Fred Kelley Honored for His Service to Mendon

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

It seems Fred Kelley has touched many lives in Mendon and many of those people came out to honor the longtime resident, who was named Mendon’s Senior Citizen of the Year by the Council on Aging. This is the 42nd year the COA has sponsored the annual award.

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Milford Charter School a Potential Threat to Mendon Upton School Budget

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

A proposed Charter School in Milford could be a “potential threat” to the Mendon Upton Regional School District’s budget said school officials during the September 9 School Committee Meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Marcuszczak spoke about the proposed Leading Edge Charter School that is in the application stage before the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to open in the town of Milford. The school would serve up to 270 students in kindergarten through eighth grade coming from nine surrounding towns including Upton and Mendon.

There are currently seven students that attend charter schools from Mendon and Upton. The total tuition cost for these students – three that attend the Advanced Math and Science Academy in Marlboro and four that attend the Benjamin Franklin Classical School in Franklin – is $106,804. Although school districts are supposed to be reimbursed at 100 percent the first year and 25 percent per year for the next five years, the state is only reimbursing school districts at approximately 15 percent of charter school tuition costs according to Marcuszczak. “As we are painfully aware, the state doesn’t always deliver on its promise for reimbursement rates,” he said.

Although a small percentage of the total budget currently, Maruszczak cautioned that using an estimate of $16,000 per student for tuition (tuition rate is based on the relative wealth of the community) at a 15 percent reimbursement rate, 10 students attending the new charter school could costs the district an additional $186,000 in charter school

Proposed Articles Would Make Changes to Mendon Board of Selectmen

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Mendon resident Tom Merolli came before the Board of Selectmen to propose two articles be placed on the November 20 Special Town Meeting warrant. One of those articles would change the structure of the Board of Selectmen, while the other would change its designation. The discussion took place during a September 10 meeting.

First up, Merolli who also serves as the Assistant Treasurer/Collector and Chairs the Economic Development Committee, proposed a warrant article that would change the name of the Board of Selectmen to the more gender neutral Select Board.

The name change, he said, is “more reflective of changing boards and more inclusive.” He added several residents have discussed the idea with him in favor of the change.

Nearly 75 communities in Massachusetts now have Select Boards. A number of communities approximately the same size of Mendon have a five member select board. Nearly 75 communities in Massachusetts now have Select Boards. Nearly 75 communities in Massachusetts now have Select Boards. It seems Fred Kelley has touched many lives in Mendon and many of those people came out to honor the longtime resident, who was named Mendon’s Senior Citizen of the Year by the Council on Aging. This is the 42nd year the COA has sponsored the annual award.

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Proposed Articles Would Make...
The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park will sponsor the following events in October. All programs take place at River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear appropriate clothing plus bring water and insect repellent. For more information or registration call 508-278-7604 or email blackstone.heritage@mass.gov.

Woodlands and Waterways Walk-Friday October 4, 11, 25 plus Saturday, October 5 at 2 p.m. About a mile walk along the banks of the Blackstone Canal to learn how it and the legacy they left behind. Along the Blackstone the episode will feature stories of the Irish immigrants who helped build the canal and the legacy they left behind. October 13 Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park October Programming

Friday October 18 at 8 p.m. Join Volunteers and staff from Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, and Skyscrapers Club as they share their knowledge and love of astronomy. Stargazing will take place in the field next to the visitor center parking lot with telescopes. Program will take place rain or shine. Autumn Tree Exploration, Saturday October 19 at 2 p.m. Identify trees during a half-mile walk for all ages.

Morning Nature Walk, Thursday October 10 and 24 at 9 a.m. One-mile walk around the fields and along the river. First mile walk at 9 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. will be followed by a story time along the river.

Brown Bag along the Blackstone. Thursday October 17, 1 p.m. Watch an episode of Along the Blackstone, an award-winning series of videos by the National Park Service. This episode will feature stories of the Irish immigrants who helped build the canal and the legacy they left behind. Boots Along the Blackstone. Thursday October 17, 1 p.m. Join an interpreter in a leisurely, two-mile walk along the tow path while discussing the stories and history uncovered in the episode of Along the Blackstone watched during Brown Bag along the Blackstone.

Luminary Walk, Friday October 25 and Monday, October 28 at 5:15 p.m. Decorate a lantern and take a lantern in stroll along the towpath for a not-so-spooky 1.5 family friendly walk at the water’s edge. Lighten for wildlife, watch out for the tricky will-o’ the wisps and enjoy the sights and sounds of Autumn. Hot chocolate and snacks to follow the walk. Strollers and costumes welcome. Appropriate for all ages, flashlights are welcome. Registration required at TheBRWA.org.

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P.A.W.S Bed and Biscuit Award

Congratulations to Daniel and Maegan Antonellis for receiving the Wicked Local Reader's Choice Award 2019 for the Best Pet Services. P.A.W.S. Bed & Biscuit is your furry kids’ home away from home, providing Boarding, Doggie Daycare, Grooming services. P.A.W.S has been owned by Antonellis for 10 years and is situated off the road, in the quiet woods on a hill at 97 Millville Rd., Mendon.

Daniel is a certified Veterinary Technician/nurse, professional canine behavior consultant, and graduate of Animal Behavior College. He previously worked in the veterinary field as a Head Nurse and then Veterinary Hospital Manager. Maegan grew up surrounded by animals and attended the University of New Hampshire. She was a member of Sigma Alpha, a professional agricultural sorority which is actively involved with animals such as cows, sheep, horses and now dogs.

Both Doggie Daycare and Boarding guests are provided tons of supervised playtime, exercise, and interaction with other dogs. Playgroups are divided by size, sex and physical activity level. Dog spa services, baths, and nail trimming are available for guests. Antonellis now offers a Canine Behavior School, with training and behavior modification for family dogs.

Read about P.A.W.S at PetBedandBiscuit.com or call 508-478-6390 to schedule an introductory appointment.

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Mendon’s Oldest Fall Tradition Continues

Mendon’s oldest tradition continues on Saturday October 12 when the Mendon Country Fair takes place behind the Blessing Barn on Rt 16, with free admission for all. The Fair is presented by the Mendon Lions Club. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and include commercial and nonprofit groups, crafters, livestock, displays, free wagon rides and live music all day. Bring the children to enjoy the Kids Faire featuring magic shows, pony rides, face painting, petting zoo and pie eating contest for all ages.

Plenty of your favorite foods will be available at the Lions Club Food Court, including hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers subs and meatball sandwiches, Also French fries, fried dough, cold drinks, and coffee.

Parking will be available for a donation to the Mendon Boy Scouts.

Community business sponsors include Milford Federal, Timo Corp, D.C.U. Banking, Imperial Cars, Charles River Bank, Amped Up Concert Promotions, Dean Bank, Willowbrook Restaurant and Southwick’s Zoo.

All proceeds will support Lions charities and community projects. Rain date is Sunday October 13.

Remembering First Responders on the 9/11 Anniversary

Michael Shain, the founder and president of Thanks To Yanks, on the left, presents to retired New Bedford Fire chief Roger Nadeau a special 9/11, thank you for his years as a first responder. Contained in the frame are the pictures and names of the fallen New York City firefighters lost in the attack on the world Trade Center, September 11, 2001. Thanks To Yanks is a local charity committed to honoring and remembering the victims and heroes of 9/11/01. Thanks To Yanks photo

SMOC Fuel Assistance

Residents who received Fuel Assistance last heating season will start receiving renewal applications for the upcoming heating season. Please note, the season does not start until November 1. Anyone in Mendon who needs help with completing the application or feels they could apply this year, should call the Senior Center at 508-478-6175 while Upton residents should call Janice Read Nowicki at 508-529-5088.
Agro Proposing Changes to Animal Control Bylaw

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Mendon Board of Selectmen continue to hear requests from town department heads concerning possible warrant articles for the November 20 Special Town Meeting. Town Clerk Ellen Agro is hoping to make changes to the town’s Animal Control Bylaw and came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss her thoughts on two warrant articles concerning the bylaw. The conversation took place during a September 10 meeting.

One warrant article Agro’s proposal would be to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 22E, which would permit the Board of Selectmen to set the dog and kennel licensing fees and any related late fees.

The other article would be to amend wording of the town’s Animal Control Bylaw. Specifically, wording in Sections 9.2, 9.7, and 9.10, which contains established fees for the dog and kennel licenses and late fees, would be deleted. New wording would then be added that would reflect the Selectmen’s authority to set the fees.

Should the articles pass, Agro would then like the Selectmen to consider increasing the town’s animal and kennel licensing fees, which she says hasn’t changed in nearly 30 years.

The Town Clerk suggested the license fee for a spayed/ neutered dog increase from $8 to $15 per year and the fees for dogs unspayed increase from the current $10 to $20. Late fees could also increase.

Agro also suggested that the kennel licensing fee for those that hold five to 10 dogs increase from $40 to $100. And those kennels that hold over 10 dogs would increase from $50 to $150.

Ultimately, any fees would be determined by the Board of Selectman. “I like the idea of the Board setting the rate,” said Selectman Chris Burke.

Also, on the agenda, Highway Surveyor Alan Tetreault came to the Board to request an article on the warrant to purchase a trackless snow blower totaling approximately $172,000. Tetreault has been requesting the piece of equipment for years, but due to financial constraints, the Selectmen have found it necessary to put the purchase off. Tetreault explained he would do a lease to purchase option, possibly over 10 years.

Burke stated one of his concerns regarding the acquisition is that large capital purchases are typically voted on during the May Annual Town Meeting.

In other Selectmen news that evening, the Board approved the appointment of Anthony Genna to the Economic Development Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2021.

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.

Wednesday, September 25
Balance Class Begins, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 26
Veterans Round Table, 1:30 p.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.
Bocce, 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 a.m.

Thursday
Cribbage, 9 a.m.
Stretch and Flux, 9 a.m.
Wellness Group, 10:30 a.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays 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

Thursday, September 26
Conservation Commission, Public Hearing on 20 Emerson St., 18 Main St., 7:15 p.m.
Conservation Commission, Public Hearing on 75 Millville St., 18 Main St., 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 1
Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 2
Historical Commission, Public Hearing on 143 Hartford Ave. East, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

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

The Mendon Senior Center offers its appreciation to the following individuals and businesses which provided assistance recently.

Thank you first to Joyce Tuson and Eldon Swanson, two volunteers who sort, count, and redeem all of the returnable bottles and cans donated to the Senior Center. All monies collected support the Friends of Mendon Elders transportation fund. The van service provides in town transportation for $1 and out of town transportation for $4. Call Laura at the Senior Center, 508-478-6175, to schedule a van ride.

As part of the Friends of Mendon Elders, the Senior Center is also working to raise funds for the Friends of Mendon Elders. On October 26, the Senior Center is holding a Friends of Mendon Elders Oktoberfest. The event will include German cuisine, beverages, a silent auction, and many other activities.

Senior Center Rafting Off Baskets in October

The Friends of Mendon Elders are raffling off baskets throughout October which were created by various groups that enjoy using the Mendon Senior Center. The first location the baskets will be presented is the Fire Department Open House on Wednesday, October 9. Come say hello to our brave Mendon firefighters, examine the fire trucks, and share in the free food as well as take a chance on the raffle baskets being presented by the Friends of Mendon Elders.

The second opportunity for raffle basket chances will be Saturday, October 12 at the Lions Club Fair located in the field behind the Blessing Barn in Mendon. Come enjoy the many elements of the Fair, put your chances in the raffle cans of your basket choices, and view/buy the special Christmas and handcrafted items for sale by the Friends at the Fair.

The final opportunity to purchase raffle chances is the Friends of Mendon Elders Oktoberfest at the Mendon Senior Center Friday, October 25 from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, October 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the end of Oktoberfest, the winning names for all baskets will be drawn. In between each event, the baskets are on display at the Senior Center where raffle tickets can also be purchased.

Mendon Flu Vaccine Clinics

The Mendon Board of Health along with Salmon VNA & Hospice will be holding two flu vaccine clinics this year. The clinics are for all Mendon residents age six months and older. There are no copays, but please bring your insurance cards and wear a short-sleeved shirt.

The first clinic is Friday, October 4, at the Senior Center, 62 Providence St., from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The second clinic is Tuesday, October 8, at the Board of Health office, 18 Main St. (the basement of the former Taft Public Library building) from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information please contact the Board of Health at 508-634-2636 or Salmon VNA & Hospice at 508-473-0862.

Friends of Mendon Elders Oktoberfest

Friends of Mendon Elders Annual Oktoberfest will be Friday, October 25, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This traditional event, which is open to the public, features a traditional white elephant table, beautiful hand knit items and crafts, jewelry, and holiday decorations. Proceeds will help to support the Senior Center programs and services.

Donations of hand crafted or knit items, jewelry, and attic treasures are needed. Items can be dropped off at the Center Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Help is also needed the day prior as well as the days of the event. Anyone who has an hour or two to spare, please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Center to sign up.
Two words have lately sparked a debate in our towns causing me to think about which side I stand on—spraying. 

When both Mosquito and Upton’s risk of EEE was raised to “critical” after finding mosquitoes carrying potentially deadly disease, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources declared the towns would be sprayed with pesticides.

The news of this decision set off lively conversations between townspeople about whether that decision was smart, or overreactionary.

On one side, you had the residents concerned about themselves, and especially their children, getting bitten by a mosquito carrying EEE and contracting a disease that causes severe illness and could be fatal. Eight people have contracted EEE in Massachusetts. One of those cases led to the death of a Fairhaven woman and another was a 5-year-old Sudbury girl who reportedly nearly died before being taken to the hospital.

These folks cheered as soon as they heard that spraying would happen in our towns and would update each other on which path the planes were taking through a tracker app with as much enthusiasm as watching for Santa Claus, hoping that their street would be the next one to be sprayed.

On the other side, you had local people who were upset that the spraying decision was taken out of their hands. Many of these townspeople have gardens, bees, and livestock, resulting in worries about the potential effects of the chemical being sprayed on their land. They argued EEE has been around since the late 1980s, and although it hit close to home this year, the chances of contracting the mosquito borne illness are still infinitesimal.

For one week people concerned with the chemicals being sprayed on their land covered their crops, bee colonies, and even swimming pools, just to find out the next morning that the spraying had been completed the night before due to weather.

A clear divide was evident and the debate was fast and furious on Facebook, especially since the decision to spray was made unilaterally by government officials (as many of these controversial decisions are).

As I was reading, I felt myself wavering as to which side I was on. I really felt badly for the gardeners and beekeepers who wanted to keep the fruits of their labor safe. I also greatly understand the feeling of the people who were exposed to any more chemicals than we already are.

But after thinking about it for a while, I decided that to me, this was a case of thinking about the greater good. If washing my tomatoes, a little longer or being extra cautious and throwing them away meant that another 5-year old could be saved from being bitten by a mosquito carrying EEE, then I would have to vote in favor of the spraying. Why, I forgot, I didn’t get to vote….

Either way, for the first time since I was a child, I, a New Englander is looking forward to Jack Frost nipping at her nose!
Milford Federal Bank New Commercial Loan Center

Milford Federal Bank announces its plan to open a Commercial Loan Center 232 Main St., Milford in October 2019. It will house experienced team members including Vice President & Commercial Loan Manager, Shane Eldred; Vice President, Peter Beecher; and supporting staff.

"We are committed to strengthening the economic development of the greater Milford and Blackstone Valley areas in Massachusetts and Northern Rhode Island. This new office will allow us to centralize all commercial lending operations to maximize efficiencies in providing all commercial loan types, such as commercial real estate, lines of credit and equipment loans," said President/CEO Paul Gilbody.

Pictured left to right: Paul Gilbody, President/CEO; Anita Carroll, Commercial Credit Coordinator; Anna Case, Commercial Credit Analyst; Shane Eldred, Vice President Commercial Lending and Commercial Manager and Peter Beecher, Vice President Commercial Lending.

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

These are the businesses that contract to advertise in the Upton and Mendon Town Crier at least 12 times a year. These receive a frequency discount, feature article about their business (minimum 1/16 page ad) and listing in this directory.

Business Name ..........................Ad on Page

Amazing Cleaners ..........................14
American Cleaners ..........................next
Bright Insurance Agency .....................15
Boston Fly & Lumber .........................3
C.J. Cilley Construction .....................construction
Cancerix Mexican Restaurant .............10
Canoe for Island Wellness .................next
Campion Driving Academy ..................8
Cook Company ..............................next
CPB Inc. ..............................19
Creative Images Hair Studio ...............next
Crystal Room ..............................next
Frank’s Appliances ..........................12
Gallofondo Restaurant .......................10
Gibson Natural Pet Resort ...................16
Ishakola Plumbing & Heating .............15
Imperial Cars .................................1, 24
J.C. Parmenter .................................next
Julkoske Overhead Door .....................13
Joyce Plumbing ..............................12
Just A-Woo-Day ...............................next
Keppner Poet & Lumber .....................next
Liquor Plus .................................next
Little Coffee Bean .........................10
Maple Farm Dairy .........................11
Marx reunites ..................next
Medford Oil & Paint Company ..........15
McCormick Properties ....................next
Mendon Motors ..............................12
Metrowest Oral Surgical Associates ......3
Milford Federal .........................15
Muffin House Cafe ..........................10
Nathans Jeweler .............................19
New England Steak & Seafood ..........10
Nathans’ Jewelers ..........................next
Pink & Black ..................next
Phipps Insurance Agency .................next
Pitney Bowes ................................next
Raley Nauyot, Reallif Realty Group ..........next
Rose Garden Restaurant & Lounge ......next
Santos Electric ......................next
Simpson Electric ......................15
Temploman Tree Service ..................15
Thrive Fitness .............................next
Tongue & Groove ..........................next
Toyota Motor North America .............next
Walden’s Animal Hospital .................15
Wolves Dog Daycare ......................next
Women’s Total Body Wellness / Mash Up ..19
Women’s Total Body Wellness / Mash Up .next
WPI Post Control ......................next

Susanne Odell Farber: ..............................708-594-8148
Colette Rooney: ..............................508-922-9674
cerooney@charte.net
Suzanne Odell Farber: ..............................708-594-8148
sue@odellconsult.com
Upton News

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 web site. 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 $3.50 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 VFW 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 in the tradition of custom apple crisp with real whipped cream.

Majority of Committee Supports Electronic Voting for Upton

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/COLUMNIST

Members of the Electronic Voting Committee presented their findings to the Board of Selectmen after researching the pros and cons of bringing electronic voting to town meetings. The presentation took place during September 3 meeting.

Committee Chair Michelle Antinarelli explained over the last six months, the Committee investigated the accuracy and transparency of electronic voting as well as voter participation, policies and procedures needed, accessibility, privacy issues, and costs.

The Committee reached out to multiple communities utilizing electronic voting for e-voting, attended two town meetings that use the voting system, surveyed residents, and completed other research.

“In short, we found the merits of electronic voting are efficient, precise, and an equitable method to collect a private vote,” said Antinarelli, adding it also reduces the possibility of intimidation, and provides transparency.

However, because e-voting is new to many communities currently using it, the Committee was unable to verify if the voting system seemed simpler, or if it raised voter participation. The system increased at town meetings. That, they concluded, will take years to know.

The costs, according to the Committee’s findings, vary depending on the vendor used. Purchasing a system outright could run anywhere between $9,000 and $17,000 or Upton could rent a system between $1,800 and $2,400 per meeting. The most significant costs were related to technical support which ran between $1,350 to $4,100 per meeting. Two vendors have offered a free trial.

"Electronic voting doesn't change the town meeting process,” said Antinarelli. “It supports the purest form of democracy, which means we still have public discourse. The only thing it changes is how the vote is collected and how the vote is tabulated." Still, it was also noted that a minority of Committee members were not in favor of electronic voting at this time. One concern was it would add more time to town meetings and a need to add more staff. In addition, privacy is also a concern noting there is no guarantee an electronic voting system is 100 percent secure. Antinarelli noted votes are not associated with anyone’s name and data is destroyed after meetings.

“I'm not against electronic voting personally, under the right circumstances and when the need arises," said Committee member Al Holman. “The question is, does it make sense to do it right now? If for example we have a lot of close calls, a lot of standing votes, a lot of ballot questions—but we don't fit into that.

Still, the Committee members agreed the final decision is not theirs. "This, of course, is not up to this Committee to decide, it is not the Board's decision either," said Antinarelli. "I'm going to ask the Board to put it to the voters. Ultimately, they should be the ones to decide whether or not they have electronic voting.

Both Selectmen Stephen Matellian and Maureen Dwinell were in favor of bringing an article forward for voters, which would contain a bylaw change. Selectman Brett Simas was not present at the meeting. The Committee’s complete report can be found on the Selectmen’s page at UptonMa.Gov.

Upton Heritage Day 2019

Six organizations are holding events at five locations on Saturday, September 28, all around the Upton Town Common to celebrate Heritage Day 2019! Events will occur at United Parish, Upton Fire Department, the VFW, Town Common, and the Upton Library on the same day. Town Hall will be used in case of poor weather conditions. Participate in a town-wide yard sale, and purchase lunch or apple crisp from United Parish.

Upton Historical Society is scheduled to perform at 12:30 p.m. The booths will have offers a free trial.

The only disposal will be the plant’s leftovers to be donated $1,000 each year to both the police and fire departments, or $1,000 for charity events in town, and $2,000 for scholarships. Selectmen Stephen Matellian and Maureen Dwinell stated they had no objections to the proposal yet but would continue to review it. Selectman Brett Simas was not present for the meeting. Town Manager Derek Brandis said the next steps would be for Grow Rite to hold a public hearing in order to give residents the opportunity to ask questions or voice concerns. From there, the Selectmen would need to approve a host agreement and then Grow Rite would need to apply for a license through the Cannabis Control Commission.

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

8

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Thanks for a Successful Christmas in July

The Upton Bloomer Girls thank all the residents who came out in support of their organization at the group’s annual Christmas in July day at JJ’s Ice Cream, Upton. Thanks also to the businesses that donated to the group’s cause of helping Upton residents in need: Petal and Crem, Cram, Stephanie’s Breakfast, Sheer Excitement, Kelly’s Farm, Wong’s in Grafton, Dunkins Upton, Avon, Liquor Plus, Coffee Bean and especially JJ’s Ice Cream for hosting the event and its employees for donating a portion of the daily sales to the Bloomer Girls. Additional thanks to Santa, Wayne Phipps, who is shown in the photo with a young fan, Ava Mozart. Contributed photo

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THANK YOU, DR. KROLL
Thank you for trusting your beloved patients to the care of Dr. Najafi and the Boston Eye Group team!

WELCOME, DR. NAJAFI
We are excited to announce our new retina surgeon, Mehdi Najafi, MD, PhD. Dr. Najafi specializes in all diseases of the retina, including diabetes and macular degeneration. He is now accepting patients in our Milford, MA location.

The 5-Star Homes Team
$499,999
88 MILFORD ST UPTON

$499,999
46 CHRISTIAN HILL UPTON

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 20
BVT Salon Visit, Depart 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. appts. SHINE Appointments, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Picnic call for appointment Afternoon Movie, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, September 23
Breakfast at the Center with Fire Safety Talk, 9:15 a.m. Shopping Trip to Shaw’s, CVS, Job Lots, Northbridge, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25
Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Hudson, 9:15 a.m.

Friday, September 27
Birthday Bash, 12:45 p.m.

Saturday, September 28
Upton Heritage Day, Come Visit the COA Table to Pick Up Info. On Go4Life Walk, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, September 30
Trip to JJ’s Ice Cream and Kelly’s Farm Stand, 12:30 p.m.

Monday
Tai Chi, 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.

Thanks from the Upton Center

The Upton Center thanks the following volunteers who recently helped out:
• Donna Dube and Josephine McLaughlin for kindly offering to lead the senior walks on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the summer and fall
• Greg Mannin for calling Bingo at the Center each week.
• Whitney Place for donating the cake for the August Birthday Bash.
• And Paula Lepore for starting up the computer tutoring sessions again on Wednesday mornings.

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The 5-Star Homes Team
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$499,999
46 CHRISTIAN HILL UPTON

Country Colonial with attached garage which also serves as a 2 car garage. Painted on a meticulously landscaped lot backs up to private woods. Yard designed for relaxation and utility, landscaped with island, reservoir, flowering, birch, bamboo, wood, flowering, & ladder to deck. Family room with cozy fireplace, formal dining room, perfect place to host dinner parties...

Welcome to Christian Hill Rd, once named one of the most beautiful roads in the Blackstone Valley. Here you will find large, private, wooded lots. A winding, freshly paved road, and lots of beautiful colored trees in the fall. This adorable 3 bedroom Gambrel has a post it beam timberway, volleyball court, pool, and finished walk-out basement.

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New England Notebook

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to welcome Ted Reinstein’s New England Notebook: One Reporter, Six States, Uncommon Stories on Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hopedale Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. There is no charge for this program. It will take place in the downstairs program room.

Reinstein’s stories colorfully convey the essence of the region’s unique character. These are the stories not found in guidebooks: the diverse people, memorable places, fascinating history, odd pastimes and delicious foods, quirky collectors, skillful craftsmen, and one-of-a-kind entertainers that distinguish New England from every other place on earth.

After covering every corner of New England for 16 years, “Chronicle” reporter Reinstein got tired of saying, “I have enough stories to fill a book,” so he picked the best stories and wrote one. The result is an engaging almanac that offers plenty of intriguing tidbits and little-known facts, but goes beyond the merely curious to reveal the heart of what he calls, “this historic and quintessentially American place.”

To reserve a spot please call 508-634-2209 or stop by the library during operating hours.

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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.

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.

Hopedale Cultural Council Applications

The Hopedale Cultural Council has set an October 15 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Proposals in the arts, humanities, and science that support projects such as exhibits, lectures, workshops, field trips, performances, and artistic residencies may be submitted.

The Hopedale Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. This year the Hopedale Cultural Council will distribute about $5400 in grants. Previously funded projects included musical, theatrical, and dance performances, lectures, and field trips.

Online application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available at Mass-Culture.org.

New Leadership with Deep Local Roots

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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 Farmer’s 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 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.

For more information for this event, contact Justine Brewer at justine@southwickszoo.com or 508-726-2042.

Dozens of communities in Massachusetts, including Mendon and Upton, have now been listed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) as critical for EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis). Eight people in the state have been diagnosed and one woman in Fairhaven has died of the disease. Eight horses and one goat around the state have also been infected.

According to the DPH, the EEE virus is most often identified in mosquitoes found in and around freshwater, hardwood swamps in Massachusetts. EEE virus particularly infects birds, often with no evidence of illness in the bird. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite infected birds. Although humans and several other types of mammals, particularly horses and llamas, can become infected, they do not spread disease.

Health officials have said the first symptoms of EEE are a sudden onset of a headache, chills and vomiting. As the virus progresses, the young and the old are at highest risk. A bite from an infected mosquito that has fed off an infected person can cause encephalitis and meningitis.

According to the DPH, the P11 spraying for mosquitos in Massachusetts communities including Mendon and Upton took place on August 28 through 15. Mendon and Upton were sprayed across a broad spectrum of Worcester and Middlesex Counties from September 5 through 15. Mendon and Upton were sprayed by Ariel spraying for mosquitos in Massachusetts communities including Mendon and Upton took place on August 28 through 15. Mendon and Upton were sprayed through 15. Mendon and Upton were sprayed on September 5. Additional rounds are listed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

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Mendon and Upton Critical for EEE West Nile Found in Mendon

A high virus progression, dissemination for Diseases can occur 10 days after those most at high risk area, under 15 years of age. In Mendon and Upton, spraying took place on August 26 and 27 and spraying across a broad spectrum of Worcester, Norfolk and Middlesex Counties from September 10 to September 15. Mendon and Upton were sprayed on September 11. Additional rounds of spraying scheduled for Western and Southeastern Massachusetts. While officials noted the pesticide used is highly effective in killing adult mosquitos, they said spraying does not eliminate risk. Residents are urged to use EPA approved insect repellent, cover exposed skin while outdoors and avoid outdoor activities during the evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most active.

The threat of EEE diminishes with cooler weather but it is not completely eradicated until the first hard frost which is usually in early to mid-October.

West Nile Virus

As of September 13, mosquitoes infected with the West Nile virus (WNV) have also been found in Mendon. People can get the virus when bitten by an infected mosquito, which are common across the state. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection. Most people who are bitten by an infected mosquito will have no symptoms while about 20 percent will experience a fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands. They may also develop a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Most severe cases can result in encephalitis or meningitis. Again mosquitos carrying WNV will not be eradicated until the first hard frost. Until that first hard freeze everyone is being urged to follow the five Ds of mosquito control:
- Dusk - Avoid outdoor activity when mosquitos are most active
- Dawn - Don't go outside when the light is changing in the sky
- DEET - Use repellents with it, except for infants two months or younger, per a Board of Health physician.
- Dress - Cover exposed skin to block mosquitoes
- Drain - Dump standing water so mosquitoes can't breed

Fueling Up for the Flight South

The monarch butterfly stopped in a Mendon yard to fuel up at a buddleia or butterfly bush for its journey south this fall. The delicate butterflies make their way from the Northeast in September to overwinter in the mountains of Central Mexico. Western species make their way over the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast of California during the same time period. They all make the return trip north during the same time. The older generation makes the southern trip while their offspring make the trek north in the spring. Jane Bigda photo

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20' Round (19'10''x19') 49''
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28' Round (24'10''x24') 69''
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B) Circle 69''
C) Triangular 69''

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Battle for Daniels Farm Revolutionary War Reenactment

Step back in time to the 18th century for a Revolutionary War Reenactment hosted by the historic Daniels Farmstead along with the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT). The Battle for Daniels Farm, will be 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. 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 selling their wares. The Daniels Farmstead kitchen will be selling hot food and vendors will be selling a variety of foodstuffs.

The historic house and cider mill dating from the late 18th century will be available for tours. Tickets for the event are $8 per day or $10 for a two-day pass. The night tour on Saturday is $5. Persons under 12 years old are admitted free. BVT family, teachers and staff ticket cost is $5 for a two-day pass, the night tour is free. Parking for the event is at JFK Elementary School, 200 Lincoln St., Blackstone, with busses transporting spectators to Daniels Farmstead.

For more information, visit DanielsFarmstead.org.
Sarah Baldiga, a 40 Under Forty Winner

Upton native, Sarah Baldiga, has been recognized by Worcester Business Journal (WBJ) as one of their 40 Under Forty winners from 2019. The awards honors business leaders in Central Massachusetts who are remaking the local economy in their own image and are under the age of 40. Baldiga, who is age 36 and the daughter of Christine and the late David Baldiga and granddaughter of Lois and Robert Baldiga of Mendon, is the co-founder and executive director of Rise Above Foundation. The Hopkinton based organization, which she helped founded 10 years ago, provides children in foster care with the extras that their foster families cannot typically provide. Foster families usually receive about $25 a day to cover a child's food, housing and other basic needs. So they may not be able to afford equipment for sports, dance classes and costumes, instruments or other activities and experiences that enrich a child's life. Rise Above Foundation helps close that gap. Under Baldiga’s leadership the foundation has grown from an all-volunteer staff to three full-timers and has increased the number of children helped from a few hundred to 1,100 in 2018. It has distributed over $1 million in support of more than 5,000 youngsters in the last decade. A Saint Anselm College and Worcester State University alum, who now lives in Hopkinton, has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families’ 2018 Commissioner Community Leadership Award. She is the board chair of the MetroWest Nonprofit Network and is part of the social justice ministry at Saint Gabriell's Parish in Upton.

Ya’ Gotta Love a Nurse

These nurses tended to the needs of the residents at the award winning and now defunct Hopedale Gardens Nursing Home, from the 1970s until 2010 when the facility closed. They reminisced and had a lot of laughs, especially for those who worked the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift, during a reunion at the Mendon home of Linda Lamothe. The nurses are, l-r: Seated-Martha Flemming and Barbara Svitila. Standing- Pat Hanlon, June Henneberry, Patricia Platcow, Linda Lamothe and Maryann Sannicandro. Harry Platcow photo

Sarah Baldiga

Mortgage Seminar

Bay Equity Loan Officer Michael Shain will host a Homebuyer Boot Camp on Wednesday, September 25 in conjunction with the Milford Community Use Program at 6:30 p.m. at Milford High School, Room A-1. Pre-registration is required at MilfordCommunity.com at “Register for Activities,” then “Adult Fall one-night workshops.” Space is limited. Free pizza will be served. For more information, contact Shain at 508-330-8487 or mshain@bayeq.com.
The ABCs of Hepatitis
Understanding the Causes, Symptoms & Treatment

Wednesday, October 16 at 7PM
Dost Sarpel, MD / Milford Regional Medical Center
Division of Infectious Diseases, Viral Hepatology

Hepatitis is a disease that causes liver inflammation. The symptoms are silent and the disease can be deadly. More importantly, many people are unaware that they are infected with hepatitis until significant health problems arise. Learn more about the high risk of this common disease and the treatments available from our infectious disease specialist Dost Sarpel, MD. FREE

21st Century Methods of Detecting Urological Cancers

Wednesday, October 23 at 7PM
Jeffrey Steinberg, MD, FACS / Urology Specialists of Milford, LLC

Advanced technology is now available at Milford Regional Medical Center to detect urologic cancers, providing a more precise diagnosis and comfortable experience for the patient. Urologist Jeffrey Steinberg, MD has been at the forefront of these new advancements. Join us as he discusses blue light cystoscopy for the treatment of bladder cancer, prostate MRI/ultrasound fusion biopsy, new bloods and urine tests as well as genetic testing to determine the aggressiveness of urologic cancers. FREE
Upton-Mendon Town Crier

Calendar

Savaria Children’s Benefit
MILFORD–Last summer, David Savaria was diagnosed with bladder cancer. After an incredible fight with an aggressive cancer, he passed away on August 28, at UMass Medical Center. Savaria, beloved with, Luisa (Barroso) is the Saint Mary’s of Milford Parish Administrative Assistant for the Religious Education Program. The parish is holding a A Night in Tuscany to support the Savaria Children’s Benefit Fund at Milford Federal Bank for his two children.

The event on Saturday, September 28 beginning at 5:30 pm will feature a cash bar, Pettinelli Jazz Trio, raffles, and more in the church hall. A cash bar will also be available. Tickets are $20 a person, with a limit of 100 sold. Please call the church office to reserve a place.

Donations of items to raffle and food and beverages for the evening are appreciated. Cash donations are also welcome and will be given directly to the Benefit Fund.

Mendon Country Fair Vendors
MENDON-Vendors wishing to participate in the Mendon Country Fair on Saturday, October 12 should contact Lion Dick Ferucci at 508-981-8761 or email to Dick@vendos.com for reservations. The annual event will be held behind The Blessing Barn on Route 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring live music, food and nonprofit and community vendors. 4H animals, and more. Date Rain is October 13.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar
UPTON–United Parish of Upton is planning their festive annual Holiday Bazaar Sunday, December 8 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lion Dick Ferucci at 508-981-8761 or email to Dick@vendos.com for reservations. Funds to be used for charity grants to assist cancer research; support families facing a cancer diagnosis; and make scholarships available to children in the community.

The group is holding a golf tournament on Monday, October 21, at Hopkinton Country Club. The fundraiser begins October 21st beginning with registration at 11:30 a.m., followed by golf at 1 p.m. The day includes a delicious lunch and BBQ dinner. The cost is $200 each with registration at https://events.r2.com/honk/registration?Event=1. Check-in and registration will be at the Mt. Hollis Craft Fair, 657 Washington St. at the parking lot.

On Saturday, September 21, the United Parish of Upton will host its last yard sale of the season on Saturday, September 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain date Saturday, September 28, at the shelter, 289 West St. (Rt. 140), Milford. There is a huge selection of items, a great place to shop for a dorm or first apartment. Featuring lots of special sales, everything must go.

A night in Tuscany to support the Savaria Children's Benefit Fund at Milford Federal Bank for his two children.

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New York City Trip
MILFORD-Sacred Heart of Jesus Milford is sponsoring a trip to New York City on November 16. Cost is $69 per person. A bus will be leaving the parking lot across the street from the church at 6:30 a.m. and will return at approximately 9:30 p.m. New York City. Please contact the rectory, 508-634-3454, for more information. Seats are limited and payment is due at time of reservation.

MHS Class of 1962 Birthday Party
MILFORD–The MHS Class of 1962 will hold a Birthday Party on Saturday, October 19th at Prezzo’s Restaurant, 229 West Main St. Milford. A Classic Buffet will be offered for $26 per person. Spouses or guests are invited. For more information or to RSVP as soon as possible, contact Joan Jackman, Donna Beatrice, Ronnie Moore, Judy Barton or Diane Menard.

Knights of Columbus Foxwoods Trip
MILFORD–The Knights of Columbus Valencia Council 80 is sponsoring a Foxwoods trip on Friday, October 25. The bus will leave the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church, Milford, at 4 p.m. and leave Foxwoods at 11 p.m. The cost is $20 per person and includes transportation, 3,500 food voucher or buffet and $10 in slot plays. Anyone interested in attending must reserve a spot by Friday, October 18, by calling James Burke at 508-478-9613. The trip is one to arrive the age 21 and above. Proceeds will benefit the Milford Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Blessing of the Animals at Southwick’s Zoo
MENDON-Father Bob Johnnsson of the Order of Franciscans of Mercy will bless the animals at Southwick’s Zoo on Friday, October 4 at 10 a.m. to conduct a Blessing of the Animals. Freshwater and small animals will be blessed on year this date on celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Zoo visitors are welcome to visit. For more information, please contact Peter Brewster, DVM at peter@southwickzoos.com.

Fair & Winter Carnival Vendors
MILBURY-Assumption School in Milbury is looking for crafters and vendors to participate in the Fair and Winter Carnival to be Our Lady of the Assumption Hall on Sunday, December 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. as part of the Milbury Chain of Lights Event. For information and application, please contact Terri Yarz, Thx4@ yahoo.com or 508-865-5404

Free Jazz Ensemble Concert
UPTON-The Upton Cultural Council will present a free concert 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. Refreshments will be available for purchase. A cash bar will be available and will be accepted with proceeds benefiting Upton’s VFW in its effort to replace the aging floor in the VFW building. For more information, email culturalcouncil@uptonma.gov or visit HeritageAmerica.com. Doors of the church will open at 1:30 p.m., no reserved seating. The Upton Cultural Council is a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Mendon Gay Pride
BREWERTON, DVM at peter@southwickszoo.com. Zoo visitors are welcome to visit. For more information, please contact Peter Brewster, DVM at peter@southwickzoos.com.

MILFORD–The Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center will host the 16th annual 2019 Senior Expo on Wednesday, September 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature over 40 exhibitors including local banks, assisted living facilities, fitness information, and our S.H.I.N.E. program, just to name a few.

The event is free and open to the public however, it will be especially helpful for Seniors and Caregivers. It will be held in connection with the Free Flu Clinic sponsored by the Milford Health Department. A flu shot provided by the Milford Health Department. There will also be free blood pressure and hearing screenings. This is a great opportunity for local businesses to meet and interact with our seniors about topics and services that are important to them.

Fair lunch will be provided to the first 200 seniors. There will be raffles and free give-aways. Entertainment will be provided by Ron Auger throughout the day. Please feel free to contact the center at 508-477-8334 with any questions.

Living with the Ribbon
MILFORD–Living with the Ribbon is a Mendon based non-profit which aims to offer scholarships to students pursuing higher education. The organization also accepts grants to assist cancer research, support families facing a cancer diagnosis, and make donations to cancer centers.

The group is holding a golf tournament on Monday, October 21, at Hopkinton Country Club. The fundraiser begins October 21st beginning with registration at 11:30 a.m., followed by golf at 1 p.m. The day includes a delicious lunch and BBQ dinner. The cost is $200 each with registration at https://events.r2.com/honk/registration?Event=1. Check-in and registration will be at the Mt. Hollis Craft Fair, 657 Washington St. at the parking lot.

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State Awards BVT $375K Skills Capital Grant

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is one of 45 high schools, colleges, and vocational institutions to receive a portion of $12 million in grants aimed at acquiring the newest technologies to educate students and expand career education opportunities. Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Secretary of Education Jim Peyser, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy and Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta announced the recipients on August 29. This grant marks the sixth out of the seventh Workforce Skills Capital Grant that BVT has received from the Baker-Polito Administration. In total, this administration has awarded over $3.6 million to BVT through this program.

“Skills Capital Grants were originally designed to help students in vocational programs learn about the most up-to-date equipment. However, it has since evolved to help a broader population of students be ready for our Commonwealth knowledge-based economy,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “Reinforcing the District’s commitment to finding additional funding, the Skills Capital Grants helps us to invest in the most up-to-date equipment to give our students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or area of study,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “The School Committee and our public at large expect us to compete for grant funds which complement local tax investments. We remain eager to respond to that expectation. These grant opportunities support our programs and initiative, as they cover a broad array of fields, from construction and engineering to healthcare and hospitality.” BVT will use this $375,000 grant to create a series of innovation labs. These labs will be used by our engineering and manufacturing students to develop their skills further using state of the art equipment and training systems.

“It is encouraging to see schools that are awarded Skills Capital Grants utilize the funds toward career pathways to give Massachusetts students experience and expertise in industries that are expanding in the Commonwealth,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “These beneficial programs will give thousands of students a head-start on prosperous careers and we look forward to seeing their progress.” To date, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than $65 million to 233 different programs over the past four years. Through Skills Capital Grants, schools have expanded their enrollment capacity in high-demand occupations, enabling more than 12,500 additional students to enroll in these educational programs that are a priority for employers across the Commonwealth.

The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions that demonstrate partnerships with local businesses, as well as Woonsocket, Woonsocket. Both industry demand to maximize hiring opportunities in each region of the state. The 2018 Economic Development Bill, filed by the Governor and passed by the Legislature, established an additional $75 million in Skills Capital Grant funding. This round of Skills Capital Grants was funded through money the state received from the sale of General Electric’s headquarters. Last month, the administration also committed $86 million to expand MassHousing’s Workforce Housing Initiative using money from the GE sale.

Second Annual Live Music and Wine Tasting

The Second Annual Live Music and Wine Tasting at Vandervalk Farm and Winery, 25 Lovell St., Mendon, will be held on Saturday, October 5 from 2 to 5 p.m. The outdoor, fall family event is sponsored by the Mendon Upton Music Boosters and will feature performances by the award winning Nipmuc Regional High School Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Group. Tickets, for adults participating in the wine tasting, are $25 in advance by visiting SquareUp.com/store/mendon-mendon-upon-music-boosters. A few tickets will be available the day of the event beginning at 2:30 p.m. All other non-drinking participants are free. Bring a chair or blanket and food for snacking. Proceeds benefit the Mendon Upton Music Program. This event will be held rain or shine.

WE CARE Miscoe Launches Shoe Drive Fundraiser

WE CARE Miscoe is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser from September 10 through mid-November to raise funds for WE CARE projects and grants. WE CARE Miscoe will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected for Funds2Orgs.

Those dollars will benefit WE CARE Miscoe grants and projects. Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes. Collection boxes will be in each school lobby, in Mendon at Miscoe Hill School and Henry P. Clough Elementary; in Upton at Memorial Elementary and Nipmuc Regional High School. Collection boxes will also be available at the Taft Public Library in Mendon and the Upton Town Library.

All donated shoes will then be redistributed through the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners. Funds2Orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunities are limited. Needs from the sales of the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send her son to law school.

“We are excited about our shoe drive,” said Diane Duncan, Chair of the WE CARE Miscoe committee. “We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us. By doing so, we raise money for WE CARE Miscoe, and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It, also, gives our community a socially responsible way to dispose of shoes, which can take more than a lifetime to decompose when discarded improperly. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Dean’s List

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

Providence College: Katherine Venard of Upton

Western New England College: Springfield: Rachel Morgan Thibodeau of Mendon was named to the President’s List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher. She is majoring in Health Studies/Psychology Concentration.

286th Anniversary of Freemasonry in Massachusetts

Masonic Open House
Sat., October 19 • 9am - 3pm
Montgomery Lodge
155 Main St., Milford • 508-473-9762

If you’ve been wanting to learn more about Freemasonry, there’s never been a better time... Come by the Lodge, meet your Masonic neighbors... and discover the meaning of Masonry firsthand...

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2019
School Committee Approves the 2019/2020 District Action Plan

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

School officials for the Mendon Upton Regional Schools laid out their 2019/2020 goals for the district during the September 9 School Committee Meeting. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Maruszczak presented the District Action Plans to the Committee for the upcoming year, stating that they were built off of the district's Strategic Plan "Inspire." The "ambitious yet manageable" goals are prioritized based on the critical needs of the district, said Maruszczak.

"The second goal is to "implement strategies to further social-emotional learning (SEL) of students and staff alike," we are being intentionally very that is not just about kids but about staff alike," said Maruszczak. Key action steps for this goal will include continued participation in the exSEL Network with an emphasis on classroom practices, a focus on the area of educator self-care including a district-wide book study on resilience, and an analysis on last year's MetroWest Adolescent Mental Health Survey results.

The third goal is to "further define the MURSD Portrait of a Learner competencies, using them to guide MURSD programs, professional practices, and curriculum." The creation of a new Portrait of a Learner website, planning and implementation of a district-wide Inspired Learning Day, and putting clear, visual reminders at all four schools what the competencies are for a Portrait of a Learner, are just some of the action steps the district will take on this year to achieve this goal according to Maruszczak.

The last goal is to "improve Student Support Services so we may effectively meet the needs of diverse learners." Maruszczak said that one of the key action items for this goal will be to formalize specific roles and responsibilities for hiring, supervision, and evaluation and scheduling of all special education staff.

"We have found that some disparities do exist from building to building in various areas," he said.

"The goal will also include several professional development opportunities and conducting an analysis on the impact of co-teaching."

The School Committee unanimously approved the 2019/2020 MURSD District Action Plans. Now approved, the Action Plans will be used by the building principals to develop their individual School Improvement Plans.
Nipmuc Golf Takes Aim at Districts

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Nipmuc Regional High School Athletic Director Chris Schmidt announced the committee charged with inducting the school’s first ever Hall of Fame class. The plan for a Hall of Fame class is to recognize individuals, former coaches, administrators, and athletes, to bring the “institutional knowledge” necessary for such a project.

First, Schmidt said he expects to name the committee with a banquet at the high school. “At districts, it’s really a depth game, since they take your four best scores,” Cody said. “I think we can hang with anybody.”

Nipmuc Looks to Bounce Back from OT Loss

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Nipmuc football team will look to rebound after losing an overtime thriller to Littleton in the season opener, but head coach Dave Tupper said a challenge awaits them. “At districts, it’s really a depth game, since they take your four best scores,” Cody said. “I think we can hang with anybody.”

Nipmuc Seeking Nominations for First HOF Class

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc Regional High School Athletic Director Chris Schmidt announced the committee charged with inducting the school’s first ever Hall of Fame class. The project was first announced in early 2019 with an eye towards inducting a class within about 18 months. The plan for a Hall of Fame class is to recognize individuals, former coaches, administrators, and athletes, to bring the “institutional knowledge” necessary for such a project.

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Big Tests Await BVT Girls Volleyball

The Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ volleyball team jumped out to a 3-1 start to the season through its first four games, but head coach Brian Lehtinen said the biggest tests for his squad are on deck, beginning with a showdown Friday on the road against Advanced Math and Science Academy.

“AMSA is going to be a good barometer,” Lehtinen said. “It’s on the road and it also sets the tone for who is going to be on top of the league.”

Valley Tech and AMSA have been fighting it out at the top of the Colonial Athletic League standings for the last two years, with AMSA coming out on top. A number of other challenging games await the Beavers in October.

Although BVT has not always been challenged by its early season competition, the last few matches have given the Beavers a chance to build crucial depth.

“It’s been a great opportunity to get everybody in and see what we have for players and see the depth we have,” Lehtinen said. “That’s the most impressive part of our team, we have so much depth. We were able to get everyone in and keep dominating on the court.”

Senior captain Skylar Morrissey has been strong as both a setter and from behind the service line. Right side hitter Kathryn Surbey, a junior, and senior co-captain Rachel Rannikko have also stood out.

“They have been great on the outside,” Lehtinen said. “They have been leading out offense.”

The depth has been something on which Lehtinen and the Beavers can rely on, but the coach said he is looking for his team to become more consistent.

“Consistency is definitely the key,” he said, “and not playing down to any teams.”

A number of squads in the CAL are having rebuilding years, Lehtinen said, so it will be crucial for his team to stay sharp as it prepares for teams like AMSA, Hopedale, Sutton, Nipmuc and other contenders.

“If we know going in that we are likely going to win, we still have to play our game and not make errors,” the coach said. “The better teams are going to take advantage of that, so we have to clean that up so we don’t lose against the tough competition.”

Shellscapes

By Marilyn Peck Holman

Butterfly Shop
264 N. Main St., Uxbridge
TUES-SUN 12-7
Or MESSAGE me on FB
FACEBOOK: Shellscapes by Marilyn

UNIQUE JEWELRY / GIFTS
ANGELS / PAINTINGS

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THANKS
Nipmuc Youth Football & Cheerleading
would like to thank the following sponsors for their support during the 2019 season:

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Dick’s Sporting Goods
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Come see us play and cheer us on at Miscoe Hill in Mendon on:
September 22 October 13
September 29 October 13 Play Off Games

Teams and times will vary.
For more details, please visit
nipmucyouthfootball.siplay.com
4th Annual Spooky 5K Run

Prepare to be spooked on Sunday, October 27 when runners hit the streets for the 4th Annual Spooky 5K Run, presented by MUEF (the Mendon-Upton Education Foundation). Registration for the race, which starts at 10 a.m. at Nipmuc Regional High School, Pleasant St., Upton, is now open at MUEF.org. Early registration is $25 or $20 for students 18 and under; race day registration is $30. The Junior Goblin race for children 10 and under will kick off at 9:30 a.m. and registration is $10 per child. All runners for both races who register by October 9 will receive a free race t-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in each age division, as well as for the best individual and group costumes. All proceeds from both races will benefit MUEF and its mission of expanding educational opportunities for teachers and children through the funding of innovative initiatives, community involvement and workplace partnerships. For more information, MUEF.org.

FARM TO TABLE

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If this service is of interest to you, TRY IT FREE!!! We will be glad to drop off a bottle or two for you to try!
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Quissett Road Open Farm Weekend

Quislett Hill Farm
52 Quissett Road
EVENT INCLUDES:
• Farm Tour
• Pumpkin picking from our own patch
• Meet our Alpacas
• Sample our very own maple syrups, including our NEW Whiskey barrel-aged syrup
• Shop our farm store for alpaca products, honey, and maple syrup

CEDAR HILL FARM
43 Quissett Road
EVENT INCLUDES:
• Farm Tour
• Hayrides
• Popcorn, cotton candy, lemonade, plus more.
• Meet a baby calf
• Several local artisans
• Shop our farm store for local beef, chicken, gifts, and more!

4th Annual Spooky 5K Run

CMASS Final Rematch in Week Two for BVT Football

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Blackstone Valley Tech’s football team will be tested right out of the gate. After a season-opening win over Northbridge, the Beavers are set to travel to Leicester this weekend to take on the same team they beat in last year’s Central Mass. final and a squad that has already rolled over one of BVT’s Colonial Athletic League rivals.

Valley Tech got the better of Leicester a season ago, putting together a lopsided 35-3 win to claim the district crown and en route to the program’s first state championship under the new format.

BVT head coach Jim Archibald said the Wolverines are not as good as they were last year, “they are better.”

“They are a year older and a year faster,” Archibald said. “Their quarterback is a year older and stronger. He’s a great athlete. We are going to have to always be on our toes and know our assignments against a guy like that. He can turn a third and 15 into a first and 10, real quick.”

One of the things that will test a BVT defense that allowed just six points in the opener is how versatile Leicester’s offense is. “They do a lot, they line up in the ‘I’ formation and then the next play they are five-wide,” Archibald said. “We have our hands full. Luckily we are familiar with them and we have had some success against them.”

This year’s Wolverines’ roster, the BVT coach said, is “super talented.”

“They have everyone back from the team we beat in the finals last year,” Archibald said. “Their quarterback, wide receiver and running back are three of the best in Central Mass.”

Limiting big plays is going to be crucial to the Valley Tech game plan this weekend. BVT will also look to be a little bit more balanced than last week. Against Northbridge, the Beavers ran the football a total of 41 times for 285 yards.

“We are going to try to be physical, control the clock, hopefully we don’t have to run the ball 40 times and only throw it nine,” Archibald said. “We are hoping it can be closer to a 20-20 split and that we can find success that way.”
By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

BVT Football Kicks Off Title Defense with a Win

“Just a big win,” said head coach Jim Archibald. “We got on them early, held them to back-to-back three and outs and had great play all game from our defense.”

The Beavers used special teams and short fields to their advantage. The first defensive stand led to a punt and a 54-yard return by Josh Mateo, setting BVT up on the 10. Three plays later, Angelo Cardarelli ran it in from four yards to make it 7-0. Valley Tech added a second score thanks to big plays by Jared Loiselle, and makes sure everyone is in the right spot.

Between those three up front, we were able to get some form of pressure on their quarterbacks the whole game,” Archibald said. “We forced them out of the pocket and never let them get comfortable. That was a huge plus for us.”

In addition to rushing the ball himself, Loiselle had several key blocks from his fullback position to spring Antaya for big runs, the coach added.

On defense, middle linebacker Cam Gallagher finished with nine tackles and a trio of defensive linemen — John Furno, Jack Nasuti and Antonio Pena — all stood out.

“We just kept pounding the ball,” Archibald said. “We were able to cycle guys in, keep guys fresh and our offensive line did a great job opening holes the whole game.”

In addition to rushing the ball himself, Loiselle had several key blocks from his fullback position to spring Antaya for big runs, the coach added.

“We forced them out of the pocket and never let them get comfortable. That was a huge plus for us.”

The Beavers did lose Mateo to a shoulder injury that Archibald said will cost him about a month of time. Kyle Fleming, a junior, stepped in in the defensive backfield and Ethan Lynch continued to show his versatility on defense.

“He is our Swiss army knife,” Archibald said. “We can put him anywhere. He’s invaluable to our defense, he knows the positions anywhere. He’s invaluable to our defense, he knows the positions...
challenging front nine at Highfields Golf Club, the team’s home course, will help his players in the Colonial Athletic League tournament. BVT scored a significant CAL win already, have as sharp a drop off as some other teams when they lose seniors. “five through 10 players on the team are all from that class. been strong enough to play in the top-five of the BVT rotation, Allen said, and the number five through 10 players on the team are all from that class. “That just refuels the program,” he said. “I’m hoping they keep progressing so we don’t have as sharp a drop off as some other teams when they lose seniors. For this fall, the Beavers are focused on qualifying for the district and playing well in the Colonial Athletic League tournament. BVT scored a significant CAL win already, beating Blackstone Valley Tech players, averaging around 40. Fellow seniors Nolan Ballard and Cam Bern are right there with him, shooting about 41 each time out. Valley Tech players, averaging around 40. Fellow seniors Nolan Ballard and Cam Bern are right there with him, shooting about 41 each time out.

“My senior captains are striking the ball very, very well, playing the courses well and using their heads,” Allen said. “They have been right on, right from the start.” In addition to the captains, Abby Kelly has been shooting in the mid-40s routinely. “She is playing well, averaging around 46,” Allen said. “That’s basically what I tell my kids, ‘if you shoot bogey golf, you can score in most matches’.” Her top four are shooting bogey golf or better. The Beavers also boast significant depth in the sophomore class. Tyler White has been strong enough to play in the top-five of the BVT rotation, Allen said, and the number five through 10 players on the team are all from that class.

“They don’t have him lowering expectations as the Warriors look towards another playoff season, putting the 2019 season straight victories to begin the title and compete in the Colonial Athletic League tournament well before the end of September. Led by a trio of seniors who are all routinely shooting in the low 40s for a nine hole round, head coach Craig Allen said he had an inkling this year’s team would be one that could challenge for a Colonial Athletic League title and compete in the state vocational and district tournaments.” “I keep trying to tell the kids I had a strong feeling about this year and they are playing well.” Allen said. “I asked them to play this summer, you can’t tryouts be the first time you take your clubs out, and a lot of kids have as sharp a drop off as some other teams when they lose seniors.” “We want to get to that championship game if we are lucky enough and good enough to be there. ”

“We care too much about who scores,” Vidal said, “as long as we score.” Half of this year’s team is made up of underclassmen and the defense has been solidified by a combination of juniors, sophomores and freshmen. Vidal said, but that doesn’t have him lowering expectations as the Warriors look towards another playoff berth. “The goal is to win the Dual Valley Conference and to win Central Mass,” he said. “We want to get to that championship game if we are lucky enough and good enough to be there.”

The Blackstone Valley Tech golf team celebrated their victory at a recent golf match. The team has notched five straight victories. BVT photo