. This is doubly true during storm season.”

Survey your property. Consider the damage a storm might cause and list the equipment you might need to weather the storm or make repairs afterward.

Take stock of your equipment. Make sure equipment is in good working order. If needed, take it to an authorized service center for maintenance or repair.

Find your safety gear. Avoid the scrabble for sturdy shoes, safety goggles, hard hats, reflective clothing, flashlights with working batteries, and work gloves. Round them up now and store them in an accessible area with your equipment.

Review the owner’s manuals for your equipment. Know how to operate your equipment safely.

Keep the right fuel on hand for your outdoor power equipment. Fuel stations may be closed after a storm, so it’s important to protect your equipment by having the right fuel on hand. It is illegal to use any fuel with more than 10 percent ethanol in outdoor power equipment, and improper fueling may damage or destroy your equipment. Use the type of fuel recommended by your equipment manufacturer and store fuel in an approved container. For more information, visit www.LookBeforeYouPump.com.

Use safety zones and protect bystanders. Observe a safety zone by keeping power lines at least 50 feet away from your work area. Keep bystanders, children and animals out of your work area. Do not allow other people near outdoor power equipment when starting it up or using it.

Follow safe procedures when using chain saws. Always stand with your weight on both feet and adjust your stance so you’re angled away from the blade. Hold the chain saw with both hands. Never overreach or cut anything above your shoulder height. Always have a planned retreat path if something falls. Understand kickback, which may happen when the moving chain at the tip of the guide bar touches an object, or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain in the cut.

Use generators safely. Generators should never be used in an enclosed area or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain in the cut. Use safety zones and protect bystanders. Observe a safety zone by keeping power lines at least 50 feet away from your work area. Keep bystanders, children and animals out of your work area. Do not allow other people near outdoor power equipment when starting it up or using it.

Never operate a centrifugal pump without water in the pump casing. All self-priming pumps require water conditions. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.

Keep the generator dry and do not use it in rainy or wet conditions. Keep the generator at least 50 feet away from your work area. Keep bystanders, children and animals out of your work area. Do not allow other people near outdoor power equipment when starting it up or using it.

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What to Know Before Replacing Home Windows

Courtesy StatePoint

As with any home upgrade, a little research can help ensure a top-quality installation with the best materials on the market. Here are the most important factors to consider before purchasing replacement windows:

• Energy Efficiency: Energy-efficient windows can keep utility bills in check while helping manage climate control. Seek out the ENERGY STAR label, which indicates a product is energy efficient according to standards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy.

• Numbers don’t lie so be sure to also check the National Fenestration Rating Council Label to compare performance between energy-efficient windows in the following categories: U-Factor (how well the window retains heat), Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (how well it resists unwanted heat gain), Visible Transmittance (how well it lets in natural light), Air Infiltration (how drafty the window is), and Condensation Resistance (how well it resists inside surface condensation).

• Test Specifications: All windows on the market are tested for their structural integrity, as well as their resistance to air and water. Investigating these ratings is important.

• Insulation: For maximum energy efficiency and comfort, look for new technologies such as Neopor insulation and INNERGY thermal reinforcements that deliver high performance and meet ENERGY STAR certification standards.

• Material: Windows are available in such materials as vinyl, wood, aluminum and fiberglass. Understanding the benefits of each can help you arrive at the right decision for your home, priorities and budget, and new options even mix materials, combining different advantages into one product.

• Warranty Availability: Replacement Windows can cost thousands of dollars and should last a long time, so consider protecting your investment by opting for windows that come with a comprehensive lifetime warranty that’s transferrable to the next homeowner potentially increasing your home’s value when you sell.

• Style: The style of your new windows can complement the architectural features of your home, provide visual interest and boost curb appeal. Using online design resources and visualizer tools can help you see how particular hardware finishes, colors, add-ons, finishing options and accessories will look.

• Recognition: Third-party recognition for a particular brand or product is a strong indicator that you’re investing in a quality product. A recent Remodeling magazine survey of remodeling contractors ranked ProVia vinyl windows as number one in window quality, citing its unique ability to customize as needed, its personalized customer service, strong warranties and mix of state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment and human craftsmanship. Lastly, the brand was recognized for strong attention to detail, as it follows an 80-plus item checklist for quality control. More information can be found at Provia.com/ windows.

Before upgrading, get savvy. Doing so can help you make a decision that will improve your home’s beauty, keep your family comfortable and safe and save you money.

Enjoy Fall at Daniel’s Farmstead

Daniel’s Farmstead, 286 Mendon St. Blackstone, near the Mendon town line will continue to host a Farmer’s Market every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through early October. Besides offering area residents the opportunity to buy local grown produce and other products, the market also feature the Daniel’s Farm grill cooking up franks, burgers (both Angus beef and veggie), Italian sausage grinders and fresh artisanal sausages sandwiches with peppers & onions with all the fixins’. Homemade goods are also available. Daniel’s Farmstead accepts Massachusetts Farmers’ Market Coupons.

Free musical entertainment is provided each Sunday through a grant from the Blackstone and Mendon Cultural Councils, in partnership with the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Bring lawn chairs, blankets or cushions to enjoy the show.

For further information, call 1-508-726-2042 or visit DanielsFarmstead.org

Upcoming special events include an Apple Fest on September 22. It will feature an assortment of apple products, an Apple Pie contest, a tour of the 1870 Cider Mill and much more.

On Sunday, September 29, the Antique Tractors Show with Blackstone Valley Tech, will be presented on October 4 through 6.

Bay Equity Offers Free Educational Mortgage Seminars

Bay Equity Loan Officer Michael Shain, who has more than 25 years of banking and mortgage lending experience in the local area, will host two free home loan education seminars in September in conjunction with the Milford Community Use Program. Both events will be at 6:30 p.m. at Milford High School, Room A-1.

Pre-registration is required for both events at MilfordCommunity.com. Click “Register for Activities,” then select “Adult Fall one-night workshops.” Space is limited. Free pizza will be served!

The seminars are:

• Wednesday, September 18 – VA Loans - Available exclusively to active duty military personnel, reservists and National Guard, as well as surviving spouses of veterans. VA loans can be used for purchases or refinances. Down payments are as low as 0 percent.

• Wednesday, September 25 – Homebuyer Boot Camp - A panel of housing experts join Mike to discuss the entire home buying process including mortgage programs and the importance of credit. For more information, call Shain at 508-330-8487 or email mshain@bayeq.com.

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AUGUST 16, 2019
Upton-Mendon Town Crier

**Calendar**

**Mendon Country Fair Vendors**
MENDON—Vendors wishing to participate in the Mendon Country Fair, September 14 from 4 to 6 p.m., are encouraged to register their interest. The fair attracts a large audience and features hot dogs, hamburgers, the homemade treat served with real whipped cream throughout the day. The fair is supported by the town through taxes. For more information, contact Joan Jackman, Donna Beatrice, Ronnie Moore, Judy Barton or Diane Menard.

**United Parish Town-Wide Yard Sale**
UNITED PARISH—The United Parish in Southborough is planning a town-wide yard sale in conjunction with United Parish’s Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday, September 28. Last year’s event was a success with over 30 locations throughout the town.

**Milford Historical Commission**
MILFORD—The Milford Historical Commission will hold a lawn-gathering at the North Purchase District School, August 24 at 2 pm, at the Northborough Library. Andrea Kaneb, an educator and advocate, will discuss a variety of aids and techniques to help make phones easier to use. Please come with questions and thoughts. 

**Northborough Library**
NORTHBOROUGH—Join Hearing Loss of America (HLAA) Central Massachusetts Chapter to learn how to make the most of mobile or landline phones for those with a hearing loss. On Saturday, September 7 at 2pm, at the Northborough Library, Andrea Kaneb, an educator and advocate, will discuss a variety of aids and techniques to help make phones easier to use. Please come with questions and thoughts. 

**Telephone and Hearing Loss**
Finding Solutions
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**Trinity Church, Milford Yard Sale**
TRINITY CHURCH—Milford Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, will hold a large yard sale on Saturday, September 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items will range from furniture to small household goods. A jewelry table will feature costume jewelry and perhaps hidden treasures. Enjoy a cup of hot or iced coffee and some home-made treats before the house closes, Lottery Scratch Tickets Tree, Joan’s Jewelry, and more. All funds raised directly supports building funds, departmental needs of the church, and activities of the church. All proceeds from the yard sale will be used to help fund the mission programs for the community.

**Northborough Library**
NORTHBOROUGH—All proceeds from The Taste of the Towns will benefit the Northborough Library. For more information, contact: Donna MacNaughton, Vendor Chairman at dmacnaughton@gmail.com.

**Northborough Library**
NORTHBOROUGH—The Northborough Town Crier (ITC) will begin its new session on Wednesday, September 4 and is searching for new female singers. No auditions are required. There is a need for new voices of all ages and in all parts. Rehearsals run from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays at Congregation B’nai Shalom, 11 E. Main St., Westborough. The chorus is not affiliated with the synagogue. There are no night rehearsals. For more information contact Rebecca Kepsig, 508-847-2961. E. Main St., Westborough. The chorus is not affiliated with the synagogue. There are no night rehearsals.

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Bo Daley Joins Unibank as Whitinsville Area Relationship Branch Manager

Wendy Brown, Vice President Director of Retail Banking, recently welcomed Bo Daley to the UniBank team as Area Relationship Branch Manager of the Whitinsville Main and Whitinsville Plaza Branches. In this role, he is responsible for operations, and growth and development of consumer and business relations for UniBank’s Whitinsville branch locations and representing UniBank in the community through attendance in community events and participation with community groups.

Daley has over 18 years of banking experience. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a focus in Management from Becker College.

Active in the community, Daley, who lives in Riverside R.I., is President of the Rotary Club of Metro Providence in 2019/2020 and as an active member in the Rotary Club of Blackstone Valley. He enjoys preparing food for those in need, repairing bicycles for the community, picking up litter, and many other local service activities.

Justine M. DeNorscia Executive Vice President at UniBank

Christopher D. Foley, President of UniBank, recently announced that Justine M. DeNorscia, has been promoted to Executive Vice President (EVP). DeNorscia continues in her role as Director of Government Banking. Her responsibilities include all management functions related to Deposit Operations, Cash Management, UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc. (UFASI), UniPay, and Government Banking.

DeNorscia has been with UniBank for 15 years. She is a 2013 graduate of the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking, and a recipient of the Certificate for Executive Leadership from The Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from Assumption College.

DeNorscia is a member of the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association, Massachusetts Municipal Association, Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials. She is also involved with various County Municipal Associations, volunteers at the Community Harvest Project, and serves as a member of the Hanover Theatre's Ambassadors Circle.

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VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED

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Shop Local | Buy Local
Getting Miscoe Hill School Ready for the New Year

Valley Tech students return to campus on Monday, August 19. Submitted by Elise Bogdan

BVT Prepped & Polished

Blackstone Valley Tech tapped into its resources of skilled staff and students who assisted in completing campus enhancements during their summer break.

The 193 teaching year calendar creates an eight-week summer for students and school staff year, an ideal opportunity for the facilities team to complete the school’s list of building and maintenance improvements.

“We strive to give our students and staff an environment that they are proud of, a place where they want to be their best,” said James Bouchard, BVT Facilities Manager. “We take pride in our work, we respect our campus, and we enjoy being here. Our 55-year-old institution deserves it.”

Timothy Boosono, Painting & Design Technology Instructor, worked closely with P&D students, Brady Smith, a senior from Millville and Emma Thayer a junior from Uxbridge to complete several painting projects on campus. Utilizing over 60 gallons of paint, they touched up classroom walls, door frames, trim, hallways, and common areas. They repainted the exterior sawdust collector, located outside of Construction Technology after it was power washed. They also scraped and painted all of the ductwork in the competition center.

Facilities completed a detailed maintenance inspection and repairs of all academic and vocational classrooms. After a review of all 37 classrooms, floors were washed and waxed. With Donald Rivers, Lead Custodian, and providing custodial assistance were juniors Brenda Elder from Millbury in Electrical, Victoria Lopez from Northbridge in HVACR, and Luke Morrison from Bellingham in Electronics & Engineering Technology.

There is a place now to rest alongside the track on a mahogany bench, built by staff repurposing the original scoreboard footings as benches repurposed as a lounge/multi-purpose room, and painting all the school’s doors and trim. The committee’s last project was painting all of the building’s doors. Since they began the prepping process, the committee realized that painting all 300 doors and trim would not be feasible. So, with the leadership of MURSD parent Mike Neveux, a group of about 75 volunteers spent four hours a night, four nights a week for over a month prepping and painting close to 100 doors, concentrating on the 9th and 5th grade wings and the common area hallways.

“We are still painting but will be bringing this project to a close next week,” said Duncan.

The We Care Miscoe group is done with their summer projects, but their work is far from over. According to Duncan, “We will be instituting a We Care Miscoe Grant program for students and teachers to work together to ask for something they would like to improve that falls under the categories of increasing pride, ownership, and student success.”

In response to the question of why the district isn’t funding these improvements in their current budget, Duncan said it comes down to limited resources.

“When you are dealing with a 60-year-old building, there are a lot of things a district has to address - like boilers and septic systems – that could shut down a school, before you can worry about aesthetics,” she said.

As for the hours and hours volunteers have put into the school this summer, Duncan said it was all worthwhile.

“T am thrilled,” she said. “I am so proud of the work that our volunteers have completed. It is just so impressive to see how many people came together with a common goal.”

For more information about We Care Miscoe, visit their table at the Mendonfest Celebration on Saturday, August 24, where they will be kicking off their fundraiser “Flocking for We Care Miscoe,” accepting donations for future projects, and selling t-shirts.

QCC and Assumption’s Longstanding Partnership Deepens

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) and Assumption College have forged a new transfer agreement that will offer graduates of QCC’s Liberal Arts Environmental Science associate degree program a seamless way to transfer as juniors to Assumption’s Environmental Science bachelor degree program. This agreement is just another way that QCC and Assumption have strengthened their partnership to help facilitate student success. QCC already has two transfer agreements with Assumption in Business Administration, as well as an agreement in Computer Science and one Human Services.

“QCC offers a multitude of articulation agreements with public and private institutions, both in-state as well as out-of-state. For a current list of articulation agreements and programs visit www.qcc.edu/services/transfer/transfer-agreements .”

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Upton Men’s Club 2019 Scholarship Recipients

The Upton Men’s Club announces that a total of $4,500 in scholarships have been awarded to three town residents planning to continue their education. The scholarship winners are Erin Bailey, Adele Brochu and Olivia Harris. Each recipient received a $1,500 award to be used for college expenses.

This year, as in previous years, a number of outstanding applications were received. Community service and impact were the key factors in determining the award recipients. The scholarship committee was pleased to see so many Upton students excelling in academics, arts, various clubs and athletics while making a difference in our community.

The Men’s Club Scholarships, and other community projects are made possible by events such as the annual Golf Tournament and other fundraising activities spearheaded by the club. For more information, visit UptonMenClub.org.

Valley Tech National Lunch and Breakfast Program

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School has announced its policy for free and reduced lunch and breakfast for those students unable to pay the full price for meals and snacks under the National School Lunch & Breakfast program. Income eligibility guidelines must be met and an application must be completed. Families who have received a letter stating that their child is eligible for the program via direct certification do not have to complete an application. Applications and all information regarding the program may be found by visiting ValleyTech.School.lunchApp.com, by stopping by the school office or accessing the school website, ValleyTech.k12.ma.us and clicking under “Parents & Students” / “Food & Nutrition.”
Blackstone Heritage Corridor Presents 5th Annual GO!

Go explore historic mill villages, go paddle under the full moon, go to an apple festival, and go explore the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor! With more than 100 events to choose from, Blackstone Heritage Corridor offers its 5th Annual GO! program this September, highlighting the Blackstone River Valley as a destination for family fun and exploration. GO! 2019 is generously supported by UniBank and Navigant Credit Union.

- A special GO! kick-off event takes place Thursday, August 29 at the Museum of Work & Culture, 42 S. Main St., Woonsocket, unveiling a gallery show featuring the stunning work of 10 volunteers from the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Photography Ambassadors. A free reception is being held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. where the museum’s gallery will debut 80 extraordinary photos highlighting the historic, natural, cultural and recreational resources within the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The show will remain on display through September 30, with free admission to the gallery during museum hours. Photos will be available for sale with proceeds benefiting the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

New this year to the GO! program is a series of adaptive kayaking events being offered at Wallum Lake at Douglas State Forest, Douglas. In partnership with All Out Adventures, Blackstone Heritage Corridor is offering four adaptive kayaking events, made possible within the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. For a full listing of Blackstone Heritage Corridor’s GO! 2019 program, visit BlackstoneRiverCorridor.org. Printed 48-page guide books will be available at BHC’s office at 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Follow Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. on Facebook for news and updates on GO! and more.

For a full listing of Blackstone Heritage Corridor’s GO! 2019 program, visit BlackstoneRiverCorridor.org. Printed 48-page guide books will be available at BHC's visitor centers, at one of the many visitor information kiosks throughout the National Heritage Corridor or at BHC's office at 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Follow Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. on Facebook for news and updates on GO! and more.


September 17 - Geologic History of the Blackstone tour, Lincoln.

September 4, 11 and 18 - Glacial Geology Hikes at Purgatory Chasm, Sutton.

September 7 - Hike Metacomet Land Trust's Hop Brook Conservation Area, Blackstone.

September 22 - ART on the Street Arts Festival, Worcester.

Family-Friendly Activities

September 1 - Geocaching 101, Worcester.

September 7 - Blackstone River Bikeway, Worcester.

September 26 - Celebrate National Bike Your Park Day with ranger-led rides in Lincoln and Uxbridge.

Nature Lovers

For a full listing of Blackstone Heritage Corridor's GO! 2019 program, visit BlackstoneRiverCorridor.org. Printed 48-page guide books will be available at BHC's visitor centers, at one of the many visitor information kiosks throughout the National Heritage Corridor or at BHC's office at 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Follow Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. on Facebook for news and updates on GO! and more.

September 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 - Canal Walk at the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park

September 4 - Waters Farm interpretive tour, Sutton.

September 15 - Quinsigamond Village Walking Tour, Worcester; and Precious Blood Cemetery Walk, Woonsocket; September 21 - Mammoth Mill Ruins, Blackstone and N. Smithfield.

September 20 - King Philip's War, Worcester; September 21 - Whittin Village Walking Tour, Whitinsville, and Great Road Day in Lincoln.

September 13 - Rhode Island and Connecticut BOGO Days at Southwick’s Zoo, Mendon.

September 14 - Full Moon Paddle, with the Blackstone River Watershed Association in Blackstone.

September 15 - Hike Cumberland Land Trust’s Mercy Woods, Cumberland.

September 21 - Bird Walk, Chase Farm, Lincoln.

September 26 - An Adaptive Hiking event will be held at River Bend Farm, Uxbridge.

September 28 - Bird Walk, Hopedale Parklands.

Festivals

September 7 - 20th annual Dragon Boat Races & Taiwan Day Festival, Pawtucket; and French Heritage Festival Woonsocket.

September 8 - 23rd annual Pet Rock Fest, Grafton; and High Tea and Hats, celebrating Margo Bik’s hat collection at the GB & Lexi Singh Performance Center, Whitinsville. RSVP HighTeaAndHatEvent@gmail.com

September 14 - Apple Festival at Douglas Orchard & Farm, Douglas; Living Green Expo, Woonsocket; and PawSox Food Truck & Craft Beer Festival, Pawtucket.

September 21-13th annual North Smithfield Great Pumpkin Festival, North Smithfield.

September 22 - Daniels Farmstead’s Apple Fest, Blackstone, Whitinsville.

Geology

September 4, 11 and 18 - Glacial Geology Hikes at Purgatory Chasm, Sutton.

September 7, 14 and 21 - Purgatory Chasm hikes, Sutton.

September 5 - Blackstone Gorge Hike Blackstone.

September 7 - Native American Ceremonial Landscape Tour, Upton.

September 17 - Geologic History of the Blackstone tour, Lincoln.


Local History

September 1 - Geologic History of the Blackstone tour, Lincoln.

September 7 - Star Gazing at River Bend Farm, Uxbridge.

September 14 - Full Moon Paddle, with the Blackstone River Watershed Association in Blackstone.

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September 21 - Bird Walk, Chase Farm, Lincoln.

September 26 - An Adaptive Hiking event will be held at River Bend Farm, Uxbridge.

September 28 - Bird Walk, Hopedale Parklands.

Bicycle

September 19 - Ten Mile River Greenway, E. Providence.

September 26 - Blackstone River Bikeway, Worcester.

September 28 - Celebrate National Bike Your Park Day with ranger-led rides in Lincoln and Uxbridge.

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September 12 - Hike Cormier Woods, Uxbridge.

September 13 - Star Gazing at River Bend Farm, Uxbridge.

September 14 - Full Moon Paddle, with the Blackstone River Watershed Association in Blackstone.

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September 26 - Blackstone River Bikeway, Worcester.

September 28 - Celebrate National Bike Your Park Day with ranger-led rides in Lincoln and Uxbridge.

Family-Friendly Activities

September 1 - Geocaching 101, Worcester.

September 7 and 8 - Massachusetts BOGO Weekend at Southwick’s Zoo, Mendon.

September 13 - Whitmer Farms Free Tour Friday & Apple Crisp Night, Sutton, advance ticket purchase required. September 14 and 15 - Rhode Island and Connecticut BOGO Days at Southwick’s Zoo, Mendon.

September 8, 15 and 22 - Nature Walks with a National Park Service Ranger
Burlingame — Roza Wedding

Sarah Ann Burlingame and Joshua James Roza were married on August 18, 2018 at Our Lady of the Cape Church in Brewster officiated by Father John R. Dolan.

The bride is the daughter of Robert and Sylvia Burlingame of Upton. The groom is the son of David Roza of East Providence and the late Lori Roza.

The maid of honor was Catherine Burlingame, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Thomas, sister of the bride; Natasha Fortin, Nicolle Fitzpatrick, and Julia Hartley all friends of the bride. Flower girls were Kiya Tweedly, niece of the groom and Vivian and Tessa Dotzado, cousins of the groom.

The best man was Christopher Howard, friend of the groom. Groomsmen were Jonathan Hurst and Ryan Atkien friends of the groom; Dylan Roza, brother of the groom; and Derek Thomas, brother-in-law of the bride. The ring bearers were Landon and Mason Thomas, nephews of the bride.

The reception was held at The Mansion at Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster. The newlyweds honeymooned in St. Lucia.

Inclusion Teacher at Clough Elementary School, a District Tech Support Specialist, two half-time Academic Tutors at both Clough and Memorial Elementary Schools, and a Spanish Immersion Para-Professional.

Although the school year is just beginning, Maruszczak said that the Budget Subcommittee is already hard at work in planning meetings throughout the year to educate and engage the taxpayers.

“These are two communities that require an additional operational override [for the school district] every four to five years because of the tax base,” said Maruszczak. “It isn’t because of a lack of trying [to fund the requested school budget] by the towns, it just comes down to what are the available resources.”

Maruszczak said that the Budget Subcommittee will be presenting their plan for community engagement during the August 26 School Committee Meeting.

“These meetings will be about the needs of the district and what our cost drivers are,” he said. “Getting this information out there will be very important.”

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My Magical Garden on Competing at Quilt Show

The World Quilt New England has officially accepted quilt artist Susan Pelland from Upton in the 2019 World Quilt Competition. Produced by show promoter Mancuso Show Management, Inc., the event, which attracts competitors from across the world, will take place at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, August 15-17. Pelland’s quilt, My Magical Garden, will be displayed at the show along with over 220 other entries from around the world. Winners will be selected at the show and publicized on the World Quilt New England website beginning Thursday, August 15. Quilt and textile art enthusiasts will have the opportunity to view Pelland’s quilt along with all the other quilts at the 23rd World Quilt New England, August 15-17.

Besides the entries to the quilt competition, World Quilt New England will feature workshops and lectures taught by a world-class faculty, a comprehensive Merchants Mall and a beautiful collection of special exhibits. These include quilts from Massachusetts based groups Northampton Modern Quilt Guild and Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild, Creative Conundrums with Fabric Fiddling by international instructor Jennie Rayment, Fly Me to The Moon, The ARTrageous Sea, and Cloth in Common, Quilt Guild, Creative Conundrums with Fabric Fiddling by international instructor Jennie Rayment, Fly Me to The Moon, The ARTrageous Sea, and Cloth in Common, an international quilt group, plus many more!

Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra Celebrating 20th Season of Performances

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Just over 20 years ago, Paul Surapine had an idea. To bring together the region’s finest professional musicians to deliver a season of amazing performances in Milford. Fast forward to today and the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra (CHSO), a 60 to 70-musician ensemble is preparing for its 20th season of bringing beautiful music to the masses. And that fact alone is music to Surapine’s ears.

Surapine, who serves as Executive and Music Director and conductor, says it’s hard to believe sometimes the CHSO is still performing two decades later. Still, he said, it was a step-by-step process bringing it all to fruition. “There was no business plan. There was no strategic plan. It was always one step at a time,” he said. One of those first steps was forming the Claflin Hill Music Performance Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit charitable foundation, which has been the CHSO’s mainstay since its inception.

Surapine has been playing music pretty much his entire life. “I knew by age nine that I wanted to be a professional musician,” said the clarinet player who graduated from the Hartt School, a performing arts conservatory of the University of Hartford. He has played Carnegie Hall as well as with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Hartford Symphony Orchestra and The Connecticut Pops Orchestra, among many others.

While some may be surprised that Milford is home to such a large, professional orchestra, Surapine says don’t be. The longtime Milford resident says his hometown has a long history of great music, including Italian opera and jazz. “Milford has been the seat of some great music,” said Surapine. And thanks to the CHSO, that history has continued on.

Surapine is also the Music Director of the Claflin Hill Youth Symphony made up of music students from central and eastern Massachusetts.

Besides the CHSO’s longevity and its quality performances, another thing Surapine and Assistant Director Bernadette Stockwell say they are very proud of is the connection the musicians have with their audience members and each other. Something they feel is not necessarily part of the big-city orchestras.

“When Paul walks through the doors, he knows where everyone is sitting and if someone is sitting in the wrong place, he knows that too,” said Stockwell. Surapine also says audiences enjoy speaking to the musicians and feel comfortable doing so. The orchestra members are also known to go out locally after a performance. “It’s really unlike any other orchestra,” said Surapine. “They’re an orchestra family.”

Concerts are held in the Milford Town Hall’s Grand Ballroom and have had as many as 600 in attendance. Still, Surapine says many are still unaware there’s a first-class orchestra, Surapine says don’t be. The longtime Milford resident says his hometown has a long history of great music, including Italian opera and jazz. “Milford has been the seat of some great music,” said Surapine. And thanks to the CHSO, that history has continued on.

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Concerts are held in the Milford Town Hall’s Grand Ballroom and have had as many as 600 in attendance. Still, Surapine says many are still unaware there’s a first-class symphony orchestra in their own backyard and encourages anyone who has a love of music to attend a performance.

For more information on the CHSO’s 20th Anniversary 2019/20 season, which begins this fall, visit ClaflinHill.com. They also can be found on Facebook.
Captains Lead BVT Football Following Title Year

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columist

Blackstone Valley Tech’s football team is looking to return to success this fall after losing 17 starters from a team that captured the program’s first state championship a season ago, and head coach Jim Archibald is looking to the Beavers’ four captains to lead the way.

J.D. Antaya, Jared Loiselle, Jack Nasuti and Ethan Lynch are all slated to play big roles on the field, but their head coach said he is looking for them to become more outspoken.

“They are all quiet guys, the challenge for them is for at least one or two of them to transform into the vocal leader every team needs,” Archibald said. “They don’t have to be yelling and screaming, but they have to be the voice of the team.”

That said, Archibald said what his captains can bring as athletes is “off the charts.”

Antaya has been a feature of the Beavers offensive and defensive backfields for three years, including the past two years as a two-way starter. Antaya led Central Mass. in interceptions last year and brought four picks back for touchdowns. On offense, he amassed just under 1,000 yards on the ground and another 300 yards through the air.

Loiselle and Lynch will be leaders of the Beavers’ defense this year. BVT will turn to Nasuti to anchor both the offensive and defensive lines. The 6-foot-5, 220-pound senior could have been a starter last year on nearly any other team, Archibald said, but Valley Tech had five senior starters on the line a season ago. Nasuti answered the call on a number of occasions last year and brought four picks back for touchdowns. On offense, he is going to be one of those guys, area coaches are going to say ‘where did this kid come from?’

Both Loiselle and Lynch will be leaders of the Beavers’ defense this year. BVT will turn to Nasuti to anchor both the offensive and defensive lines. The 6-foot-5, 220-pound senior could have been a starter last year on nearly any other team, Archibald said, but Valley Tech had five senior starters on the line a season ago. Nasuti answered the call on a number of occasions last year and brought four picks back for touchdowns. On offense, he may not be the team’s most vocal leader, but his presence on the field will be felt.

“Any time we put him in, he did the job well,” Archibald said, noting that each of the captains and the team’s 12 seniors will set the tone in 2019.

“They are all quiet guys, the challenge for them is for at least one or two of them to transform into the vocal leader every team needs,” Archibald said. “They don’t have to be yelling and screaming, but they have to be the voice of the team.”

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Sports

Maspnopack Scholarships

Two members of the Milford Maspnopack Rad and Gun Club shooting team were recently awarded $1,000 scholarships by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Brendan Setz, the son of Melissa and Ken Setz of Milford, shown on the left, will be attending the University of Akron in the fall. Legion Quinn, the son of Laura and Richard Quinn of Upton, will be attending Ohio State University. Shown in the middle is Maspnopack coach, Manny Snyderman. Setz signed a letter of intent for the Akron Zips Rifle Team. Quinn signed a letter of intent for the Buckeyes Pistol Team.

Maspnopack photo

Anderson Pitches Milford Micros to Title Series

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columist

Milford advanced to the championship series of the Central Mass. Senior Babe Ruth league before falling to Marlboro in back-to-back contests, but not before Blackstone Valley Tech graduate Joel Anderson returned from a shoulder injury to help the Micros advance to the title series.

Anderson pitched a complete game in a rubber match against Franklin, scattering eight hits in a 3-2 Milford win. The hitless season came to a close with a 14-7 record.

“We ran out of gas,” said head coach Jason Barney. “Defensively we were good, but one mistake helped Marlboro win game one and game two was all Marlboro from start to finish.”

Milford struggled offensively in the final series, falling in a 2-0 shutout in game one and by an 8-1 final in the second and decisive contest. Still, Barney was pleased with what his team was able to bring this summer.

“I’m very proud of the effort, we battled adversity all season long,” he said. “Whether it was injuries before or during the season, or dealing with a couple kids who left the team, the kids that stuck it out, bought in and worked their butts off.”

Milford will lose two of its top players next season, including Anderson, who is heading off to join the U.S. Marine Corps. In addition to bouncing back from injury to pitch Milford into the finals, the BVT product hit .366 with the team’s only home run. Dan Corsini, a Milford High graduate, ages out of the program after leading the team with a .403 batting average and a 6-3 record on the mound with a 2.20 ERA.

A strong group of players are eligible to come back to the team and Barney said he could have up to 10 players returning. Colin Bradford, who had a breakout year for the Micros despite not yet entering Nipmuc High School, is among those who could lead the way next season, along with Nick Wimette, Jason Luchini, and Carter Scudo.

That group will look to continue the success of the past few years, which has seen Milford win more than 30 games and advance to a championship series.

“I think the program is moving in the right direction,” Barney said. “When I took over the program, I set goals of being one of the best teams in the league and competing for championships. My first year as head coach was a bit of a disappointment, not making the playoffs, but the last two years have been very successful.”
Nipmuc, BVT Players Will Lead Post 59 In ‘20

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford Legion Post 59 will likely turn to a pair of players with Upton and Mendon ties next season, as Nipmuc’s Jacob Beder and Blackstone Valley Tech’s Justin Metcalf are slated to return for their third seasons with the program.

“The talent is there,” the coach said. “These kids are capable of doing everything they did last year.”

“It’s tough to see them go,” DiVitto said. “We appreciate all they have done. When you form relationships with these kids, you want to stay in contact.”

“Last year, we could roll the balls out and let the kids play,” he said. “This year we are going to have to be more disciplined as coaches and work with these kids to get them on the same page.”

But Archibald said there is plenty of reason to believe BVT could end up right where it was at the end of 2018.

“The talent is there,” the coach said. “These kids are capable of doing everything they did last year.”

Celebrating 25 Years of Womens Softball

In the late 1990s, three Upton women had an idea of offering local women the chance to play softball now over two decades later, the Upton Women’s Softball league recently celebrated their 25th Anniversary at a party complete with cake and fun. Shown, l-r, are the three founders – Keri Brodeur, Cheryl Jones and Mary Cortese.
Tupper Takes Over Nipmuc Football Program

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

After spending three years as an assistant coach, Dave Tupper is stepping into the head coaching role with the Nipmuc Regional High School football team. It's his first head coaching gig since leading Ashland High's team from 1980 to 1983.

"I got my first head coaching job when I was 25 and at the start of this season I will be 65," Tupper said with a chuckle. "I guess I needed a little rest in between."

A former player at Maran High School, Tupper spent years working in the insurance business between head coaching jobs, but has always stayed close to the gridiron. He worked as an assistant coach right out of high school while attending Framingham State and spent time coaching at Medway. The latter stop is where he met outgoing Warriors' head coach Shawn Hill.

When Hill became Nipmuc's head coach in 2016, he asked Tupper to join his staff. "There is no way in the world I would have considered being the head coach if it weren't for Shawn," Tupper said. "I know the program he has built. Shawn has built such a great culture; I would like to keep that going."

Tupper also extolled the support from the Nipmuc parents and administration and the quality of the kids who are in the program.

The biggest differences between Hill and Tupper may be stylistic, Tupper said, noting he is a little more reserved than his predecessor. "To his credit, that's why he thought I would be a good fit," the new coach said. "He thought the kids would respond well to me."

While their personalities may be different, Tupper said the offensive and defensive schemes would remain largely in-tact.

"It's the same offense we ran in Medway when we were together, he has added a lot of things that I will keep and continue to build on," Tupper said. "Defensively, it's still the same."

"We've gone 20-3 over the past two years," he added. "I don't think it makes sense to make a lot of changes."

Tupper inherits a team with some turnover after advancing to the state final a season ago. "We have a great group of kids, but we lost a lot, so we have some places to fill," he said. "But we have good players and a good core coming back."

The schedule will test the Warriors right from the opening week, as Nipmuc plays Littleton and Northbridge to begin the 2019 slate. "We will jump right into it," Tupper said. "It's very exciting."
Sunshine and Smiles at the 40th Pan-Mass Challenge

The 40th edition of the Pan-Mass Challenge rolled across the Commonwealth last weekend under sunny skies and with the promise of raising more than $80 million to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event was a success by any measure, but also a reminder that this fight is marked by both triumphs and setbacks.

This was probably my easiest PMC in memory. The legs were fresh, the lugs in good shape and the saddle discomfort … minimal. Thousands of riders crossed the finish line with plenty of strength left in their pedal strokes. When one cyclist crashed near the Provincetown line, her teammates and many other stopped, even with the finish only a few miles away. We pick each other up, and no one gets left behind.

The same can be said for our bigger battle against cancer. Not every ride is smooth. My team, the Stem Cell Cyclists, was founded by a veteran PMC rider from Hopkinton who had lost her sister to cancer in 2001 after receiving a stem cell transplant.

After the ride Sunday, a man approached my teammate and I when he saw our Stem Cell Cyclists jerseys. He said his son had been treated by Dr. Corey Cutler at Dana-Farber, the recipient of our fundraising, and had a stem cell transplant. He could not have been more appreciative for the work Dr. Cutler and his team do every day.

We asked how his son was doing and his eyes drifted downward a bit. “It came back,” he said before adding confidently. “But we’ll try it again.”

Perseverance is a crucial part of cycling and battling the steep hills and sharp descents that come with tackling cancer.

But for some, the ride gets smoother. The parents of a close friend of mine named Julia finished the PMC and raised more than $11,000 between them in honor of their daughter, who won her battle with cancer more than 17 years ago after being treated at Dana-Farber and has not looked back since.

The Stem Cell Cyclists’ “Pedal Partner,” Declan Rourke, took on a rare form of brain cancer and came out on top. He was waiting for us again this year along the route with his proud and grateful parents.

Sometimes the ride isn’t so smooth. Sometimes we crash, but we get back up and try again with the support of our friends, loved ones, and teammates. Because we know, though the road may be rough, nothing feels better than crossing that finish line.

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

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