The first weekend in December has become a tradition in Mendon and Upton for many to officially kick off the holidays, and this year is no different. Once again, the Mendon Festival Committee and the Upton Conservation Committee are playing host to a number of fun and festive events that include a Santa parade and tree lighting, as well as lots of shopping, eating, and of course visits from Old St. Nick.

The festivities begin the evening of Friday, December 6, with Mendon’s 4th Annual Santa Parade and Tree Lighting sponsored by the Mendon Brothers of the Brush and the Mendon Festival Committee. The parade will start at 7:30 p.m. traveling from Northbridge Rd. to North Ave. and onto Main St. ending at Founder’s Park.

Santa Claus is expected to arrive via parade float and then greet children at Founder’s Park. The event will also include fireworks sponsored by Custom Home Realty and the Mendon Festival Committee at about 7:30 p.m. The winner of the Taft Library’s coloring contest raffle will help throw the switch to light up the Park. Burgers, hot dogs, and other refreshments will be provided at no cost. “We tried to keep this a free event for the community,” said John Dudley, a member of the Brush.

The following day, the shopping and lunching begin. Saturday, December 7 is the traditional Hollyberry Fair. The Mendon Lions Club and Unitarian Church are once again co-hosting the fair. For the first time this year, local crafters have been invited to partake in Hollyberry Fair. The Mendon’s Lions tables will again be full of donated Christmas items and homemade bread for sale. And a jolly old fellow dressed in red is scheduled to arrive around 11 a.m. Monies raised by the Lion’s Club will go to support a Mendon family during the holidays.

For lunch, the Unitarian Church’s delicious corn and clam chowder, clam cakes, and macaroni and cheese will be served for everyone to enjoy from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. As the Unitarian Congregation is celebrating the building’s 200th Anniversary, attendees are encouraged to walk through the beautiful, historical church. Just a few miles away in Upton, several other popular holiday events are also taking place over the weekend.

On Saturday, December 7, the United Parish will be holding its annual Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Multiple vendors will be on hand selling all sorts of items such as artwork, jewelry, crafts, books, and much more. Handmade baked good will also be on sale. For the kids, there will be face painting, games, making and photos with Santa. Proceeds help benefit the United Parish’s Early Learning Center.

Residents of all ages can welcome in the holidays during the weekend of December 6 through 8 with a Santa parade, tree lighting, lots of shopping and eating, visits from Old St. Nick and even fireworks! Here Santa is shown arriving in Mendon at last year’s parade. Town Crier file photo early in the day.

The second event at St. Gabriel’s in the building’s lower level, is the Trees for Hope Festival. The community-wide event features themed decorated Christmas trees to be raffled off. Proceeds will support the 15-40 Connection that promotes early cancer detection and the ALS Therapy Development Institute, a local nonprofit biotech company working to end ALS. The trees will be on display Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8.

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Three of Four Citizen’s Petitions Pass at Mendon Meeting

Staff Reporter

Voters supported three out of four citizen’s petitions that resident Tom Merolli brought forward during the November 20 Special Town Meeting. 141 registered voters were in attendance that evening.

By a hand count vote of 69 to 38, residents voted in favor of establishing a policy to have the meetings posted and the other changed the date the policy would become effective to August 1, 2020. During the town meeting, Merolli explained the measure would provide citizens more transparency and access for those who are not able to attend evening meetings regularly. “Minutes are not always available in a timely manner,” he explained.

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Help Save Lives This Holiday Season

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to be the lifeline for patients in need this holiday season by making an appointment to give blood or platelets. While helping to save lives is likely motivation enough, those with type O blood, are needed. Appointments can be made by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Donors of all blood types, especially platelet donors and those with type O blood, are needed. Appointments can be made by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Locally donors can give blood at Milford Regional Medical Center, 14 Prospect St., Milford, on November 29 and December 12 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and December 18 from 1 to 7:30 p.m.

Our mobile app makes banking fast and easy, giving you time to relax and enjoy the cocoa this holiday season!

Blaire House Home Care Services

If you are looking at starting a rewarding career in senior care, but have little to no experience, we can get you started with our FREE PERSONAL CARE AIDE & HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING PROGRAM

We are currently hiring and training homemakers for a career in senior care. Blaire House Home Care’s program will prepare you to take the next step. With our training and assistance, you can climb the ladder in reaching your goals as a Personal Care Aide (PCA) or a Home Health Aide (HHA.)

$150 SIGN-ON BONUS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Erica Hanks, Regional Home Care Director 978.726.0709 or ehanks@egmcare.com

www.elderservices.com • Family Owned & Operated
Salvation Army’s Kettle Drive
Hoping to Raise $35,000

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

The sound of a ringing bell and the sight of a red kettle seem to go hand in hand this time of year. And once again, the Milford Salvation Army is counting on generous individuals to throw some spare change or a few dollars into those red kettles to make their annual fundraiser a success.

The Salvation Army’s Red Kettle Drive dates back more than 125 years ago when, in 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee wanted to help the poor in San Francisco by providing them a free Christmas dinner. He had no funding to do so, so he set up a kettle near a ferry landing asking for donations with a sign that said, “Keep the pot boiling.” Not long after, he had the funding to provide needy people a free Christmas dinner. “It was so successful that it spread throughout the country and has become such a staple of the holidays,” said Milford’s Salvation Army Captain Justin Barter, who oversees the town’s Congress St. location with his wife Captain Marsha Barter.

Beginning November 29, Milford’s Red Kettle Drive will have volunteers ringing bells at various locations including the Shaw’s and Stop & Shop grocery stores in Milford and the Shaw’s in Medway. The Hopkinton Price Chopper’s Kettle Drive is already underway. “Our goal for this year is $35,000,” said Captain Justin Barter. The funding raised stays local to support the Salvation Army’s tireless work to help those in need. The monies will help with rental assistance, the food pantry, clothing drives, back to school programs, and more. In addition to Milford, the Congress St. location also provides assistance to those in Mendon and Hopedale. One of the challenges the Kettle Drive has run into over the years is the fact that people don’t carry cash around like they used to. However, now through the Apple Pay and Google Pay apps, residents can donate with a quick scan of their phones. Online donations can also be made at massachusetts.salvationarmy.org/MA/Milford. One thing Captain Barter said hasn’t changed is the Kettle Drive’s need for volunteers to ring the bell at various locations. “I was doing it at four-years-old,” he said. “I remember standing at Walmart and Shaw’s ringing the bell. We can get so caught up in the rush of Christmas time. To be able to take a pause and give back to others is a wonderful feeling.” The Milford Salvation Army’s Kettle Drive ends December 24. Anyone interested in volunteering should email Justin.Barter@USE.SalvationArmy.Org.

Recognized as one of the nation’s safest hospitals...

As a nationally recognized healthcare leader,

Milford Regional has just been awarded - for the third time in a row - the country’s top grade for hospital safety. Our commitment to quality care is stronger than ever, with new investments to enhance and support our team of dedicated nurses, physicians, and hospital staff in their mission to deliver the very best healthcare in our region.

While national recognitions are important, continuing to deliver quality healthcare to each patient is our real reward.
The Upton Center

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

Monday, December 2

Tree Trimming Coffee Hour w/Holiday Piano Music & Sing-along, 9:30 a.m.
COM Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Shopping Trip to Shaw’s, Walgreens, Milford, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3

Pie Baking Contest & Emergency Preparedness Talk, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Holiday Concert at Mechanics Hall, Depart 10:45 a.m. for Noon Concert

Thursday, December 5

Shopping Trip to Walmart, Northbridge, 9:15 a.m.
BVT Charity Dinner, 4:45 p.m. Departure for 5 p.m. Seating

Friday, December 6

Holiday Party, 10 a.m.

Monday, December 9

Mindfulness & Meditation w/Robin, 9:30 a.m.
Senator Moore’s Office Hours, 1:15 to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10

Craft Time with Betty, 10 a.m.

Monday, December 16

BVT Salon Visit, Depart 8:45 a.m. for 9 a.m. Appts.
Christmas Movie, Miracle on 34th Street, 12:30 p.m.
Men’s Club Supper, 5 p.m.

Monday, December 17

Holiday Gift Program, 12:30 p.m.
BVT Charity Dinner, 4:45 p.m. Departure for 5 p.m. Seating

Tuesday, December 18

Gift to You Program, 12:30 p.m.
Holiday Craft & Carols with Girl Scouts at 4:30 p.m. Please bring $5

Wednesday, December 19

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS, 12:30 p.m.
Shopping Trip to Christmas Tree Shop, Shrewsbury, 12:30 p.m.
Holiday Lights Ride, 5:45 p.m.

Monday, Tai Chi, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Card Players Group, 10 a.m.

Wednesday

Computer Class, 9 a.m. (Call to Schedule)
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
Library Table, 11 a.m.
Canasta, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday

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

Friday

Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.

Upton Pickleball Tournament

Close to a two dozen athletes participated in the Rena Richard Classic Pickleball Tournament on October 5 at Kiwanis Beach in Upton. Sponsored by the Upton Recreation Commission, the tournament culminated a summer long schedule of Pickleball games. The tournament was named after Richard, who was instrumental in presenting the sport to the Upton Recreation Commission. A contingent of West Coast Pickleball players participated including Richard’s niece Sharon Richard of Simi Valley, Calif. along with a Simi Valley Pickleball ambassador, nationally ranked players, certified officials and those experienced in running national tournaments. Besides participating and helping run the Upton tournament, the California players also presented a free clinic prior to the games. It was appreciated as tournament players encompassed all levels of experience and expertise. Upton will begin its 2020 Pickleball season in March and will hold another tournament on September 19.

The fee is $25 for the entire outdoor season, April through October, depending on the weather. Members play several days a week and the Recreation Department provides equipment for those who need it. Visit UptonMA.myrec.com in the spring for more information.

Upton News

U. S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Thomas G. Keville

U. S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Thomas G. Keville, the son of Tom and Gretchen Keville of Upton and a member of the Nipmuc Regional High School Class of 2016, is serving overseas with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, and is actively participating in multiple bilateral training exercises in numerous countries to improve combat readiness and strengthen international relationships. LCpl Keville was set to begin his senior year at Suffolk University, majoring in Business Management, but put his studies on hold when his Marine Reserve Unit out of Fort Devens was activated on June 1 and deployed.

Although disappointed that he will not graduate with his college classmates, LCpl. Keville will be returning to his studies at Suffolk University in the fall of 2020 after his deployment. He appreciates the support of the community along with his family and friends and he looks forward to his return next year.

USMC Lance Corporal Thomas G. Keville of Upton poses with his sister, Julia, in May following her graduation from Nipmuc Regional High School. LCpl Keville began about a yearlong overseas deployment with the 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division the next day. Keville Family photo

Pickleball players participated including Richard’s niece Sharon Richard of Simi Valley, Calif. along with a Simi Valley Pickleball ambassador, nationally ranked players, certified officials and those experienced in running national tournaments. Besides participating and helping run the Upton tournament, the California players also presented a free clinic prior to the games. It was appreciated as tournament players encompassed all levels of experience and expertise. Upton will begin its 2020 Pickleball season in March and will hold another tournament on September 19.

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier

Upton Library

Submitted by Matthew Bacholder, Library Director and Lee Ann Murphy, Children's Librarian

Holiday Hours
The Upton Library will be open the following hours during the holidays.

- December 24, Christmas Eve – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- December 25, Christmas – Closed
- December 26, Christmas Day – Closed
- December 27, Friday – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- December 28, Saturday – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- December 29, Sunday – 1 to 4 p.m.
- December 30, Monday – Closed
- December 31, Tuesday – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special Events

- Submit your event to the Upton Library
- Registration for all events is required
- For more information, please call 508-529-6272

Digital Content

Access digital content using your Upton library card. Ask us about:
- Libby for eBooks and Audiobooks.
- RB Digital for Audibooks and Magazines.
- Newbank for newspapers, including a full color digital edition of the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

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New Travel Books
Upton Library has many new additions to our travel section with books from DK Travel, featuring beautiful maps and photographs. Take a look if you are planning a trip, or just want to daydream.

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Library Book Discussion Groups

- Library Book Discussion Groups
- Meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and alternates fiction and non-fiction titles. The group will be discussing The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson, historical fiction about packhorse librarians in Kentucky on December 10 and 12.

Boy Scout Troop 132

Annual Wreath Sale

Boy Scout Troop 132 is kicking off the holiday season with its annual holiday wreath sale. Wreaths that were ordered earlier this month will be delivered on Saturday, November 30, starting at 9 a.m. Wreaths will also be available for sale on the Upton Town Common on November 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The large balsam wreaths include a deep red weather resistant velvet bow and cost $15 each. This is the Troop’s one major fundraiser for the year with the money helping support the costs of running the Troop, purchasing new equipment and funding trips. To learn more about scouting, visit troop132@upton.org.

Upton Center

Christmas Party

The Upton Center Christmas Party is Friday, December 6. It begins with a social at 10 a.m. complete with coffee and munchies, followed by a Yankee Swap, participants bring a new wrapped gift worth $10, at 10:30 a.m., and then a catered lunch from Olivi’s at noon. Thanks to State Rep. David Muradian, R. Grafton and State Sen. Michael Moore, D. Milbury, lunch is free for all. The Singing Trooper will entertain at 12:45 p.m. Party goers are invited to attend any or all of the events. Please register by December 2 by stopping by the Upton Center or calling 508-529-4558.

Flu Shots

Flu shots for Upton residents are available free of charge at the Board of Health office at the Upton Town Hall, Mondays through Thursdays. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment at 508-529-3110. Remember to wear a short sleeve shirt and bring any insurance card.

Holiday Visitors at the Upton Center

- Holiday Visitors at the Upton Center
- The Upton Center, Farm St., will be hosting a variety of guests for festive events in December. To register stop by or call 508-529-4558.

- The Sutton Serenaders will visit on Tuesday, December 10 at 1 p.m. to entertain. Light refreshments will be served; register by Friday, December 6.

- Holiday Breakfast with Town Manager Derek Brindisi on Thursday, December 12 at 9 a.m. Register by Tuesday, December 10.

- The Miscue Hill School Chorus will visit on Monday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. to sing carols. Light refreshments will be served; register by Thursday, December 12.

- Girl Scouts from Upton Troop 69494 will stop by on Tuesday, December 17 at 4:30 p.m. to lead a craft and sing carols. The visit is followed by a potluck dinner. Please plan to bring a dish or donate $5. Register by Friday, December 13.

- Carolers from Memorial School will visit on Thursday, December 19 at 4:45 p.m. to spread holiday cheer. Light refreshments will be served; register by Tuesday, December 17.

State Sen. Moore Office Hour

- State Sen. Moore Office Hour
- A representative from State Senator Michael Moore’s office will be at the Upton Center on Monday, December 9 from 1:15 to 2 p.m. to meet with residents.

Mechanics Hall Holiday Concert

- Mechanics Hall Holiday Concert
- The Upton Center is sponsoring a trip to Mechanics Hall in Worcester for a Holiday Concert on December 4. The group will leave the Center at 10:45 a.m. for the concert, which begins at 12 noon. Part of the ongoing Brown Bag free concerts, the New England Conservatory Sympatico Winds & Chamber Singers and the U.S. Navy Band Northeast stationed at NAVSTA Newport will be performing. Bring a “brown bag” lunch or purchase one at the Hall while they last.

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**Preserving the Gifts for Which We Give Thanks**

In October 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation denoting the final Thursday in November as a National Holiday, Thanksgiving. His proclamation began with these words: “That the days which are designated to be consecrated to the worship of Almighty God, are, as far as may be, reserved for the observance of Thanksgiving, and to all who would offer to God thanks for the good He has bestowed, and for the fruits of the earth and the increase of every kind.”

Lincoln was hoping to help unite the entire nation, a war-torn land of fighting, suffering, heartache, and despair. It was a time when no one knew what the future held, when the nation was struggling to make ends meet. He knew that the country had a long way to go before it could truly heal from the wounds of war.

The purpose of Thanksgiving is to remember the gifts we have been given and to express our gratitude for them. It is a time to reflect on the abundance of the land and the blessings we have been given.

Lincoln’s proclamation set the stage for what has become a beloved holiday. Over the years, Thanksgiving has evolved into a time of family gatherings, food, and celebration. It is a time to give thanks for all that we have and to share that gratitude with others.

Today, we continue to celebrate Thanksgiving and to remember the gifts we have been given. We give thanks for the abundance of the land and the blessings we have been given.

**Read the Town Crier Online**

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**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 Food with Friends. 508-473-2000

**Last Wednesday:** 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Sponsored by First Evangelical. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

5:30 p.m. Community Pasta Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt.135), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Connection. 508-435-4536 or StPaulHopkinton.org

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

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

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

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

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**Mendon Residents Deserve Better at Their Town Meetings**

To the Editor

Since the earliest days of Mendon, the open town meeting has been a cornerstone of our local government. It has remained so relevant precisely because any voting-age citizen is able to stand before the body and give their thoughts on the issues of the day. Town meeting is quintessentially American.

However, that paragon of participatory democracy received a black eye at the most recent special town meeting on November 20. During the meeting, multiple residents found themselves rudely shouted down by the Town Moderator as they tried to give their thoughts on the articles before the body.

I am 22 years old, I have been attending town meeting as an observer since I was a young child. This was the worst-run meeting I have ever attended. I have never seen the Moderator treat residents with such blantant contempt.

I understand the moderator has an obligation to corral the meeting and keep everyone on track, but there is a way to do so that is respectful. In the future, I would encourage the moderator to refrain from yelling at residents, and instead pick up his gavel. It’s there for a reason.

The citizens of Mendon deserve a Moderator who treats them with respect. The citizens of Mendon deserve a Moderator who gives each speaker a fair shake, allowing them to finish their thoughts before rudely cutting them off. The citizens of Mendon deserve better than what we saw from our Moderator this past week.

Matthew O’Brien
Mendon

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**Opinion**

**Preserving the Gifts for Which We Give Thanks**

In October 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation denoting the final Thursday in November as a National Holiday, Thanksgiving. His proclamation began with these words: “That the days which are designated to be consecrated to the worship of Almighty God, are, as far as may be, reserved for the observance of Thanksgiving, and to all who would offer to God thanks for the good He has bestowed, and for the fruits of the earth and the increase of every kind.”

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Obituaries

Richard A. Amato

UPTON, Richard A. Amato, 85, a longtime Upton resident, passed away peacefully on November 14, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family. Richard was born in the depression era in Cambridge, the son of the late Joseph and Dorothy (Scrib) Amato on May 14, 1934. Early childhood years in Medford and East Lexington provided a family connection to Brattleboro, VT. In 1966, he graduated Brattleboro Union High School and subsequently attended college in the ROTC program at the University of Vermont graduating with a liberal arts degree in June, 1968. While in Burlington at UVM, Richard met the love of his life, Cynthia (Perry) Amato of Holden. They were married in September, 1957. The Air Force sent Richard with his young family to Japan for several years. During that time, he traveled to many military installations in the Asia Pacific region and proudly summit Mt Fuji during his stay. In 1970, after service, the family returned to Massachusetts where Richard was employed as a mechanical engineer at several companies including EG&G, Draper Corporation, Cropton & Morgen, and Morgan Construction. While employed full-time and taking night classes, he earned his Master’s in Physics from Northeastern University in 1970. In the early 1970s, his daily commute from Bolton to Hopedale took him past the Temple Farm on East St., Upton and his future was set in motion. In 1975, Richard and Cynthia purchased the 140-acre farm including the run-down farmhouse and barn. Farming and home renovations were Richard’s “hobbies” for many years. Farming was a family endeavor involving many friends and relatives laboring in the fields and farmers’ markets. In 1986, Richard retired from engineering to join his oldest son, Mark, full-time as a farmer. The Amato Farm grew many crops and was well known for pick-your-own strawberries, the annual Harvest Celebration, and cut-your-own Christmas trees. Over the years, Richard and Cynthia fixed up the old farmhouse into a warm and welcoming family home. The Amato Farm ceased operation in 2003, the same year Cynthia passed away.

Richard was always interested in history: that of his family, his community, and his country. He authored a treasured book of family history which required just show up and take one of the 12 tickets.

The Town Crier is closed for Vacation from December 13 till January 8, 2020.

Beginning Bridges, CFCE December

Facebook Beginning Bridges CFCE – BeginningBridgesCFCE. weeklybl – Emuarray@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, its 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. for Early Education and Care and supported 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, December 12: Muffins with Mom at Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave., Mendon, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sponsored with presenting House Cafe and the Taft Public Library this is a free drop-in event for up to 15 families. Light refreshments are served, family-friendly resources are available and socializing encouraged.

Friday, December 13: Deb Hudgins’ Music & Movement at the Upton Town Library, 10:30 a.m. Drop-in for a themed-music and movement program for babies and toddlers. Limited to 14 participants plus caregivers.

Saturday, December 14: Deb Hudgins’ Music & Movement at the Uxbridge Free Library, 10:30 a.m. Drop-in for a Winter Wonderland themed-music and movement program for toddlers and preschoolers.

Milford Federal Spansors

The Bob Seger Experience

“Hollywood Nights”

Milford Federal Bank contributed $3,000 for a Silver sponsorship of The Bob Seger Experience “Hollywood Nights” themed-food and music event at the Stadium Theatre, Woonsocket, in March of 2020. “We believe in supporting the arts, and provide sponsorship to many local non-profit organizations,” said Paul Gilbody, Milford Federal Bank President/CEO, “we are proud to support the theatre in their mission.”

Pictured left are Cathy Levesque, CFCE Director & Imagination Series Coordinator. and Deb Hudgins, CFO of Milford Federal Bank. The Town Crier thanks both organizations for their continued support of the Annual Holiday Festival which featured many musical groups and local talent.

Snowman Contest

is starting as soon as the snow falls. Send pictures to towncriereditor@gmail.com

Set ready for the Holidays!

Our publication dates are:

Upton/Mendon

December 13

Deadline December 3

Mendon

December 6

Deadline November 26

December 13

Deadline December 3

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

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

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

Amazing Cleaners ...................................... next

American Climbers ................................next

Bright Insurance Agency ..........................next

Boston Eye & Laser ..................................4

C.J. Cilley Construction ...............................next

CancerCare Mexican Restaurant ................next

Cantelo & Willow .................................next

Carpenter Driving Academy .....................5

Cook Company ......................................next

CBP Inc. .................................................next

Creatives Image Hair Studio ......................next

Frank’s Appliances ...................................19

Galloirs Restaurant .................................next

Gibson Natural Pet Resort .......................14

Jasheria Plumbing & Heating ...................10

Imperial Care ..........................................1, 24

J.C. Parmentier ........................................next

Johannsen Motors ...................................next

Joyce Plumbing ......................................10

Koopman Paint & Lumber ........................next

Liqueur Plus ..........................................9

Little Lotto Books ..................................next

Maple Farm Diary ..................................18

Marzono Electrical .................................next

Medway Oil & Propane Company ............next

Morgan Construction .............................next

Mendon Motors .....................................next

Metrosent Oral Surgical Associates ........next

Milford Federal .................................next

Muffin House Cafe ................................next

Nathans Jewellers ..................................19

New England Steak & Seafood ..............next

P.A.W.S. Bad & Biscuit .........................next

Phipps Insurance Agency .......................next

Rehabile Pet Sitting ...............................next

RiteWay Power Equipment ......................next

Robyn Nausti, RealTickle Group .............next

Rose Garden Restaurant & Lounge ..........next

Rutland Insurance .................................next

Simoneau Electric ................................next

Templeton Tree Service .........................next

UPS Store Milford & Franklin .................next

Upson Moore Motors .........................next

Wakaksa Japanese Restaurant ...............next

Wayne Gerrier Electric .........................next

Williams-Pedersen Funeral Homes 23

Wold, DDS ........................................next

Women’s Total Body Wellness / Mash Up next

Wrigh’s Dairy Farm ...............................next

WPI Post Control .................................next

The Advertiser’s Club Introduces

A special feature offered to those 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:

Lori Tate:
508-529-0301
loritatetowncrier@gmail.com

Colette Rooney:
508-922-9674
ceroe@charternet.net

Susanne Odell Farber:
508-954-8148
Su@sodelloconsult.com
The Wolves
WHITINSVILLE-The play The Wolves will be presented 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, about nine teenagers on a soccer team enduring a tumultuous season, is directed by Mendon residents, Michael Legge and Lorna Nogueira, stage manager is Luana Vincenti. 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 774-287-8374 to reserve. Tickets can also be purchased at the door with no reservation. The Wolves deals with mature subjects and has adult language.

Butterfly Wishes
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary holds Butterfly Wishes, Friday, December 13, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Atrium Café on the first floor of the hospital. Adult and children-sized gift sets will be offered for sale including gift sets of Avon products with a twist, Yankee candle, Per 1, and Bath and Beauty gift sets for all ages. These practical, useful quality gift sets are a great value. The public is invited to attend. Nancy Shipps is an independent Avon representative.

Diabetic Family Fundraiser
MILFORD-Diabetic Family Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, December 14 at the Medway VFW from 7 to 11 p.m. Come shop, play, enjoy games, eat great food, and support two local families affected by diabetes. Walk on to welcome but prior ticket purchase preferred. To purchase ticket or for information, contact Kristy Lambert at 508-244-8103 or KristyLambert@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 BlackstoneValley.org, email administrator@blackstonevalley.org or call 508-234-9000 or stop by the chamber offices, 670 Linwood Ave. Bldg A, Suite 3, Whitinsville.

Lunch and Learn, Tips and Tools to Boost Your Business, Thursday, December 5, at noon in the Chamber Offices.

Jingle & Mingle, Wednesday, December 11, at 5:30 p.m. at Vaillancourt Folk Art, Munchaugh Mills, 9 Main St., Unit #1, Sutton.

Network of Enterprising Women
HOLLISTON-Network of Enterprising Women (NEW) meets Monday, December 2, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Cheryl Cohen Mosaics, 560 Woodward St. 2nd floor, Holliston. Member Jen Powell speaks about Genealogy: A Top 10 List of Things to Know About Ferreting out Your Ancestors. Light breakfast provided. Guests welcome; free admission for first time guests and current members, $20 for all others. For more information, visit NetworkingofEnterprisingWomen.com or email info@networkofenterprisingwomen.com

Veteran’s Food Drive
MENDON-The Unitarian Church of Mendon and Uxbridge, 13 Maple St., Mendon is now a a drop-off center for Veteran’s Inc., which assists veterans whose service-related injuries continue to affect them. They are always looking for warm clothes, but for November their primary need is non-perishable food. Please bring canned vegetables boxes of mashed potato, rice, cranberry sauce and other non-perishables.

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop
HOPEDALE-The Sacred Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop offers the following specials in December - half Christmas decor, outerwear, sweaters, jewelry, winter accessories plus shoes and boots. During the first week of the month, a bag of clothing, except for specials, is $7. Open every Thursday, 9 a.m.to 3 p.m.; the first and fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon.

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier

NOVEMBER 29, 2019
added. Currently, there is one room in the upper Town Hall that is fully equipped with a volunteer, Pat Vandenbos, who tapes the Selectmen meetings regularly.

Selectmen Lawney Tinio stated in order to purchase and install more equipment to utilize in other municipal buildings as well as line up a full-time individual(s) to tape the meetings, would cost between $30,000 to $40,000. However, it was stated meetings could be taped on an iPad by a volunteer and posted to YouTube for free. Voters eventually passed the measure by a majority vote. The next two petitions were also passed and will replace the Board of Selectmen to Select Board once the Attorney General’s office signs off on it. Article 27 will replace every instance of Board of Selectmen to Select Board throughout the town’s general bylaws and Article 28 will do the same throughout the Zoning bylaws. When it came to Article 29, a citizen’s petition to increase the number of Selectmen from three to five, a long debate ensued eventually ending with voters rejecting it by a hand count vote of 72 to 40.

Prior to the vote, Merolli stated the increase would provide more diverse opinions and split up the workload among the Board members. Several residents spoke out in favor of the measure, including David Atkinson who sat on a five-member Board in a Provincetown years ago stating the larger board was more productive. He explained that with a three-member board any discussion between two members outside a posted meeting would be considered a quorum and therefore violates the Open Meeting Law. With a five-member board, he said two selectmen would run to the community until someone else was elected.

Police Chief David Kurczy stated he was not in favor of the measure feeling the two extra members would create “walk on seats.” He suggested the issue be put before residents in the form of a ballot, however, according to Mass. General Law, it must be voted on during a town meeting. Voters did eventually reject the article by a majority vote.

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

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

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

Blaire House of Milford

113 Water Street, Milford, MA 01757
508-473-7900
223 Walnut St., Ste 2, Framingham 01702
508-879-8004
172 Main Street, Northborough, MA 01532
508-393-1223

Look better, feel better and be more confident...
Forget about Black Friday and walk off some of that turkey at the 6th Annual Tryptophan Trot at Cormier Woods, 217 Chapin St., Uxbridge, on the Mendon town line, at 9 a.m. This relaxed paced hike will focus on the main trails of Cormier Woods which offer an abundance of solitude. Led by Blackstone Heritage Trail Ambassador, Ernie Germani, it will encompass 5 miles along the red, blue and yellow loops for a fairly easy walk with some moderate hills.

Upton State Forest Winter Hike and Workshop

Two winter hike events will be offered at the Upton State Forest, 205 Westboro Rd. on Saturday, December 7. For more information about either, call 508-278-7604.

The first, at 12:30 p.m., is a half-hour, Winter Hiking Workshop. Learn about proper winter hiking safety, technique, attire, gear, and more at the CCC Headquarters Building. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

The second event is a three-mile, Winter Recreational Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. The easy to difficult hike will visit the scenic Whistling Cave and go up the steep Grouse Trail. This is a forest trail with roots and rocks; parts are hilly and steep, which may be more strenuous if icy or snow-covered. Meet at the CCC Headquarters Building. Be prepared for cold weather, dress in layers, avoiding cotton clothing, wear appropriate footwear and consider bringing hiking poles. Carry drinking water and snack. Appropriate for all ages.

This hike will be cancelled for weather created unsafe conditions. Call 508-278-6486 for weather updates.

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@milreg.org.

Blackstone Valley Gardeners Christmas Meeting

WHITINSVILLE—Blackstone Valley Gardeners will host Holiday Decorating with Henry Schmidt Thursday, December 5 at the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church, 81 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Parking and entrance are at the rear of the building off Church St. by Domino Pizza. Schmidt is the Senior Horticultural Designer at Weston Nurseries. Although, he has many decades of experience, he keeps up with the current trends in decorating with natural plant material and loves to share his experience.

Call 508-278-6486 for weather updates.

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SHOP LOCAL

NOVEMBER 29, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Decorate A Tree for Wildlife

Do beavers hibernate? What does the red fox eat in the winter? To learn the answers, join Park Ranger Viola for a Wildlife Trek on Sunday December 8 at 2 p.m. at West Hill Dam. Meet at the office, 518 East Hartford Ave, Uxbridge to make pine cone feeders packed with seeds/nuts to help wildlife build up fat for the cold winter days ahead. Visitors are encouraged to bring raisins, seeds, orange and apple slices or their survival items for wildlife. Accommodations are made for those with allergies. Participants, should dress for the weather and be prepared to walk for about an hour over a variety of terrains, will decorate trees in the park with packed pinecones. The program is cancelled for heavy rains or snow. Please contact Bramel at 978-318-8417 for additional information.

Bстраива Receives Volunteer of the Year Award

The Bay State Trail Riders Association (Bbraska) received the 2019 Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends National Volunteer of the Year Award. Bbraska was nominated by The Friends of the Upton State Forest. Over the years, Bbraska has done a lot for both Upton State Forest and the Friends of Upton State Forest. They have put back $212,308 into the trails through volunteer labor, grants and donated materials since 1995, including funding significant improvements to Park, Loop and Middle Roads using over $27,600 of their funds and supplementing that with a Partnership Award from DCNR’s Partnership Matching Grant program; building the Rabbit Run and Mammoth Rock Trails; participating in Upton State Forest Park Serve Days and helping maintain trails. Bbraska also contributed to Upton’s acquisition of the Swettwilliam Farm property and helped build, and maintain, the trail across the property that connects the trails in Upton State Forest with the trails in Upton’s Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area, which they also help maintain. Additionally, Bbraska help support the Friends of the Upton State Forest since its founding in 2005 and contributed to serve Partnership Matching Grant projects.
Live Nativity
HOPKINTON—Experience the real meaning of Christmas at a Live Nativity with real people and animals, outdoors at Community Covenant Church, 2 East Elm St., Hopkinton on Saturday, December 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. After the Creche display, warm up with hot drinks and goodies. This a free event, with all welcome. Donations are welcome for Habitat for Humanity. For more information, visit ComCoVHop.org or call 508-435-3725.

The Nutcracker Ballet
BELLINGHAM—The Nutcracker will be performed by the Greater Milford Ballet on Saturday, December 21 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, December 22 at 1 p.m. at Bellingham High School for its 39th annual production. Ticket sales for the public begin on December 11 at Charles River Banks in Mendon and Bellingham branches. Tickets are cash only and are $25, $20, and $15 during regular banking hours. To order by phone, please call 508-673-3394.

Scratch Tickets Raffle
MILFORD—The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold the Scratch Ticket Raffle December 5 through 13, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with some afternoon hours, in the Atrium Cafeteria located on the first floor. 14 Prospect St., Milford. Tickets are $5 for one chance, and $20 for five. This seasonal raffle prize is a small artificial Christmas tree decorated with $100 worth of scratch tickets. The winning ticket will be drawn on December 13 in the caf, at 1:30 p.m., the winner need not be present. For more information about joining the Auxiliary, please call 508-422-2099, or visit MRMC/ Auxiliary@mrmc.org.

Blackstone River Farm
Pete’s Quasi Legacy lives on in the Blackstone River Farm. Stop by and check out our beautiful selection of Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Kissing Balls, and Cemetery Boxes. 394 Providence Road South Grafton, Ma 01560 1-774-545-0361

Annual NHS Christmas Fair
MILFORD—The annual Milford High School Christmas Gallery Arts and Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 30 in the cafeteria. Admission is $2 or $1 with a canned good. Baked goods will be available, as well as the opportunity for pictures with Santa.

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 Certificate, Home Heating Oil and over $40 of Lottery Scratch Tickets on one drawing are available. A lunch of soup, sandwiches, hot dogs, and traditional Grapenut pudding will be served. A New Gift Boutique featuring new and “like new” items, Attic Treasures, Olde Tyme 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.

Evergreen Christmas Fair
WESTBOROUGH—On Saturday, December 7, the Congregational Church of Westborough will host its 6th traditional Evergreen Christmas Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 7 W. Main Street, Westborough, next to the Westborough Library. There will be fresh greenery arrangements and abundant hand decorated fresh balsam wreaths, along with Grandmas’ Attic for flea market finds, Upper Grandma’s Attic for antiques, handmade items and ornaments, knitted items, new and used jewelry tables, homemade baked goods, a room of gingerbread cookies, silent auction items and jellies, kids craft, Santa’s Workshop for children to shop for friends and family, plus Santa and Mrs. Claus. A favorite for all ages is the lunch of homemade soups, sandwiches, Mac & cheese, beans, mashed and spicy chili and more. Questions, call Cathie 508-380-8671.

Trinity Church Christmas Fair
MILFORD—Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, will be Saturday, December 7, from 9 am to 4 pm. New this year will be the cookie table with cookies sold by the pound. The fair will offer an assortment of gift baskets, Christmas gifts, ornaments, and decorations, homemade 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 baked goods will be available at Hazel’s Café, the baked goods table, St. Mary’s pies, and the candy table will offer sweet treats. Trinity Tinzehowen raffles offers a chance to win a great prize. Come enjoy the fun and festivities.

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 Marc Mann at (617) 899-3129.

Trees for Hope Festival
UPTON—The Trees for Hope Festival, a community-wide event featuring uniquely decorated Christmas trees raffled off as a fundraising effort, will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 at St. Gabriel Church, 151 Menden St. Upton. Admission is free.

Participants donate an artificial tree or a portion of a real tree. Proceeds will support the 15- 40 Connection, local non-profit promoting early cancer detection, the ALS Therapy Development Institute, a local non-profit biotech working to end the disease.
Holiday Events for the Entire Family

Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) has a full line-up of events this Holiday season. Tickets are now on sale for all shows at HopArtsCenter.org.

Shoppers looking for the perfect gift can browse the unique wares at the Primarily Potters Annual Show & Sale the weekend of November 22 through 24, and Shopping for a Cause Boutique on Sunday, December 1. Both shopping events are free and open to the public. From November 27 through December 8 guests can enjoy the Festival of Wreaths on display in the Lotvin Family Gallery. Performances include two 50 minutes shows of The Nutcracker Sweet on Saturday, December 7; The Treblemakers’ Holiday Concert on Wednesday and Thursday, December 11 and 12; a Classical Holiday Family Concert with the Claflin Hill Symphony Quartet on Saturday, December 14 which includes an instrument petting zoo, face painting and refreshments; plus, two shows of The Nutcracker Ballet at Ashland High School on Sunday, December 22. The festivities end on Tuesday, December 31, when revelers will ring in 2020 at the New Year’s Eve Party.

All events take place at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton with the exception of The Nutcracker, which takes place at Ashland High School. For more information and tickets visit HopArtsCenter.org.

Milford Lions Club Breakfast with Santa

The Milford Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 1, from 8 to 11:30 a.m., at the Milford High School Cafeteria. Santa will be on hand for pictures with children and to collect their Christmas wish lists. He will be joined by the Milford Lions’ mascot, Leonardo the Lion. Seasonal music will be provided by various groups from the Milford Public Schools including the Woodland School Chorus and the Milford Strings Orchestra.

Activities will include children’s face painting, balloons, and games. There will be great raffle prizes, too. Tickets are $4 per person and will be available at the door; there is no charge for children under the age of 4. Proceeds from the breakfast are donated throughout the year to Massachusetts Eye Research; disadvantaged Milford families; the Clara Barton Camp; and Joslin Diabetes Center, which helps children who suffer from diabetes. Milford Lions Club also provides scholarships for graduating Milford High School seniors, as well as donating to the Milford regional Medical Center. Come join the fun and help the Lions fund some of these worthwhile causes.

Saturday, December 7th
at 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season in style with traditional favorites, sing-alongs, music from all corners of the world and more!! The Greater Milford Community Chorus joins the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra!

Schedule an appointment today
(508) 478-9888
www.macmedspa.com
Holiday Shopping Guide

HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

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Northbridge, MA 01534
508-234-2247

facebook.com/katalinasboutique

NATHANS’ Jewelers
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157 Main Street
MILFORD

12th Annual Christmas Open House
MILFORD—The 12th Annual Christmas Open House will be hosted by the Milford First Congregational Church and Iglesia Manantial de Vida at 4 Congress St., Milford on Sunday, December 1 from 3:30 to 7 p.m. after Milford’s Welcome Santa Parade. Chili, hot dogs, and hot/cold beverages that will be sold at the food court at a nominal charge. Also available are holiday cookies sold by the pound and a free sugar cookie. Christmas Carols for all to join in and sing will add to the festivities. For children of all ages, Santa’s Corner includes photos with Santa and a candy cane. Cookie decorating and Face Painting are also offered. Rafters to win Gingerbread Houses and themed Gift Baskets will be held. For more information, contact Martha Ellis, 508-429-3303, or martha.ellis3@gmail.com.

Christmas Around the World Concert
UXBRIDGE—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 come from Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Upton and Uxbridge.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar
UPTON—United Parish of Upton is planning their festive annual Holiday Bazaar for Saturday, December 7. Bigger and Better than ever with more vendors and more space to visit Santa. Located on Upton Common, Rt. 140, Church St.

Assumption School Craft Fair/Winter Carnival
MILFORD—Crafters, vendors, games for children of all ages, raffles and homemade soup and grilled cheese sandwiches will all be available at the Assumption School Craft Fair and Winter Carnival on Sunday, December 8. The event is at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 12 Waters St., Milford from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It is a trolley stop on the Milbury Chain of Lights Event.

The Purple Peacock Gift Shop
Southwick's Zoo

The Purple Peacock Gift Shop is open for holiday shopping until December 29th! Stop by soon to find something for everyone on your list.

20% OFF at the Purple Peacock Gift Shop
Present this coupon to save 20% on your total purchase in the Purple Peacock Gift Shop.
Visit only for merchandise purchased in-store at the Purple Peacock Gift Shop. Cannot be applied to winnings tickets, gift cards, clearance items, or honey. Cannot be combined with other coupons, discounts, or offers. Valid 11/1/2019 to 12/29/2019

Purple Peacock Gift Shop
2 Southwick St, Mendon, MA
www.southwickszoo.com
1-800-258-9182 ext 203

NOVEMBER 29, 2019
**Mendon News**

**Voters Support Fire Department Requests and Build Up Reserves**

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter

In just over three hours, Mendon residents discussed and debated a 29 article warrant during the town's November 20 Special Town Meeting. A total of 142 residents attended the meeting. Residents passed a number of financial articles and kicked off the meeting by supporting Article 1, a transfer of $25,000 from free cash to pay bills from a prior year from E.L. Harvey and the Water Board.

Voters also supported a number of articles brought forward by the Fire Department, including Article 5, by transferring $72,000 from free cash to pay unused vacation time owed to members of the Department. Article 8 will utilize $30,000 from free cash to purchase turnout gear for the Fire Department, Article 9 established a Revolving Account for the Fire Department that will repair and maintain fire protection cisterns and be funded by developers at the time of installation. Article 10 set the Revolving Fund's limit to $10,000. In an effort to help build up the town's reserve, voters unanimously supported Article 2 to transfer $119,000 to Stabilization Account, Article 3 transferred $100,000 from free cash to the Capital Expenditure Account, and Article 4 transferred $24,000 from free cash to the Other Post Employment Benefit Account. Article 6 passed by a majority vote and funded a litigation settlement with a former employee for $60,000 and Article 7 passed to fund a regional substance abuse program for $6,200. There were also a number of Community Preservation Act articles voted on. Finance Committee Chair Mike Merolla explained to voters because the Committee had just received the figures associated with the CPA articles just prior to the meeting, members were unable to meet and properly vet the funding requests and therefore had no recommendation on the CPA articles presented that evening. Residents passed Article 11 which annually must place funding into each of the CPA accounts. As a result, $54,175 was placed into the CPA's historic, open space, and affordable housing accounts, $27,087 into the administrative account and the remaining into budgeted reserve. Article 12 was passed to utilize $500 of CPA funds to purchase archival sleeves and boxes to preserve historical documents. However, Article 13 failed and, as a result, Article 14 was passed over. Both articles involved an easement on the town-owned 52 Providence St. property to provide access to the back portion of the land for affordable housing units near the Senior Center. Several residents abutting the property opposed the easement. Article 15 also involving CPA funding needed for the purchase and site costs for an easement over part of Kinder Morgan's Tennessee Gas Pipeline to access the town-owned 52 Providence St location was also passed over. However, Article 16 was passed to give the Selectmen authority to accept the Kinder Morgan easement. And lastly, voters supported Article 17 which sought $500 from free cash for postage and printing costs for public hearings related to the demolition of historic homes.

**Mendon Senior Center Holiday Outings**

The Mendon Senior Center is sponsoring a number of local holiday outings. Sign up as soon as possible by stopping by the Center, Providence St., or calling 508-478-6175.

Discounted tickets for The Nutcracker Ballet by the Greater Milford Ballet are available for the 2 p.m. performance on Saturday, December 21 at Bellingham High School. Tickets are $10 per person, for those who choose to use the service, is $4 per person for 12 individuals. Reserve a place by December 5.

**Mendon Trash Bills Due**

The Mendon Board of Health has mailed out the second half fiscal year 2020 trash bills to residents. Bills are due Monday, December 16. This is for service starting January 1, 2020 until June 30, 2020. The rate is $137 and $69 for qualified senior citizens. If a resident has not received a bill or has any questions, please contact the Board of Health office at 508-634-2656 or bhs@mendonma.gov.

**Tree Lighting Contest**

The Taft Public Library invites youngsters to participate in the Coloring Page Tree Lighting Contest. Stop by the Children's Room in the library to pick up the coloring sheet. Color the sheet and return to the Children's Circulation Desk by Wednesday, December 4 at 7 p.m. Entries will be used to determine the person who will flip the switch to light the Mendon Christmas Tree at the Tree Lighting Festivities in Founder's Park on the evening of Friday, December 6. The winner will be notified on December 5.

**Mendon Residents Pass Ban Involving Traveling Animal Acts**

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter

Through a hand count vote of 79 to 36, Mendon residents supported an article during the November 20 Special Town meeting that will ban traveling animal acts in town for public entertainment.

Article 25 was an amendment to the town's general bylaws that would "prohibit the display of wild or exotic animals in traveling animal acts for public entertainment or amusement." Some of those animals would include giraffes, camels, elephants, monkeys, lions, tigers, alligators, and crocodiles.

Resident Carole Carnovale brought the idea of the bylaw to the Selectmen last spring, who voted by the bylaw to make certain it would not affect Southwick's Zoo, and then agreed to bring it forward for a vote in November.

During the discussion of the article during the town meeting, Carnovale explained that animals in traveling shows are subjected to long and exhaustive transports, in some cases beaten to perform, chained for lengthy periods of time, can be a danger to the public, and can carry disease.

She went on to explain it's not natural for animals to perform tricks. In their natural habitat, she said, "Bears don't ride bicycles. Elephants don't do handstands." Circus animals have been shocked with electric prods to perform she stated. "Their lives are filled with immense cruelty."

Resident Allan Kent said he felt the state already had enough legislation in place to protect circus animals and that the bylaw amendment was not necessary. Still, residents voted to pass Article 25.

"I'm thrilled it passed," said Carnovale in an interview after the meeting. "I'm so proud of the voters for doing the right thing for animals. They showed basic human decency."

The new bylaw will affect the circus that comes to town each summer and is sponsored by the Lion's Club. Over the last several years, it has been the Zerhini Family Circus, which has been cited for animal cruelty in the past.

Carnovale said each summer shed be heartbroken every time the circus would begin to set up, saying, "The suffering they (the animals) endure, I just had to do something."

Still, she said she hopes the Lion's Club doesn't totally abandon the circus. "The Lion's Club does so much good for the community. I hope they might consider an animal free circus," said Carnovale.

Lion's Club President Mark Buccino said they plan to continue on with a circus. "The Mendon Lions will explore all available opportunities to continue their yearly tradition and bring a fun, entertaining circus to town, while staying within the parameters set by the town's bylaws;" he said.
Thanking Pat Bulock for 17 Years of Service

The Taft Public Library thanks Pat Bulock for 17 years of dedicated service to library users in Mendon and beyond. Bulock started as a Library Assistant in 2002. Patrons will recall seeing her on Tuesdays at the Circulation Desk and in all her other work for the library, which included helping with move from the old building at 18 Main St. to the new location at 29 North Ave. She is appreciated for her efforts on behalf of the library and will be missed by the staff. She is wished many happy new adventures in her retirement. Taft Public Library photo.

Mendon Senior Center Volunteers Needed

The Mendon Senior Center is looking for four to five volunteers to pick up the Whole Foods Surplus food. Volunteers will pick up the food from Whole Foods one Sunday morning per month, based on a rotating schedule. The food is delivered to the Senior Center, where other volunteers will take in the donation and sort it. Training will be provided. Please contact Amy Wilson Kent, 508-478-6175, to volunteer.

Solar Program Discussed with Selectmen

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Mendon residents Anne Mazar and Carolyn Barthel attended the November 12 Board of Selectmen’s meeting to discuss an opportunity for the town to collaborate with Upton to take part in Solarize Mass Plus 2020. The two residents were seeking the Board’s support to move forward with the application process.

The two communities are applying for the solar program and will know by January if they have been accepted into it. Solarize Mass is in its tenth year and is a partnership between Mass Clean Energy Center and the Green Communities Division of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

In 2012, Mendon took part in Solarize Mass. Both Mazar, who sits on the Mendon Land/Energy Use Committee, and Barthel were involved in the 2012 program. The Solarize Mass program was launched through then Governor Deval Patrick’s administration in an effort to encourage residents and business owners to adopt photovoltaic (PV) technology. Now, the 2020 program is offering more options and competitive pricing for residents who sign up. If the two towns are invited, Solarize Mass Plus 2020 will offer Mendon and Upton residents the opportunity to buy discounted solar PV’s, solar hot water heating, air-source heat pump heating/cooling, battery storage, and electronic vehicles. By accumulating sales, residents will be given discounted prices. The group purchase model process will increase education and community outreach to help simplify the process to the homeowner with a vetted installer, reduce installation costs, and help to increase adoption.

There are no costs for either community to take part. “We have a volunteer team in Mendon and Upton ready to go,” said Mazar of those who will help out. If the Mendon/Upton program is selected, $5,000 to $8,000 will be provided to assist the communities with marketing the program to residents.

Call Firefighters Appointed

In other Mendon Selectmen’s news that evening, the Board appointed Darren Simpson and Zachary Holzman to the positions of Call Firefighter. Holzman’s appointment was contingent on him passing the physical ability test.

The next Selectmen’s meeting is scheduled for December 9.

Student Holiday Concerts for Seniors

Local students will perform two festive concerts at the Mendon Senior Center for library users in Mendon and beyond. Bulock started as a Library Assistant in 2002. Patrons will recall seeing her on Tuesdays at the Circulation Desk and in all her other work for the library, which included helping with move from the old building at 18 Main St. to the new location at 29 North Ave. She is appreciated for her efforts on behalf of the library and will be missed by the staff. She is wished many happy new adventures in her retirement. Taft Public Library photo.

The next Selectmen’s meeting is scheduled for December 9.

Student Holiday Concerts for Seniors

Local students will perform two festive concerts at the Mendon Senior Center on Monday, December 16 at 1 p.m. The Nipmuc Jazz Ensemble and Acapella groups will perform a variety of music from jazz standards, holiday favorites and popular songs heard on the radio on Thursday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m.

Wishing you a happy & healthy holiday season & a prosperous new year!

~Your friends at

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Christmas Day: Closed
New Year's Eve: Open Regular Hours
New Year's Day: Closed

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NEW CLIENT SPECIAL - 20% OFF ALL SERVICES THROUGH DECEMBER 2019!
Lunch Servers Wanted

Tri Valley Volunteer Training will be held at the Mendon Senior Center, Providence St. on Thursday, December 12 at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help serve lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Center as well as helping out with special meals. Responsibilities include preparing the dining room for lunch, serving the meal, and cleaning up. Hours are typically 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A weekly commitment is not needed. Volunteer forms are available at the Senior Center. Registration is required.

Mendon Senior Center

The Mendon Senior Center serves Mendon residents 60 years of age or older, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or call 508-473-6175.

Tuesday, December 3

Blood Pressure Clinic, 11 a.m. Tree Trimming/Piano Music, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Holiday COA Dinner, 12 p.m.

Thursday, December 5

Crafts, 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 9

Friends Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 10

Pictures with Santa, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, December 11

COA Meeting, 10 a.m. Holiday Shopping/Van, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 12

Mendon History with Jim Buckley, 11 a.m.

Monday, December 16

Missoule Hill Chorus Performance, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17

Van Trip to Cracker Barrel Followed by LaSalette Lights, 4:30 p.m.

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m., Weather Permitting Panera Bread, 9 a.m. Tai Chi, 9 a.m. ASL Class, 1 p.m. Recorder Lessons, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

Cribbage, 9 a.m. Chair Exercise, 9:15 a.m. Wellness Group, 10:30 a.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays of Month) Lunch Club, 12 p.m. Yarn WorkShop, 1 p.m. Pitch, 7 p.m.

Friday

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

Submit your events to Mendon Within the last month no events were submitted. If you have any events to submit, please contact the library or email them to info@taftpublib.org.

The Mendon Senior Center is required. as well as helping out with special meals. Responsibilities include

Mendon News

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

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

Beyond the Library

The Friends of the Taft Public Library will be open according to the following schedule for the Christmas and New Year’s holiday

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve—Closed Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day—Closed Tuesday, December 31, New Year’s Eve—10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 1, New Year’s Day—Closed

Program Registration

If registration is needed for any of the following programs, please log onto TaftPublicLibrary.org and find the events page to register.

Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club

The Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club pick for this winter is Maybe You Should Talk to Someone by Lori Gottlieb. What happens when a therapist in Los Angeles decides she needs to seek therapy herself? In Maybe You Should Talk to Someone Gottlieb recounts her story with humor, curiosity, and fearlessness about her experiences in therapy with stories of the personal struggles and triumphs of her own patients during that troubled time in her life.

Discussion of the book will be on Thursday, January 23 at 7 p.m. downstairs in the library. Anyone interested in participating can pick up a copy of the book or audiofile at the downstairs desk and sign the registration sheet.

Adult Book Club – New Daytime Session Added

The Adult Book Club has added a daytime discussion session. Attend one of two discussion sessions each month! Adult Book Club meetings are the first Monday of the month (unless it is a holiday) at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room and on Wednesdays at noon. For more information, call the library on Wednesdays or Friday mornings at 508-473-3259 and ask for Kris. New book club members are always welcome. Copies of each book are available at the downstairs circulation desk. Upcoming Adult Book Club picks are as follows: December: The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah January: The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Currently in the Display Case – Local Vendors

In December stop in to see products from local vendors. Great gift ideas with a regional flair just in time for the holiday season. The Friends of the Taft Library have reached out to a number of local shops and artisans who will be on show in the upstairs and their downstairs display cases. Displays in the display cases are rotated monthly. While they often include items from the library’s Genealogy collection and highlight the history of the town, the Taft Library also welcomes collections from Mendon residents and organizations. If you have a collection or craftwork or artwork you’d like to display, please contact us at 508-473-3259 or email Andrew at librarydirector@mendonma.gov.

Meeting Space Available

The Taft Public Library welcomes the use of its downstairs Art Holmes Community Room and/or the upstairs Clinkman Periodicals Area. Those interested in reserving either space are asked to visit TaftPublicLibrary.org and click on Meeting Room Reservations at the top of the page. The Meeting Room Use Policy includes guidelines for use by groups. To reserve either meeting space, click on the Room Reservation Form link. Room Reservation forms may be scanned and submitted via email to librarydirector@mendonma.gov, faxed to 508-473-7049, or dropped off in person at the upstairs circulation desk in the library. Please contact the Library Director with any questions at 508-473-3259.

Spanish Immersion Session

The Spanish Immersion Community Outreach members are hosting an information session about the Mendon Upton Spanish Immersion program for all parents who want to learn more about the program and speak with parents who currently have children enrolled in the program at the Taft Public Library on December 10 from 6 to 7 p.m. Childcare will be provided. For more information email, to languagekids411@gmail.com

Join the Friends of the Taft Public Library

The Friends of the Taft Public Library typically meet once a month upstairs in the Library. Come and join us on the fun and help them strengthen the Library’s connection with the Mendon community. For more information visit the Taft Public Library website and click on the ‘Friends of the Taft Library’ link or email the Friends at friends@taftpublibrary@gmail.com.

Children’s December News

Bitty Bitty Story Time

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

Story & Craft Time

Join us for story and craft time for preschoolers on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. No registration required.

December 4—Winter Holidays

December 11—Bilingual Christmas Stories

December 18—Christmas Stories

Holiday Carnival Party

Join us for a very special storytime on Thursday, December 19 at 10 a.m. The School Age program is Thursday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Santa Storytime

Join us for a very special storytime on Thursday, December 19 at 10 a.m., when Santa will visit the Taft Public Library to read a few of his favorite tales. Registration is required.

Kiddie Around Yoga

Learn yoga poses, dance and sing and meditate in this fun class for all abilities. Mats are available to borrow. Registration is required and limited. The session for Preschoolers is Tuesday, December 10, at 10:30 a.m. The School Age program is Thursday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Muffins with MOM

Sponsored by Beginning Bridges CFCE, the Muffin House & The Taft Library, Muffins with MOM is a free drop-in event for up to 15 families, first come, first serve on Thursday, December 19 from 9 a.m. Light refreshments will be served, and families will have the opportunity to build social connections and learn about family friendly resources.

Book Clubs

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

Ages 6-9: The club will discuss Miss Molly is Too Judy by Dan Gutman on Thursday, January 23. Ages 8-12: The club will discuss A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig on Thursday, January 9, on Thursday, September 26. Graphic Novel Book Club: The club will discuss The Island of Misty Tears and Abigail and the Snowman Thursday, January 16.

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Superintendent Focusing on MCAS Disparities, Budget Communications and Embedding SEL

By Melissa Orf
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Mendon Upton Regional School Committee approved the plans of the district’s leader to focus on MCAS disparities, communication ahead of budget season, and embedding Social Emotional Learning (SEL) throughout the district during the 2019/2020 school year. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Maruszczak presented his Annual Plans during the November 18 School Committee Meeting. Plans for Superintendents normally include a student learning goal, a professional practice goal, and three district improvement goals. For his Student Learning Goal, Maruszczak will focus on “skillful use of data and targeted interventions to achieve grade level standards.”

“This goal speaks to the disparity on the MCAS results between our two elementary schools,” he said. See the article on MCAS Presentation on page XXX of this issue.

Maruszczak told the Committee that the measurements for this goal will be that student performance and growth in ELA and math will be consistent in both elementary schools as measured by the student growth percentile (SGP) to at least 55 for 4th grade. Key actions will include creating personalized intervention plans for students not meeting grade level standards and working with 3rd and 4th grade teams at both schools to go deeper into three years’ worth of MCAS data to find any gaps. “We are looking to see if there are specific standards where we aren’t covering to the depth to which we should be,” said Maruszczak.

For a Professional Practice Goal, Maruszczak will be focusing on “communication and advocacy for the budgetary needs of the district.”

“I will try new strategies and use multiple means of effectively communicating about the district’s operational budget needs to maintain level services as well as advocate for the advancement of the district’s mission and vision as articulated in the District Strategic Plan,” read his Professional Practice goal. This is important now more than ever with the challenges we will be facing in the coming year,” said Maruszczak. “We need to find new ways to tell the community what our needs are.”

Maruszczak told the Committee that some of the key action items for this goal will be the creation and updating of the new MURSD/Budget.org website, providing information about the district’s budget to the community, and the revival of the multi-board meetings in order to collaborate with Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees of both towns.

The first of the three District Improvement Goals, “enhancing communication and outreach” is a perpetual goal according to Maruszczak.

“We will continue to enhance communication with and outreach to our families and the community,” he said. The second District Improvement Goal is to improve student support services by “using structures and practices to improve student support services so we may more efficiently meet the diverse needs of all learners.”

and the third is to embed SEL across district programs and practices by “implementing effective strategies to future the SEL of both students and staff alike.”

Maruszczak will present an update on his annual goals during his mid-cycle review at the end of March.

81 BVT Students Earn Adams Scholarships

A tuition-free college education is a reason to smile, and it is one of the many options now available to 81 Blackstone Valley Tech students named recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Students must earn Advanced and Proficient scores on the grade 10 MCAS exams in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering (with at least one score of Advanced) and earn a combined score within the top 25 percent of their class to be eligible.

Students who accept the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship are awarded a full ride to a Massachusetts state college or university. For additional information, please visit https://www.mass.edu/campusinfo/admissions/adams/.

The following members of the BVT Class of 2020 (listed alphabetically by town) were recently informed of their eligibility for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship:

Hopedale
Thomas Buckley, Annabelle O’Reilly, and Chloe Pigeon

Mendon
Carlie Brown, Chase Duncan, Kate Healy, Ethan Lynch, Cole Peterson, Abigaila Pontzer, and Brian St John.

Milford
Michael Boome, Olivia Cheschi, Minzharr Choudhury, Joao Goncalves, Timothy Haarstick, Brandon Kee, Lorenzo Morese, and Melissa Vieira.

Upton
Coby Asselin, Nolan Bullard, Adam Dickey, Andrew Galick, Hannah Giglio, Moeghan Matellian, Jillian Napolitano, Mallory Rogers, and Noah Stallcup.

BVT Hosts Aging Well Assessment Day

The Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School welcomed a group of 13 senior citizens from the Upton and Mendon Senior Centers for Aging Well Assessment Day on November 13. This annual event is a collaborative effort of the BVT Post-Secondary Practical Nursing Program with the school’s Health Services, Dental Assisting, and Culinary Arts Programs.

Aging Well Assessment Day was established in 2017 by the Practical Nursing Program as a way for its adult learners to practice real-life application of nursing skills and theory.

Area senior citizens were invited to the school for a day of assessments that included height, weight, vision screenings, home safety, nutrition, dental, and an hour-long physical performed by Practical Nursing students. “Many thanks to the faculty, staff, students, and participants from the Upton and Mendon Senior Centers that assisted in making this year’s event a success,” said Practical Nursing Coordinator, Joann Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC. BMA. “Without them, this event would not be possible.”

Peggy Ivey of the Upton Senior Center, dressed in BVT purple, was ready for her dental lab visit with Caitlyn Meisner of Bellingham and Skylar Manryk of Douglas, both seniors in the Dental Assisting program. Peggy told Caitlyn and Skylar that she loves coming every year to Aging Well Day and how much she enjoyed visiting the Dental Clinic for the new dental assessment.

Lana Mars of Millville, visiting with the Mendon Senior Center, was all smiles during her assessment performed by Practical Nursing Student, Ana Carlino. Lana explained that her husband, Peter, participated last year and was happy to have her turn.

Giving back to these students and participating in this event was important to Lana. “I worked in the health field for many years at a hospital in Connecticut. Some people helped me along the way, and now I am glad to help these students in this way,” said Lana Mars. While Health Services and Dental Assisting students’ aided in the assessments with the BVT Practical Nursing students, the Culinary Arts students prepared to cater a delicious, healthy lunch for the participants that was enjoyed and served in the Three Seasons Restaurant.

“Our seniors were thrilled about their experience at BVT,” said Bernadette Denson, Upton Senior Center Department Specialist. “One of them said she was amazed by how ‘pulte, articulate, friendly, and respectful’ your students were. They were really raving about every aspect of their visit, including the food.”

For additional information, please visit https://www.valleyletch212.ma.us/practicallnuring and connect with Program Coordinator, Joann Monks.

Shop Local
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School News

Mendon Upton Regional
Compiled by Melissa Orf
Staff Reporter

DISTRICT: Spanish Immersion Community Outreach members are hosting an information session on December 10 at 6 p.m. at the Traft Public Library, North Ave., Mendon. The session is for all parents who want to learn more about the Mendon Upton Spanish Immersion program. Parents with children currently in the program will also be available. Childcare will be provided. For more information about the session or the program, email languageski411@gmail.com.

The Mendon Upton Regional School District will host an all-day learning event, Wednesday, December 11 which will give K-12 students a chance to explore this new model of learning and allow for cross-school collaboration. This event is modeled after professional conferences but is offered to students. The conferences provide an opportunity to work with students in new ways, allowing their interests and curiosities to drive district programming while engaging community partners in a non-traditional day of learning.

MISCOE: Fifty-four Miscoe students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at a ceremony organized by Advisors Ryan Labarre and Lori Monerottit. The students are: Carolyn Acker, Avery Allnoch, Samuel Aubuchon, Zoe Blank, Quinn Black, Sabrina Cassano, Tyler Clarke, Grace Corriveau, Aidan Cotton, Isabella Deligiannides, Matthew Dos Santos, Reed Duong, Paula Fulco, Lilibeth Foster, Joseph Fraser, Matthew Gagnon, Sofia Geremia, Jacob Giancola, Rachel Gibbs, Leah Harris, Clementine Henderson, Isabella Hughes, Ty Jarmesom, Madison LaCortiglia, Elizabeth Lange, Ethan LaRue, Hannah Laurence, Andrew Lingust, Ashleigh Lupinek, Natalia Manzolino, Allison Martin, Meghan Meggob, Grace Medina, Thomas Medina, Linara Miller, Gianni Montetra, Peyton Porrino, Kendall Pierce, Robert Pointe, Emily Reardon, Megan Reilly, Lane Rutkowski, Ishani Saha, Dana Schecther, Alexis Schwartzberg, Lauren Scott, Ashlyn Seligman, SierraSherwin, Naomi Singh, Owen Thompson, Lisa Wang, Annalise Weibe, Sophia Welch andNicolas Wyndham.

On November 27, the eighth-grade class participated in Miscoe’s Walk For Giving, which helps support the Miscoe Hill Giving Tree program. At the end of December, the Giving Tree program provides gifts for school families in need during the holiday season. This is an opportunity for the eighth graders to see how they can make a huge difference in their community just by participating in an event.

Miscoe’s Friends of Rachel’s Club and the Massachusetts State Police are teaming up again in the annual Toys for Tots program. Please consider dropping off a new, unused toy for children up to age 14 in the Toys for Tots boxes in Miscoe’s front office by the December 13 deadline, when State Police will pick up the toys.

NIPMUC: On November 22, Nipmuc hosted a district-wide, K-12 event aimed at designing innovative learning experiences that prepare students for life beyond school. From November 29 to December 5 and use the same bookfair ID at checkout.

Whitinsville Christian School

Honors Roll

Whitinsville Christian School has announced the first quarter honor roll which includes the following local students:

Milford
Honors – Elizabeth Harton, 12th Grade

Mendon
High Honors – Declan Smith, 8th Grade
Honors – Megan Follmer, 8th Grade, and
Olivia Culter, 12th Grade

Upton
Honors – Chloe Richer and Nathan Romine, 8th Grade, and
Crecent Hussein, 12th Grade

School News

Mendon Upton Music Boosters Bookfair

The Mendon Upton Music Boosters will be hosting its 6th annual Fall Bookfair and Nookfair fundraiser on Friday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble, Northbridge. The weekend will feature music performances by the Miscoe Hill Middle School and Nipmuc Regional High School jazz and choral ensembles, showcasing artwork from the elementary and middle school students plus free gift wrapping.

Report cards will be issued on December 6.

School Highlights

Mendon-Upton Regional
School News

Whitinsville Christian School

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School News

Mendon Upton Music Boosters Bookfair

The Mendon Upton Music Boosters will be hosting its 6th annual Fall Bookfair and Nookfair fundraiser on Friday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble, Northbridge. The weekend will feature music performances by the Miscoe Hill Middle School and Nipmuc Regional High School jazz and choral ensembles, showcasing artwork from the elementary and middle school students plus free gift wrapping.

Santa will be in the store on Friday, December 13 from 7 to 9 p.m for storytime in the Music Room. Come out and support the music department and take care of some holiday shopping at the same time. The Mendon Bookfair ID is 12360132.

Anyone who can’t attend the bookfair in person can shop on line at BN.com/bookfairs from December 13 through 19 and use the same bookfair ID at checkout.

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School News

MURSD Superintendent Withdraws R. I. Charter School Proposal

By Melissa Orff  Staff Reporter/Columnist

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Maruszczak has announced he has withdrawn his proposal to start a Spanish Immersion Charter School in Rhode Island.

News broke in August that the chief administrator of the Mendon Upton Regional School District was one of three district staff members who filed an application with the Rhode Island Department of Education to open a K-8 Spanish Immersion charter school in Woonsocket. The proposed Nuestro Mundo School was a “passion project,” according to Maruszczak, who said during an interview with the Town Crier in September that he was passionate about rethinking k-12 education.

“The new charter school would involve teaching the next generation of students about two things close to my heart: global citizenship and the preservation of our environment,” he had stated.

Although the finalists were supposed to be chosen by the Rhode Island Department of Education in late November, Maruszczak made the announcement that the group was pulling out of consideration “for a multitude of reasons” during the November 18 School Committee Meeting.

“First and foremost, I am very happy and fulfilled in my work here,” said Maruszczak during the meeting. “I can honestly say I have never worked in a better district in my 39-year career.”

Maruszczak has been the Superintendent of the Mendon Upton Regional School District since 2011. During his annual evaluation in October, the School Committee referenced the concern the potential Charter School caused with the parents and town officials about the district’s future, citing the “lack of proactive communication to the staff and community about an outside project.”

Maruszczak thanked the School Committee members for the support on a personal and professional level throughout the process.

“I look forward to the many challenges that we have ahead over the coming months and coming years,” he said.

“It has been a learning experience... but my passion lies with the work I am doing leading this district,” he said.

In a follow-up interview with The Crier, School Committee Chairperson Sean Nicholson said that the School Committee was very pleased to know that Maruszczak would be with them for the foreseeable future, but stated that the school district isn’t just about one person.

“We have a lot of talented people [in the MURSD],” said Nicholson. “The School Committee was always prepared with an interim plan.”

Mixed MCAS Results for Mendon Upton Schools

By Melissa Orff  Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Mendon Upton Regional School District is making “Moderate Progress Towards Targets” according to the 2019 MCAS exam and accountability ranking.

Superintendent Dr. Joseph Maruszczak and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maureen Cohen presented an overview of the results of the MCAS taken in the spring during the November 18 School Committee Meeting.

“Memorial and Nipmuc have been classified as Substantially Progress Towards Targets and Clough and Miscoe have been rates as Moderate Progress Towards Targets,” said Maruszczak.

Last spring’s testing was the second year for the latest generation of MCAS with a new accountability system, moving from school rankings solely on MCAS test scores to ranking schools based on test scores and growth in student performance as well as graduation and dropout rates, progress made by English language learners, chronic absenteeism and the percentage of 11th- and 12th-grade students completing advanced coursework. Instead of schools being ranked from Level 1 to Level 5, they are now listed as Meeting or Exceeding Targets, Substantial Progress towards Targets, Moderate Progress towards Targets, or Limited or No Progress towards Targets.

Districts were previously classified as a whole based on their lowest level school. Now districts are individually classified. Schools and districts are also categorized as either needing assistance or intervention, or not.

Additionally, districts receive other accountability metrics: a value from 1 to 99 that measures student performance as compared to all similar schools across the state, and a percentage value that measures a school’s and the district’s progress toward meeting all of its targets in every subgroup, with a score of 70 percent for school/district is meeting all of its targets.

The accountability indicators include achievement in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, and Academic Student Growth, English Language proficiency and chronic absenteeism, students absent more than 10 school days for any reason. High schools are rated on all that criteria plus the number students taking advanced coursework. Each indicator is weighed at a different percentage with achievement weighted most heavily (67.5 percent for Pre-K through 8 and 47.5 percent for high school).

Mendon Upton Accountability Categorization

The following tables show the Accountability Categorization for the Mendon Upton Regional School District based on the new Massachusetts School Accountability System for the 2019 Next Generation MCAS exam taken by students last school year. Source: doe.mass.edu/mcas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Accountability Percentile</th>
<th>Progress Towards Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Elem.</td>
<td>Not requiring assistance/intervention</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clough Elem.</td>
<td>Not requiring assistance/intervention</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscoe Hill</td>
<td>Not requiring assistance/intervention</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nipmuc Regional</td>
<td>Not requiring assistance/intervention</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ELA Achievement Results, Grades 3-8 Spring 2019

Math Achievement Results, Grades 3-8 Spring 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Meet/Exceed Exp. %</th>
<th>State Average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Science Achievement Results, Grades 5 and 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Meet/Exceed Exp. %</th>
<th>State Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Science Achievement Results Grade 10

20

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

NOVEMBER 29, 2019
By Chris Villani

Banner Year Puts BVT Boys Soccer ‘On The Map’

The Blackstone Valley Tech boys soccer season came to an end one game short of the state championship game, but the Beavers’ victory in the Central Mass. title game represents a watershed moment for the program. “It’s unbelievable, it really means a lot,” head coach Khalid Al-Haza said. “Nobody saw this coming at the start of the season.”

Halfway through the year we started having that hope, but we weren’t sure whether we would be able to win the title. But the Beavers did win it all in the district, knocking off Nipmuc on penalty kicks to move into the state’s final four. “Winning the championship puts us on the map and let’s everyone know BVT soccer is right there with the best in the area and ready to compete year in and year out,” Al-Haza said.

In past seasons, the Beavers have struggled to advance past the first round in the district tournament. This year, buoyed by strong goaltending and a stellar defense, BVT moved through the district bracket despite struggling at times to score. Keeping up within the Valley Tech athletic community can be as difficult as trying to navigate the tournament field. The boys’ soccer program has also not been able to stand out in a school that has seen girls’ soccer, football and girls’ volleyball emerge as perennial powerhouses. “Hopefully this will lead to more kids to come to BVT and know that we are not just a football school,” Al-Haza said.

The Beavers will need an infusion of new talent next year with nine seniors set to graduate from this season’s squad. However, Al-Haza lost 10 players from 2018 to this fall, and the group that returned delivered 16 wins and the district championship. Goalie Zach Brabham is set to graduate next spring. Dominic Allegrezza and Mike Boone, two players who anchored the lights out BVT defense, will also be moving on. But Valley Tech has some young strikers who could be ready to step up to the varsity level next fall and some defenders who will see significantly more playing time next year. “They need to recognize it’s going to be their turn,” Al-Haza said.

The coach also hopes his players will look at this season as the bar for future teams, with each striving to live up to the level of success achieved by the 2019 squad. “We hope this sets the level of expectation,” Al-Haza said. “And a culture that we can build on for years to come!”

Thanksgiving Football Has More Meaning This Year

By Chris Villani

Archibald figures this is the first season since 2016 in which both his team and cross-town rival Nipmuc will be fully invested in the Thanksgiving Day rivalry. Over the past few seasons, the Turkey Day showdown has been diminished, and was scrapped all together in 2018, as the two programs have been in the mix for state championships. A year ago, the combination of cold weather and both the Beavers and Warriors being Super Bowl bound led to the cancellation. The coaches said this rivalry is particularly special because the careers that will come to an end started by most of the seniors on both teams will take the field. “This is a rivalry game and in rivalry games, anything can happen,” Archibald said. “We have a ton of respect for them.”

Tupper echoed the respect for the Beavers after yet another strong season. “They are just a great team and extremely well coached,” he said. “We went to camp with them so we knew they had talent. They have a good scheme offensively and defensively.”

Tupper said he was most impressed with the way the BVT defensive players “fly to the ball.” “I am not sure I have seen a team that pursues like that,” he said.

Thanksgiving Day’s holiday game marks the final time most of the seniors on both teams will take the field. The coaches said this rivalry is particularly special because the careers that will come to an end started by playing with and against each other in the towns youth leagues. And, without a title game to follow, the stakes are high this year. “It’s a great opportunity,” Tupper said. “Win Thursday and we can forget about everything else, the overtime loss, the one-point losses, the injuries. If we went in Thursday and won, it would make the whole season—

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Seniors Cap Impressive Run for BVT Football

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Blackstone Valley Tech's football team finished a strong four-year run with an appearance in the Central Mass. final this season, an impressive follow up to a pair of Super Bowl berths and a state championship.

The strength of this year’s run may have caught many in the area by surprise, given the fact that the Beavers lost 17 starters from a team that won it all a year ago.

“It was a tremendous season by our guys,” said head coach Jim Archibald. “If you told me we would have a chance to be within seven points in the Central Mass. title game back in August, I would have told you you were nuts.”

BVT was led by a quartet of captains, including J.D. Antaya, Ethan Lynch, Jack Nasuti and Jared Losilele.

“It's the icing on the cake for those guys,” Archibald said. “They played for a state title, they won a state title, and they led a group of inexperienced guys back to the title game.”

Ultimately, Valley Tech came up short in the final playoff game, falling 28-19 to a Leicester squad it had beaten in each of the previous two Central Mass. title games. Antaya rushed for 140 yards and Losilele caught a first half touchdown pass to boost BVT. Nasuti helped anchor a strong defensive line performance.

“Leicester was better than us on that day,” Archibald said. “Our kids are a resilient bunch, they worked hard and deserved to be in that game. Unfortunately, we came up a little short.”

Archibald compared this season to Valley Tech’s surprise run to Gillette Stadium two seasons ago. Whereas last year the Beavers came into every game expecting to win, this campaign involved a lot of players who had to learn on the job and were able to keep the winning tradition going.

“It was so satisfying to watch these kids grow into their roles,” Archibald said. “These are kids who were on the JV team last year and this year they grew into starters and important players.”

The loss to Leicester dropped BVT to 8-2, with both defeats coming against the same team, heading into the annual Thanksgiving Day tilt against Nipmuc.

“It was a great all around effort,” Archibald said. “We got the most out of those guys and, as a coaching staff, that’s all you can ask for.”

Nipmuc’s DeZutter Finishes Top-20 In State XC Meet

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc senior Dan DeZutter capped off an impressive cross country career with a 16th place finish at the all-state championships, improving his performance from last year's statewide meet by more than two dozen spots.

“It was a pretty good day,” DeZutter said. “I felt good about the result. I started off a little slow, it was a cold day out, but once I was about 800 meters in I caught back up to some of the top runners and just ran my own race from there.”

DeZutter said he finished about 20 seconds off of his goal for the Gardner course, but landed about where he hoped to in the field of some 200 runners. After finishing in the 40s last year running in a snowy all-state meet in Westfield, he felt he was more prepared this time around.

“I knew what I was going to get,” DeZutter said. “It’s not your typical dual meet where you have one other kid who is right up there with you. I knew there were going to be kids out in front and ones I had to stick with.”

DeZutter’s has shown marked improvement over the past several years in his rise to becoming one of the top runners in Massachusetts. He covered the Gardner course in about 22 minutes as a freshman and a full five minutes faster now as a senior.

“He has come a long way since his freshman year,” head coach Dick Auger said. “It's been a joy to watch him improve. I couldn’t get him to run any faster than what he has been running. He is dedicated, he had worked hard and I think he reached the potential he could possibly reach.”

DeZutter’s high school career is far from over. The two-time cross country captain will compete in the Footlocker Regional cross country meet in New York City this weekend and then will turn his attention to the winter and spring track and field seasons.

He said he plans to continue his running career in college, but is undecided as to where he will attend. Auger said DeZutter has the physical and mental drive to be successful no matter where he ends up.

“He is a great kid to work with, he’s very coachable,” Auger said. “I can’t say enough about him. It’s been a pleasure to coach him as a Nipmuc athlete, now I have to look forward to seeing him in indoor track and hopefully he continues to move forward.”

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier NOVEMBER 29, 2019
NOVEMBER 29, 2019
Upton-Mendon Crier

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc freshman Emma Nadolski made the most of her first trip to the all-state cross country meet, shaving 17 seconds off of her time on the tough Gardner course and finishing 21st in the field of 200 runners from around the state.

“I was a really fun meet,” Nadolski said. “It’s a challenging course and there were a lot of hills, but I was very happy with my performance.”

The young running phenom just missed out on the Footlocker Regional as last year. Nadolski said she enjoyed the fall cross track season. Nadolski said

“Going to an all-state meet as an individual is huge, whether you’re a freshman or a senior,” Townsend added. “It’s pretty great to say you’re better than a thousand girls in the state.”

The freshman has one more fall race ahead of her, the Footlocker Regional Freshman/Sophomore meet in New York City next weekend. After that, she will have a couple of weeks off ahead of the winter track season. Nadolski said she enjoyed the fall cross country season, which featured twice as many female athletes on the Nipmuc roster as last year.

“The PK deflated my guys,” he said. “As much as we tried to regroup at the half and understand that it was still a tie game, I could tell it was tough for them to rebound.

Nipmuc head coach Justin Townsend.

“Going to an all-state meet as an individual is huge, whether you’re a freshman or a senior,” Townsend added. “It’s pretty great to say you’re better than a thousand girls in the state.”

The freshman has one more fall race ahead of her, the Footlocker Regional Freshman/Sophomore meet in New York City next weekend. After that, she will have a couple of weeks off ahead of the winter track season. Nadolski said she enjoyed the fall cross country season, which featured twice as many female athletes on the Nipmuc roster as last year.

“Not only did I have a good season, but we had a good team this year,” she said. “All year long we had really good team bonding and team chemistry.”

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