### Honoring Mendon’s Veterans

By Melissa Orff  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Mendon Veterans were honored for their brave service to the country during a special breakfast at the Mendon Senior Center on November 8. An annual tradition at the Senior Center, the Veterans breakfast brought close to 40 veterans to dine, listen to music, and chat with other servicemen and women.

Senior Center Director Amy Kent and Mendon Veterans Agent Robin Fletcher greeted the guests, thanked the Mendon Police Association for sponsoring the breakfast, and the Mendon Fire Department, Council on Aging, and Friends of the Mendon Elders for their help in putting together the important event. “I have the utmost respect for the men and women who have served our country,” said Kent about why she brought the Veterans Breakfast to the Senior Center 12 years ago.

State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford, read a Proclamation from the office of Governor Charlie Baker declaring the observance of Veterans Day. “It is appropriate that all Massachusetts citizens remember the bravery of those who served their country, so that their dedication and sacrifices serve as a reminder of the cost of our freedom,” read part of the Proclamation.

Murray also spoke to the Veterans about two bills being proposed that will effect veterans including counseling for post-traumatic stress syndrome for when they return from combat and start to take college classes, and a call for a Proclamation.

“We want to recognize a whole host of families who have lost loved ones while serving our country,” said Murray. After partaking in a full hot breakfast served by volunteers to tables decked out with red, white and blue centerpieces, the Veterans listened to the National Anthem rendered by the Mendon Minstrels.

“There are approximately 800 Veterans in Mendon, according to Fletcher. Massachusetts is the only state in the union that offers benefits to veterans and their spouses in need. For veterans looking for assistance such as free health care, contact Fletcher at the Mendon Town Hall.

### Bylaw Changes and Mass. General Law Acceptances on Mendon Warrant

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter

A number of bylaw amendments and Mass. General Law provisions are on Mendon’s Special Town Meeting warrant, some of which include a ban on the display of wild or exotic animals traveling through town for entertainment and modifying the animal control bylaw.

Mendon’s Special Town Meeting is scheduled for November 20 and will begin at 7 p.m. at Miscon Hill School.

Article 25 on the warrant concerns adding a section to the town’s general bylaws that would “prohibit the display of wild or exotic animals traveling as part of traveling animal acts for public entertainment or amusement.” A list of animals affected by the bylaw includes, among others, giraffes, camels, elephants, monkeys, lions, tigers, alligators and crocodiles.

Resident Carole Carnovale brought the idea of the bylaw to the Selectmen in March, who agreed to bring it forward for a vote in November. Southwick’s Zoo would not be affected by the ban.

Carnovale explained, animals that are part of traveling shows and circuses are not allowed to be considered as exotic animals. She currently owns a pet alligator and has a desire to own a pet python. "Many animals are held in captivity and should not be in pet stores,” she said. The bylaw will ban any animals traveling within town boundaries that are not permitted to travel through town for entertainment or amusement.

### Voters Support Municipal Center and Measures to Move Downtown Revitalization Forward

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter

It took Upton residents more than four hours to determine the outcome of 19 articles at the November 5 Special Town Meeting. At approximately 11:30 p.m. the meeting adjourned with 324 residents supporting design plans for a new Municipal Center, the purchase of an abandoned building, and redirecting the center of town in an effort to move the downtown revitalization project forward.

Article 4 was seeking $700,000 from free cash in order to finance the final stages of the development, procurement, design development, construction documents, and bidding phases of the project. The total cost of the project is currently estimated at $9.3 million.
2.00% APY*  
on balances of $0.01-$9,999!

*EZ Interest Checking is a variable interest rate checking product and subject to changes at any time. An Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 2.00% will be paid on the balance up to the first $9,999, and 0.10% on balances greater than $9,999. Minimum opening balance of $0.01 Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of 9/23/2019. Fees could reduce earnings. Additional terms and conditions may apply.

CLAFLIN HILL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 20th Anniversary Season

The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra (CHSO) celebrates its 20th anniversary with a trip through the planets, travel around the world, jazz favorites, tributes to musical masters, an instrument petting zoo and the world premieres of two compositions. All the concerts and other performances are on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Paul Surapine, CHSO Executive and Artistic Director said, "In 20 years’ time, the CHSO, our little cultural edifice here in the middle of suburbia, has grown and stretched its 'empire' of culture and education throughout central Massachusetts. We've survived economic downturns, national disasters, the Great Recession of 2008, and in spite of all that, continue to grow and expand every year."

CHSO now includes summer family concerts in the park, a burgeoning Youth Orchestra program involving more than 100 families from 40 different communities, a chamber series in Grafton with Apple Tree Arts, a jazz series at the Caffe Sorrento, Central St. Milford, and new partnerships to come this year in Franklin and Hopkinton.

CHSO opens the season with the first of six concerts, November 9, with "Celestial Aspirations." Joined by The New World Chorale, the orchestra will perform Gustav Holst’s celestial and powerful The Planets, and Maurice Ravel’s Daphnis & Chloé.

On Saturday, December 7, the popular CHSO Holiday Pops concert includes the Great Milford Community Chorus, will feature long-time favorites, plus a sing-along and holiday songs from many cultures. And a jolly old elf just might visit.

Peter the Great: Music of Imperial Mother Russia is February 2, a single-composer concert featuring the music of Tchaikovsky including Symphony No. 5, Marche Slave, Serenade for Strings and The Coronation March for Alexander the Third.

On March 7, travel around the world. Included are the Grand Canyon Suite, the Pines of Rome, Our Town by Copland and the world premiere of Adromedack Sketched, written for the CHSO’s 20th anniversary by Robert Christensen, one of Surapine’s teachers.

The final concert on April 25 features the world premiere of a piece by CHSO Principal Oboist Sachiko Murata. Other music includes Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola featuring Irina Muresanu on violin and Donald Krishnaswami on Viola who join CHSO in collaboration with LiveArts of Franklin.

In addition to celebrating classical music, CHSO presents Jazz Upstairs at the Sorrento for its second season. On January 11, vocalist Matthew Surapine presents, An American Songbook Cabaret, creating the feel of a New York supper club with jazz, some Italian favorites and other vocal stylings. The final jazz series concert is March 21 with the Mark Zaleski Band in a special 100-year tribute to Dave Brubeck.

Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra continues its chamber music series with the Apple Tree Arts Center in Grafton. On November 16, the first concert is Stravinsky’s L’histoire du Soldat, – A Soldier’s Tale, which includes acting, drama, poetry, dance, art and music. The second concert, January 25, is an Apple Tree Arts Faculty Showcase featuring the talented faculty, many who are also Claflin Hill musicians performing baroque to classical, modern to Broadway music.

The End of a New Beginning is the final program on April 9, when Surapine joins the CHSO Principal Strings in a program featuring works by Prokofiev, and Aaron Copland for Clarinet, String Quartet and Piano.

Tickets for any of the concerts are available at ClaflinHill.org or 508-478-5924.

*Must be degree in Elementary Education grades K-5
**ELA specialist

Tutoring students in grades K-5 after school, evenings, or weekends

The Wolves

The play The Wolves on Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30 and December 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Singh Center, 60 Douglas St., Whitinsville. The production is directed by Mendon residents, Michael Legge and Lorna Nogueira, stage manager is Liana Vincini.

Nine teenagers on a soccer team endure a tumultuous season in Sarah DeLappe’s The Wolves. Go-Go Theater presents this production with a cast of women of varying ages playing the girls because as Gertrude Stein wrote, ‘We are always the same age inside.’ Cast members are Terri Boulke, Tatsum Caracino, Susan Perrault Martin, Catherine D’Angelo, Lida McGirr, Vivian Nichols, Nogueira, Lynda Stocombe and Carol Allard Vancil.

The Wolves was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Each scene presents a different week in the season as the girls warm-up, strategize and wonder about the world-at-large and their corner of it.

Tickets are $20 for general admission, $15 for ages 65 and older and for ages 16 and under. For groups of ten or more, $16 per ticket. Call 209-6374 to reserve. Tickets can also be purchased at the door with no reservation. The Wolves deals with mature subjects and has adult language.

Advertise your business in the newspaper everybody loves to read. Reach 20,000 addresses for just pennies per doorstep!
A Young Superhero Needs Help in His Quest for a Kidney

By Melissa Orff

Nicholas Corapi, also known as Super Nicholas to his family and friends, is a 4th grader at the Memorial Elementary School in Hopedale. Nicholas is like most 10-year-old boys in many ways – happy, energetic, and loves superheroes. But Nicholas is currently living with stage 5 kidney failure, a condition he was born with after a blockage in his urinary tract while still in the womb caused severe damage. At just a year old, Nicholas had to have one kidney removed because it was non-functioning, while his other kidney was working at about 25 percent. Back in July, Nicholas began dialysis as his remaining kidney began to deteriorate even further.

Nicholas is currently on the waiting list for a new kidney. But the wait for a donor kidney is more complicated for Nicholas. One of the main obstacles is that Nicholas has type O blood. People with type O blood can only accept an organ from someone with the same blood type.

"There is a lot that goes into it, not just blood type," said Nicholas’ dad Joseph, who along with his wife Kim, has been trying to raise awareness about the potential for living kidney donors. "The people who are kidney donors are heroes; they have to go through a lot to get to that point."

The Corapi’s were just weeks away from receiving a new kidney from a live donor a few months ago when they got a call that doctors had disqualified the donor after rigorous testing.

“We felt like the rug got pulled out from under us,” said Joseph. “We were so disappointed.”

Memorial Assistant Principal Donna Hennessey agreed that the 4th grader is a superhero to those who know him.

“He is amazing,” said Nicholas’ 4th grade teacher Andrea Kelley, watching the boy skip through the halls past a cheering crowd of classmates and teachers. “He has a wonderful spirit and is the most positive kid I know.”

Memorial Assistant Principal Donna Hennessey agreed that the 4th grader is a superhero to those who know him.

“He just lights up a room, he is such a special little boy,” she said.

Money raised for the Super Nicholas Fund will help with medical expenses and expenses related to Nicholas’ treatment. Nicholas currently gets dialysis treatments at Boston Children’s Hospital up to three days a week at 2-4 hours per session while he waits for a new kidney.

To learn more about Nicholas, about applying to become a living donor, or to make a donation to The Super Nicholas Fund, visit nicholascorapi.com.
An Outing to the Library

The Upton Town Library continues a full tradition of hosting a visit by Memorial School first graders in October. The 94 students had the opportunity to learn about the library and get their own library card. Here some of the students are shown with Children’s Librarian Lee Anne Murphy. Upton Town Library photo

**Upton Downtown Revitalization** from front page

A number of residents asked questions concerning the project and many also spoke in support of it. David Brooks noted with the senior population growing in Upton, he liked the idea of having a larger building for seniors to gather at and the fact it would be located in the center of town as part of the revitalization project. Article 4 was passed through a standing vote with 215 supporting it versus 72 not in favor of it.

Several other articles were also related to the downtown revitalization including Article 3 which voters approved by a 2/3 majority vote to purchase the property located at 6 Main St. for $195,000. The dilapidated structure on the property is adjacent to the Knowlton Risteen Building and has been vacant for nearly 20 years. Town officials plan to demolish the property.

Resident Al Holman stated the Board of Selectmen have been trying to buy the property for years to tear it down. “It’s an eye sore. The Board of Health has walked through it. It’s terrible inside and not able to be fully functional,” he said. Article 3 passed by a 2/3 majority vote.

Article 16 also passed by a 2/3 majority standing vote to establish an Upton Center Business District along areas of Route 140 that would be affected by the downtown revitalization project.

A number of other articles that residents supported included Article 6 which funded $12,000 to purchase two laptops for the town’s ambulance and Article 7 funded an assistant’s position for the Treasurer/Collector’s office for $9,500.

Article 8 paid bills from a prior year totaling approximately $490 and Article 9 was passed to fund the matching portion of a grant for the Fire Department for $3,710. In an effort to protect the town’s computers, servers, website, and emails, residents supported Article 10 for firewall licenses and software upgrades totaling $7,560.

Article 11 funded new positions for the Department of Public Works for $31,192 for an additional operator. Article 13 funded $122,000 toward the Fowler St. Bridge project, and Article 21 voted to establish a new annual spending limit for fiscal year 2020 for the Land Stewardship Revolving Fund for $10,000.
Residents Table Electronic Voting

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Upton residents voted to table Article 14 during the November 5 Special Town Meeting which would have utilized electronic voting during future town meetings. Article 14 was put before voters to change the General Bylaws stating “When a question is put, the vote shall be counted by electronic voting technology, if available. If electronic voting technology is not available, then the Moderator shall call for a voice vote.”

Michelle Antinarelli of the Electronic Voting Committee explained a resolution to voter only utilizing the electronic voting system. However, prior to that, she requested, when it came to voting on the article, that a secret ballot vote take place to make certain it was accurate. That was rejected by voters.

From March through September, the Committee investigated the merits of electronic voting and by a majority vote, found it would be beneficial to the town. “It’s efficient, it’s precise, and it’s an unbiased method to collect the vote. It reduces the possibility of human error and reduces the possibility of intimidation because nobody knows how you voted and increases transparency,” said Antinarelli to the voters.

The bylaw change did not require that Town Meeting spend money; it was considered enabling legislation.

Upton Passes Petitions to Ban Single Use Plastic Bags and Styrofoam Food Containers

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Upton voters supported two citizens petitions at the November 5 Special Town Meeting which will ban the use of one time use plastic bags in town as well as Styrofoam food containers largely used by eateries.

Articles 19 and 20 were spearheaded by residents Chris Lazar, Marcella Stasa, Kuldeep Singh, and Laurie Wodin, who are involved in the Sustainable Upton project. The articles would ban plastic bags and Styrofoam, is limited to that used for prepared, environmental issues. When it came time to explain the article, Chris Lazar stated “I am concerned about the environmental impacts associated with the use of single use plastic and Styrofoam food containers largely used by eateries.”

The bylaw change did not require that Town Meeting spend money; it was considered enabling legislation. However, the Finance Committee stated that even if funding would be needed to either purchase voting devices or lease them from another community. As a result, the Committee voted unfavorably toward the article. Residents lined up to comment on the measure. Bill Andrews stated “I was against the town meeting process. I don’t trust anything electronic; I trust you Dave more,” he said toward Town Moderator David Looper.

Matt Welch stated he had concerns about hacking. “The nation is moving away from electronic voting because of hacking,” he said, adding that it takes extra time to check in each voting device. Electronic Voting Committee member Marcia Kaslowski stated she spoke to residents from other communities who utilize electronic voting in their communities who had “very positive” things to say about e-voting system.

Edward Bergmann questioned if the motion could be rewritten that would allow residents to refer to electronic voting system. Town Clerk Kelly McBreath explained if residents want to pilot some type of electronic voting by taking a vote at the beginning of a future town meeting to do so, it would allow the trial during that meeting without having to change the bylaws. Still, after nearly an hour of debate, residents voted to table the measure all together.

Military Families in Upton

The Upton Bloomer Girls and Upton VFW are looking for names and addresses of town residents serving in the US Armed Forces in the US and abroad for the purpose of sending a holiday care package and to say thank you for their service. Please email the information to elaine5454@gmail.com or phone 508-361-9207; contact any Bloomer Girl or mail to Upton Bloomer Girls, PO Box 121, Upton MA 01568.
**LETTERS**

**Letters may be edited for length and clarity and will be published on a space available basis. Maximum 500 words. Must include signature, address & telephone number. Opinions expressed are solely those of the writer. Town Crier Publications will not be responsible for inaccuracies. No Political Endorsements, please!**

**Mendon Musings**

By Kevin Rudden

Last week, I was driving on a rural state road near the Quabbin Reservoir, when I thought I was in the middle of a Hollywood movie. The car in front of me—forced to repeatedly brake due to the car two cars ahead of it constantly braking down a hill with rain and slick with fallen leaves—suddenly veered to the right, slid a guardrail, and went airborne. In the seconds it took me to pull over and stop, the car landed, slid several hundred feet down a ravine, and came to a stop in a reedy marsh. Thinking the driver must be badly injured, I grabbed my cell phone and dialed 911 as fast I could.

By the time I finished that call, the driver was existing his car and walking with effort back up toward the roadway. I asked him to sit on the guardrail so that I could get my first aid kit out of my trunk to treat the cut on his chin. Before I could even do so, a state trooper arrived. I spent the next 40 minutes telling several state and local police officers what I saw. What amazed me was the question each one of them asked me: “Why did you stop?” Which, of course, prompted me to ask each of them: “Why are you asking me this question?”

After all, after witnessing what looked like a serious accident, who wouldn’t call 911 and stop to see if the driver and possible passengers were hurt? Thus I was surprised me: “No one stops anymore.” Drivers passing by an accident scene, it seems, may call 911 to report it, but no one stops anymore. Help me if I’m in an accident. He was teaching “Stranger Danger.” I reminded him that, as a Boy Scout, he also was taught “to help others whenever you can.”

Car, which was towed off to a junk yard. He was somewhere that we just don’t care or think that our help? Are we all in such a hurry to get on your way that you ignore the needs of others who may need our help? We’re all in such a hurry to get somewhere that we just don’t care or think that someone else will stop.

To the Editor,

On behalf of my immediate and extended family I wish to thank all of my friends for the many sympathy cards, financial gifts to charities, Masses scheduled, and enrollments in spiritual associations following the recent passing of my beloved sister, Maureen (Gorman) Orr, in Columbus, Ga., on October 1.

Maureen was brought back to Upton and laid to rest in Lakeside Cemetery on October 12 following her funeral Mass at St. Gabriel the Archangel church. My family and Maureen’s family is extremely grateful for your thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

Joan Varney and Family

Upton

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS**

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

**Second Tuesday** 4:30-6 p.m., Dinner, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by Friends with Food. 508-473-2000

**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 Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (R353), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Connection. 508-435-4536 or r353@hopkinton.org

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**Upton-Mendon Town Crier**

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Mendon

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December 6 • Deadline November 26

December 13 • Deadline December 3

**Correction**

In the November 1 issue of the Town Crier, a story was written on the Memory Café, a once a month gathering at the Bellingham Senior Center for those with memory loss challenges and their caregivers. It was inadvertently left out of the story thatBenchmark Senior Living at Forge Park is a sponsor of the event.

**Letters to the Editor**

To the Editor,

At the November 20 Mendon Special Town Meeting, have several decisions to make. I’d like to highlight Article 26, which would require certain board and committees in town to record their meetings and make those recordings available to the public, and Article 29, which would expand our Board of Selectmen from three to five members.

Mendon does record Selectmen meetings, but these are the only meetings which are regularly recorded. In other towns, everything from Finance Committee to Board of Health meetings are recorded and made available to the public. While Mendon committees in town are required to keep accurate minutes by law, they are not required to post them for public view. There are multiple town boards and committees which do not have up-to-date minutes available on Mendon’s website. The boards which are highlighted in this proposed bylaw are of great importance, all have judicial authority granted by state law, and all have great impact upon daily affairs. This bylaw would create another level of transparency and most importantly, another level of accessibility for town government. While some have mentioned cost as a prohibitive factor, the town already has the capability to do this in at least one meeting space. These boards meet at different times, and the town should be able to implement this at no additional cost.

As for increasing the size of the board of selectmen, we would certainly not be alone for a town of our size. Fifty-two percent of the towns in the Commonwealth with populations of 6,000-7,000 have a five-member board. There are many advantages to having an expanded board. It allows for more diverse opinions and perspectives on difficult issues, and creates a better distribution of the workload. Also, as we were reduced to a two-member board earlier in the year, we have seen first-hand that having many hands can make it easier to meet and ensure issues are resolved. We would be joining many other area towns, such as Millville, Blackstone, Uxbridge, and Northbridge with a five-member board.

Please turn out on November 20 and vote!

Tom Merrell
Mendon

**Read the Town Crier Online**

To read the November 15, 2019 Upton/Mendon Town Crier online visit TownCrier.us. Click Online Newspapers in the left-hand column, scroll down to Upton/Mendon Town Crier PDF Archive, and click on UTC 19.11.15 pdf.

**Opinion**

Citizen Petitions at Mendon Special Town Meeting

To the Editor,

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2nd Annual Christmas Open House

MILFORD-The 2nd Annual Christmas Open House will be hosted by the Milford First Congregational Church and Iglesia Manantial de Vida at 4 Congress St., Milford, on Saturday, December 1 from 3:30 to 7 p.m. under the direction of Martha Ellis. For more information, contact Martha Ellis, 508-429-3303, or martha.ellis3@gmail.com.

Interfaith Speaker Series

UPPER: The St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church Peace & Social Justice Ministry is presenting an interfaith speaker series to help build understanding of other faiths through a series of lectures of speaking on and answering questions about other religions. The first is Judaism with Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz from Congregation B’nai Sholom in Westborough on Monday, November 18. 7 to 8:30 p.m. The second and third presentations on Buddhism and Islam are early next year. This is an interactive presentation providing an overview of the religion’s basic tenants and origin, questions and answers, plus group discussion and reflection. Light refreshments will be served. St. Gabriel’s Church is located 151 Main St., Upton. For questions, contact Sarah at sholdiga@gmail.com or 508-320-8476.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar

UPPER: United Parish of Upton is planning their festive annual Holiday Bazaar for December 15. Admission is $2 or $1 with donate a canned good. Baked goods and items for sale are also offered. Raffles to win Gingerbread of the religion’s basic tenants and origin, questions and answers, plus group discussion and reflection. Light refreshments will be served. St. Gabriel’s Church is located 151 Main St., Upton. For questions, contact Sarah at sholdiga@gmail.com or 508-320-8476.

Veteran’s Food Drive

MENDON: The Unitarian Church of Mendon and Uxbridge, 13 Maple St., Mendon is now a drop-off point for the Veteran’s Food Drive. 13 Maple St., Mendon is now a drop-off point for the Veteran’s Food Drive. For more information, contact Martha Ellis, 508-429-3303, or martha.ellis3@gmail.com.

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

AREA-The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce will be holding the following events. For more information or to register, visit www.bvcc.org admin@blackstonevalley.org, call 508-234-9090 or stop by the chamber offices, 670 Linwood Ave, Bidg A, Suite 5, Whitinsville.

41st Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony, Tuesday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Pleasant Valley Country Club, 95 Arnold Street, West Boylston. Business Growth Planning, part of the Operational Excellence Information Sessions Series, Tuesday, December 3, at 7:30 in the Chamber Offices.

Milton Area Chamber of Commerce Events

AREA-The Milton Area Chamber of Commerce (MACCC) will be holding the following events. For more information or to register visit MiltonChamber.org, email mbatley@milfordchamber.org, call 508-684-6700 or stop by the chamber offices, 508-922-9674.

30th Annual Auction: Viva Las Vegas, Saturday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Milton Portuguese Club, 119 Prospect St., Milton. CWL meeting, Wednesday, November 20, at 11:30 a.m. at the Clarke Showroom, 393 Fortune Blvd., Milton for a tour of the new renovations and auction.

Hoboken Citizens Club Auxiliary Holiday Fair

MILFORD-Allen Clan and Homemade Food-Around the World Fair to benefit the Hoboken Citizens Club Auxiliary. Mark your calender and plan on spending the holidays with us! Come get some at the Hoboken Citizens Club Auxiliary’s annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the club, 252 Central St. Milton. Fruits, vegetables, pies, cookies, cakes, pizzas, sausages, breads and more will be available for purchase. The fair features arts, crafts and specialty product exhibitors and a raffle for beautiful gift baskets. Plus members of the MHS History Club will lead all in Christmas Carols to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

Brainstorming: An Act of Mentalism!

MILFORD-Bring your own blank notebook! (please bring notepads, envelopes, and pens). Bring your own blank notebook! (please bring notepads, envelopes, and pens). This is an interactive presentation provided an overview of the religion’s basic tenants and origin, questions and answers, plus group discussion and reflection. Light refreshments will be served. St. Gabriel’s Church is located 151 Main St., Upton. For questions, contact Sarah at sholdiga@gmail.com or 508-320-8476.

Trinity Church Christmas Fair

MILFORD-The Annual Christmas Fair at Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, will be Saturday, December 7, from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. This year will be a cookie table with cookies sold by the pound. The fair will offer an assortment of gift baskets, Christmas gifts, ornaments, and decorations, handmade knitted items, fresh wreaths, and table decorations. The Treasure Trove will have a wide variety of gently used items and the jewelry table will offer vintage jewelry from many decades. Kids can make their own gifts in the Kids’ Corner and have their picture taken with Santa. Lunch and breakfast will be available at Hafels’ Cafe, the baked goods table, St. Trinity’s Church shop. The cookie table will offer sweet treats. Timing, this year thanks to a raffle ticket to win a chance to give a great prize. Come enjoy the fun and festivities.

New York City Trip

MILFORD-Sacred Heart of Jesus Milford is sponsoring a trip to New York City on Saturday, November 24. Cost is $89 per person. A bus will be leaving the parking lot across the street from the church at 6:30 a.m. for a day trip on your own in New York City. Please contact the rectory, 508-634-5455, for more information. Seats are limited and payment is due at time of reservation.

Joan’s Jewelry Fundraiser

MILFORD- The MMCC Auxiliary is sponsoring Joan’s Jewelry on Friday, November 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In all things psychic, paranormal and non-traditional non-profit groups. All jewelry carries a lifetime guarantee. Returns are accepted within 30 days of a refund, credit or exchange. Credit Cards, checks, and layaway are accepted.

Greenleaf Garden Club Holiday Gala

MILFORD- The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford presents, Floral Creations for the Holidays, featuring designer Maureen Christmas at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, 60 North St., Milton on Monday November 16 at 6:30 p.m. The holiday fundraiser will start with refreshments and conclude with a drawing for 50+- theme baskets following the design program. Tickets are $12 and can be ordered from garden club member or from Nancy Wosik, 617-680-2477 or email nancywosik@gmail.com.

Butterfly Wishes

MILFORD- The Regional Medical Center Auxiliary holds Butterfly Wishes, December 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Atrium Cafe on the first floor of the hospital, 14 Prospect St., Milton. New items for sale will include gift sets of Avon products with a twist, Yankee candle, Pier 1, and Bath and Beauty gift sets for all ages. These practical, useful gift sets are great values. The public is invited to attend. Nancy Phillips is an independent Avon representative.

Shir Joay Chorus 2019-2020 Season

WESTBOROUGH-Shir Joay Chorus, Central MA’s adult Jewish Community Chorus, is seeking new singers for its winter concert on February 9. The season begins with open rehearsals on Saturdays, November 17, from 6 to 8:15 p.m. Regular rehearsals are Sunday evenings and are held at Congregation B’nai Sholom, 117 E. Main St., Westborough. Members come from a variety of area towns and cities and all are welcome. Shir Joay is non-auditioned and is open to all with Director Nan AK Cibbins setting a warm and welcoming tone. Future engagements include Songs of Hope on December 8 with the Worcester Chorale in concert, and A Holiday night in Westborough on December 15, which will include both public and private performances; and Shir Joay’s Winter Concert on February 9 in Westborough. Additional appearances are planned at Northborough Community Meals, the annual Festival of Trees hosted by the Greater Milford Community Chorus will lead all in Christmas Carols to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

For more information, visit ShirJoayChorus.com, facebook page, or Instagram; email ShirJoayMA@gmail.com, call 508-386-7175, or come to an open rehearsal.

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

The advertisers club introduces a special feature offered to those businesses that contract to advertise 12 times a year (in 1/16 page and larger) in the Upton & Mendon Town Crier. For more information contact:

Lori Tate: 508-529-0301 loritutowncrier@gmail.com
Colette Rooney: 508-922-9674 cerooney@charternet.net
Susanne Odell Farber: 508-954-8146 Sue@solocustom.com

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

These are the businesses that contract to advertise 12 times in a year (1/16 page and larger) in the Upton & Mendon Town Crier. For more information contact: loritutowncrier@gmail.com or cerooney@charternet.net or Sue@solocustom.com

Ad on Page

Amazing Cleaners next
American Climbers next
Bright Insurance Agency next
Boston Roofing 4 U next
C.J. Cilley Construction next
Canceris Mexican Restaurant next
CareTrust next
Centerpoint Driving Academy next
Cook Company next
CPF Inc next
Creations Image Hair Studio next
Crystal Room next
Frank’s Apparel 2019
Gallifords Restaurant next
Gibson Natural Pest Resort next
Iadrola Plumbing & Heating next
Imperial Cafeteria 1, 24
J&G Kitchen next
Johnson Overhead Door next
Joyce Painting next
Jun-A-Wee Day next
Kentwood Home & Lumber next
Liquor Plus next 9
Little Coffee Bean next
Maple Farm Dairy next
Mansfield Painting next
Medway Oil & Propel Company next
McGregor Properties next
Mecum Painters next
Metcroest Oral Surgical Associates next
Milford Federal 2
Muffin House Cafe next
Mullano Jewelers next
New England Steak & Seafood next
New York State & Floral next
North Park Dental next
PA W’s Bad & Bouncy next
Plants To Help You next
Reliable Pet Sitting next
Riveway Power Equipment next
Robby Nautier, Real Life Ready Group next
Rose Garden Restaurant & Lounge next
Rutfield Insurance next
Simoneaux Electric next
Temptation Tree Survival next
UPI Store Milford & Franklin 2
Upton Foreigners next
Wakosuke Japanese Restaurant next
Wan’s Organics next
Williams-Peirano Funeral Home next
Wolf, D.D. on Wed next
Women’s Total Body Wellness next
Wright’s Dairy Farm next
WPIC Post Control next

Calendar

November 15, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier 7
Heather Hough, Whitney Place at Westborough Community Sales Director

After nine years of dedicated work as Community Sales Director and Director of Wellness for Whitney Place Assisted Living Residences at Northbridge, Heather Hough is applying her skills to SALMON Health and Retirement’s Westborough community as the new Community Sales Director of Whitney Place Assisted Living and Memory Care.

For over 20 years, Hough has been a foundational part of the organization, first working as a recreation assistant at SALMON’s Westborough campus, then in recreation at the Natick and Northbridge campuses before becoming the Community Sales Director and Director of Wellness of Whitney Place at Northbridge.

Her background gives her a global perspective on caregiver, resident and family needs. Her experience is dynamic since she has been a client. Several years ago, Hough’s twins were enrolled at SALMON’s Center for Early Education at Northbridge while her grandmother was receiving care on the second floor of Beaumont.

Dementia Sensitivity Training

Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living & Compass Memory Support in Milford recently held a comprehensive Dementia Awareness & Sensitivity training in conjunction with Milford Regional Medical Center for 40 individuals at the Milford Senior Center. Participants in the interactive workshops included caregivers, family members of those with cognitive impairments, and members of the public who were interested in learning more about Alzheimer’s and related dementias.

Participants completed two workshops, “The Dementia Experience”, an immersive sensitivity training that lets participants feel what it is like to have dementia, and “Understanding Dementia in the Real World”, a presentation that explains what dementia is and provides communication tips for when someone exhibits symptoms of memory loss.

“Recognizing that dementia is a growing health concern in our community, Milford Regional was proud to work collaboratively with Cornerstone to not only raise awareness on this cognitive disorder, but provide valuable resources and education through such an impactful program,” says Edward J. Kelly, Milford Regional Medical Center President and CEO.

This outreach program is an extension of Cornerstone’s Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative, a public education campaign intended to combat the social stigma and misconceptions that accompany dementia, Alzheimer's disease and related cognitive impairments. For more information about one of these interactive trainings, email mhallimoton@cornerstoneofmilford.com or call 508-473-0035.

Brennan R. Campbell UniBankVice President of Commercial Banking

Robert E. Paulsen, SVP and Senior Lending Officer of UniBank, recently welcomed Brennan Campbell as Vice President of Commercial Banking, in which he is responsible for developing, maintaining, and growing the commercial loan portfolio of real estate investors, small businesses, and non-profit organizations within Massachusetts.

Campbell has over 16 years of banking experience, most recently as Vice President Commercial Relationship Manager at Fidelity Bank in Worcester. He holds a Bachelor of Finance and Management degree from Nichols College. Campbell is also a board member for the Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester and member of Nichols College Board of Advisors.

Brennan Campbell

31st Annual Thanksgiving Whitin Race and Walk

The 31st Annual Thanksgiving Whitin Five Mile Race and Two Mile Health Walk will be held on Thursday, November 28 at Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville. Events start at 8:10 a.m. For more information contact Race Director Linda Usher at juniperhill@charter.net or 508-529-6862. Race information is also available at WhitinFive.com and on Facebook.

Milford Federal Donates $5,000 to Whitinsville Christian

Milford Federal Bank contributed $5,000 to the Whitinsville Christian School for their annual Dutch apple pie sale. This year over 7,500 pies were made and 1,300 donated throughout the community for the “Paying It Forward with Pies” initiative the school has implemented. Over 500 volunteers gathered to make the two-pound pies, topped with a crumb topping. The fundraiser which has historically raised over $60,000, is used by the school to help keep tuition costs down.

“Giving back to our community is at the heart of what we do” said Paul Gilbody, President/CEO, “and we are proud to support the mission of the Whitinsville Christian School to nurture the academic, social and creative development of its students.” Pictured are (from left) Gilbody and Scott Anderson, Director of Advancement at Whitinsville Christian School.

Beginning Bridges, CFCE November

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

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

Every Monday through January 13, Monday Drop-In Playgroup at the Playcenter, from 9 to 10:45 a.m. Drop in for a free and fun Playgroup at the Playcenter hosted by Beginning Bridges, CFCE. Registration is not required just show up and take one of the 12 tickets. Thursday, November 21: Deb Hudgins’ Music & Movement at the Taft Public Library in Mendon, 3:30 p.m. Drop-in for a themed-music and movement program for babies and toddlers.

Christopher Dunn Milford Federal Bank Mortgage Loan Specialist

Milford Federal Bank announces the appointment of Christopher Dunn to the position of Mortgage Loan Specialist. Dunn holds a Bachelor degree in Management Engineering from WPI in Worcester and brings many years of experience in the residential sales industry with a proven record of customer service and support. He will be responsible for mortgage sales in the Metro West area, and can be reached at the bank’s 246 Main St., Milford, office at 774-462-2158.
Milford Regional Medical Center has been awarded an ‘A’ in The Leapfrog Group’s fall 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. This is the third consecutive ‘A’ Milford Regional has received in this national distinction that recognizes the Medical Center’s achievements protecting patients from harm and providing safer health care. The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization driven by employers and other purchasers of health care committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’, ‘D’ or ‘F’ grade to all general hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care. “Patient safety is a top priority for everyone that works at Milford Regional,” says Edward J. Kelly, president & CEO of Milford Regional. “Receiving an ‘A’ grade for hospital safety by The Leapfrog Group for the third time in a row is a real testament to the diligence and hard work of our physicians, nurses and staff in their daily efforts to provide patients with care that is both high quality and safety focused. They are to be commended for their commitment to safety that continues to bring us this national recognition.”

“Hospitals show us their leadership is protecting patients from preventable medical harm and error,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “It takes genuine commitment at every level – from clinicians to administrators to the board of directors – and we congratulate the teams who have worked so hard to earn this A.”

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

To see the Medical Center’s full grade details, learn how employers can help, and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

See how OUR ADULT DAY HEALTH PROGRAM can lead you down the best path to senior care.

Blaire House of Milford Adult Day Health provides quality care to adults with a variety of health conditions and disabilities. We offer a wide range of services that support the physical and mental health of our participants. Our Adult Day Health Program is tailored with the individuals’ interests and level of functioning in mind. This includes meeting the needs of those who have been diagnosed with a memory disorder, such as Alzheimer’s disease.

We provide preferred access for our members to the continuum of services provided on the campus, as well as our other community services. As their care needs change, your loved one can keep that vibrant smile you have come to know, by knowing that they are still among family.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF UPTON
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, under Chapter 138, Section 15A, of the MGLs that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 3, at 7:00PM at the Town Hall 1 Main Street, Upton, MA on the application of Silenus’ Cellar, 23 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA for an Off Premises §15 Package Store Wines and Malt Beverages License. The description of the premises is as follows: Ground floor space of 650 square feet, in a mixed-use building at 62 Main Street, Upton. The space is in the rear of the building and is currently three rooms but will be remodeled into a more open space. Upstairs storage space of approximately 250 square feet will be provided.

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-931-2200
Docket # WO19P2040EA

Estate of
Timothy B Hoey
Date of Death June 3, 2019
Informal Probate
Publication Notice

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Renee McCarthy of Upton, MA, a will has been admitted to informal probate.

Renee McCarthy of Upton, MA, has been informally appointed as the Personal representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Probate code without supervision by the Court, inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the Powers of the Personal Representative appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Will, if any can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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

Milford Regional Nationally Recognized for Patient Safety
EEE Risk Ends after “Hard Frost”

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The of Mendon and Upton residents contracting the Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus from mosquitoes ended after a “hard frost” occurred earlier this month.

“When temperatures between 27-29 degrees Fahrenheit have occurred over wide geographic areas, risk from mosquito-borne disease is considered to have ended inside that area,” according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). As of November 8, a hard frost had occurred throughout Worcester County, the DPH said.

As of October 28 – just 11 days earlier – the DPH still listed Mendon and Upton as “critical” in terms of the risk of contracting EEE. EEE is a rare but serious disease caused by a virus that can affect people of all ages. It is generally spread to humans through the bite of a mosquito infected with the virus, and can cause severe illness and possibly lead to death, according to the DPH.

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Are Those Eco-Friendly Product Labels Truthful?

When you see a product labeled “eco-friendly” or “environmentally sustainable,” it can be tempting to take this at face-value and feel good about your purchase. However, a new report shows that while many major companies are making claims that they are tackling the plastic pollution crisis, there are reasons to be skeptical.

The report, “Throwing Away the Future: How Companies Still Have It Wrong on Plastic Pollution ‘Solutions,’” from Greenpeace USA, warns consumers that many solutions announced by companies to tackle the plastic pollution crisis -- such as switching to paper or ‘bioplastics,’ or embracing chemical recycling -- are not only failing to move us away from single-use packaging, but are diverting attention away from efforts to refill and reuse.

“Despite increasing scientific understanding of the irreversible damage plastic can cause to our environment and communities, plastic production is projected to increase dramatically in the coming years,” says Ivy Schlegel, Greenpeace USA senior research specialist, who authored the report. “Corporations are scrambling to look greener by promoting what they are calling ‘sustainable alternatives.’ But these so-called solutions are actually false promises that put unacceptable pressures on natural resources. To solve the plastic pollution crisis, companies need to rethink how products are delivered to consumers and invest instead in reusable and refillable delivery systems.”

While many companies have signaled their intent to make packaging more recyclable, reusable, compostable or from recycled content, the latest figures show they are aiming to continue, and even increase disposable packaging. By the end of 2019, global plastic production and burning is projected to emit the carbon equivalent of 189 coal-fired power plants, according to the Center for International Environmental Law. And it is estimated that by 2050, there will be 12 billion metric tons of plastic waste in natural environments. While the biggest change will need to come at the corporate level, the experts at Greenpeace say that individuals can get involved in the following ways:

- Be wary of vague marketing terms and sustainability language. Just because a label claims to be good for the environment, doesn't make it true.
- Whenever possible, buy items using reusable and refillable containers.
- Demand that corporations take action to end the plastic pollution crisis. One easy way to do that is by signing Greenpeace’s international petition at Greenpeace.org.
- As more companies claim to go green, you can take action by thinking critically about claims made on product labels, and by looking for solutions that eliminate single-use packaging and plastic.

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- As more companies claim to go green, you can take action by thinking critically about claims made on product labels, and by looking for solutions that eliminate single-use packaging and plastic.
**Holiday Greenery Sale**

**MILFORD** The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold the popular Greenery Sale on Friday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the hospital’s Atrium Café. This year’s sale will feature fresh wreaths and greens, decorated holiday mugs, table centerpieces, and small arrangements. Many items are crafted by the Auxiliary members. Come for some holiday cheer and help support the hospital, which is located at 14 Prospect St., Milford. New members are always welcome to join the Auxiliary by calling 508-422-2099, or visiting MRMC/Auxiliary @umreg.org.

**Christmas Around the World Concert**

The Birch Alley Brass Ensemble will present a concert of Christmas music from around the world on Friday, December 6, at the Valley Chapel in Uxbridge at 7 p.m. The ensemble, directed by William Moffett is made up of student and professional musicians from area towns. This concert is free and open to the public. The ensemble project is funded in part by the Mendon and Milford Cultural Councils. Musicians participating are: Hopedale - Michael Crowley, Mendon - Max Grisanti, Kaylee Lukasek, Brendan Mathieson, Dorothy Moffett, Joseph Moffett, Peter Moffett, Christopher Staniszewski, Paxton DiCicco, Dick McGrath, Dylan Rogan and Jack Thompson; Milford - Anthony Locie, Riley Lynch, Ian Michelson, Josh Anderson, Annie Flanagan, Jason Samiuagio and Natalie Tessicini; Upton - Emerson Mulhern, Andrew Muharek, Karen Ober, Jacob Selby, and Caroline Stoffel; and Uxbridge - Joe Hall and Dick Auger.

**Timothy’s Toy Box**

The pre-K class at United Parish Early Learning Center is holding its 6th annual toy drive to benefit Timothy’s Toy Box. New unwrapped toys can be dropped off at United Parish in Upton, Church St.; the Upton Town Hall, Main St.; the Taft Public Library, North Ave.; Mendon, and Anytime Fitness, Worcester St., North Grafton. Donations can also be picked up. Please email mcrathallitar@gmail.com to arrange a pickup or for more information.
**Stockings for Seniors**

Cornerstone at Milford is holding its annual Stockings for Seniors to help spread cheer to senior neighbors in need. Cornerstone will supply stockings to be decorated and filled with donations by organizations, businesses and individuals. Each stocking will be identified by the organization that filled it and will be delivered to local seniors by the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center in Milford.

Suggested items for donations include socks, mittens, lip balm, Scotch tape, stationary, magnets, and snack size-cracker small flashlight with batteries, small notepad, jar opener, lip toothpaste and brushes, hand lotion, large print playing cards, parking is free.

For more information, contact Marc Mann at (617) 899-3129 or bentleyp@charter.net.

**Trees for Hope Festival**

The Trees for Hope Festival is a community-wide event featuring uniquely decorated Christmas trees as a fundraising effort. Participants donate an artificial tree in honor of someone, a special cause, or any theme of one’s choosing. Local businesses are invited to show their support of this event as a sponsor with donations of gift certificates or monetary contributions. The trees will be raffled off following the St. Gabriel’s Women’s Club Holiday Bazaar on the first weekend of December.

Proceeds will support the 15-40 Connection, local non-profit promoting early cancer detection, and the ALS Therapy Development Institute, a local non-profit biotech working to end the disease.

**Annual Menorah Lighting**

The Annual Menorah Lighting by Temple Beth Shalom will be held in Draper Memorial Park, Main St., Milford on Sunday, December 22, at 5 p.m. Rabbi Sol Goodman will be leading the ceremony. Dreidels (tops) and Hanukkah Gelt (chocolate coins) will be handed out to all attending. For more information, contact Penny Bentley at bentleyp@charter.net.

**St. Gabriel’s Christmas Fair**

UPTON-St. Gabriel’s Church, 151 Mendon St., Upton, will hold its Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair offers a wide variety of fresh balsam wreaths, cemetery baskets and table top arrangements. Raffles on Themed Baskets, Gift Certificates, Home Heating Oil and over $450 of Lottery Scratch Tickets on one drawing are available. A bunch of soup, sandwiches, hot dogs, and traditional Graham Cracker pudding will be served. A New Gift Boutique featuring new and “like new” items, Attic Treasures, Old Style Christmas decorations and a Christmas Craft and Holiday decor section will have something to interest everyone. Gems and Jewels has a collection of jewelry to suit every style. The Bake Table offers delectable pastries, candy, jams and jellies. Santa will be visiting early in the day so come, say “Hello Santa” and enjoy a festive day.

**GMCC Holiday Concerts**

MILFORD-The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) holiday concerts are Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m., both at the Grand Ballroom, Milford Town Hall. The building is handicap accessible and parking is free.

Under the musical direction of Mark Schiappucci, this year’s program is entitled Cool Yule will include beloved traditional holiday songs along with select poetic and classic pieces.

The GMCC is a nonprofit organization sponsored by the Milford Community Use Program and the Milford, Bellingham, Greater Milford Community Use Program and the Milford, Bellingham, Hopedale, Uxbridge, and Mendon Cultural Councils, thru the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information, visit GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.com. Tickets are now on sale at Music & Arts (formerly The Music Nook), 164 Main St., Milford, or from any chorus member for $10; tickets will be sold at the door for $12. Children under 8 are free.
There are several articles that involve the Fire Department. Currently, employees of the Fire Department have $72,000 worth of fire fighter turn out gear for $30,000. Article 8, if approved, would purchase fire fighter equipment and have $72,000 worth of fire fighter turn out gear for $30,000.

Article 9 would set up a revolving account for the Fire Department. There are also six Community Preservation Act (CPA) articles on the warrant. Article 17 is seeking $500 to fund postage and printing for public hearings concerning demolition applications for the Historical Commission.

There are also three Planning Board articles on the warrant. Articles 16 through 18 concern acquisition and site costs for two easements. According to Community Preservation Committee Chair Anne Mazar those articles, if passed, will provide access to the back portion of the town-owned 52 Providence St. property in order to dig a well for possible affordable housing units near the Senior Center. The new well could also be used for the Senior Center if a new Center is built someday. Dollar amounts for the easements and related costs are still being determined.

Article 11 is to transfer the required 10 percent of CPA funding into the historic, affordable housing, and open space accounts, five percent for administration, and the remaining 65 percent to the budgeted reserve account. Those dollar amounts have not been finalized yet. The November 23 Special Town Meeting will take place at Miscoe Hill School and begin at 7 p.m.
Four Citizen’s Petitions on Mendon’s November Warrant

The last citizen’s petition would increase the number of Selectmen serving the town from three to five. Merolli believes more points of view would be a positive for the community. However, the Selectmen stated it’s difficult to get people to run for the Board as it is.

In the last 20 years, the town has had 23 elections; 22 regular elections and one special election. Of that number, 60 percent of the regular races have been unchallenged. Still Merolli has said he believes if more seats are open, more people will have an interest in running.

The November Special Town Meeting will take place at Miscoe Hill School and begin at 7 p.m.

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter
Mendon resident Tom Merolli is spearheading four citizen’s petitions to be voted on during Mendon’s November 20 Special Town Meeting. Merolli is also the Assistant Treasurer/Collector for the town and Chairs the Economic Development Board.

Article 18, if passed, would amend the Zoning Bylaws to incorporate Low Impact Development Guidelines, which utilize an environmentally friendly approach for land use development. However, Planning Board Chair Bill Ambrosino said the article will likely be passed over.

Article 19 is seeking approval from voters to amend the Zoning Bylaw Table of Uses to include marijuana establishments and medical marijuana treatment centers in the General Business District through a special permit from the Planning Board.

Article 22 is to accept Mass. General Law Chapter 44, Section 22 F to permit boards or officials charged with collecting fees the ability to set those fees as needed. Any change of fees would be done in a public forum. Also concerning fees, another bylaw change, Article 23, involves the Animal Control Bylaw and would remove the mention of specific fee amounts throughout. “This will avoid doing a bylaw submission every time there is a change to dog licensing fees,” explained Town Clerk Ellen Agro.

Article 24 will amend the scenic roads bylaw by adding Washington St. to the list. Other MGL articles include Article 20 to accept MGL Chapter 59, Section 38H, to authorize the Selectmen to negotiate and enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with BWG Box Pond LLC over a 20 period for a proposed solar electric generating facility at 35 Cape Rd.

Article 21, if approved, would accept MGL Chapter 41, Section 110A, that would permit the towns to treat Saturdays as holidays. Agro explained passage would affect mostly her department but others that have mandated deadlines too. “If there is a voter registration or election deadline that falls on a Saturday, it will allow us to move the date to the following Monday or previous Friday, depending on the deadline. If passed, I would not have to staff the office on the weekend in order to comply with the deadline,” she said.

The petition is meant to provide more transparency for residents as well as better accessibility to information for those who are unable to attend evening meetings.

While the Selectmen agree the measure has merit, they feel more time is needed to figure out logistics and a budget before moving forward with it. Currently, the upper Town Hall meeting room is the only location properly equipped with taping equipment.

During an October 15 Selectmen’s meeting, Town Administrator Kim Newman noted in speaking with Town Counsel, the way the petition is written, an enforcing authority is not detailed therefore cannot be a bylaw. Therefore, it can be passed but not enacted on. However, Merolli confirmed later he does plan to amend the petition on the floor naming an enforcing authority and changing the start date on the petition to the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The next two citizen’s petitions, Articles 27 and 28, concern a name change to the Board of Selectmen. Merolli proposes making the designation to the more gender neutral Select Board. More than 70 communities in the state have made the change in order to be more inclusive and mindful of both men and women who sit on the Board.

As a result, Article 27 would replace Board of Selectmen or Selectmen with Select Board in each instance of the town’s Zoning Bylaws.

The petition is meant to provide more transparency for residents as well as better accessibility to information for those who are unable to attend evening meetings.

While the Selectmen agree the measure has merit, they feel more time is needed to figure out logistics and a budget before moving forward with it. Currently, the upper Town Hall meeting room is the only location properly equipped with taping equipment.

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As a result, Article 27 would replace Board of Selectmen or Selectmen with Select Board in each instance of the town’s general bylaws. Article 28 would replace Board of Selectmen or Selectmen with Select Board in each instance of the town’s Zoning bylaws.

Four Citizen’s Petitions on Mendon’s November Warrant
Mendon Minstrels Concert and Potluck Luncheon

The Mendon Minstrels Concert/Harvest Potluck Luncheon at the Mendon Senior Center is Thursday, November 21 at 11 a.m. The concert, What Makes You Happy, will feature memorable songs performed by chorus members under the direction of Marge West. Following the performance, there will be a potluck luncheon. Please register by stopping by the Senior Center or calling 508-478-6175. Suggestions of needed dishes are available or donate $5 for a collective item.

Nutcracker Ballet

The Mendon Senior Center is continuing a memorable holiday tradition with an outing to the Greater Milford Ballet performance of The Nutcracker on Saturday, December 21 at 2 p.m. Van transportation is provided free of charge. Discounted tickets for $10 each will be available if 10 people go with the group. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Senior Center to sign up for this festive holiday event.

Mendon Firefighter Graduates State Training Program

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Joseph Kucznik presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #78. The ceremony took place on October 28 at Department of Fire Services, Stow. Darren Simpson of Mendon was among the 36 graduates from 21 Fire Departments. The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting National Fire Protection Association 1001 standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas, so they can accumulate 240 hours of training. It uses an online eBlended format that has students doing more work outside of class and taking quizzes online. This allows students more time to practice training skills with instructors and to better control their own workloads and time commitments. Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack.

Mendon Town Calendar

Wednesday, November 20
Special Town Meeting, Miscoe Hill School, 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 21
Citizen’s Police Academy, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Monday, November 25
Board of Selectmen, Tax Classification, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26
Capital Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27
Public Hearing for Trees on Scenic Blackstone St., 7 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

Help us celebrate!

Four-Year Anniversary Community Giving Program

UniBank will be donating $10,000 to the Hopkinton community and you decide where the donations will go! Stop in to UniBank’s Hopkinton branch to cast your vote today! Poll closes on November 29, 2019.

UniBank’s Hopkinton Branch
87 West Main Street Hopkinton, MA 01748
unibank.com 1.800.578.4270

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Preventing Elder Scams and Fraud

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The shelves are stocked again at the Mendon Food Pantry thanks to the local Scouts and the generosity of the Mendon community.

On Saturday, November 9, the Mendon Boy Scouts held their annual Scouting for Food drive, collecting non-perishable food items and paper goods for the Mendon Food Pantry. The drive started the week before when the Scouts put fliers on the doors of Mendon residents reminding them to put out their food donations for pick up the following week.

The morning of November 9 the Scouts started bright and early hauling it what ended up being more than double the amount of donations as last year.

“Last year we collected about 2,000 pounds of food, and this year we collected close to 4,500 pounds,” said Scouting for Food Coordinator and Assistant Cub Master of Pack 1 Chris Corbett. “It was great to see so many more members of the community donating.”

The Scouting for Food event is the biggest food drive of the year for Mendon’s Food Pantry which is located at the Mendon Senior Center on 62 Providence Street. The Food Pantry provides food for neighbors in need.

“I think it’s important that people realize there are people in need everywhere,” said Corbett. “You may not think that there are people in Mendon that need help, but there are, even if they just need help for a short time.”

For the many families and seniors that use the food pantry, the donations are a blessing said Council on Aging Member and Pantry Volunteer Mary Ann Hopkins.

“I think we received so much more than we have gotten in past years,” said Hopkins after the food drive. “The shelves are full and we even had a few boxes of donations we couldn’t fit because there was no space for them.”

Although the cupboards aren’t bare right now, the Mendon Food Pantry is always in need of donations, especially with the upcoming holidays.

Suggested items to consider donating include canned fruit, applesauce, cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauces, canned soup, tuna, or spam, canned peas, carrots, or corn, chicken or beef broth, condiments, juices, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, and cleaning products.

Paper goods are also needed including individually wrapped toilet paper, paper towels, tissues and toiletries such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

For questions about donations or to find out about qualifying for use of the Food Pantry, call 508-478-6175.

Mendon News

Help Wanted

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• Must be 21 years old and have a valid driver license for at least three years.
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jobs@uptonma.gov
Application Deadline
Open until filled
Blackstone Valley Tech Assistant Superintendent/Principal Anthony E. Steele II, announces Nolan Ballard of Upton in Construction Technology, Thomas Buckley of Hopedale in Electronics & Engineering Technology, Abigail Cook of Blackstone in Health Services, and Daniel McDonald of Grafton in Information Technology, have been named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program.

“Our are very proud of our students, they often exceed expectations,” Steele said. “Being recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar, scoring among the top 50,000 of 1.5 million students that took the PSAT test this fall, is a direct result of their academic commitment to high quality integrated academic and career technical education.

A letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented to these four seniors who were recognized at the School Committee meeting on Thursday, November 14.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“These being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

BVT seniors, Nolan Ballard of Upton (Construction Technology), Thomas Buckley of Hopedale (Electronics & Engineering Technology), Abigail Cook of Blackstone (Health Services), and Daniel McDonald of Grafton (Information Technology), have been named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program.

NOVEMBER 15, 2019

BVT 2020 Commended National Merit Scholarship Students

Students Explore Ways to Recycle Community and School E-Waste

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Four Engineering II students took part in the Massachusetts STEM Week (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Week by developing concepts to combat the abundance of electronic waste that ends up in landfills.

This is the second year that Governor Charlie Baker and his administration designated the week of October 21-25 as STEM Week in Massachusetts. Schools across the Commonwealth were invited to participate in a number of engaging and fun STEM related activities cultivating in students presenting their STEM Week Challenge at a Showcase in Boston on the Friday.

Karac Dolber, Brianna Flanagan, Liam Crisfield, and Gunnar Witham all headed to Boston on October 25 to present their ideas about electronics recycling.

“It was really great to get feedback from industry experts such as Dell on our projects,” said Liam, who has worked on a team with Brianna and Gunnar to coordinate a free electronics recycling drive for the community.

“The United States is the largest producer of e-waste but only 12 ½ percent of it gets recycled,” said Liam about their call for action for the drive.

Although they had only a short amount of time to put together their concept, the three students researched recycling centers, put together an ad campaign, and solicited volunteers for the drive.

Although STEM Week is over, the students have no plans to halt their project until next year and will be continuing to work towards hosting an e-recycling event in the Spring.

“It is so cool that we can help our community and Maybe make a change,” said Brianna.

Another idea out of Nipmuc was from Karac, who focused his project on developing a technology replacement plan for his school. Knowing that Nipmuc was a 1:1 iPad school, and that there is additional technology in each of the classrooms, Karac started to wonder where the technology went after its useful life.

“I found out that we have a recycling program to replace the iPads, but I started wondering about the other technology like the Smartboards and PCs,” he said.

Although they only had a week to develop their project, Karac said that the real-world application made it the more interesting for the students.

“I didn’t know too much about technology in our school until I started looking into it,” he said.

Karac’s recycling program concept was so well received at the expo in Boston that he won tickets to a Boston Celtics game and a $500 grant and mentoring from Dell to continue his project and was invited to a second round of judging.

“This was a great hands-on experience for the students,” said James Gorman, teacher of the Engineering II students about the STEM Week initiative.

“It became really personal for them. They didn’t want to just stop (after the Showcase). They all wanted to keep going.”

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Building on their big plans.

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

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NOVEMBER 15, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
School Highlights

Mendon-Upton Regional
Compiled by Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

DISTRICT: November 27 will be an Early Release Day for Thanksgiving. School resumes Monday, December 2

CLOUGH: In honor of Veterans, Clough School displayed six American flags at school driveway entrance and flags from each division of the Armed forces in the lobby. Clough Teachers and Staff thank all Veterans for their service. The Clough PTO collected Halloween Candy for Heroes. Thanks to the donations which will be sent to troops overseas.

Clough congratulates the 1st Fuel Up to Play 60 Ambassadors for the school year - 2nd graders Sadie Hutnak and Matthew Carlson plus 4th grader Kurt Hensel.

Esther Willinsky’s class picked over 28 pounds of tomatoes last week. Since the beginning of the school year, Clough students have picked over 200 pounds of vegetables from the school garden for the student salad bar.

4th grade students are giving back to their community by tutoring younger students and taking on small projects. One project is collecting specific items that the Mendon Food Pantry needs by communicating with Mendon Senior Center Director Amy Kent. In September the students collected toiletries and cleaning products. In October it was lunchbox snacks. They also communicate each month needs to their fourth-grade peers through these notices.

Clough held its second school wide SOARing assembly for its PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) SOARing Program. Former teacher Joel Warren presented in a fun and engaging way through music to get the message on being on-task. Clough thanks the PTO for funding this program.

MEMORIAL: Memorial’s first session of enrichment classes ended last week. Congrats to the Drama group who performed the play Diff'rent is Cool. Flyers for Session 2 went home this week which runs from Thanksgiving to January 24. Please return enrollment forms ASAP, as classes fill quickly.

As part of their Community Service Project, fourth graders collected spare change to support the United Parish Food Pantry. Contributions are still being collected. A formal presentation to the Food Bank will be held at the end of November.

The Fourth Grade Chorus will be performing God Bless America on November 27 will be an Early Release Day for Thanksgiving. School resumes Monday, December 2. Thanks goes to music teacher Dave Heath for coordinating Memorial’s annual Veteran’s Day Concert. Students performed patriotic songs on both November 13 and 14 to honor those who served our country. Veteran’s from all branches of the military were invited to attend so they could be recognized for their bravery.

The Fourth Grade Chorus will be performing the National Anthem and God Bless America at the Worcester Rangers game on Sunday November 24 at 1:35 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

MISCOE: Miscoe Hill Ski Club sign-ups are open until December 4 for the after school program for all levels of skiers and snowboarders. For additional information, visit Wachusett.com/schoolgroups and use the access code MCHM.

On November 20 at 6 p.m. to play The Extraordinaires, a game which helps build empathy, while engaging everyone’s inner creativity. Players will design a product that solves their character’s dilemma and pitch their idea to the group. Parent attendance and participation are encouraged. Space is limited. Please contact Miscoe to register.

To support the IIC, Miscoe has launched the Miscoe Match Program that asks for donations of gently used or new hand tools, electrical tools, or simple machinery (i.e. sewing machines) along with of consumables (wood, fasteners, glue, etc.), storage (shelving, tool racks, storage containers, etc.). Please contact Miscoe about donating.

The Miscoe Cross Country team ran in the Conference Championship meet on October 26 against Sutton, Whitinsville Christian, Douglas, Harrirnet, and Hopedale. The boys’ varsity team had a 4th place finish while the girls’ varsity came in 2nd place.

The boys’ varsity top finishers were: 12th Sam Aubut, 14th Ryan May, 16th Luke Brodeur. The girls’ varsity top finishers were: 2nd Kyah Montano, 3rd Jessica Casey, and 10th Samantha Crotty.

On the Junior Varsity side, the boys had a 1st place finish and the girls came in 2nd. The boys’ junior varsity top finishers were: 7th Cote, 9th Andrew Moses, and 11th Conor Belville. The girls’ junior varsity top finishers were 6th Annabel Palmer, 9th Sierra Lopes, and 10th Emma Tolland.

The convention culminated on Saturday with ICED Epic. Innovation Sessions open to students, educators, and community members from around the area. The keynote address for the Innovation Sessions was given by Richard Rodgers, VP Engineering R&D at Primo Medical Group of Stoughton.

Rogers spoke about his role in developing the first fully implantable human heart and his other innovation to the medical field. Camarda also spoke again about his ICED Epic Challenge program and hosted sessions with attendees where they could learn about what it was like to be in Space and spend time on the International Space Station.

Nipmuc: On November 7, the Innovative Conceptual Engineering Design (ICED) Epic Challenge Program at Nipmuc Regional High School hosted innovators and researchers from around Massachusetts who informed teachers, high school students and interested members of the public about their groundbreaking work. Born of a recent trip to Finland where Nipmuc students presented their work at the University of Eastern Finland, the convention was designed to provide a rich research environment for the students to share their work, engage with professionals, and learn from their peers.

On the first day of the convention, Dr. Charles Camarda, retired NASA astronaut (STS-114) and Sr. Advisor for Engineering Development at NASA Langley Research Center as well as developer of the Innovative Conceptual Engineering Design (ICED) methodology and founder of the nonprofit Epic Education Foundation was the keynote speaker. Retired NASA scientist and advisor, Cathy Laurini, and Larissa Schelin, founder of Global STEM Education Center also shared their inspirational story.

On Friday, students took a trip to Clark University to visit the Robert Goddard Museum and learn about the work of Dr. Robert Goddard, a Worcester native and professor at Clark University.

Nipmuc would like to thank Charles Hensel. Executive Director of the Food Bank for his sponsorship of this convention.

NOVEMBER 15, 2019
Upton-Mendon Crier
BVT Admissions Open House

The Annual Open House for parents, guardians, and prospective students at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School will be Wednesday, November 20 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. It is an opportunity to tour the campus at 65 Pleasant St., Upton and gather information regarding the national recognized vocational technical system. Seventh-and eighth-grade students, interested transfers, and their parents/guardians are welcome to view the academic and vocational technical educational opportunities at Valley Tech. Information about the application and admissions process will be available, and visitors can tour the vocational-technical training areas. Members of the BVT staff will be available as a resource to discuss curriculum, college and career planning, and vocational opportunities. Prior to the Open House, BVT staff will host two admissions workshops at 5 p.m. for parents of special education students and Spanish immersion students. The Special Education workshop will discuss the support available for students applying to BVT as Special Education students. The Spanish Immersion Program workshop will discuss the school’s Spanish Immersion program and how parents can enroll their students in it. Ample parking will be available, and shuttle service will be provided in the event of inclement weather. A snow date of Thursday, November 21, is planned in case of severe weather. Applications for admission to the Class of 2024 must be received at Valley Tech by Friday, January 31, 2020. Some sending school systems may have an earlier submission deadline. Details about the Admissions Open House, the Admissions Process, and Admission Policy can be found by visiting ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/admissionsopenhouse.

Taking a Deep Breath to Deal with Stress

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc Regional High School is trying to help students learn to take a deep breath when they are faced the ever-increasing stress and anxiety that adolescents face these days. For the fourth year in a row, the Nipmuc School Counseling Center and Student Health Office hosted their winter Wellness Week on November 8-15, a week that provides students with tips to live a healthier and more mindful lifestyle. “This started after we read the feedback from the MetroWest Health Survey that our high school students, said Meredith Heferz, a School Counselor at Nipmuc. “We learned that students are really stressed out.” That is when the two groups teamed up to bring the students a wide variety of sessions and activities in order to spread awareness of wellness practices, promote healthy lifestyles, and learn ways to cope with and decrease stress. “We want to expose students to these tools that can be used to reduce stress, so they can use them to relieve their own stress and keep healthy,” said Heferz. Wellness Week kicked off with on November 8 with Warrior Wind-Down Weekend. Students and teachers were encouraged to take a break from technology and homework and focus on spending time with family and friends over the long weekend. “We want students to give themselves the weekend to just relax,” said Heferz. Once back to school on Tuesday, the students participated in a number of activities including team-building Tuesday where they did their Nipmuc gear and worked on team building activities in their classes. Students were also invited to visit the Wellness Fair where they could sign up for different fun and relaxing sessions - from Zumba and Yoga to making kindness rocks. For those hungry high school students, Wellness Week offered a variety of healthy snacks to reinforce healthy eating habits. The week also included a focus on positivity by encouraging students to “send a smile” by writing uplifting notes and kind words to one another.

Valley Tech Football Meeting Higher Expectations

Loosing 17 starters from last year’s state championship team did nothing to lower the bar for what the Blackstone Valley Tech football hoped to achieve this fall. Neither did an early-season setback against Leicester in Week 2. And now the Beavers find themselves taking on Leicester again, this time for the district championship on Saturday, November 16. “We are excited for them to be challenged,” said head coach Jim Archibald. “No one has been able to stop them this year. They have size and talent all over the place but we are excited to defend our championship.” This Saturday’s game figures to bear little resemblance to the September 21 21-0 shutout of BVT. The Beavers have lost some players to injury, retroed their offense to an almost exclusively run-based attack and threshed with its fourth quarterback of the season at the helm. I feel like we have matured a lot,” Archibald said. “When we played them the first time, that was their first big game. We were breaking in a lot of new starters on a 90-degree day.” But over a seven-game winning streak, the new starters have become veterans and developed solid habits. They have experienced fast teams, physical teams, and playoff atmospheres - and losing guys, but whoever we play in the game the right way, it’s what we expect in our program.” That mentality has allowed a team featuring 17 new starters on both sides of the ball to post an 8-1 record and earn the opportunity to defend a district crown. “It hasn’t been easy,” Archibald said. “We have dealt with a lot of stuff with injuries and losing guys, but whoever we play in has done the job. Winning is expected, and that’s a credit to the kids in our program.”

Wachusett Mountain Ski and Snowboarding Program

The Milford High School Boosters presents the Annual Turkey Day 5K on Thursday, November 28 at 7:30 a.m. at Milford High School, West Fountain St. This a family fun road race and walk, strollers and dogs welcome. Proceeds benefit the Milford High School athletic program. Register online at MHSBoostersClub.com. Mail in registration to MHS Boosters Club, P.O. Box 71, Milford, MA 01757. Awards will be given for top male and female runner in age divisions. For more information, visit MHSBoostersClub.com or email TurkeyDay5K@gmail.com

MHS Boosters Turkey Day 5K

The Milford Community Program has opened registration for students in grades 5 through 12 to participate in the Wachusett Mountain Ski and Snowboard Program. The program will be held on Sundays for six weeks from January 5 through February 9. All students must ride the bus for this program and pay for bus transportation prior to registering on the Wachusett Ski Program website. Complete online registration by visiting our website at MilfordCommunity.com under Kids - Winter activities or opt to submit a paper registration and transportation payment of $150 per Milford student or $160 per non-Milford student to Milford Community Program, 31 West Fountain St., Milford, MA 01757. Once 30 students register, the minimum number of students needed for the program to run, an office staff person will email or call participants with the log in information to select lift and rental options directly on the Wachusett website. Deadline for transportation registration is Wednesday, November 20. For more information, please call the Milford Community Program office at 508-478-1119.

Sports Flash
By Chris Villani

Valley Tech Football: Higher Expectations

The week also included a focus on positivity by encouraging students to “send a smile” by writing uplifting notes and kind words to one another.

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc Regional High School is trying to help students learn to take a deep breath when they are faced the ever-increasing stress and anxiety that adolescents face these days. For the fourth year in a row, the Nipmuc School Counseling Center and Student Health Office hosted their winter Wellness Week on November 8-15, a week that provides students with tips to live a healthier and more mindful lifestyle. “This started after we read the feedback from the MetroWest Health Survey that our high school students, said Meredith Heferz, a School Counselor at Nipmuc. “We learned that students are really stressed out.” That is when the two groups teamed up to bring the students a wide variety of sessions and activities in order to spread awareness of wellness practices, promote healthy lifestyles, and learn ways to cope with and decrease stress. “We want to expose students to these tools that can be used to reduce stress, so they can use them to relieve their own stress and keep healthy,” said Heferz. Wellness Week kicked off with on November 8 with Warrior Wind-Down Weekend. Students and teachers were encouraged to take a break from technology and homework and focus on spending time with family and friends over the long weekend. “We want students to give themselves the weekend to just relax,” said Heferz. Once back to school on Tuesday, the students participated in a number of activities including team-building Tuesday where they did their Nipmuc gear and worked on team building activities in their classes. Students were also invited to visit the Wellness Fair where they could sign up for different fun and relaxing sessions - from Zumba and Yoga to making kindness rocks. For those hungry high school students, Wellness Week offered a variety of healthy snacks to reinforce healthy eating habits. The week also included a focus on positivity by encouraging students to “send a smile” by writing uplifting notes and kind words to one another.

Valley Tech Football Meeting Higher Expectations

Loosing 17 starters from last year’s state championship team did nothing to lower the bar for what the Blackstone Valley Tech football hoped to achieve this fall. Neither did an early-season setback against Leicester in Week 2. And now the Beavers find themselves taking on Leicester again, this time for the district championship on Saturday, November 16. “We are excited for them to be challenged,” said head coach Jim Archibald. “No one has been able to stop them this year. They have size and talent all over the place but we are excited to defend our championship.” This Saturday’s game figures to bear little resemblance to the September 21 21-0 shutout of BVT. The Beavers have lost some players to injury, retroed their offense to an almost exclusively run-based attack and threshed with its fourth quarterback of the season at the helm. I feel like we have matured a lot,” Archibald said. “When we played them the first time, that was their first big game. We were breaking in a lot of new starters on a 90-degree day.” But over a seven-game winning streak, the new starters have become veterans and developed solid habits. They have experienced fast teams, physical teams, and playoff atmospheres - and losing guys, but whoever we play in the game the right way, it’s what we expect in our program.” That mentality has allowed a team featuring 17 new starters on both sides of the ball to post an 8-1 record and earn the opportunity to defend a district crown. “It hasn’t been easy,” Archibald said. “We have dealt with a lot of stuff with injuries and losing guys, but whoever we play in has done the job. Winning is expected, and that’s a credit to the kids in our program.”

Wachusett Mountain Ski and Snowboarding Program

The Milford Community Program has opened registration for students in grades 5 through 12 to participate in the Wachusett Mountain Ski and Snowboard Program. The program will be held on Sundays for six weeks from January 5 through February 9. All students must ride the bus for this program and pay for bus transportation prior to registering on the Wachusett Ski Program website. Complete online registration by visiting our website at MilfordCommunity.com under Kids - Winter activities or opt to submit a paper registration and transportation payment of $150 per Milford student or $160 per non-Milford student to Milford Community Program, 31 West Fountain St., Milford, MA 01757. Once 30 students register, the minimum number of students needed for the program to run, an office staff person will email or call participants with the log in information to select lift and rental options directly on the Wachusett website. Deadline for transportation registration is Wednesday, November 20. For more information, please call the Milford Community Program office at 508-478-1119.

MHS Boosters Turkey Day 5K

The Milford High School Boosters presents the Annual Turkey Day 5K on Thursday, November 28 at 7:30 a.m. at Milford High School, West Fountain St. This a family fun road race and walk, strollers and dogs welcome. Proceeds benefit the Milford High School athletic program. Register online at MHSBoostersClub.com. Mail in registration to MHS Boosters Club, P.O. Box 71, Milford, MA 01757. Awards will be given for top male and female runner in age divisions. For more information, visit MHSBoostersClub.com or email TurkeyDay5K@gmail.com
Penalty Kicks Keep Nipmuc Girls Soccer from CMass Final

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The top-seeded Nipmuc girls’ soccer team played 100 minutes of scoreless soccer against the number four seed in the district tournament from Bromfield, but ultimately were bested on penalty kicks, ending the season just one game short of the district final.

The loss ends a stellar campaign for the Warriors, who finished 13-2-5 on the season. Although Nipmuc was not able to capture one of its stated goals this fall, winning the district title, the Warriors did capture the Dual Valley Conference crown. 

“Penalties are never fun to deal with,” said coach Dave Tupper. “It’s a good result in that we were able to go 8-0-1 in league this year. It’s a tough league and we were able to get by with one goal difference. It was a good year.”

Unlike last season, Nipmuc enjoyed relative health this year. Head coach Logan Gorman, the last remaining captain who has not suffered an injury, has moved into the offensive backfield at times in addition to playing both offensive and defensive line. Tupper, only a sophomore, plays in all three phases, including special teams, and ran a fake punt in Nipmuc’s last game.

After falling at Auburn last week, Nipmuc moves on to play Burncoat this weekend before the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Valley Tech.

“It’s been a similar season for Burncoat,” Tupper said. “They have had a fair amount of injuries as well but they are still tough kids. We played them the last two years and struggled with them both years, so it’ll be a challenge.”

Tupper could only chuckle as he added, “with our injuries, every game is a challenge.”

Penalty Kicks Keep Nipmuc Football

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

In an injury plagued season, Nipmuc football head coach Dave Tupper has repeatedly praised his team’s competitive spirit and persistence in the face of multiple challenges. Those traits were rewarded earlier this month with a thrilling 30-29 win over Blackstone-Millville/Hopedale (BMR).

“Winning was great and the way it played out, winning at the end, made it even better,” Tupper said. “It was a lot like we won the Super Bowl. The kids were so excited and it was good for the kids and the parents.”

“I’m happy for the kids,” Tupper added. “Everyone has hung in there and continued to work hard, it was a great uplift for us.”

Every game has been a struggle for Nipmuc with about half the team injured and numerous players trying out positions they have never played and playing on both sides of the ball. The Warriors trailed against BMR, 21-6, heading into the fourth quarter. Judah Dishington connected with Lucas Beder on a pair of touchdown passes, the second to give Nipmuc a 22-21 edge after a pair of two point conversions.

BMR answered with a touchdown and conversion of its own to go ahead 29-22. With 2:30 left, Dishington engineered a two-minute offense and ran it in from 12 yards out. Nipmuc would have had a chance for revenge had it been able to get the ball back.

Holy Name, the other “last team standing” in the district and the squad just one game short of the district final.

After the loss to Holy Name, Nipmuc played to a 0-0 tie against Sutton before the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Valley Tech.

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While the win is only the second on the season for Nipmuc, it’s a boost for a team that has persevered throughout the fall through more than its share of bad luck.

Logan Gorman, the last remaining captain who has not suffered an injury, has moved into the offensive backfield at times in addition to playing both offensive and defensive line. Tupper, only a sophomore, plays in all three phases, including special teams, and ran a fake punt in Nipmuc’s last game.

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Persistence Pays Off for Nipmuc Football

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

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BVT Girls Soccer Falls in District Quarters

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Blackstone Valley Tech’s girls’ soccer season came to an end with a 1-0 loss to Sutton in the Central Mass. district quarterfinals, as the Beavers were unable to find the net against the second-seeded team.

“It was a disappointing result, but I thought it was a very, very good match between two strong teams, BVT head coach Jay Porter said after the game. “I think the girls did everything they needed to do, but their goalie was strong and she made some saves that I am still surprised she was able to make.”

Summing it up, Porter said “we did everything we planned to do, except put it in the net.”

The Valley Tech defense was especially strong, shutting down one of the top players in the district. A bad scramble in front of the net during the 60th minute resulted in the game’s only goal, Porter said.

But BVT still won 14 games on the season and will bring plenty of firepower back next fall. Sophomore Emma Ballard scored 32 goals, even though the talented player was anything but a secret this year.

“She was a rock star for us,” Porter said. “Teams doubled her and marked her constantly, but she managed to work hard.”

Scoring 32 goals is unheard of when you’re being marked every game.

Madison Magri is also back next year for her senior campaign. This fall, she proved to be one of BVT’s go to scoring options when Ballard was being double teamed.

Freshman goalie Ella Gumienny has three more years in yet after starting in her first varsity campaign. Another freshman, Kasey Reeves, established herself as one having one of the best “set piece” kicks in the game, Porter said.

But the Beavers will have some work to do to replace some of the strong seniors who held down the middle of the field this year. Cassidy Waldo helped lead the defense and Brianna Brothers returned to the team after taking time off to focus on school work and put together a strong senior year.

“She worked her way into the center midfield position and she was just such a great factor for us in the middle of the field,” Porter said.

Porter said the middle of the field and the defense that put together such a great effort in the tournament will be need to be retooled for another run in 2020.

“We will have some younger players will have the chance to step into a more prominent role,” he said.

BVT Girls Overcome Injuries to Win XC State Voke

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech girls cross country team ran through injuries for most of the season, but was still able to put together a dominant performance at the state vocational meet in Wrentham, winning the team competition by nearly 30 points.

“It was great to see both teams win,” said head coach Caitlin Forgit, who also led the boys’ team to a state voke title.

The girls dominated, with BVT runners dotting the top-15 of the deep field. Junior Madison Gannon checked in second overall, while freshman Amanda Pajak was not far behind in seventh place. Ava Lacroque, a junior, and Carson DaCosta, a freshman, placed in the top-10 district meet. BVT has been a strong, shutting down one of the top players in the district. A bad scramble in front of the net during the 60th minute resulted in the game’s only goal, Porter said.

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Penalty Kicks Keep Nipmuc Girls Soccer from CMass Final

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The top-seeded Nipmuc girls’ soccer team played 100 minutes of scoreless soccer against the number four seed in the district tournament from Bromfield, but ultimately were ousted on penalty kicks, ending the season just one game short of the district final.

“We played very well, in my opinion we carried the play,” said head coach Miguel Vidal. “But we just couldn’t put the ball in the net.”

The loss ends a stellar campaign for the Warriors, who finished 13-2-5 on the season. The team’s only other loss this fall came back September against Holy Name, the other “last team standing” in the district and the squad against which Nipmuc would have had a chance for revenge had it been able to come out on top against the Trojans.

After the loss to Holy Name, Nipmuc played to a 0-0 draw against Sutton before going on a run of eight straight victories. A pair of ties and a 2-1 win in the tournament against Leominster put Nipmuc into Monday’s semifinal against Bromfield.

Vidal praised the play of his three captains, Kacy Morford, Ashley Porter, and goalie Sophia Sullivan, as well as their leadership ability in instilling a “team-first” attitude. “They put in the hearts of everybody that we are a team, there are no stars, there are no key players,” Vidal said.

No player scored double digit goals for Nipmuc this fall and defense became a hallmark of the team. The Warriors allowed just 10 goals all season, the fewest in the Dual Valley Conference and one of the stingiest totals in the entire district. Nipmuc ended the season allowing just one goal in its final 13 games and Sullivan finished the year with 15 shutouts.

Vidal noted that Sullivan played every minute of every game since she stepped onto the field as a freshman.

Although Nipmuc was not able to capture one of its stated goals this fall, winning the district title, the Warriors did capture the DVC crown.

Nipmuc did not lose a game in league play this year, finishing with an 8-0-2 record to come in ahead of Sutton.

“It was a very good season,” Vidal said. “It was a season where we had our ups and downs but we always recovered from the downs. It’s disappointing, but I cannot complain at all about this group of players.”
BVT Boys XC Wins 4th Straight Voke Title

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

In what has become something of an annual tradition, the Blackstone Valley Tech boys’ cross country team captured its fourth straight state vocational championship. The Beavers easily bested the competition, placing two runners in the individual top-10 and securing the win by a 30-point margin. Andrew Benoit and Brian Basaillo, both juniors, checked in sixth and seventh overall. Two more juniors, Jacob Constable and Tyler Doyle, ran just outside the top 10 at 12th and 13th, respectively, and sophomore Kaden Vincette placed 15th.

Junior Jacob Manor and freshman O’Neil also ran strong races for the Beavers.

“It was really exciting,” said head coach Caitlin Forgit. “This was a goal they had for the season, they really pushed themselves in that race and it was awesome to see.”

The Beavers easily bested the competition, placing eight out of 34 teams in the deep field. Constable was the top BV T runner in that race, placing 41st overall, while Basaillo placed 47th, Benoit 57th and Doyle 68th.

Junior John Furno and senior Jack Nasuti were especially strong. The pair combined for 16 tackles, a half a sack and a fumble recovery.

“The defense was our one-two punch,” Archibald said. “Josh was able to keep the defense honest with what he was able to do. We ran a lot of read plays where they made the decision of who gets the ball.”

On the other side of the line, the Valley Tech defense did enough to secure a win and a chance to defend the program’s district title.

“The defense bent, we gave up a lot of yardage, but we made the big plays when we had to,” Archibald said.

Sophomore John Furno and senior Jack Nasuti were especially strong. The pair combined for 16 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. “Those guys were in the backfield all day,” Archibald said.

The defense needed to come up with a key stop late in the game with the Beavers up 28-24 and West Boylston driving.

“We just made a couple more plays than them,” Archibald said. “We got them behind the chains a little bit and we were able to force some mistakes.”

Quarterback Josh Mateo added two rushing touchdowns of his own and ran in three two-point conversions.

“They were our one-two punch,” Archibald said. “Josh was able to keep the defense honest with what he was able to do. We ran a lot of read plays where they made the decision of who gets the ball.”

The jumbled order, relative to the state voke, is something that has been a hallmark of the BVT season and something Forgit views as a strength for her team.

“They have been flip flopping all year,” she said. “They push each other and if one person has a bad race, another person can step up.”

Benoit and Doyle served as team captains this fall and Forgit praised their leadership ability with a relatively young squad.

“They are mostly juniors and sophomores and they’ve been running together now for a couple of years,” Forgit said. “They have all just bonded together, which has been great.”

The youth bodes well for the future. BVT will graduate just one senior off of this year’s roster and the runners who helped lead BVT to another vocational title and a top-10 finish in the districts are all slated to return for the fall of 2020.

“Hopefully they can keep improving,” Forgit said. “I would like to see them keep improving their times and keep pushing themselves to get faster.”

“I don’t count my situps. I only start counting once it starts hurting.” - Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali was an American professional boxer, activist, and philanthropist.
BVT Boys Soccer Earns District Final Bid

The BVT Boys Soccer team celebrated after a 2-1 win over Auburn in the district semi-finals. The team will now play cross-street rivals Nipmuc on November 14.

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

It's another season and another deep tournament run for the BVT boys' soccer team after a 2-1 win over Millbury on Monday sent them to Thursday's district final against Blackstone Valley Tech. The Warriors started strong in the semifinals, jumping out to a 2-0 lead they would not relinquish. "I thought we had one of the best first halves of our season," said head coach Chris Hadfield. "We played well as a team, we played balanced and we attacked them from different angles and different spots." The result, Hadfield said, was a pair of great goals in that period to jump out in front. "That set us up on our way to win the game," he said. "We got on the board early and just kept going." Nipmuc senior Iaden Moffit gave his team the lead in the 14th minute after a cross by Aiden Fournier. About 13 minutes later, Fournier again found his man, hitting Jordan Andrade for the second goal of the game and a 2-0 Nipmuc lead. Millbury scored in the closing seconds, but it was not nearly enough to keep Nipmuc from its seventh consecutive trip to the district final. "I am happy about the consistency and the return, but we also have a strong feeder system," Hadfield said. "We reload and it keeps us strong. When a senior graduates, he's followed by another kid who is ready and turning to go. Everyone steps up their game and hopefully that continues year after year." This season, Nipmuc has been anchored by Alex Ott, who Hadfield said is one of the best players in all of Central Mass. "He has had a tremendous year," then coach said. Bennet Merrill has been strong in the midfield, controlling both the offensive and defensive end of his position. Kyle Tewksbury and Toby Genova have lead a good group of center backs who play essentially every minute of every game. The result is the latest group of Warriors to have a chance at claiming a district crown, but this year, their cross-street rivals will stand in the way. "We know them very well," Hadfield said of BVT ahead of Thursday's game. "They are a special group. I felt it from about two or three games into the season. I didn't know what to expect, but they showed me they were ready to go, getting together and really buying into the system. "It was a little scary there for the first 10 or 15 minutes, Auburn came aggressive and controlled the ball. I think there were some jitters since it was the first time being there for most of our guys, but the defense was able to limit the attacks." The defensive unit of Dominic Allegra, Mike Boone, and Nick Kirby held down the fort throughout the shutdown performance by BVT. "Their speed was incredible and their timing was great," Al-Haza said. "They were all over it, man. Every time when it looked like Auburn was there, they were able to get the ball back." Al-Haza said the energy continued to build in the second half. "The last 15 minutes, we kept sensing it was going to happen," he said. "Their speed was incredible and their timing was great," Al-Haza said. "They were all over it, man. Every time when it looked like Auburn was there, they were able to get the ball back." Al-Haza said the energy continued to build in the second half. "The last 15 minutes, we kept sensing it was going to happen," he said. "We got on the board early and just kept going." Nipmuc senior Iaden Moffit gave his team the lead in the 14th minute after a cross by Aiden Fournier. About 13 minutes later, Fournier again found his man, hitting Jordan Andrade for the second goal of the game and a 2-0 Nipmuc lead. Millbury scored in the closing seconds, but it was not nearly enough to keep Nipmuc from its seventh consecutive trip to the district final. "I am happy about the consistency and the return, but we also have a strong feeder system," Hadfield said. "We reload and it keeps us strong. When a senior graduates, he's followed by another kid who is ready and turning to go. Everyone steps up their game and hopefully that continues year after year." This season, Nipmuc has been anchored by Alex Ott, who Hadfield said is one of the best players in all of Central Mass. "He has had a tremendous year," then coach said. Bennet Merrill has been strong in the midfield, controlling both the offensive and defensive end of his position. Kyle Tewksbury and Toby Genova have lead a good group of center backs who play essentially every minute of every game. The result is the latest group of Warriors to have a chance at claiming a district crown, but this year, their cross-street rivals will stand in the way. "We know them very well," Hadfield said of BVT ahead of Thursday's game. "We scrimmaged them in the preseason and played them in regular season. We've done well but they have had a great year too."