Town and State Officials Continue to Monitor EEE Virus Threat

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Town officials in both Mendon and Upton continue to monitor the threat of the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus in their respective communities and provide the most up to date information to residents concerning the situation.

On August 23, the Mendon Board of Health received notice that a horse had tested positive for the virus, which then sadly had to be euthanized. As a result, "Mendon is on the critical list," said Board of Health Chair Andy Finke during an August 28 meeting. Due to of the critical status, Finke explained the state took over and announced mandated aerial spraying would begin as soon as weather conditions would permit. "The Mendon Board of Health had no control over the spraying," he explained. "That spraying took place on August 27 over certain parts of Mendon that were determined by the state."

Several residents attending the Board of Health meeting noted their concern over the effects of aerial spraying, including Barbara Gokey who resides on a farm in town. Gokey said the morning after the spraying was complete, there was not "a bird in sight" on her property. Jane Belliveau of the Mendon Agricultural Commission added the Commission would like to be an additional resource for residents concerning EEE.

According to Upton's Assistant Public Health Supervisor Diane Tiernan, Upton too was placed on the critical list as a result of a mosquito testing positive for EEE. In addition, a human case was diagnosed in the neighboring community of Grafton. As of August 28, there have been four confirmed human cases of the EEE virus in Massachusetts.

Upton had state mandated aerial spraying take place on August 27 and 28. Both Tiernan and Finke said state officials will continue to monitor the EEE threat in their communities but as far as they know, aerial spraying is complete for the season. The two also reiterated that spraying does not completely eradicate the virus.

Selectmen and Committee Discuss New Upton Municipal Community Center

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Members of the Upton Municipal Community Center Feasibility Committee attended the August 20 Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the results of their yearlong work which they are hoping will result in bringing senior services and the Upton Town Library together.

"Both the senior area and the library are over 40 years old and are insufficient for the needs of the community and are not ADA compliant," explained Committee member Greg Manning.

Currently, the Library is located in the center of town and the Upton Center is located approximately 1.5 miles down the road. "We'd like to see a joint building downtown as part of the new development," said Manning of Upton's revitalization initiative.

An architect presented conceptual designs of the new joint municipal center depicted a one story, 13,700 square foot building located at 8 Grove St. Library Director and ad-hoc Committee member Matthew Bachtold stated the newly built municipal center would allow residents to access multiple services in one central downtown location.

While the Selectmen did agree the municipal center was a good idea in theory, they had several concerns about the location. "One thing that jumps out to me is the lack of parking," said Selectman Chair Stephen Matellian. "It doesn't appear there's adequate parking and there's no sidewalks." Selectmen Brett Simas echoed those same concerns.

Bachtold stated there were 120 municipal parking spaces in a lot nearby and sidewalks were expected to be added. Still, the Selectmen noted their concerns about individuals with disabilities or mobility issues having to walk to the new building.

Matellian added he's worried about the tax burden the project would have on residents, which is estimated to cost $10 million, plus the acquisition of the Grove St. property.

Still, in order to determine if the Grove St. property is a viable site, the Committee requested $10,000 from the Selectmen's budget to complete an appraisal of the property, an environmental site assessment, and groundwater monitoring. A site survey totaling $5,000 is also necessary, that there's options for what's happening with their taxpayer dollars.

After additional discussion, Simas and Selectman Maureen Dwinnell voted to give the Committee the $10,000 feeling it was a necessary step to see if the project could move forward or not. Matellian voted against it.
Blood Drive

Thanks To Yanks, Rockland Trust and DCH Toyota of Milford will hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, September 11 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The blood drive for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women’s Hospital will be held at DCH Toyota, 300 Fortune Blvd, Milford. Held in conjunction with the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center, each participant will receive lantern. Appointments are recommended by logging into tinyurl/DCHSEPT2019. Walk-ins will be taken as time allows. For information about eligibility contact BloodDonor@partners.org or 617-632-3206. Donors must present a photo ID, and should eat and drink fluids before giving blood.

Female Boy Scout Troop 219

A group of female Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 219, spent the last week of July at Camp Resolute. Scouts in Troop 219 currently come from four towns–Franklin, Hopedale, Milford and Hopkinton–creating one diverse group for young ladies. They participated in rock climbing, and competed in the whole camp relay and aquatic race. The week ended with a Dutch oven cook off, fire building race, scout trivia, knot tie competition and team building activities with their brother Troop, Milford Troop 2. Registrations to join Troop 219 now being accepted for females aged 11 through 17 interested in Scouts BSA programing. Come see what the troop is about–community service, personal development and travel. For information about joining, email Advancement@Troop2Milford.org

Milford Cultural Council

The Milford Cultural Council will be accepting applications for funding requests from September 1 to October 1. Applicants are sought who will provide a diverse range of activities and events in the community that will reach out to all residents. The required application is online at: MassCulture.org/lcc_public_applicant_process.aspx#Applications.

Between November 1 and December 30, the Milford Council will meet to make decisions on applications, send denial letters and handle reconsideration requests. By January 15, 2020 the Council will begin to notify applicants of their funding.

Culture Council meetings, which are held every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in Milford Town Hall, 52 Main St, Room 14, are open to the public. Contact the Council by emailing CulturalCouncil@TownofMilford.com.

An Artful Look at Science & Technology

See What You Want, 2019 animated gif collage, by Di-Andre Caprice Davis is part of the New Century/New Materials Exhibit sponsored by Open Sky at the Spaulding Heritage Gallery in Whitinsville. Contributed photo

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See What You Want, 2019 animated gif collage, by Di-Andre Caprice Davis is part of the New Century/New Materials Exhibit sponsored by Open Sky at the Spaulding Heritage Gallery in Whitinsville. Contributed photo

New Century/New Materials, a truly NEW exhibit featuring current art trends in science and technology will open with a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 6 and runs through October 24, at the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery, Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekends and evenings by special appointment. This exhibit, presented by visiting curator Sabato Visconti, will feature artwork from New England and around the world that examines innovative artistic practices centered on emerging trends in science and technology.

New Century / New Materials will feature a diverse range of practices: from Neural Network-based AI (Artificial Intelligence) Art to Glitch Art; from Generative Art made from code to works in Augmented Reality formats; from BioArt created with bacterial cultures to a video art voyage through a stream’s ecosystem. There will also be a special screening of short film works in the GB & Lexi Singh Performance Center adjacent to the Gallery immediately following the reception at 7:30 p.m.

“This exhibit is unlike any we’ve presented in the past,” says Cristi Collari, Director of Community Outreach for Open Sky Community Services and resident curator of the Gallery. “Layered in science and/or technology, each work of art in the exhibit is very different, compellingly fascinating and uniquely beautiful. Sabato has done a great job pulling this together.”

For more information, please visit openskycs.org/news-events or visit Facebook/ValleyCAST.
Mendon Flu Shot Clinic

The Mendon Board of Health is sponsoring the annual seasonal Flu Shot Clinic administered by the Salmon Family VNA on Friday, October 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Mendon Senior Center, Providence St. The flu vaccines are for all Mendon residents ages six-months and older including senior citizens and pregnant women. There is no fee for the vaccine, however participants should bring insurance and/or Medicare cards to the clinic and wear short sleeves. Individuals at higher risk should consult with their physician before receiving the shot. Please pre-register by calling 508-478-6175.

Transportation for senior citizens and those with disabilities is also available by calling the same phone number.

Mendon Halloween Festival

The Mendon Historical Society is pleased to announce the first Mendon Halloween Festival at Memorial Ball Field on Saturday, October 26 from 5 to 9 p.m. Events for this night of fun and fright will include two spooky trails. The first trail is designed for fearless teens and adults and a second trail of frolic and mischief for our younger audience.

Along with the spooky trails there will be games and activities taking place around the park including corn hole, booth games and for those seeking a bit more excitement a mini pumpkin launch.

A movie will be featured in the pavilion along with spooky myths and storytelling from the Lake Nipmuc Gypsies. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

There will be two contests at the Halloween Festival. Illumination of the carved pumpkin contest will start at dusk followed by a costume parade and award ceremony. Ribbons will be presented for costumes and superior carving skills.

Details for the contests will be available on MendonHistoricalSociety.org and on Facebook: Mendon Historical Society @ Mendon History.

The rain date is Sunday October 27 from 4 to 8 p.m. This fundraiser supports the Mendon Historical Society. The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of Mendon have generously stepped up to help the society with this event and will be raising funds for their organizations as well. Special thanks go out as well to Mendon Police and Fire, the Mendon Festival Committee, the Mendon Parks Department, the Brothers of the Brush and many hauntingly talented volunteers who will make this evening one to remember.

For further information contact, the Historical Society at MendonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or 508-488-9620.

Mendon Lions Annual Country Fair October 12

What began in Mendon in 1975 will continue on Saturday, October 12, as the Mendon Lions Present the 44th Annual Mendon Country Fair at the Blessing Barn, on Rt.16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, October 13. There will be live music throughout the day, livestock displays, crafters, vendors, nonprofit groups, churches, free wagon rides, and a K-9 demonstration by Mendon’s Police Dog, Brady.

Another feature of the event is Kids Faire with a magic show, face painting, pie eating contest, pony rides, and a petting zoo. One of the long-time traditions at the Fair is delicious foods at the Lions Food Court. The menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers, subs, meatball sandwiches, French fries and fried dough. Fresh squeezed lemonade, ice cream, and watermelon will also be available, along with cold drinks and coffee.

Admission to the Fair is free. Parking is available for a donation to the Mendon Boy Scouts. All profits will go to Mendon Lion’s Club charities and community projects.

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Mendon News

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019
Upton-Mendon Town Crier

3
Pen Pal Program

The Mendon Senior Center will be teaming up with the Henry F. Clough Elementary School for the annual Pen Pal Program. More senior pen pals are needed to write a brief letter each month, October through May, to a Clough fourth grader in Kristen Berthao’s class. The inquisitive fourth graders take the lead, asking questions about life in the past. To sign up, stop by the Senior Center or call 508-478-6175.

Senior of the Year Luncheon

The Mendon Senior of the Year Luncheon honoring Fred Kelley, will be held on Sunday, September 15 at 11:30 a.m. The ceremony and dinner hosted by the Mendon Lions Club will be held at the Unitarian Church of Mendon Uxbridge, 13 Maple St., and will celebrate the town’s 42nd Annual Senior Citizens Day. Space is limited, so please call the Senior Center, 508-478-6175, to register.

Veterans’ Round Table

A Veterans’ Round Table will be held Thursday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. at the Mendon Senior Center. This meeting, hosted by Robin Fletcher, Mendon’s Veterans’ Service Officer, is open to veterans and their spouses, widows or widowers to discuss veterans’ benefits. Assistance to veterans and their families including, in some cases, dependent children and/or widows of veterans will also be discussed. Reservists, retirees and members of the Coast Guard are also invited to attend. Stop by the Senior Center or call 508-478-6175 to register for the program.

Mendon Cultural Council 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 Taft Public Library; events at the Senior Center; and many local artists providing school and community programs. For more information or to receive up to date listings of activities and events, visit the Mendon Cultural Council on Facebook.

Upton-Hopkinton Town Crier

Mendon News

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Mendon Senior Center

The Mendon Senior Center serves Mendon residents 60 years of age or older, people with disabilities, and care givers. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or call 508-478-6175.

Tuesday, September 10
Ancestry Program, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, September 11
COA Meeting, 10 a.m.

Thursday, September 12
Magnet Craft, 11 a.m.

Sunday, September 15
Senior of the Year Celebration at Unitarian Church, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 16
Ministries Choir Begins, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17
Silver Moon Dance Trapeze, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, September 18
Podiatry Clinic, 9 to 11 a.m.
ATL Course Begins 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 19
Journacling, 2, 11 a.m.

Monday
Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m.
Weather Permitting
Food Pantry (First Monday of the Month), 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Whole Foods, 9 a.m.
Cribbage and Bridge, 9 a.m.
Boice, 9 a.m.

Tuesday
Chair Exercise, 10:15 a.m.
Lunch Club, 12 p.m.
Hand and Foot (Canasta), 1 p.m.
Evening Yoga, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m.
Weather Permitting
Panera Bread, 9 a.m.
Tai Chi, 9, 3 a.m.

Thursday
Cribbage, 9 a.m.
Stretch and Flex, 9 a.m.
Walking Group, 10:30 a.m. (1st and 3rd Thursday of Month)
Lunch Club, 12 p.m.
Yarn Works, 1 p.m.

Friday
Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m.
Weather Permitting

Mendon Town Calendar

Mendon News

TAFT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Main St, Mendon • 508-473-3259 • TaftPublicLibrary.org
Tu, Wed 10-7 • Thurs 5-7 • Fri 12-5 • Sat 9-12 • Closed Sun & Mon

Submitted by Andrew Joenich, Director, and Tara Windsor, Children’s Librarian

Ghost Hunter Dustin Pari
Dustin Pari of SYFY’S hit television show Ghost Hunters will visit on Tuesday, October 1 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs Clinkman Periodicals Area. Dustin has investigated some of the most well known ghosts in America. Dustin has been featured on national and international television shows. Dustin will be available for questions and will sign his book, After the Storm: A Spiritual Guide to When It’s Real. Dustin will also be available for photographic portrait sessions weather permitting, register in advance.

Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club
The quarterly Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club meets on Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m. to discuss David Grant’s Killers of the Flower Moon, an account of the Oklahoma Osage murders of the 1920s and the origins of the FBI. For those who are interested, registration for the discussion is ongoing and copies of the book and audiobook are still available to pick up at the downstairs desk. The Footnotes pick for this winter will be Maybe You Should Talk to Someone by Lori Gottlieb. It will be available to pick up starting in October.

Adult Book Club
The Adult Book Club will meet on Monday, September 9 at 7 p.m. in the downstairs library to discuss Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy and Breakfast with Buddha by Rodman Philotes. All book club meetings are typically the first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday) and start at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room. New members are always welcome. Copies of each book are available at the downstairs circulation desk.

Meeting Space Available
The Taft Public Library welcomes the use of its downstairs Art Holmes Community Room and the upstairs Clinkman Periodicals Area. Those interested in reserving either space should visit TaftPublicLibrary.org, and click on Meeting Room Reservations at the top of the page. The Meeting Room Use Policy includes guidelines for use by groups. Click on the Room Reservation Form link to reserve the space or scan the Room Reservation Form and submit it by email to librarydirector@menndonoma.org, fax to 508-473-7049, or drop it off at the upstairs circulation desk in the library. For questions, contact the Library Director, 508-473-3259.

Display Your Collection
Do you have a hobby or collection you’d like to highlight? The library has display cases where various collections can be shown on a monthly basis. While they often showcase items from the library’s Genealogy collection and highlight the history of the town or the library, displays from Mendon residents’ organizations are welcomed. To display a collection, please call 508-3259 or email Andrew at librarydirector@menndonoma.org. Please share with us!

Join the Friends of the Taft Public Library
The Friends of the Taft Public Library typically meet once a month upstairs in the Library. Come and join in on the fun and help them strengthen the Library’s connection with the Mendon community. For more information on upcoming meetings visit the TaftPublicLibrary.org and click on the ‘Friends of the Taft Library’ link or email friendsoftaftlibrary@gmail.com.

Children’s News September 2019

Summer Reading Program
What a summer we had here at the Taft Library! We had eight-weeks jammed packed with programs and events. Thank you to everyone who participated. I would also like to extend my gratitude and admirations to our amazing group of teen volunteers, Friends of the Taft Library, library director, Andrew Jenrich, and of course the fantastic Taft Library staff. Without these people we would not be able to offer such a wonderful summer program. Thank you!!!

Registration
If registration is needed for any programs, please log onto TaftPublicLibrary.org and register on the events page.

Itty Bitty Story Time
Itty Bitty Story time, for our youngest patrons: birth to 3 years old, is held on Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. As a great way to introduce young children to the library, it includes stories, songs, musical instruments, and a whole lot more to keep the little ones engaged and entertained. No registration needed.

Story & Craft Time
Preschool children and an adult are invited to the Story and Craft Time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., no registration needed. Themes are:

September 11: All About School
September 18: Birthday Stories
September 25: Exploring Art

Muffins with MOM
Muffins with MOM, sponsored by Beginning Bridges CFCE, The Muffin House and the library, will be Thursday, September 19 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The free, drop-in program for up to 15 families, features opportunities to build social connections and learn about family-friendly resources. Light refreshments will be served.

Ded Hodgins: Music & Movement
Join Ded Hodgins on Thursday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m. for a 30-minute Nursery Rhyme Time theme-based program featuring singing and guitar music for young children from infants through preschoolers, no registration needed.

Book Clubs
All book clubs meet at 5 p.m., registration is required since the meetings include pizza and refreshments. Books may be picked up at the Children’s Desk.

A Matter of Balance
A Matter of Balance, an eight-week class offered by Tri-Valley at the Mendon Senior Center will begin on Wednesday, September 25 at 10:30 a.m. Each session will be held in pairs. The program which runs through November 13, will help participants view falls as controllable, set realistic goals for increasing activity, reduce household fall risk factors and increase strength and flexibility. Sneakers or other comfortable study shoes are recommended. Refreshments will be served. Register by stopping by at the Senior Center or calling 508-478-6175.

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MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS

Free, nourishing meals offered monthly to all in the local community.
Second Tuesday 6:30-7 p.m. St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by Food with Friends. 508-473-2030
Last Wednesday 4:30-6 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org
5:30 p.m. Community Pantry Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt.135), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Connection. 508-435-4336 or StPaul@hopkinton.org.
Every Thursday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch, St. Mary 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 508-329-3192.
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, Unitarian Universalist and Union Evangelical). 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org.
Saturday 6:30 to 7 p.m. Brown bag lunch/ dinner, Universalist Unitarian Church, 23 Pine St., Milford, use side door. Sponsored by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish of Milford. Jobbalack@gmail.com
Every Sunday 4:30 p.m. Supper, Universalist Unitarian Church, 23 Pine St., Milford. 508-473-3389, or farmfood@verizon.net.

Encounters of a legal alien
By Christian Barnett

Leisurely Shopping

All moms of small kids will agree that shopping without them is like taking a holiday. They are leery through grocery aisles without your offspring pulling random stuff of shelves is blissful. It gets even better when you are joined by a good friend.

Last night, I and my friend Shana, or my partner in crime, - everyone should have a Shana - went looking for a laptop at Best Buy.

No groceries in sight! That is the equivalent to a Caribbean Cruise, I’ll have you know.

We were ecstatic. We’d be in that store for hours, because to hell with bedtime! Let the husbands deal with that nightmare!

After touching everything in the store, just like we tell our kids not to do, we found the laptop we wanted and rather big red letters on the cable that spelled out “alarm” I may have thought twice. But of course, in the heat of the moment I did not.

Shana just stared at me in shock saying, “If you were my husband I would leave you right now.”

You may know that all laptops at Best Buy are connected to an alarm via their UPS battery.

Well, I did not. I am not even sure I can blame this on being an Alien. I may just be living under a rock.

So I just stood there, laptop in hand, smiling and waving at the passer-bys and the store employees.

After what seemed like an eternity they switched the alarm, I said “Oops”, put the laptop down, then left the store.

We decided shopping with kids is less stressful after all, because at least you can blame setting off an alarm on them!
People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes. The Boards of Health in Mendon and Upton and Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) provide this information to help residents protect themselves from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and other mosquito-borne diseases by using the Drain and Cover suggestions.

**Drain**

- Standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing.
- Clothing — wear shoes, socks and long pants and long sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.
- Repellent — Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.
- Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent. Some repellents are not suitable for children.

**Cover**

- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing.
- Avoid applying repellents to the hands of children.
- Adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to the child's skin and clothing.

### Tips on Repellent Use

- Always read label directions carefully for the approved usage before you apply a repellent.
- Some repellents are not suitable for children.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin, or onto clothing.
- Avoid applying repellents to the hands of children.
- Adults should apply repellent first to their own hands and then transfer it to the child's skin and clothing.

### Preventing EEE

- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean bird baths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mosquito repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three years. DEET is not recommended on children younger than two months old.
- Keep Mosquitoes outside:
  - Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house.
  - Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.
- For more information on what repellent is right for you, consider using the Environmental Protection Agency's search tool to help you choose skin-applied repellent products: http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/#searchform.
- People have an important role to play in protecting themselves and their loved ones from illnesses caused by mosquitoes. The Boards of Health in Mendon and Upton and Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) provide this information to help residents protect themselves from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and other mosquito-borne diseases by using the Drain and Cover suggestions.

### Precautions to Help Prevent EEE

- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.
- Cover skin with clothing or repellent.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

The 13th Annual Thanks To Yanks Tribute 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 freedoms 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.
**Historical Light Fixture Hangs in Town Hall Once Again**

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Next time residents enter through the front doors of Upton's Town Hall, be sure to look up. That’s because a piece of the town’s history was recently refurbished and is now helping to light the building’s hall way entrance.

Thanks to the year-long efforts of Upton Historical Society President Tom Bair, a chandelier that once hung in the Town Hall’s main hall is once again part of the building.

When the Town Hall was being cleared out for its renovation several years ago, the chandelier, which Bair estimates is from the early 1900s, was discovered under the main hall’s stage. It was hoped the fixture could be restored and rehung as part of the renovation initiative, however, the contractor said the cost to do so would be too expensive.

It was then that Town Clerk Kelly McElreath handed the chandelier over to Bair, who wasn’t ready to give up on the historical light fixture. “It was filthy and badly tarnished,” he said.

Over many months, Bair worked to clean the brass, rewire the light, and install LED lights. When the light hung in the main hall, it had an 11-foot drop from ceiling. As a result, Bair removed a large section of the drop tube so it would be able to hang from the front hall way ceiling.

After all of Bair’s hard work, the light was able to be installed in August. “It’s great to have an original light fixture there,” said McElreath. “Tom did a wonderful job restoring it so we can all see this historical artifact as we enter the Town Hall.”

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**United Parish Town-Wide Yard Sale**

The United Parish is again sponsoring the town wide yard sale in conjunction with the celebration of the Heritage Celebration on Saturday, September 28.

Residents who are interested in holding a yard sale at their homes may pick up a registration form at the United Parish office during regular business hours or by downloading a form from the church’s website. The cost to register is $20 which will cover being included on the town-wide map of all yard sales and a sign that may be posted on the seller’s property. Interested buyers will be able to purchase a map at the church beginning at 7:30 a.m. on that day for $3 and follow the route to all the sales in town.

Interested residents who may have questions are asked to call Wayne Phipps at 508-473-8442 or 508-341-0693.

A new addition this year is available for out-of-town residents or those living far out of town. The VFP is renting spaces to those sellers also for $20. Interested residents for this feature are asked to call David Kennedy at 508-529-3314.

In conjunction with the celebration, The United Parish will be selling hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage sandwiches with peppers and onions, with all the fixings throughout the day plus a fall tradition of custom apple crisp with real whipped cream.

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**COA Table at Upton’s Heritage Day**

The Upton Council on Aging staff will have a table at the upcoming Upton Heritage Day, Saturday, September 28, on the town common. The staff will be sharing resource and referral information and letting people know about all the services offered here at the Upton Center. Information about the “Go 4 Life” walk will also be shared and everyone is encouraged to take the one-mile challenge or participate up to their own level of comfort. The Council on Aging table will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and everyone is invited to stop by.

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**Upton Parish**

**School Van Drivers and Monitors Needed**

**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 licensees 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 25-35 hours per week.

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.

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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, September 6**

- Shifting Appointments, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., please call for appointment
- Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, job lots, Foppema’s, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 9 a.m.
- Grandparents’ Day Social, 12:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 9**

- COA Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Senator Moore’s Office Hours, 1:15 to 2 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 10**

- Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Oxford, 12:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 11**

- Trip to Grafton Farmers Market & Swirls & Scoops Ice Cream, 2 p.m.

**Thursday, September 12**

- Breakfast with the Town Manager, 9 a.m.

**Friday, September 13**

- Nutrition Talk with Wendy, 10:45 a.m.
- Shopping Trip to Walmart, Northbridge, 11 a.m.
- Men’s Club Supper Returns, 5:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 16**

- Lunch Trip to Beef Barn, Bellingham, Departing at 12 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 17**

- Shopping Trip to Hannaford’s, Uxbridge, 9:15 a.m.
- Craft Time with Betty, 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 18**

- Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Foppema’s, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 1 p.m.

**Friday, September 20**

- BVT Salon Visit, Depart 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. appts.
- SHINE Appointments, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Please call for appointment
- Afternoon Movie, 12:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 23**

- Breakfast at the Center with Fire Safety Talk, 9:15 a.m.

**Monday**

- Tal Tal, 1 p.m.

**Tuesday**

- 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**

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

- Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.

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**Upton Meetings**

To see the Upton Meeting Schedule visit UptonMA.gov
Upton Cultural Council Sponsors Free Jazz Ensemble Concert

The Upton Cultural Council will present a free concert open to residents of Upton and its surrounding communities featuring The United States Air Force Heritage of America who will present Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble on Sunday, October 6 at 2 p.m. in the Upton Town Hall.

Rhythm in Blue features the diverse talents of 15 professional musicians whose commitment to excellence has earned worldwide acclaim and military distinction. The band incorporates a wide repertoire of jazz and fusion, from big band swing to cutting-edge contemporary music.

The event is free, but refreshments will be available for purchase and donations will be accepted with all proceeds benefitting Upton’s VFW in its effort to replace the aging floor in the VFW building.

“This free event will connect the community in a patriotic way in the heart of Upton, our renovated and historic Town Hall,” notes Cultural Council Co-chair, Shelley Ryan.

For additional information about the concert, please email culturalcouncil@uptonma.gov or visit the band’s website heritageofamericaband.af.mil. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and seating is on a first-come basis. Free parking is available at the VFW parking lot and around Town Hall. This event is handicap accessible.

Submitted by: Matthews Backstead, Library Director and Lee Ann Murphy, Children’s Librarian

National Library Card Month

Did you know that September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month? Be sure to stop by and get your card today. All you need is a photo ID that shows your current address. Your first card is free and gives you access to the CW/MARS network, a Central & Western Massachusetts network of over 140 libraries. First grade students at Memorial School will soon visit the library to receive their own library cards.

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Upton Town Library will hold a used book sale on the Library Lawn on Saturday, September 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hardbacks and DVDs - $2, Paperbacks - $1, Children’s books – 50 cents. Fill a FITL tote bag full for $20. Bags are available for $5.

The book sale will be part of Upton’s Heritage Day. In case of poor weather, the book sale will be moved inside the library.

New Digital Magazines and Audiobooks

Upton Library is offering a new collection of digital audiobooks and magazines. This content can be played on your computer, smartphone or tablet. Audiobooks are ideal for a commute, and digital magazines are complete, full color issues of popular titles.

All items in this collection are always available, no wait times or hold lists!

To get started, visit UptonMA.rbdigital.com and make an account using your Upton library card. Then download the rbdigital app and login to view and borrow content.

More information and instructions can be found at Uptonlibrary.org

Movie Day

On Saturday September 21, the library will host Movie Day from 1-3 p.m. and show a PG rated film for kids, ages 5 through 12. Watch as your favorite game villain bravely the Internet to help his best friend fix her game Sugar Rush. Registration suggested but not required.

Baby Storytime

Baby Storytime is held Fridays at 10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room for infants up to age three. Drop in for stories and songs. Mrs. Murphy will work on Getting to Know You this month as members will

Preschool Storytime

Preschool Storytime meets Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Room for ages 3 through 6. Join Mrs. Murphy in September for programs on school and apples. Nipmuc Regional High students will hold a Spanish Storytime about friends on September 12. Special guest Deb Hudgins offers a Music & Movement session on September 19. No registration required.

LEGO Club

Drop in on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for the LEGO Club in the Gathering Room. LEGOS are supplied, don’t bring any to the club. Just have fun with new friends and new creations.

Teen Group

The Creative Artistic Reading Team, C.A.R.T., the library teen group, will work on Getting to Know You this month as members will reacquaint themselves with the group and work on some ice breaker games, activities, crafts and books. This drop-in group, for ages 1 through 16, meets weekly from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Library Book Discussion Groups

The Library hosts monthly book discussion groups. All groups meet in the Library Gathering Room, and discussions last for one hour.

Library Book Group – meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and alternates fiction and non-fiction titles. Meld : Hard Work, Low Pay and a Mother’s Will to Survive by Stephanie Land will be discussed on September 25.

Upton Reads – meets on the second Tuesday at 12:45 p.m., and following Thursday at 6:45 p.m. to read an eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction. A Well Behaved Woman by Theresa Ann Fowler, historical fiction about the Vanderbilt family, will be discussed on September 10 and 12.

To build up a library is to create a life. It’s never just a random collection of books.

~Carlos María Domínguez

Carlos María Domínguez is an Argentine writer and journalist who lives in Montevideo since 1989.

New Leadership with Deep Local Roots

To build up a library is to create a life. It’s never just a random collection of books.

~Carlos María Domínguez

Carlos María Domínguez is an Argentine writer and journalist who lives in Montevideo since 1989.
Upton Heritage Day 2019, an Annual Community Event

Events are coming together for the Upton Heritage Day 2019 on September 28, all around the town common. Events will occur at United Parish, Upton Fire Department, the VFW, Town Common, and the Upton Library on this same day. The Town Hall will be used in case of poor weather conditions.

The Economic Development Group is holding a Business Fair at United Parish Church from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twenty local businesses will be there providing information about opportunities in Upton. United Parish will also hold a Town-Wide Yard Sale with maps on sale beginning at 7:30 a.m. The church will also have their grill going for lunch items as well as apple crisp for sale in the afternoon.

The Upton Fire Department is celebrating its 180th Anniversary by displaying Fire Trucks from various years as well as skill demonstrations and treats for everyone at the Fire Barn, 20 Church St.
The Upton VFW, 15 Milford St., will host some yard sale vendors and the Upton Grange Agricultural Fair. The fair will offer games and activities for kids, a pumpkin decorating contest and displays of animals, plants, vegetables, hand-crafts, and photographs entered into judged contests with ribbons and other prizes awarded. Entries should be submitted on Friday evening, September 27. Contact the Grange for information.

The Friends of the Upton Town Library will hold a book sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the library lawn. A large collection of used books will be offered at bargain prices. In case of rain the sale will be held in the library.
The Town Common as many as 30 vendors, crafters, and town organizations offer information, wares and entertainment including a small petting zoo and pony rides. Johnny Diamond will perform.

Anyone who would like to be part of the Craft/Fair Vendor on the common or have other questions about participating on September 28, please contact the Upton Historical Society at 508-529-6600.

Most of these groups are advertising their events on their Facebook pages. Be sure to check them out for more details on each event and follow the page for information on other events throughout the year.

Upton Selectmen Hear Initial Review of Master Recreation Plan

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Upton Recreation Director Andrew St. George and Commission members Debra Amorelli and Richard Porter attended the August 20 Board of Selectmen's meeting to present an initial review of the Recreation Master Plan for the town.

Prior to the discussion, Selectman Brett Simas stated the Recreation Commission was not there to request money that evening and explained the purpose of a Master Plan. "It's a process that creates a vision, it creates a roadmap, it creates a sense of ideas and opportunities and potential proposals," said Simas. "A Master Plan in and of itself isn't even a proposal. It's simply a body of research that aggregated data is put together to look at opportunities and all the possibilities we have in terms of development."

According to St. George, the driving force for the Recreation Master Plan is a combination of ADA compliance projects coupled with the recent donation of the Trask Property.

During several public meetings with the Recreation Commission, attendees identified a number of projects they'd like to see come to fruition which included, a Cal Ripken, full size rectangular field with lighting for various uses; sufficient parking at any new facilities; larger baseball/softball fields; regulation tennis courts; passive areas near active recreation areas for spectators; additional playgrounds; more walking trails, a seasonal, outdoor hockey/skating rink; and full ADA accessibility at all facilities.

St. George explained the town would not be moving forward with the initiatives all at once. "We're looking at a phased approach to this," he said, adding that some projects will be put on hold indefinitely.

This first phase, he explained, would be to reconfigure the Leland Baseball Field and basketball courts to allow for a full-size field and upgrades. "The courts are in pretty bad shape right now and in need of some significant work," said St. George.
This could happen by either moving the location of the baseball diamond to allow the courts to stay in place and then renovate the courts or leave the baseball diamond in its current location, enlarge it, and move the courts to the opposite side of the field. The final decision would be determined based on engineer designs and costs.

Another initiative in the first phase is basic ADA accessibility upgrades at Kiwanis Beach and Leland Field.

The second phase of the Master Plan includes building a new, fully compliant Kiwanis facility in a more accessible location that would allow for year-round recreation, including after school programs. A playground area would be built near the new facility and a redesigned parking area would be part of the second phase too.

The third phase involves developing the donated Trask property to address field shortages.
In order to help defray costs, St. George hopes the DPW can assist with projects and the Commission will be applying for grants and approaching the Community Preservation Commission to utilize CPA funding.

The next step in moving forward is for the Commission to finalize costs and plans and then approach the Finance Committee, Capital Budget Committee, and ultimately residents.

Senato Moore Office Hour

Representatives from State Senator Michael Moore's office will be at the Upton Center, Farm St., on Monday, September 9 from 1:15 to 2 p.m. to discuss concerns with constituents.

Upton Historical Society
Knowlton-Risteen Building, 2nd Floor
2 Main Street, Upton - 508-529-6600
UptonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com
Facebook.com/UptonHistoricalSociety

The Hat Industry in Upton

A special exhibit, The Hat Industry in Upton, will open at the Upton Historical Museum, 2 Main St., in the Knowlton-Risteen Building, on Thursday, September 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m.

The exhibit will explore the history of the Upton Hat Industry from Knowlton to Jenny Rand and Giovanni. Beginning in 1833 through much of the 20th century, Upton prospered from the hat industry. From hats made of straw grown on local farms, to plastic braid and wool, the designs and quality of hats made in Upton was well recognized. Sold under many labels, hats were found in stores from New York to Paris.

The exhibit will include photos of the machinery and supplies used in making straw hats, Knowlton's catalogs, and a variety of hats. Attendees can explore numerous artifacts from Upton's rich history.

After the opening day, the exhibit will be available to view during Upton's Heritage Festival on September 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and during regular museum hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon; the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 508-529-6600 to confirm hours or for more information. Follow on Facebook: Upton Historical Society – Upton, Massachusetts.

Back to School

Register in person, by phone or on line
The Nipmuc Regional High School Class of 1969 held their 50th reunion on August 10 and 11 at Willow Brook Restaurant in Mendon. A dinner was held on August 10, where Michael Matthews said a blessing before the meal and mentioning the deceased classmates. Ten of the 73 graduates from the Class of 1969 have passed away.

William Hackenson, the class president, made a speech later in the evening presenting the following awards: Traveled the farthest: (1,940 miles) Ric and Kathy Fagan Schug from Loveland, Colo.; and The Class Couple: Chris and Linda (Bishop) May from Hudson, Maine, who got a gift for still being the “Class Couple.” They celebrated their 48th Anniversary on August 12 and dated for five years before that. Hackenson also gave Albert and Maureen (Fagan) Ames a shout out for organizing the event and awarded them a small token of appreciation. Special guest teacher Carl Olson attended.

On August 11 a Brunch was held and lots of reminiscing continued. Classmates attended from Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Members of the Nipmuc Class of 1969 gathered for their 50th Reunion in August. Those who attended were, l-r, Front Row: Judith Lucier Hannum, Paula Whitney Plomley, Vicky Mansfield VanDusen, Ruth Wagner Dunford, Kathy Fagan Schug, Bonnie Routhie, Judy Lauscu Lalvée, Kathy Chapin Porter; and Michael Matthews. Second Row: Rose Mary Kenton, Joanne Hobeg Crew; Deborah Rhodes Andrews; Kathleen Fitzpatrick Renfrew; Kenneth Lemoine; Michael Smith; John McKernan; Linda Bishop May; and John Franklin. Back Row: Thomas Pezzella, Craig Nealley; Albert Ames; Thomas Hackenson; David Kennedy, Ric Schug; Wayne Shapp; William Hackenson; Phillip McClure; and Chris May. Classmates not pictured who attended the Brunch were Karleen Barrows Mohn and Dennis Tetreault. Contributed photo.
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 a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc.

For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com. GGC photo

The highlight of the Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford’s summer excursion was a visit to Bonsai West. The group also went to Cataldo’s Nurseries where they looked at lovely summer perennials in full bloom and which give so 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

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, faxes, 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.

The Greenleaf Garden Club has planned an exciting series of programs for the 2019-2020 year. The first program will host Andi Rossi, a noted horticulturist on Monday, September 16, at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, 60 N. Bow St., Milford at 7 p.m. Ross’s talk, entitled, Garden Survival 101, will explore ecological and environmental change discussing 10 trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses and ferns that can help mitigate climate change in gardens. She will discuss critical issues and suggest how to work with nature as climate changes.

Ross is an artistic landscape designer, a certified organic land-care professional, horticulturist and sought after speaker. The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For information, email GreenleafGardenClub@gmail.com.

Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office will show participants the Upton Chamber and companion ceremonial stone features on top of Pratt Hill in Upton on Saturday, September 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. during an Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes Tour. Meet at the VFW parking lot, 15 Milford St. (Rt. 1A), Upton and carpool to the Upton Chamber at Heritage Park, and then to the base of Pratt Hill where participants will park and walk to the top of the hill to see the stone features there.

Transportation will be provided up to the hill if needed. For more info, contact Cathy Taylor at nithpt.cs@gmail.com.

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 Cataldo’s Nurseries where they looked at lovely summer perennials in full bloom and which give so 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.
Cormier Woods History and Nature Walk

Visit Cormier Woods, a preserved 17th century farmstead, 217 Chapin St., Uxbridge on Thursday, September 12 for a guided tour of the buildings and a nature walk from 4 to 6 p.m. The group will meet at the parking lot next to the barn and kiosk. The tour of the house, barn and shed, well-preserved examples from more than 300 years of agriculture and the labor of generations of several families, will outline the history of the farm and the natural landscape.

The tour includes a section of the three miles of easy hiking trails that encompasses a beaver pond, streams, varied forest landscapes, stone walls, open fields, and a tour of the area around the house, barn, and sheds. The original owner and builder of the house and surrounding buildings was Joseph Chapin and his wife Olive Taft who built the house in 1750. Aside from raising his family and running the farm, Chapin was a committed patriot, an original member of the town’s Committee of Correspondence in 1774, and commander of the Uxbridge minutemen when they responded to the alarm from Concord and Lexington in 1775.

Cormier Woods lies within what is now defined as the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The designated area extends from Worcester to Providence and celebrates the historical and cultural importance of the river, birthplace of Americas Industrial Revolution. For more information contact Jim Beauchamp at jim.beauchamp2251@gmail.com or 508-498-0270

Contact: Jim Beauchamp at 508-498-0270. Email: jim.beauchamp2251@gmail.com

For more information contact Jim Beauchamp at 508-498-0270. Email: jim.beauchamp2251@gmail.com

September 12 for a guided tour of the buildings and a nature walk from 4 to 6 p.m. The group will meet at the parking lot next to the barn and kiosk. The tour of the house, barn and shed, well-preserved examples from more than 300 years of agriculture and the labor of generations of several families, will outline the history of the farm and the natural landscape.

The tour includes a section of the three miles of easy hiking trails that encompasses a beaver pond, streams, varied forest landscapes, stone walls, open fields, and a tour of the area around the house, barn, and sheds. The original owner and builder of the house and surrounding buildings was Joseph Chapin and his wife Olive Taft who built the house in 1750. Aside from raising his family and running the farm, Chapin was a committed patriot, an original member of the town’s Committee of Correspondence in 1774, and commander of the Uxbridge minutemen when they responded to the alarm from Concord and Lexington in 1775.

Cormier Woods lies within what is now defined as the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The designated area extends from Worcester to Providence and celebrates the historical and cultural importance of the river, birthplace of Americas Industrial Revolution. For more information contact Jim Beauchamp at jim.beauchamp2251@gmail.com or 508-498-0270

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**Home Horticulture Gardening Lecture Series**

The Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (MMGA) is now taking registrations for the 10-week Home Horticulture Evening Lecture Series, from September 11 through November 20 at Brigham Hill Community Farm, North Grafton. The cost is $250 per person. According to MMGA Board member Chris Gatti, “The association started Home Hort in response to gardeners who were interested in our Master Gardener Certification course but whose lifestyles didn’t permit them to attend daytime classes or to volunteer. For them – as well as for novice gardeners –, the Home Hort Series offers a streamlined, informal format: 90-minute evening classes, no homework or testing, and no volunteering.” Lectures cover the same topics studied by Master Gardeners, including fundamentals such as building great soil and how plants work...as well as practical how-to’s like basic landscape design, perennial selection and care, and combating weeds, diseases and pests.

For experienced gardeners, the Home Hort lecture series offers an opportunity to refine their knowledge and skills. For novices, it provides a foundation for planning next year’s garden. Trained Master Gardeners will also be on hand to test the pH of students’ soil samples: an important component for soil health and gardening success. Instructors are senior Certified Master Gardeners with in-depth experience in their respective topics. Handouts are provided.

For additional information visit MassMasterGardeners.org/home-horticulture-series/ or email HomeHort@MassMasterGardeners.org.

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**UniBank Free Home Buying Seminars**

UniBank’s next monthly home buying seminar will be held on Wednesday, September 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Uxbridge branch, 25 Main St. Seminar speakers include: Karen Beane, UniBank Mortgage Consultant (NMLS #485228), Renee VanderZicht, Realtor, VanderZicht Real Estate, Inc.; Mark Wickstrom, Attorney, Wickstrom Morse, LLP; Alan Ratcliffe, Appraiser, WJN Appraisals; Sue Reider, Home Inspections, Keystone Home Inspections. Contact UniBank’s Michael Sulham (NMLS# 688959) at 508-278-2434 or michael.sulham@unibank.com to register. Discussion topics include: Negotiating a Winning Offer, Finding the Right Mortgage and Pre-Qualifying, Down Payment Options, The Importance of Home Inspections, and more. Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be awarded at each event. Attendees, 18 years and older, will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. To enter, individuals must register and attend the seminar. No purchase or account required to enter or win. All seminar attendees will receive a $250 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank.

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- Extended Labor Warranty Available
- Highly Trained Technicians with Installation & Service
- Maintenance Contracts Available

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Daniels Farmstead Apple Festival

Celebrating the arrival of fall in New England, the Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, will hold its third annual Apple Festival on Sunday, September 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Daniels Farmstead played a pivotal role in growing apples and producing apple cider and vinegar at the largest surviving cider house in the Blackstone River Valley.

Bakers are invited to participate in the apple pie contest which will be judged at 1 p.m. Enter the two categories, traditional double crust and most creative. Entry forms are available at DanielsFarmstead.org or register the day of the event. Judges will be local celebrities and slices of pie will be sold. Browse the Farmers’ Market for fresh produce, apples and cider from local orchards, apple related foodstuffs including apple crisp, artisan bread, fudge and handmade craft items. Baked goods will be on sale at the food concession along with burgers, hot dogs, and sausage sandwiches from the grill.

Music will be provided by Eli Go, a classic folk, fingerstyle guitarist. Tours of the historic cider house and the Daniels’ home will take place throughout the day.

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 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.

Farewell to Summer- Family Night Campfire

UXBRIDGE-The Ranger Team at West Hill Dam invites everyone to an evening campfire on Saturday September 7 from 8 to 9 p.m. at the Campfire Ring, West Hill Dam, 518 E. Hartford Ave, Uxbridge. Enjoy a toasty campfire and bring hotdogs and marshmallows for roasting (some provided while supplies last). Dress comfortably and bring insect repellent. Guitars, stories, chairs, blankets and of course marshmallows are encouraged. An adult must accompany children under 16. Canceled for heavy rain. Junior Rangers Level-2, earn Parks and Recreation patch credit. For information, call Ranger Viola Bramel at 978-318-8417.

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier

Bay EQUITY LOAN OFFICE

Michael Shain

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Mendon Canton Fair Vendors

MENDON–Vendors and crafters are invited to participate in the Mendon Canton Fair on Friday, October 12. The fair will begin from 8 to 11 a.m. Details can be found by calling Liz Frasca at 508-478-6101 or email lfrasca@town.mendon.ma.us. A list of vendors and crafters will be posted on the Mendon Canton Fair Facebook page. For more information, please see mendon-canton-fair.org. The fair is also open to students pursuing higher education in health-related fields. 

Mendon Parish Hall Hallowe’en Bazaar

MENDON–Billi Manning will be hosting the third annual Bazaar at the Mendon Parish Hall on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The hall is located at 87 Main Street. A costume contest will be held with prizes for most creative costume. Special door prizes will be given for those who attend. For more information, please call Billi at 508-478-0929.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar

UNION–United Parish of Union is planning their festive annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held behind The Barn Blessing on Route 16 from 4 p.m. to feature live music, food and nonprofit and commercial vendors, 4-H animals, and more. Rain Date is Sunday, October 13.

Vendors and Artists Sought

HOPEDALE–Crafters and artists are being sought for the 40th annual Hopedale Day in the Park, Saturday, September 14. Applications for vendor booths and the art show can be obtained from the Town of Hopedale website, Hopedale-MA.gov under Boards and Commissions-Cultural Commission. For more information please call Jean Hill, 508-478-6667 or visit UnitedParishofUpton.org.

Mendon Rod and Gun Club

MENDON–The annual open house for the Maspenock Rod and Gun Club is being held on Tuesday, September 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. The event will feature marksmanship and firearm safety. Experience and equipment are not required, but a willingness to learn is. Parents and interested students are invited to meet with the coaches and explore the programs. For more information, contact Manny Snyderman, MannySai@comcast.net.

2nd Annual Millford High Hopes 3 Mile Run/Walk

MILLFORD–CraftRoots Brewing is hosting a 3-mile run/walk on Saturday, October 12 at 10 a.m. with proceeds to benefit My One Wish Foundation. The event starts and ends at CraftRoots Brewing, 4 Industrial Rd. In addition, there will be a DJ and Food Truck for all to enjoy. Registration is $25 prior to the event and $30 on race day beginning at 8:30 a.m. at CraftRoots. For more information or to register prior to October 20 in person, contact race director, Lynn Principe, 508-351-2255. Registration are taken online at Active.com/Millford-MA/running/distance-running-races/2nd-annual-millford-high-hopes-3-mile-run-walk-2019?int= or visit CraftRoots.com and search High Hopes.

MHS Class of 1962 Birthday Party

MILFORD–The Millford High School Class of 1962 will hold a Birthday Party on Thursday, October 17, at 4:30 p.m. at Perini Restaurant, 229 Main Street. A Classic Buffet will be available and walkers are welcome and must be 21+ to register. All registrations include a t-shirt (if registered by September 20) and beer. In addition, there will be a DJ and Food Truck for all to enjoy. Registration is $25 prior to the event and $30 on race day beginning at 8:30 a.m. at CraftRoots. For more information or to register prior to October 20 in person, contact race director, Lynn Principe, 508-351-2255. Registration are taken online at Active.com/Millford-MA/running/distance-running-races/2nd-annual-millford-high-hopes-3-mile-run-walk-2019?int= or visit Active.com and search High Hopes.

Telephone and Hearing Loss – Finding Solutions

HOLYOKE–Hearing Loss of America Chapter to learn how to make the most of mobile or landline phones for those living with hearing loss. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at First United Presbyterian Church, 7 September at 2 p.m., at the Northborough Library. Andrea Kanesh, an educator and advocate, will discuss a variety of apps and techniques to help make phones easier to use. Please come with questions and thoughts. CART (Computer Aided Real Time Captioning) will be provided. Light refreshments will also be provided. The Northborough Library parking lot is accessed by Patty Lane, located behind the building. For more information, visit Northboroughlibrary.info. Email info@hearinglosstransla.org for more information on HLAA Central Massachusetts and notification of future events.

Medical Apparel and Shoe Sale

MILFORD–The Auxiliary at Milford Regional Medical Center welcomes First Uniform, Inc., on Saturday, September 21 from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Cyprotel, 138 South Main Street, Northbridge. The sale will offer $7 a bag for clothing except specially priced items. Specials all through September will offer $7 a bag for clothing except specially priced items. Specials all through Sep,

Health Fair

WHITINSVILLE–Open Sky Community Services invites the community to a Health Fair at the Whitinsville Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, on Wednesday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair will feature a variety of exercise classes including yoga, Zumba and Tai Chi. Other vendors will be offering Newton, while a variety of services will be available. Services can learn about Zentangle and create German Bells. There will also be a free library book exchange. Admission is free.

Starlit Night Hike

UNBRIDGE–Due to the extreme outlook the last Starlit night hike lead by West Hill Park Rangers along the West Hill Trail will be canceled. The next hike will be on Saturday, September 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 528 West Way. West Hill Park Rangers Viosa Bream at West Hill Dam, 518 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks with sturdy shoes for the one-mile hike. Cancelled only for heavy rain. Explore various habitats along the river and marshes, grassland and wooded areas. Hopefully the playful river otters will show up. A great activity for all ages, those under 18 must bring an adult.

Junior Rangers Level 2 – earn wildlife credit.

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St. Gabriel’s Fall Harvest Fair

UPTON–St. Gabriel’s Church of Upton will host their annual Fall Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds at 151 N. Main St., Upton. 

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MURSD Superintendent Applies to Open Rhode Island Charter School

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter
Mendon Upton Regional School District's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joseph Maruszczak, was one of three district staff members who filed an application to open a Rhode Island Spanish Immersion charter school.

News of the application filed with the Rhode Island Department of Education broke in the August 20 School News of the application filed with the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Dr. Joseph Maruszczak, MURSD Superintendent

At the August 26 School Committee Meeting, hoping to hear from the Superintendent or School Committee about this news. No statement was made, causing grumbling from the audience as the School Committee and Superintendent went into Executive Session.

In a follow up interview with The Town Crier, Maruszczak said the application for a Spanish Immersion charter school was a “passion project” for him.

“I am passionate about rethinking our existing paradigms of K-12 education,” he said. “[The charter school would] involve teaching the next generation about two things close to my heart - global citizenship and the preservation of our environment.”

Before the new charter school becomes a reality, however, there are still a number of political and logistical obstacles to overcome. Applications before The Rhode Island Department of Education is currently considered applications with finalists chosen by late November. Regardless of the outcome, said Maruszczak, his priority remains serving the Mendon-Upton Regional School District (MURSD).

“I care a great deal about our communities, the children that we are entrusted to teach and care for, and the team professionals who create the culture and environment so our kids can thrive,” he said.

As far as the future of the Spanish Immersion Program should he leave, Maruszczak responded that the program “has never been stronger.”

“We had a comprehensive program evaluation done last fall and we have already put a lot of those recommendations into place,” he said.

Maruszczak added the Spanish Immersion Program has the support of the School Committee going forward saying, “The program is in good hands.”

The School Committee released a statement about the news of Maruszczak’s potential departure.

“The Regional School Committee is proud and thankful for the leadership Dr. M. has provided to our district over the last 8+ years,” read the statement. “We support him in pursuing a passion project that undoubtedly will make a difference in the lives of students where there is a distinct and targeted need.”

The statement went on to clarify the future of the Superintendent’s position within the district, stating that should the proposal for the new charter school receive approval, Maruszczak would plan to stay for the remainder of the academic year, but if the proposal was not approved, he would remain as MURSD Superintendent.

“It should be noted that in the event of a departure, we do have a succession plan ready to ensure that the district continues forward…our great team of administrators, educators, students, parents and community ensures the future success of the district,” the statement continued.

“One thing that is constant is change, and we have the plans/approaches to deal with change as it occurs.”

BVT Student Elected SkillsUSA National Officer

Anika Koopman of Northbridge, a senior in Health Services at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School was elected to serve a one-year term at the National Region One Vice President during the 55th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in June.

To run for a national office, members must follow the election process for their local training program, school, and state. Once they have made it to the National Leadership and Skills Conference, candidates must then pass a knowledge test, interview for candidacy, and begin the campaign process to student delegates representing the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The campaign period was a team effort between Anika, the SkillsUSA Massachusetts executive team, student delegates, and BVT students.

“Running for national office and getting elected was an emotional moment,” said Anika. “Hearing my name called, I realized that I had come full circle. Becoming a National Officer had been a goal of mine since freshman year. It is an incredible achievement. I want others to know that if you have a goal and choose to work hard, your dreams can come true.”

As a national officer, Anika will serve as a student leader and advocate for the organization and will lead SkillsUSA members during both of their annual national conferences. She will speak on behalf of SkillsUSA before students, instructors, education administrators, legislative leaders, and representatives of business and industry. She will also represent the national organization at various events.

“Anika continues to be a positive role model and an effective spokesperson for the mission of quality vocational-technical education,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “Her leadership skills and strong work ethic will continue to serve her, our community and SkillsUSA well in the coming years.”

DENTAL IMPLANTOLOGY

Dental implants are the most innovative area in dentistry today. Spaces from missing teeth can be fixed using dental implants - titanium “anchors” that are used to substitute tooth roots to support a dental crown or bridge. With implants, you can eat and laugh like you did with your natural teeth.

BVT’s Anika Koopman of Northbridge, National Region One Vice President. SkillsUSA photo

Dr. Steven V. Pittman, DMD  |  Dr. John P. Ouano, DMD  |  Dr. Wael Youseff, DMD | Dr. Alan Wun, DMD | Dr. Michael Courtney DMD, MD

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School’s Jump Start
FY21 Budget Process

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

The Mendon Upton Regional School Committee will be getting a jump-start on next year’s budget as they plan out several “School Budget 101” community presentations.

After a “challenging” budget year that ended with the elimination of six district positions including the high school and middle school librarians, the Budget Subcommittee has been working on a plan to hit the ground running on the Fiscal 2021, the 2020-2021 school year, budget. Along with the unknowns of the state funding and reimbursement for next year, the district will also be faced with the renegotiations for both teacher’s and transportation contracts for the FY21 budget, said school officials.

The first order of business to prepare for next years budget, according to the Budget Subcommittee, is to educate the public about what factors go into a school budget. The strategy is to hold eight public presentations, each which will center on a theme that effects the school budget including special education, transportation, athletics, and technology costs.

The vision of the Budget Subcommittee is for the presentations to answer three essential questions. “What is the vision for the program and how it fits into the district’s Strategic Plan, the pressing needs of the program, and what are the current and projected budget drivers,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Maruszczak about the presentations during an August 26 School Committee Meeting.

The meetings will be held in different locations across Mendon and Upton in order to encourage community members from both towns to attend as many meetings as possible throughout the budget season. “This [schedule] is going to be very important to communicate to the community as we want to get the facts out there for people to see how the school district is spending money and what we need the money for,” said School Committee Chairperson Sean Nicholson.

The Budget Presentation Schedule and topic to be discussed is as follows:

Tuesday, September 17 at 7 p.m., Miscoe Hill School: Special Education
Tuesday, October 8 at 7 p.m., Clough Elementary School: Transportation
Tuesday, October 29 at 7 p.m., Nipmuc Regional High School: Athletics
Thursday, November 21 at 7 p.m., Memorial Elementary School: Technology
Tuesday, December 10 at 7 p.m., Miscoe Hill School: Facilities/Buildings and Grounds
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7 p.m., Clough Elementary School: Elementary Programs
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7 p.m., Miscoe Hill School: Middle School Programs
Wednesday, February 12 at 7 p.m., Nipmuc Regional High School: High School Program

New Team of Staff Welcomed at BVT

The Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational/Technical High School welcomes a number of new staff members as the 2019/2020 school year begins. The new hires include vocational faculty, academic teachers, and support staff.

Among the new staff are some familiar faces who have grown in the school system and who will begin new roles this year. One example is Timothy Buono (Class of 2013), who returned to BVT last year as a substitute teacher in the Painting & Design program, where he enjoyed working alongside instructors George Creely and Thomas Lamont. When Creely retired in the spring, Buono applied for and successfully secured that new position.

New Instructional Staff:
- Timothy Buono, Vocational Instructor – Painting & Design Technologies
- Laura Campagna, Vocational Instructor – Culinary Arts
- Nathalie Christiansen, Biology/Chemistry Teacher
- Scott DesRoches, Vocational Instructor – Auto Collision Repair
- Kelly Garabedian, Art Teacher
- Yakaira Gonzalez, Spanish Teacher
- Scott DesRoches, Vocational Instructor – Auto Collision Repair
- Kelly Garabedian, Art Teacher
- Yakaira Gonzalez, Spanish Teacher
- Timothy Oliveira, Vocational Instructor – Engineering Technology
- August Piazza, Vocational Instructor – Plumbing

New Support Staff/Administration Staff:
- Sean Nugent, Assistant Principal
- Erin Foley, Secretary, Main Office
- Molly Awiszus, Athletic Trainer
- Lori Siefert, Teacher Assistant – Math
- Kayla Kelly, Teacher Assistant
- Rebecca Phillips, Teacher Assistant
- Stephanie Brown, Data Specialist
- Michael O’Callahan, Network Administrator
- Jameson Reardon, General Cafeteria Worker

Representatives of BVT’s veteran leadership team stand with some of the new hires.

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Battle for Daniels Farm Revolutionary War Reenactment

Step back in time to the 18th century when America was in the midst of the battle for freedom from British rule during the Revolutionary War. Reenactment hosted by the historians Daniels Farmstead along with the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT). The Battle for Daniels Farm will be held the weekend of October 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at the farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone.

British and Colonial troops will clash in fighting for the right of ownership of the historic cider mill located on this property. The mill was invaluable to the people of the 18th and 19th centuries as water was not deemed drinkable during this time.

In addition to the battles, which are from 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, additional activities include an 8 to 9 p.m. Saturday tour of the camps, artillery and musket demonstrations, cooking demonstrations, blacksmithing, medical practices, rope making, tinsmiths, and period music. Sutlers, or period vendors will also be in attendance

Open Rehearsals for GMCC

The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) fall season is now here and the GMCC is extending an invitation to all who share the joy of singing to join them as they prepare for their four winter concerts. Remaining open rehearsals at Milford’s Memorial Hall are scheduled for September 11 and September 18 at 7 p.m. Anyone who has been thinking of joining the GMCC, now is the time.

GMCC is open, without audition, to all singers aged 18 and older. A fundamental understanding of reading music is required, as well as a serious commitment to both rehearsal and concert schedules upon becoming a member. GMCC is directed by Mark Schiappucci and accompanied on piano by Wayne Ward. In addition to two choral-only holiday concerts, GMCC performs with Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra for two Holiday Pops concerts. Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7 to 9:30 p.m. (arrive by 6:45 p.m.) at Memorial Hall, 30 School St., Milford. For more information about the GMCC, visit GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.org or email caoconnell@milreg.org.

Uxbridge Animal Hospital Again Achieves AAHA Accreditation

Uxbridge Animal Hospital has passed a re-evaluation by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), which included a rigorous review of the hospital’s practice protocols, medical equipment, facility and client service. Uxbridge Animal Hospital initially achieved accreditation in 2017. Unlike human hospitals not all animal hospitals are required to be accredited. Accredited hospitals are the only ones that choose to be evaluated on approximately 900 quality standards that go above and beyond basic state regulations, ranging from patient care and pain management to staff training and advanced diagnostic services. AAHA-accredited hospitals are among the finest in the industry, and are at the forefront of advanced veterinary medicine. Only the top small animal hospitals in the United States and Canada have achieved AAHA accreditation. To maintain accredited status, Uxbridge Animal Hospital must continue to be evaluated regularly by AAHA.

Uxbridge Animal Hospital, 55 Hazel St. Uxbridge, has been owned since 2007 by Dr. Jocelyn Cowan and Dr. Susan Tetreault. Full-time associates are Dr. Alyssa Vincent (who has a special interest in Dermatology) and Dr. Alison O’Hagan, who together with the hospital and will be required to complete an online education session before attending the meetings.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Cathy O’Connell, director of risk management at 508-422-2202 or via e-mail at casconnell@milreg.org.

Milford Regional Seeks Community Volunteer for Institutional Review Board

Milford Regional Medical Center is seeking a community member to serve on the hospital’s Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is a committee that has been established to protect the rights of human research subjects recruited to participate in research. The IRB meets on a quarterly basis. Community members interested in volunteering to serve on this important board must not be affiliated with the hospital and will be required to complete an online education session before attending the meetings.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Cathy O’Connell, director of risk management at 508-422-2202 or via e-mail at casconnell@milreg.org.

Community members interested in volunteering to
Christopher D. Foley, President of UniBank, recently announced that Sean J. O’Connell, Vice President, has been promoted to Director of Business & Consumer Banking, responsible for the strategic oversight and management of the consumer banking division. He will also be planning, organizing, and directing the activities of retail, customer contact center, branch administration, business banking, and UniVest Investment Services.

“Sean has been an integral part of the UniBank team for the past three years,” commented Foley. “His well-deserved promotion allows him to leverage his knowledge and expertise from his 10 years of banking experience to have a positive impact on the future of our consumer and business banking operations.”

O’Connell holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Westfield State University and is working toward a Master of Business Administration degree from Nichols College.

He is a Board Member and Finance Committee Member for The Children’s Study Home in Springfield, a member of the Worcester Young Businessmen’s Association and he is involved in the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Peter Beecher Milford Federal
VP Commercial Lending

Milford Federal Bank announces the appointment of Peter Beecher, to VP Commercial Lending. Beecher will be responsible for generating new business and building relationships in Milford as well as the surrounding communities. A resident of Medway, Beecher, most recently worked at Rockland Trust, after spending 28 years working for Milford National Bank as VP Commercial Loan Officer. He brings a wealth of experience in relationship management and business development.

Paul Gilbody, CEO of Milford Federal Bank, said “We’re very excited to have Peter on board. His depth of experience, knowledge and management capabilities will complement our growing commercial lending team.”

Peter Beecher

Charles River Bank
Social Security Seminar

As the retirement horizon approaches, many people question the timing of their retirement and how to optimize Social Security benefits. Join Charles River Bank’s Director of Financial Services Clint McHoul, CFP® and Sean Murphy, CPA of SMCPA, LLC as they host “Understanding Social Security,” the first of a three-part Retirement Seminar Series on Wednesday, September 18 at 6 p.m. at Charles River Bank, 70 Main St., (Rt. 109), Medway. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Catrina Lopes at 508-321-3115 or email info@charlesriverbank.com by Wednesday, September 11.

During the interactive presentation, McHoul and Murphy will discuss the best time to start collecting Social Security, considerations for married couples, and potential tax effects on retirement income. A Q&A session after the presentation will address any of your questions.

“Many people are approaching retirement and we can be a valuable resource during this important time. McHoul and Murphy are two local experts with extensive understanding of Social Security benefits and related tax implications, who are excited to share their knowledge. Charles River Bank has always been here providing financial information and guidance to our customers and community, from childhood through retirement and beyond,” said Charles River Bank President and CEO Jack Hamilton.

The other two seminars will be offered; a presentation on Medicare on Wednesday, October 16, and Retirement Readiness on Wednesday, November 13. For more information, please email info@charlesriverbank.com.

Charles River Bank Donates to Medway Mustang Gridiron Club

Charles River Bank Senior Vice President of Customer Care and Relationship Development Ann Sherry (left) presents a donation check of $1,000 to the Medway Mustang Gridiron Club that supports the Medway High School Football and Cheer teams. The 2019 Cheer and Football Team Captains (L-R) Rachel Abrams, Rome Banaitis, Liam Hoyle, Olivia Sistrand and Ellie Early accepted the check on behalf of the Gridiron Club. Charles River Bank photo
BVT Girls Soccer Looks to Follow Up Banner Year

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

2018 marked perhaps the most successful season in the history of the Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ soccer program. The Beavers posted a 19-3-1 record, captured the state vocational championship and won the Central Mass. district title for the first time in program history.

All of the winning has BVT head coach lay Porter setting his sights even higher this fall.

“We always try to build on the previous year,” Porter said. “This year, our goal will be to get back to the playoffs as always, compete in our league, repeat as Central Mass. champs and have a better showing if we get to the states.”

The experience of being there a season ago figures to serve Valley Tech well should it advance to the state champs and have a better showing if we get to the states. "Last year, when we got to the postseason, we had a lot of players who hadn’t been there before. We have a lot of returning players now, so I think we will be able to improve this season," Porter said.

The talent has Porter optimistic for the coming season. “We always try to build on the previous year,” he said. "And this year, we have a lot of seniors and returning players who have experience.”

The good news for Valley Tech is that the top scorer from last year, Emma Ballard, is back for her sophomore year. "She is in great form," Porter said. "We expect great things from her again this year, but last year she was a freshman and unknown. This year, the other teams know about her and will have a different way to combat her.”

Senior captain Cassidy Waldo is taking over the center midfielder but may spend some time playing forward. With her skill and awareness, Porter said he is hoping she can be the play of setter Zoe Morrison. "She is a high flyer for us. "We have been a lot better in our chemistry for the past six months and that’s going to benefit the team immensely during the season.”

Senior outside hitter Faith Caughey and fellow senior Camille Gallagher, a middle hitter, have been with the team over the past four seasons. "Faith has been a started since she was a freshman, she is always consistent with every skill she brings to the table,” Germain said. “Camille has been working on her craft over the offseason playing club volleyball and she has gotten much better.”

Junior Gianna Weed has stood out in the back half of the field. "Her talent and skill in the middle has been impressive, " Porter said. "She is a high flyer for us.”

Senior outside hitter Faith Caughey and fellow senior Camille Gallagher, a middle hitter, have been with the team over the past four seasons. "Faith has been started since she was a freshman, she is always consistent with every skill she brings to the table,” Germain said. “Camille has been working on her craft over the offseason playing club volleyball and she has gotten much better.”

Junior Gianna Weed has stood out in the back half of the field. "Her talent and skill in the middle has been impressive, " Porter said. "She is a high flyer and a very good hitter for us.”

Senior Ava Siegel will be the team’s top defensive specialist andGerard said the Warriors may employ her as the libero this season. "Having a winning record, that’s the short term goal,” he said.
Firepower Returns for BVT Boys Soccer

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech boys’ soccer team comes into the 2019 campaign with most of its offensive firepower back from a team that captured a league championship season ago and earned a spot in the state team that captured a league championship most of its offensive firepower back from a team comes into the 2019 campaign with.

"They are going to be going back and forth, we will see how the season goes, “ said head coach Caitlin Forget. “I’m sure they both will want to place in the top-five at the league meet.”

In addition to individual prowess in the Colonial Athletic League, the Beavers are setting their sights on competing in the upper echelon of the league as a team. The state vocational champion a season ago, BVT would like to repeat this fall and Forget said she has the roster to do it: “The boys overall are looking strong,” she said.

“We have a solid top seven, which is always nice to see. Parker Charter will be a tough team to upend as the league champion, Forget said, but Valley Tech figures to compete with Advanced Math and Science Academy for a top-two spot in the standings and during the league meet.

“AMS is always good and we have gone back and forth with them over the past couple of years,” Forget said. “Sometimes we beat them, sometimes they beat us, but they are the rivals in our league.”

But Forget has not given up on competing with Parker, saying she would like to “creep up” on the perennial league power.

BVT has a number of strong young runners on this year’s team that should help with that goal. Among them is sophomore Michael Boone who will help bolster the defense in front of senior goalie Zachary Brabham, who made six starts in 2018.

“This year, he is my go to guy,” Al-haza said of his goalkeeper. “We expect him to be our starter all the way”, BVT finished 9-1-1 in league play last year, sharing the Colonial Athletic League crown with Advanced Math and Science Academy (AMS). The two teams split during the regular season, allowing BVT to claim a spot on top with AMSA, a program that had been dominant over the previous few years.

“ AMSA was the team taking it over, the goal was to get it back last year and we shared it,” Al-haza said. “The goal this year is sole possession of the league.”

Fittingly, the two teams began the regular season playing one another. “A lot will be determined after game one,” Al-haza said.

BVT Boys XC Returns Strong Group

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Blackstone Valley Tech graduated just one senior from last year’s varsity cross country roster, setting the Beavers up for another strong season in 2019. Even better for the long term, BVT has only one senior on this year’s roster and the top two runners are both juniors.

Jacob Constable and Andrew Benoit are the two athletes who figure to be battling it out for the top spot on the Valley Tech roster during meets.

"Forgit said she has the roster to do it. “AMS is always good and we have gone back and forth with them over the past couple of years,” Forget said. “Sometimes we beat them, sometimes they beat us, but they are the rivals in our league.”

But Forget has not given up on competing with Parker, saying she would like to “creep up” on the perennial league power.

BVT has a number of strong young runners on this year’s team that should help with that goal. Among them is sophomore Kaden Vincelette, who may be the team’s number three runner. Anthony Faith is a candidate for a top-five spot on the roster, and freshmen Cooper O’Neil, Cameron Ladd, Aidan Juntas and Benjamin Delboer are all runners who have impressed so far.

“It will be interesting to see how the freshmen do,” Forget said. “Some of them came from Hopedale, so they have been prepared for competing at the varsity level.”

Both the boys and girls cross country teams were slated to begin the season Wednesday at home against Keefe Tech.
The primary question for Flynn centers on health. “She is still battling an injury, so we are not sure how the season is going to go for her,” Forgit said. “We are taking it day by day. We are hoping Lauren is able to bounce back, she has been dealing with the ankle injury for the past 10 months or so.”

Gannon is out to strong start to the preseason however, along with fellow junior Eva Larocque. “Madison and Eva are looking good,” Forgit said. “You can tell that they had a good summer running and it’s good to see them coming back strong.”

BVT Volleyball Working Together with Eye on League Title

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ volleyball team lost eight players to graduation from a squad that qualified for the district tournament a season ago. With many of the players returning in 2019 stepping into starting roles for the first time, the Beavers will need to solidify their on-court chemistry to get back to the postseason and compete for the Colonial Athletic League title.

“We have a lot of people returning from last year’s roster, but a lot of new faces on the court as starters,” said head coach Brian Lehtinen. “That is going to be the tough part, trying to get them to gel together and communicate better.”

BVT finished 9–9 a season ago, qualifying for the tournament before falling to league rival Advanced Math and Science Academy in the first round. Valley Tech has six seniors on the varsity roster this fall, including returning starters Skylar Morrissey and Rachel Rannikko, both of whom saw significant court time a season ago. Seniors Gabrielle Muscatell and Emily Losiewicz came off the bench in 2018, Lehtinen said, but will be thrust into the spotlight as a middle hitter and outside hitter in 2019.

Lehtinen said the team is still working on playing together and communicating on the court through early season scrimmages and practices, but there will be little time to waste once the season begins. The Beavers begin the 2019 campaign at home on Friday against Hopedale, a match Lehtinen said will be “a good test, right out of the gate.”

Teams like Hopedale, Sutton, Whittinsville Christian and Nipmuc stand out as are spectators. “We are looking forward to those games,” Lehtinen said. “That will tell us where we stand.”

The team’s top goal is to compete for the league title, something AMSA has taken the past two years.

“I think we have a good chance,” Lehtinen said. “We want to compete for the league and get the title back to BVT. The next goal is making the playoffs and getting to state.”

Even as they sort out some of the early-season kinks, Lehtinen said the roster issecond at leagues a season ago and in the top-10 at districts, but did not compete in the state vcke.

In the league, Parker Charter again figures to be a powerhouse and Advanced Math and Science Academy (AMSA) will also be competing with BVT for a spot high up in the standings.

“Parker is a tough team to beat in our league and the girls have gone back and forth with AMSA over the past few years,” Forgit said. “Getting second place at the league meet would be a good goal for us this season.”

BVT Girls XC Runners Eye States

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ cross country team came into the new season looking to compete at the Colonial Athletic League meet and a pair of runners have their sights set on competing at the statewide level.

Several top runners from last year’s team are back in 2019, including juniors Madison Gannon and Lauren Flynn, both of whom could potentially qualify for the state meet, head coach Caitlin Forgit said.

The primary question for Flynn centers on health. “She is still battling an injury, so we are not sure how the season is going to go for her,” Forgit said. “We are taking it day by day. We are hoping Lauren is able to bounce back, she has been dealing with the ankle injury for the past 10 months or so.”

Gannon is out to strong start to the preseason however, along with fellow junior Eva Larocque. “Madison and Eva are looking good,” Forgit said. “You can tell that they had a good summer running and it’s good to see them coming back strong.”

In addition to the returning group, the Beavers figured to be buoyed by a solid contingent of incoming freshmen. Amanda Pajak has impressed in her first few weeks with the team and Forgit said she could be the Beavers’ number three or four runner. Mia Boucher and Ally Johnson have also caught the coach’s attention. “They are showing some potential and I think they will really come along,” Forgit said. When it comes to team goals, Forgit said she would like to see Valley Tech compete at the state vocational meet and potentially take home the title. The Beavers placed second at states a season ago and in the top-10 at districts, but did not compete in the state voke.

In the league, Parker Charter again figures to be a powerhouse and Advanced Math and Science Academy (AMSA) will also be competing with BVT for a spot high up in the standings.

“Parker is a tough team to beat in our league and the girls have gone back and forth with AMSA over the past few years,” Forgit said. “Getting second place at the league meet would be a good goal for us this season.”

The Valley Bag Toss

The Valley Bag Toss to benefit Open Skies will be held on Saturday, September 14, rain date of Sunday, September 15, at the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Northbridge from noon to 5 p.m. Participants, ages 14 and up, are invited for an afternoon of live music, food, drinks, cornhole boards and flying bags. Teams of two will compete for great prizes. All abilities welcomed as are spectators.

Register at Eventbrite.com/e/valley-bag-toss-2019-tickets-66318356991. Sponsors may contact Karen Goldberg at 508-234-6232 or Karen.goldberg@openskys.org.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Nipmuc Youth Softball Wins League Title

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Nipmuc 12 and under softball team put together a sweet sendoff for its final pre-high school season playing together, winning the Twin Valley League championship and building a successful summer campaign through hard work over the summer.

“We had our struggles early,” said head coach Stephanie DeBaggis. “The chemistry was there, but we needed to solidify positions.”

The Warriors’ season consisted of local tournaments with TVL games interspersed between them. The first tournament was a struggle for Nipmuc at first as they came in as the lowest seed and barely escaped elimination. But Nipmuc bounced back to beat the tournament’s top seed and advance to the final before losing 4-2.

“That tournament showed us we had the spark,” DeBaggis said. “It was just a matter of executing pretty much for the rest of the season.”

This time, it was Nipmuc that would come out on top, capturing the TVL crown. The girls played flawless, error-free softball for three straight days during pool play, advancing all the way to the tournament final before losing to Milford. “Milford played really well and we couldn’t string any hits together,” DeBaggis said. “It was a tough one to lose but the girls took it well.”

Nipmuc would get some payback against Milford in the TVL playoffs, however. The two teams did not play any league contests during the regular season due to rainouts. Entering the tournament as the top seed, Nipmuc ended up drawing Milford in its run up to the TVL championship game. After a win over its rival, the Warriors ran into Hopkinton in the final, the only team to beat Nipmuc during the regular season.

That all turned around during the Milford tournament. The girls played flawless, error-free softball for three straight days during pool play, advancing all the way to the tournament final before losing to Milford. “Milford played really well and we couldn’t string any hits together”, DeBaggis said. “It was a tough one to lose but the girls took it well.”

Many of the players on this year’s team will need to find club teams if they want to play softball next summer, DeBaggis said, due to the lack of a 14 and under squad. So the girls made the most of their last summer as teammates.

“They love playing together and being together,” DeBaggis said. “They didn’t want it to end.”

Members of the Nipmuc 12 and under softball team gathered for a photo after winning the Twin Valley League championship this summer. They are, l-r back row-Caydence Carr, Arihana Mercado, Madison MacLeod, Ava Lozeau, Brynn DiAnni, Ella Calvey, Keigan Kelley, Bridget Klapa and Samantha Crotty, front row-Madison Carter, Sera DeBaggis and Izzy Nicholson, plus ball boy, Chris Slattery. Missing from picture is team member Rayna Slattery. Contributed photo