Lighting a Tree to Celebrate Hope and Life

The annual Tree of Life ceremony at Milford Regional Medical Center, celebrating life and paying tribute to those who have survived cancer, battled the disease or have been touched by cancer was held on December 9. The ceremony was held entirely indoors due to the weather.

This year, the annual event raised more than $12,500 for the Oliva Fund for Cancer Care at Milford Regional. The fund is named in honor of the Oliva Family of Milford and provides oncology patients with support during their treatment at the Dana-Farber/B Brigham and Women's Cancer Center at Milford Regional. The tree in the hospital cafeteria was lit in memory of Anthony “Babe” Oliva, who passed away earlier this year. He and his family started the Oliva fund, which helps those with the disease with services beyond medical care.

Acknowledging the help given by the fund and the support given by the family which founded it, Edward J. Kelly, president and CEO of the Milford Regional said, Oliva was “an ultimate gentleman… kind, giving, hardworking with a terrific sense of humor.” The ceremony also included a performance by the Very Merry Dickens Carolers, as well as remarks by Mona Kaddis, MD, who noted those memorialized by the evening, “had touched each and every one of us” and Peter F. Orizio, III, DO.

Gold and silver tribute angels were displayed as a reminder of loved ones affected by cancer. Each light on the tree symbolizes a loved one affected by the tree, and both the indoor tree and the one on the lawn remain lit during the holiday season to serve as a reminder of hope in the fight against cancer.

To make an online donation to the Oliva Fund please visit Foundation.MilfordRegional.org/waystogive or contact the Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation Office at 508-422-2228.

Holiday Shopping and Fun at Mendon and Upton Fairs

Nine-month-old Grant Anctil enjoys a visit with Santa Claus during the December 7 Hollyberry Fair in Mendon, co-hosted by Mendon Lion’s Club and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Diane Harper photo

Taylorana Rowland (left) works for “Spheres to you - rare earth trading company” in Whitinsville; and Rachel Maloney (right) owner of “Moonglow jewelry and painting” is a freeform artist creating painting, tabletops, and jewelry with her poured paint and mixed media. Both were part of the Holiday Bazaar at United Parish of Upton. Marilyn Holman photo

The Tree of Life Christmas Tree was lit in the hospital cafeteria due to the inclement weather on December 9. Each light on the tree pays tribute to those who have survived cancer and remembers those who have passed away.
UniBank Adds to Commercial Banking Team

UniBank’s Leadership Team, Michael W. Welch, CEO, Christopher D. Foley, President, and Justine M. DeNorscia, Executive Vice President recently announced that the bank’s commercial lending team is being expanded with the addition of two commercial lenders: Tom McGregor and Todd Mandella.

McGregor joins UniBank as Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Lending Officer. He brings with him 25 years of experience in the commercial lending and financial industries, most recently at United Bank. In his role at UniBank he will lead the bank’s Commercial Banking team in commercial market growth and relationship management. As a member of UniBank’s senior leadership team, he will assist and help lead elements of the bank’s strategic growth initiatives. McGregor holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston College’s Wallace E. Carroll School of Management in Finance. He is committed to serving the community as a Board Member and Philanthropy Chair for the Red Cross of Central Massachusetts, Board Member/Treasurer for the Worcester Art Museum, Board Member for the Worcester Regional Research Bureau, and Board Member/Treasurer of Mechanics Hall. McGregor lives in Shrewsbury.

Mandella joins UniBank as Senior Vice President and Senior Commercial Loan Officer. He is a seasoned banker with over 18 years of experience and also most recently at United Bank. In his role at UniBank he will be responsible for commercial market growth and relationship management. Mandella holds both a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts degree in Economics from Trinity College in Connecticut. He was named to the Worcester Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 list for the Class of 2012. Active in the community, Mandella is a Board Member and Finance Committee member for the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester and You, Inc. He lives in Worcester.

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

~Your friends at UniBank

UniBank's Holiday Hours allow our employees to celebrate with their families:

Christmas Eve: Closing at 1pm
Christmas Day: Closed

New Year’s Day: Open Regular Hours

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After Loss, Chris Lanoue Helps Those Affected by Cancer

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

When people see ADC Septic’s big blue truck traveling the roads, it’s easy to assume it’s heading toward a job. Yet, what they may not realize is that each time the cobalt blue truck pulls up to a customer’s home, it’s also helping someone affected by cancer; something owner Chris Lanoue understands all too well.

In 2010, Chris’ wife, Laura, was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. He was working as the Director of Engineering for the Department of Corrections and decided in the interest of his family to retire after 20 years, eventually starting his own business, ADC Septic, a full-service septic and excavation company out of Blackstone.

As time went by, Laura would need a wheelchair to help her get into the Lanoue’s home, so someone was hired to construct a ramp. Throughout Laura’s cancer battle, the couple would hear of patients who also had various needs but didn’t always have the resources to afford them. “I realized how lucky we were but others didn’t always have that luxury,” Chris explained.

In 2014, sadly Laura passed away at the age of 42. “I thought, what can I do to honor her,” said Chris. And thus, the ADC Initiative came to fruition.

Through various fundraising efforts, the ADC Initiative is making a difference in the lives of individuals battling cancer and their families. Whether it’s building a wheelchair ramp for someone, home repairs, or assisting with mortgage payments, Chris says if he can help, he will. “It’s what pulls at my heartstrings the most,” he said.

He raises funding for the Initiative in various ways, including donating a portion of the monies he makes from his own business. “Every time our blue truck goes on a job, a percentage of that job goes directly to the ADC Initiative,” Chris explained. The truck was intentionally painted blue, the color associated with colon cancer and has Laura’s name on the front.

In September, a softball tournament was held that raised $9,000 and a scratch ticket raffle also helped raise funding. Online donations can be made at adcinitiative.com

Each time ADC Septic’s big blue truck pulls up to a job, owner Chris Lanoue puts a percentage of the bill toward the ADC Initiative which helps those affected by cancer.

Laura Lanoue

5 Ways to check on Mom’s well-being this holiday season.

- **GIVE A HUG**
  Do you notice weight changes, increased frailty?

- **OBSERVE HER SOCIAL LIFE**
  Are these signs of active friendships, or isolation?

- **OPEN THE MEDICINE CABINET**
  Is your loved one taking medications as prescribed?

- **CHECK THE MAIL**
  Look for coupons mail or unpaid bills.

- **INSPECT THE KITCHEN**
  Look for expired food, broken appliances.

Use this checklist to look for warning signs during your holiday visits. If your loved one isn’t doing well at home alone, Cornerstone at Milford may be the perfect solution. We offer an innovative enriching approach to care that’s well-versed in senior living and Alzheimer’s care.

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Milford Federal Sponsors Claflin Hill Holiday Pops Concert

Milford Federal Bank is proud to provide a $5,000 sponsorship toward The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra’s Holiday Pops Concert at The Grand Ballroom of Milford Town Hall, on December 7. The Holiday Pops continues to be Claflin Hill’s most popular concert, and has become a holiday tradition for many families in the community. Pictured are (from left) Paul Gilbody - President/CEO of Milford Federal Bank and Paul Surapine, Executive & Artistic Director of The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra. Milford Federal Bank photo.

MyFM 101.3 Station of the Year

The Massachusetts Broadcasters Association presented their most prestigious award for excellence in broadcasting to MyFM 101.3 for a record 9th time. “The Station of the Year Award is the one award that every station strives to win. It’s the most cherished station award the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association presents,” explained Jordan Walton, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association. “My FM 101.3 truly epitomizes what local radio, and service to the community is all about, and we’re proud to salute them with this honor for a record 9th time.”

The Station of the Year award is presented annually by the Massachusetts Broadcasters Association to the most outstanding radio station in the Commonwealth, and is open to all of the more than 180 radio stations. It is given to the top station in Massachusetts that exemplifies overall excellence in all phases of operation. The judges, members of the Iowa Broadcasters Association, cited MyFM 101.3 had experienced extraordinary growth of audience, client base, but most importantly, MyFM was providing exceptional service to their listeners, community officials, and local organizations.

“I was absolutely stunned. This is the equivalent of winning the Super Bowl or the World Series, so I was in complete shock when they announced we had won the Station of the Year Award for a record 9th time. I can’t say enough about my staff, our listeners, fans and followers, and all the local partners we’ve developed over the years,” said Tom McAuliffe, owner of MyFM Media, as he accepted the 2019 Massachusetts Broadcasters Association’s Station of the Year Award. “And to think we also won awards for Outstanding Public Service Campaign for our work with Ben Speaks, and our Summer School promotion with Dean College was also recognized.”

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Finding Joy in His Artwork

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

It’s easy to see that Richard Erickson finds joy in being creative. With a smile on his face and his 3D printing pen in hand, Erickson can be found spending time at the Salmon Adult Day Health program at a table quietly creating his latest works of art.

Erickson said growing up and into his adulthood being creative has always helped him through a learning disability he’s had to contend with. “Being creative and making art has always been a way for me to pacify my time,” he said. “Otherwise, I’d be bored.”

For the last several months, he’s been making model sculptures, both large and small, made of multi-colored pieces of plastic that he melts with his 3D printing pen. First, he draws a picture of what he wants to create and then utilizing his 3D pen he traces it while plastic flows through the pen, melting and hardening the plastic into what eventually becomes a solid three-dimensional shape of his choosing.

Most recently, Erickson has created a large castle, a Christmas village, and a Halloween themed model. “The Halloween one is my favorite. It has a haunted house, a witch flying by the moon and a cemetery. I took me two weeks to make that one and it’s still up in my house,” he said.

He said figuring out how his creations will come to fruition makes it both challenging and fun and keeps him busy. “It’s like putting pieces of a puzzle together and then finally seeing the full picture.” It seems Erickson’s art not only brings him happiness but others too. Not long ago he donated one of his creations, a toy-themed model, to an ill young boy in Ohio who he heard about. “I was more than happy to do it.” he said.

Erickson added he’s not only a creative person but a curious person as well and that the two go hand in hand. “I’m curious about art and how to make things, I’m curious about solar panels and how they work and I’m even curious about Elon Musk and his cars. It’s all about learning and I still like learning about things.”

Erickson says he enjoys spending time at the Salmon Adult Day program in Northbridge. “I like it here. I have a lot of fun with the staff. I enjoy being around the people here.”

Wishing you every happiness this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year!

Please note our special holiday hours
Christmas Eve • Tuesday, December 24th • Open 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Christmas Day • Wednesday, December 25th • Closed
New Year’s Eve • Tuesday, December 31st • Open 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
New Year’s Day • Wednesday, January 1st • Closed

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Homefield Credit
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Go the Extra Mile

Homefield Credit Union recently held its quarterly All Employee Meeting. Three employees were recognized for Going the Extra Mile (GEM), part of Homefield Credit Union’s Employee Recognition Program, which honors those who go beyond their job responsibilities in serving members. In recognition of their GEM status, shown l-r, Maureen Wojnar, VP Operations; Deb Reilly, A VP Consumer Credit; and Andrew Domings, Sr. Universal Banker were awarded paid time off, as well as a gift card of their choosing. Domings was also awarded “preferred parking” for the next three months. Also shown in the photo is Karl Maisan, CEO and President. Homefield Credit photo

December 13, 2019

Upton, Mendon, and Milford Town Crier
Obituary

ANGELA S. ADCOCK, 63, of Upton, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at the Milford Regional Medical Center after a 14-year battle with metastatic breast cancer which she fought with courage and determination. Angela was the wife to Anthony C. Adcock who was with her when she passed.

Born in Windlesham, England, on November 9, 1956, she was the daughter of the late Donald Peter and Ethel (Cordwell) Forsyth. She was raised and educated in Fleet, Hampshire, England.

Angela started at Abel & Inman patent lawyers in London as a secretary while obtaining an associate degree from Queen's Secretarial College. She then worked at County Commercial tractors in Fleet. Angela also trained briefly as a nurse, and then worked as director's personal assistant for Thomson Yellow Pages before becoming a marketing analyst.

In 1983, Angela married Tony Adcock and then moved to Holland with him, where they lived until 1984. Angela and Tony then moved to United States in 1987 where she volunteered at Framingham Union Hospital writing for a work visa after which Angela had several positions with a temp agency before the birth of Charlotte in 1991 when she became a full-time mother. A second daughter, Catherine, was born in 1995. Angela moved back to Holland in 1997 on a temporary assignment with her family, where she improved her Dutch and became proficient at cycling with two small children. On return to the US and as the children grew older Angela became a self-employed copy-editor and also found time to volunteer as an English language tutor through the Milford Town Library and as an Emergency Room guide for the Milford Regional Hospitals.

Angela was an avid netball player and skier when younger but as time progressed and medical issues increased, she took up knitting, cross-stitch, reading and Suduko.

She is survived by loving husband of 36 years Tony; her children, Charlotte of Tulsa, Okla and Catherine of Dubai, Japan; her brothers, Christopher and his wife Fiona, of Chesterfield, England, Nicholas and his wife Gill, of Alton, England, Jeremy and his wife Lynne, of Southampton, England; and her cousins, Tony Beedel of Rochester, England, and Carol Caruana of Malta.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be sent to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 10 Brookline Place, W 6th floor, Brookline, MA 02445 or by visiting www.Dana-Farber.org or www.dana.org.

MOURNINGS

By Kevin Budden

Give a little

I spent several weeks in the hospital a few months ago, and came to both learn and marvel that the human body consists of hundreds of interdependent functions that must be kept in the right balance. One little thing that amiss – such as the level of something in your bloodstream that could cause whole organs to malfunction. A stressed heart can cause other organs to become stressed, as well. Too much of this or too little of that can wreak havoc from head to toe.

So, while we’re coming off our national day of “thanksgiving,” I realize I have a lot to be thankful for. For one thing, I’m not dead. I came really close this time, but I’m still here.

Now, I did not see any bright lights or any friends or relatives who have left us. But, I do remember hearing someone say, “He’s back,” as I opened my eyes. I honestly don’t remember going anywhere.

However, as we turn from Thanksgiving to whatever politically correct term you want to use for the end-of-December holidays, I am looking at the season where “It is better to give than receive” in a whole new light.

For one thing, I am more reflective this season than in past years. I’m pausing to take the time and enjoy nature, books, my family and my friends more than in past years. I am hurrying less and staying more. I am also taking on new endeavors and trying new things.

Life is short. We’re all dying; most of us just don’t know when.

Enjoy life, but don’t abuse it.

And, give a little. It is that season. If you have a little extra, think of giving it to someone who has a little less. Think of it as a “hand up”, not a “handout.”

And, most of all, have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, joyous Festivus, enlightened Winter Solstice or whatever you celebrate.

Read this Town Crier Online


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. 508-873-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesday and Friday, free to all 5,800 addresses in Milford, MA.

Mendon Town Crier

Published the 3rd and 4th Friday and mailed free to all 5,800 addresses in Upton and Mendon.

PUBLISHER
Alfred C. Holman
Office: 508-529-7791 ext. 222
Cell: 508-889-1067
alm2001@charter.net

MANAGER
Marcia C. Hansen
508-529-7791 ext. 227
Manager@TownCrier.com

EDITOR
Andy Holman
508-529-7791 ext. 119
TownCrierEditor@gmail.com

ADVERTISING
LORI TATE
508-529-7791 ext. 229
Ltate@TownCrier.com

COLETTTE ROONEY
508-522-9274
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February 21, 2020  Deadline February 8
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April 4, 2020  Deadline March 26
May 2, 2020  Deadline April 12
May 29, 2020  Deadline May 19
June 26, 2020  Deadline June 14
July 10, 2020  Deadline July 2
July 24, 2020  Deadline July 12
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Web Manager: Andy Holman

MAYOR'S OFFICE
November 19, 2019  Deadline November 1
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July 24, 2020  Deadline July 23
August 7, 2020  Deadline August 6
August 21, 2020  Deadline August 19
August 28, 2020  Deadline August 27

Every year I have the honor of being invited to speak at a local elementary school about my job as a reporter. It is honestly one of the highlights of my year.

I spend a few minutes talking about the news and how important it is to bring readers factual information about what is happening in their community. Although the 9- and 10-year-olds always attentively listen, I know what they most are excited about is the Q&A time.

I invariably get questions that make me chuckle every time – Have you ever interviewed anyone famous? (Define famous... does it a L. Governor count?) Have you ever been to a crime scene? (Not an active one) Do you ever make a mistake when writing? (Yes, everyone makes mistakes, but I try very hard not to!) How much do you make? (That's usually when the teachers wrap up the Q&A.)

But the question that always makes me reflect is this one: What is your favorite thing you have ever written about? Even though I know it's coming, I have to think back through nine years and hundreds of articles before I always answer the same thing.

"I love the articles that I write about people helping other people," I tell them.

One of the best parts of my job is the people I have met. Whether it be politician or advocate, they are all trying to make a difference for others through their service. But as a writer for community newspapers, I get to write features on individuals who are helping their friends, neighbors, or the world at large in a specific way.

So I answer my fourth-grade friends' question with stories of a young girl in Milford who organizes a lemonade stand every year in honor of her sister who passed away, giving the money to different charities that help children with special needs; of the Upton man who rode his bike over 100 miles to raise money to help families pay for respite care for their loved ones; of the Mendon teen, who used her voice to advocate for stricter gun regulations in order to help keep our schools safe.

I have countless stories of people raising funds for those in need, giving comfort to those in pain, and raising awareness about a cause near and dear to their hearts. They are all very special to me as with each one I became more in awe of people's capacity for giving.

As the year 2020 approaches, I look forward to being able to write more stories about people helping others. These stories help remind me that the most important news of all is that there is a lot of good in this world, especially in our own community. I hope that these will become the new stories I will tell when I am next asked the question "what's your favorite thing you have ever written about?"
Charles River Bank Sponsors Medway Christmas Parade

Charles River Bank's President and CEO Jack Hamilton (center) presents a donation check of $1,000 to the Medway Christmas Parade Committee, represented by (L-R) Town of Medway Treasurer/Collector Joanne Bousin, Vice President of EPCO Inc. Richard Parnelli; Town of Medway Assistant Town Clerk Chrystee Tingley and Tim Rice, professional photographer and owner of Tim Rice Photo. This parade is Saturday, November 30 at 5:30 p.m. The route goes from Medway Middle School to Choate Park for snacks, Santa Class and fireworks. Charles River Bank photo

Charles River Bank Donates to Franklin Food Pantry

Charles River Bank Senior Vice President of Customer Care & Relationship Development Ann Sherry (L) and Vice President of Commercial Lending Sean Coyle (C) present a $500 donation check to Franklin Food Pantry Information & Resource Coordinator Molly Kilburn (C) and Executive Director Lynn Gilling (R). Charles River Bank photo

2019 Winter Wonderland at Southwick's Zoo

Southwick's Zoo in Mendon announces their Winter Wonderland event and community outreach program. Southwick's is eager to give back to local communities by offering Winter Wonderland visitors event a $5 discount on admission for bringing canned goods or other non-perishable food items to donate to local food pantries or new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. One admission will be discounted by $5 per item donated, and each admission may be discounted once.

Winter Wonderland, the zoo's holiday themed event, is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. until December 29. Visitors can journey through the Enchanted Forest on Santa's Christmas train to see dazzling holiday lights. Festivities also include the petting zoo, live entertainment, holiday characters, personalized ornaments and other unique gifts, and so much more. One of the biggest additions to this year's event is the Cirque de Holiday performances featuring acrobats and jugglers.

Brighten your holidays with a new family tradition to Winter Wonderland at Southwick's Zoo. For more details, visit SouthwicksZoo.com/winter-wonderland.

Upton Attorney a Super Lawyer

Paul W. Carey of Upton, a partner in the Creditors' Rights, Bankruptcy and Reorganization Group at Mirick O'Connell, has been selected to the Top 100: 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers List. Carey concentrates his practice on creditors' rights, bankruptcy and business reorganization matters. He has extensive experience with bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings and litigation, representing creditors, debtors, creditors' committees, trustees and receivers. Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business, is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The Super Lawyers lists are published nationwide in Super Lawyers Magazines and in leading city and regional magazines and newspapers across the country. For more information about Super Lawyers, visit SuperLawyers.com.

Snowman Contest

Our Snowman Contest is now going on.

Make a snowman, snap a photo and send it along with the snow person's dimensions (height and circumference), the names anyone in the picture, and your hometown, to TownCrierEditor@gmail.com.
Selectmen Looking for Building Committee Volunteers

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

During a December 3 meeting, the Upton Board of Selectmen approved the town’s first host agreement for a marijuana growing facility. A brief discussion and the approval took place during a December 3 meeting.

In September, representatives from Grow Right LLC came before the Board to discuss their possible growing facility to be located at 162 Milford St. Town Manager Derek Brindisi also confirmed a community meeting did take place in order to answer any questions residents may have on the facility.

Grow Right plans to focus on hydroponic technology to grow the marijuana plants and will sell the flowers to manufacturers, dispensers, and cannabis cafes. Since the establishment is not involved in any retail, minimal parking spaces will be needed that will include a small number of staff at the facility. In addition, steps will be taken to prevent any odor from disturbing neighbors and security measures will be in place which have been reviewed by public safety.

Part of the agreement states Grow Right will provide three percent of its gross sales to Upton, as well as other annual donations including $1,000 to the Police Department and Fire Department, $2,000 in scholarships, and another $1,000 donation to a local charity. In addition, the company will provide equipment to an Upton school interested in learning about hydroponics.

The Selectmen have been vetting through the agreement for some time and stated at their November meeting they found it to be “very thorough,” said Chair Stephen Matellian and approved it unanimously. It will likely be several months before the owners receive final approval and a license for the facility from the Cannabis Control Commission.

Other Approvals

In other Selectmen news, the Board approved an application for a new specialty wine store to be located at 62 Main St. The applicant, Richard Schnitzlein, stated he has 20 years of experience in wine tasting and that his new establishment will sell “higher quality wines,” and possibly some craft beer. He’s also interested in holding classes on wine as well as wine tastings. Schnitzlein added he’s hoping to collaborate with local restaurants in some way as well.

And finally, the Selectmen unanimously appointed resident Justin Pollard to the Capital Budget Committee. The Selectmen’s next meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 7 p.m.
Local Dancers in Fitchburg Nutcracker

Lillian and Daphne Sweeney of Upton will be in the Paula Meola Dance and Sterling Youth Ballet production of The Nutcracker. The four performances will be staged at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical in Fitchburg.

Blaire House
ADULT DAY HEALTH PROGRAM

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

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

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

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Once the ribbons are untied and the gifts are unwrapped, where should all trash that is left behind during the holidays go? This time of year, the amount of waste generated her household can go up 25 percent nationally between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day according to local trash haulers. A lot of that waste comes from wrapping paper and boxes that come with gifts.

Following is a refresher about what can be recycled and what needs to be thrown away in the trash according to the waste hauler E.L. Harvey: cardboard bubble wrap, packing peanuts and shredded paper.

Wrapping paper and boxes that come with gifts. Packing materials, including Styrofoam, Ribbons and bows are unwrapped, where should all trash that is left for recycling must be flattened and cut into no larger than 2’ x 2’ pieces. Recycling:

- Flattened 2x2 cardboard boxes Wrapping paper (ONLY if it says recyclable on the inside of the paper; if it is shiny or has sparkles or sequins, it is trash) Gift bags (ONLY if it says recyclable on the inside of the paper; if it is shiny or has sparkles or sequins, it is trash) Recycling rules are very important this time of year, said local officials from the Boards of Health in Milford, Mendon, and Upton, due to the risk of contaminating a recycling stream with unrecyclable items. Following the rules about recycling is also important to help the trash hauler be able to pick up trash and recycling in a timely manner. “Cardboard boxes must be flattened to get picked up,” said Milford’s Director of Public Health Jacquelyn Murphy. “They won’t be able to be picked up if they are flattened but in a bag or still in their box shape and used as a bucket full of trash.” Murphy said that boxes and cardboard left for recycling must be flattened and cut into no larger than 2’ x 2’ pieces.

The same rules apply for the towns of Mendon and Upton, who have E.L. Harvey for their waste services company as well. “We ask that people please try and keep the recycling pile neat and keep trash out of the recycling, so it doesn’t get contaminated,” said Diane Tierman from Upton’s Board of Health. With Christmas and New Year’s falling on Wednesdays this year, trash pick-up for the week of December 23 and December 30 will be delayed one day if the regular trash day is Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

As far as Christmas Trees go, the local Boy Scouts will be holding curbside tree pick up drives. In Milford, the Cub and Boy Scouts will be holding a Christmas Tree Pick Up on January 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Leave the tree on the curb with an $8 donation to the Boy Scouts. Orders for curbside tree pick up in Upton can be found on the Boy Scout fundraising website and trees will be picked up on January 4. In Mendon pickup is December 28 and January 4. Leave the tree at the end of the driveway with the $5 fee attached.

**Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Party**

Celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Blackstone River National Historical Park at a Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 19 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the BHC Office, Linwood Mill, 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. There will be a speaking program and awards at 6 p.m. and holiday cheer for all. The 2020 Blackstone Heritage Corridor calendar will be for sale for $10 each. This is the last date to place a silent auction bid for one or more of the winning images from that calendar printed on 16 x 20-inch canvases.

**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 4 to 7 p.m. After the Creche display, warm up with hot drinks and goodies. This a free event, with all welcome. Donations are welcomed for Habitat for Humanity. For more information, visit ComCovHop.org or call 508-435-3725.

**Commemorative Christmas Cookie Calendar**

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**McManis**

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**Mad Elf**

Special Winter Beer from Troegs

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**Gabbiano Chianti**

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**Sparkling Wine**

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**Sparkling Wine**

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DECEMBER 13, 2019

Upton, Mendon, and Milford Town Crier
The Nutcracker by the Greater Milford Ballet

This holiday season, the 39th annual The Nutcracker will be presented by the Greater Milford Ballet Company on December 21st 2 p.m. and December 22 at 1 p.m. Bellingham High School.

This state-of-the-art ballet production includes dancers from Milford, Mendon, Upton, Blackstone, Bellingham, Hopkdale, Medway, Northbridge, Uxbridge, and Wentham, plus Cumberland, North Smithfield, and Pascoag, R.I.

Although the production is traditional, every year something new is introduced such as costumes set feature or a character to add to the element of surprise. The production is complete with falling snow, special effects, lively duels between Nutcracker Prince and the Mouse King, dolls that magically grow to adult size, magical dancing bear, and guest appearances by Eugenia Zinovieva as the Sugar Plum and Alan Alberto as the Cavalier from Festival Ballet Providence.

Dancers in the production from the area are:
From Milford High School is senior, Emily Naff as Clara’s Dancing cousin, Snow Queen, Marzipan Lead and Flowers Group Corps a Junior at Milford High.
Nipmuc Regional High School students are junior, Grace Stewart as a Dancing Maid, Harlequin, Angel Princess and Snow and Flowers Group Corps; sophomore, Julia Breton as Housekeeper, Housewife, Joseph Denaro as Drosselmeyers Assistant and Soldier General; and freshman, Katherine Stewart as a Dancing Maid, Soldier Doll, Spanish Chocolate and Group Corps.
An eighth grader at Hopkdale High School, Sara Auger is a Party Child, Chinese and Marzipan Group Corps.
Stacy Middle School sixth graders, Lexie Annantounio is a Party Child, Soldier and Chinese and Marzipan Group Corps.
Woodland Elementary School students are fifth graders; Catherine Delaney as a Party Child, Soldier and Reindeer; and Abigail Murphy as a Party Child, Soldier, Chinese and Group Corps, plus fourth grader, Kailyn Croeber a Mouse, Soldier, and Polichinelle, and third graders, Claire Viera and Izy Murphy as a Polichinelle; and Mia Santomenna as a Mouse and Tricky Clown.

Clough Elementary students are fourth graders, Elizabeth Hodge as a Soldier, Mouse and Reindeer and a Polichinelle, and Evren Hodge as Fritz and a Soldier, plus kindergartner Juliet Hodge as the Child with Bear and Small Angel.

Upton Memorial Elementary School second grader Annabelle Pinto as a Small Angel and Polichinelle.

Students from Memorial Elementary School in Milford are second graders Abigail Taddio as a Soldier, a Reindeer, a Polichinelle; and Ellie Wallace as a Mouse and a Small Angel; plus, first graders, Emma Santomenna and Avery Taddio as Small Angels.

Milford students, Ryan Croeber, a kindergartner from Brookside Elementary is a Mouse and Bright Beginnings Pre-K student, Reagan Pasiakos is a Small Angel.

Tickets, which are $25, $20 and $15, are available, at Charles River Bank, 16 Hastings St., Mendon, and South Maple St., Bellingham or by calling the Deane Dance studio at 508-473-3354. Tickets will be sold at the auditorium if still available.

For more information or tickets, send email to deanestudios@yahoo.com or call 508-473-3354.

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Holiday Shopping Guide

The mysterious Drosselmeyer tries to make sure the mice don’t steal the presents from under the Christmas tree in the 2018 Greater Milford Ballet production of The Nutcracker. This year the ballet will be performed on December 21 and 22. GMB photo
For more information, including tickets and reservations, visit JewishMA.com

Dreidels (tops) and Hanukkah Gelt (chocolate coins) will be handed out to all attendees.

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- Bows
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First Congregational Church of Milford

4 Congress St., 508-473-5259
Pastor Jane Wilson
MilfordCongregational.org
Christmas Eve

Service for families and those young at heart.

Traditional candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, 11 p.m.

No services Christmas morning

First United Methodist Church

39 Exchange St., 508-473-4522
Pastor Daniel Stone
Sunday, December 22
Children’s Christmas Pageant & Special Music

Worship of Carols and Candles, 5 p.m.

The Way Church

41 Pine St., 508-341-2842
Pastor Eric Rodrigues
Sunday, December 22:
Christmas Service, 10:30 a.m.

End of Year Service, 9 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

5 East Main St., 508-634-5455
SacredHeartMilford.com
Christmas Eve:
4 p.m. & 12 Midnight
Christmas Day:
8 & 10 a.m.

Regular Saturday Masses, 4 p.m.
Sunday Masses, 8 and 10 a.m.

Other Masses, Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., 7 a.m.

St. Mary of the Assumption Church

27 Pearl St., 508-473-2000
StMaryMA.com
Christmas Eve:

All Masses take place in the main upper church
Mass, English with Children’s Pageant, 4 p.m.
Mass, English, 5:30 p.m.
Mass, Brazilian Portuguese, 8 p.m.
Solemn Mass at Midnight, English, 12 a.m.

Christmas Day:
All Masses take place in the main upper church
Mass at Dawn, Portuguese, 9 a.m.
Mass, English, 10:30 a.m.
Mass del Divino Niño, Spanish, 12 p.m.
Sunday, December 29:
Feast of the Holy Family
New Year’s Eve:
Mass takes place in the main upper church
Mass, English, Upper Church 4 p.m.

New Year’s Day:
All Masses take place in the main upper church
Mass, Portuguese, 9 a.m.
Mass, English, 10:30 a.m.
Mass, Spanish, 5 p.m.

Procession for Our Lady of the Cloud begins at 4:30 p.m.

Salvation Army

29 Congress Street, 508-473-0786
Captain Justin Barter
Captain Marsha Barter

Trinity Episcopal Church

17 Congress St., 508-473-8646
Father Mac Murray
TrinityChurchMilford.org
Sunday, December 22:
Children’s Pageant Rehearsal at 9:45 a.m. All children are invited

4th Advent, Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Greening of the Church for Christmas, 11 a.m. to Noon
Christmas Eve:

Festival Eucharist with Children’s Pageant and Children’s Choir, 4 p.m.
Festival Eucharist with Trinity Choir, 7 p.m.
Carol Singing, 10:30 p.m.
Festival Eucharist with Trinity Choir, 7 p.m.
Christmas Day:

Holy Eucharist with Carols and Violin, 9 a.m.
Sunday, December 29:
Christmas Lessons and Carols and a Celebration of the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and the Leaves Taking of a Congregation of the Rev. William Macdonald Murray, 9 a.m.

Regular Weekly Worship:
Saturday, 5 a.m., Sundays, 8 & 10 a.m. & Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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14 Upton, Mendon, and Milford Town Crier DECEMBER 13, 2019
**Holiday Shopping Guide**

A Holly Jolly Christmastime in Mendon

It was looking a lot like Christmas in Mendon on December 6 as the town held its 4th Annual Santa Parade and its Annual Tree Lighting. The perfect winter setting of snow covered ground and a crisp evening drew large crowds for the event. The parade started off from the corner of North Ave and Northbridge Rd at 7 p.m., led by a contingent of about a dozen fire trucks, decorated for the holidays, with sirens blaring and lights flashing. They were followed by about an equal number of festive floats and many marchers. The place of honor at the end of the parade was saved for Santa Claus and his wife. Making its way down to Founders Park, the marcher joined townspeople at the site for the traditional tree lighting and a chance for youngsters to give Santa their Christmas list. Zoey Esquillen had the honor of flipping the switch to light the town Christmas Trees by winning the Color Contest sponsored by the Taft Public Library. The evening was topped off by a spectacular display of fireworks. The events were organized by the Mendham Brothers of the Brush with the Mendon Festival Committee and Custom Home Realty sponsoring the fireworks.

To see more photos of the 2019 Mendon Tree Lighting and Parade by Town Crier photographer Jim Calarrese visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive at Founders Park for the Tree Lighting.

The lively and colorful Mendon Police Department float won a prize.

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**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.

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**Christmas Tree Pick Up**

Milford Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will pick up used Christmas Trees on Sunday, January 5. Pick Up starts at 6 a.m. and runs until 1 p.m. Please leave trees Curbside by 6 a.m. with the $8 donation, Milford only. Please call Greg at 508-498-0348 for more information.

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**Ho Ho Ho**

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**Winter Wonderland**

November 29 – December 29

Join us for holiday fun this winter at Southwick’s Zoo! Visitors can ride the train to admire holiday lights, experience a visit with Santa Claus, meet furry friends in the petting zoo, purchase treats from the Gingerbread Bakery, be amazed by Cirque de Holiday performances, and so much more! For more information, visit www.southwickszoo.com.
Real Estate Taxes to Rise in Mendon

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter  

During a November 25 hearing, Mendon's Board of Selectmen and the Board of Assessor's met for a tax classification hearing and to discuss the recommended new tax rate. The levy for fiscal year 2020 totaled $15,840,333, add the town's debt exclusions of $1,065,581 that includes the school, land, library, and public safety buildings and the total levy for the town is $16,905,914. New growth for fiscal year 2020 was reported at $258,707.

For the first time, Mendon's taxable value hit over one billion dollars at $1,008,982,700 for fiscal year 2020 versus last year's taxable value of $967,407,830 for an increased taxable value of $41,574,870.

Residential properties make up approximately 88 percent of the town, with commercial property totaling approximately six percent and the remaining personal and industrial property. As a result, the Assessor's went on to recommended a single tax rate for everyone, which in turn helps bring new businesses in to town as well as keep current business owners happy. The Board of Selectmen approved the single rate. The Assessor's reported the average value for a single-family home in Mendon is $424,000, which reflects an approximate 4.5 percent increase in valuation from last year. The overall town wide annual revaluation resulted in an approximate 4.5 percent increase in valuation on residential properties and an approximate 2 percent increase for commercial properties.

A single tax rate would result in $16.75 per $1,000 for all properties. Therefore, according to information provided by the Assessors office, a $418,000 home will see a new tax bill of $7,001.50 plus $159.80 for the Community Preservation Act surcharge for a total of $7,161.30, an increase of $314.64 from last year.

For a $522,500 home, the new rate would add up to $8,751.88, plus $213.31 for the CPA surcharge for a total of $8,965.19, an increase of $394.31 from last year.

The next step was for the Department of Revenue to approve the new tax rate. Anyone with questions should contact Jean Berthold, Principal Assessor at 508-473-2738 or jberthold@mendonma.gov.

January Activities for Mendon Seniors

The Mendon Senior Center has a number of events scheduled for early January. A Guided Meditation/Hypnosis for Weight Management will be Wednesday, January 8 at 1 p.m. Faith Kennedy will lead this 90-minute program, which will focus on some of the reasons why people crave sweets and other unhealthy foods, and how the cycle can be broken using meditation and hypnosis. Preregister by stopping by the Senior Center or calling 508-478-6175. The fee is $20. Snow date is Wednesday, January 15.

An Elder Law Program will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 11 a.m. with local Elder Law attorney Paula Nedder. She will discuss the importance of a will, health care proxy, power of attorney and more. Sign up at the Senior Center.

Digital Photography, Intermediate Level, a five-week session, begins on Wednesday, January 22 at 11 a.m. This program for photographers who are comfortable with their cameras explores the use of intermediate camera controls such as metering, exposure/exposure compensation, ISO, aperture and shutter priority. An in-depth look at manual focus and its use, fill flash and flash modes, as well as controlling motion, composition, and many other intermediate and advanced techniques. Registration is required, the fee is $50 and a minimum number of participants is needed to run the program.
Giving Tree to Assist Mendon’s Senior Citizens This Christmas

Thanks to the Mendon Lions, together with community volunteers, Senior Center Director Amy Wilson-Kent, and the support of the community, the needs and wishes of Mendon’s deserving senior citizens will be met this holiday season. As the club notes, “To care for those who cared for us is one of the highest honors.”

The first Mendon Giving Tree is in place at the Rockland Trust at 12 Hastings St. (Rt. 16), through the effort of Branch Manager, Sally Belanger. The tree is decorated with wish tags, gathered from those in need. Tags will also be available to claim on the Mendon Giving Tree Facebook page. Generous givers will take tags and return them, taped to the unwrapped gifts, to the bank by December 18. Volunteers will wrap the gifts and deliver them to the Seniors in need the week before Christmas.

Many of the town’s community elders lack the resources to afford even the most basic household supplies. Some wishes are as simple as paper towels and grocery gift cards, while other may include blankets or a chance to go out to eat. Anyone who would like to help to make a Senior’s Christmas bright by donating funds, items, or volunteering should contact Chairperson Colleen Oncay by emailing mendongivingtree@gmail.com, or by calling 508-266-5298. Donations to Mendon Lions may be directed to PO Box 218, Mendon, MA 01756. Please note Mendon Giving Tree on the memo line.

A Tradition of Making the Holidays Merry

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

Monday, December 16
Miscele Hill Chorus Performance, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17
Van Trip to Cracker Barrel Followed by Ledakette Lights, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 21
Nutcracker Ballet in Bellingham, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 31
New Year’s Eve/Live Music, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, January 8
Meditation/Weight, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, January 14
Legal Program, 11 a.m.

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

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.
Rec Records 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 the Month)
Lunch Club, 12 p.m.
Yarn Works, 1 p.m.
Pitch, 7 p.m.

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

The Mendon Council on Aging and the town’s senior citizens thank Dick and Betty Ferrucci, pictured, for their continued generosity in sponsoring the annual Holiday Dinner. This year’s event was held December 3 at the Mendon Senior Center. Nearly 50 seniors were in attendance for a delicious meal catered by Olive’s. Happy Holidays to all from the Mendon Senior Center! Mendon Senior Center photo
Upton, Mendon, and Milford Town Crier

DECEMBER 13, 2019

Calendar

Diabetic Family Fundraiser
MEDWAY—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 ins welcome but prior ticket purchase preferred. To purchase ticket or for information, contact Kristy Lambert at 508-244-8103 or KristyLambert@gmail.com

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop
HOPEDALE—The Sacred Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop offers the following specials in December — half off 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.

Holiday Season Blood Drives
MILFORD—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 who come out to give November 18 to December 18 will also receive a $5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane. Blood may be donated at Milford Regional Medical Center, 14 Prospect St., Milford, on December 12 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and December 18 from 1 to 7:30 p.m. Make an appointment 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.

Project Warm Blankets
MILFORD—Milford Boy Scout Troop 314 member Roy Benson is collecting twin size blankets and sheets along with towels for Veterans Inc. The 90 bed facility in Worcester works to end the chronic homelessness of veterans, both male and female. Donations of blankets, sheets and towels are being collected in boxes at Milford High School and the Milford Town Library until December 20. Monetary donations are also appreciated and may be sent to: Project Warm Blankets, 53 Jionzo Rd., Milford, MA 01757. Checks should be made payable to Milford Boy Scout Troop 314.

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 508-473-3354.

People

Villani-Parker Engagement
Linda and Richard Villani of Milford announce the engagement of their son, Christopher Michael, to Weatherly Ann Parker, the daughter of Virginia and George Parker of Dedham. Chris, a graduate of Milford High, earned bachelor's degrees in Broadcast Journalism and History from Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. He is a journalist for the legal newswire Law360, as well as an on-air talent at ESPN Radio and a sports reporter for The Town Crier. Weatherly, a graduate of Dana Hall School, earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Child Studies from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from American University in Washington, D.C. She is a placement counselor at Carney Sandoe & Associates, a teacher placement firm in Boston. The couple, who live in Watertown, will wed next July on the Cape in Brewster.

Chris Villani and Weatherly Ann Parker

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Our mobile app makes banking fast and easy, giving you time to relax and enjoy the cocoa this holiday season!
Special TM on TIFs Scheduled for January 13

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on December 2 to support proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements for Rentschler Biopharma, Inc. to expand its existing 27 Maple St. facility and Interactions, LLC to relocate from Franklin to a 31 Maple St. building it plans to renovate and relocate its business into. Selectmen also scheduled a January 13 Special Town Meeting for Town Meeting Members to vote on the two agreements.

A TIF agreement is a tool used by communities as an economic incentive to get businesses to locate or expand in a particular city or town by reducing the amount of property taxes over a given period. For example, Milford granted Consigli Construction Co., Inc. a TIF agreement in 2015 that led to the company building a new, $5.5-million, 20,000 sq. ft. building at 74 Summer St., with the company promising to house 50 additional employees there. Selectmen Chair William Buckley – who led a “working group” of town officials that negotiated with both Rentschler Biopharma and Interactions during the past several weeks – termed those negotiations as both “cordial” and “professional,” with both sides negotiating in “good faith.” “We want to build a campus,” explained Karen Savage, vice president at Rentschler Biopharma who oversees the company’s Milford facility. The TIF, she added, would “assist us in offsetting some of the considerable cost of this project.” Interactions’ chief financial officer, Bruce Bowden, told the board last month that Milford’s tax rate on businesses is twice the rate Interactions currently pays in sales in Franklin and termed the TIF request “a means to offset an incredible cost.”

In voting to support the two proposed TIF agreements, Selectman William Kingkade noted that “the ones we have given have worked.” Selectman Michael Walsh termed the TIF request “a means to offset an incredible cost.”

Selectmen to petition the state legislature for special legislation to grant an additional All-Alcoholic Beverages liquor license to Rail Trail Flatbread Company for its property at 221-223 Main St.

What’s in the Proposed TIF Agreements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rentschler Biopharma, Inc.</th>
<th>Interactions, LLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location/Size</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Maple St.</td>
<td>31 Maple St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build a 24,000 sq. ft. addition</td>
<td>Lease and renovate vacant 52,700 sq. ft. building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Assessed Value of Property Without Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7,768,400</td>
<td>$3,964,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Property - Tax Exemption</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% (per state law)</td>
<td>100% (agreed to by “working group”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Tax Savings to Company over life of the TIF Agreement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,262,398</td>
<td>$528,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated New Revenue to the Town</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$917,282</td>
<td>$384,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent Based Tax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$230,789/yr</td>
<td>$117,508/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full tax (including personal property) at the end of the TIF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+$102,000 = $412,000/year (est.)</td>
<td>+$77,000 = $200,000/year (est.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Economic Impact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Retain 85 jobs</td>
<td>• Relocate 200 jobs from Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Create/retain 75 more jobs over next five years</td>
<td>• Create/retain 100 more jobs over next three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reasonable effort to use Milford vendors for projects</td>
<td>• Reasonable effort to use Milford vendors for projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reasonable effort to hire Milford residents</td>
<td>• Reasonable effort to hire Milford residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Benefit to local economy with expected spending from company and employees</td>
<td>• Benefit to local economy with expected spending from company and employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Vacant building will be renovated and occupied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Milford Board of Selectmen

Four Articles on Special TM Warrant

Milford’s Town Meeting Members are being asked to consider four articles at a Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, January 13:

• Article 1: Approving a tax increment financing (TIF) agreement between the town and Rentschler Biopharma, Inc. for property located at 27 Maple St.
• Article 2: Approving a TIF agreement between the town, Interactions, LLC and Rhino Capital Advisers, LLC for property located at 31 Maple St.
• Article 3: Amending the town’s Personnel By-laws regarding vacation leave.
• Article 4: Authorizing the Board of Selectmen to petition the state legislature for special legislation to grant an additional All-Alcoholic Beverages liquor license to Rail Trail Flatbread Company for its property at 221-223 Main St.
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Board of Selectmen has continued a public hearing on whether to revoke the All-Alcoholic Beverage liquor license held by the owners of the Milford Crossing shopping plaza on Medway Rd (Rt. 108) until January 13 in order to see if the license can be sold to the Rail Trail Flatbread Company for use at its 221-223 Main St. property.

Over the past few months, the board discussed holding hearings to revoke what are called “pocket licenses,” which are liquor licenses that have been issued by the town, but are not actually being used. One of the main reasons cited by selectmen was the need to get Rail Trail Flatbread a liquor license for the restaurant it plans to open in the former Home National Bank/Rockland Trust building.

On December 2, attorney Joseph Antonellis explained how the owners of Milford Crossing came to have two liquor licenses. It acquired the one in question from the former Truffles restaurant so as to have a license ready to transfer to the Red Heat Tavern when it opened in the shopping plaza, he explained. Then, a bankruptcy judge handling the liquidation of the former Bugaboo Creek restaurant chain – which used to have a restaurant at the same location where Red Heat Tavern now exists – gave its Milford license to the plaza’s owners to satisfy the debt it owed for not paying them rent, Antonellis continued.

RD Management, the plaza’s owners, has held on to the extra license in hopes of getting another restaurant to locate in Milford Crossing, but – to date – that has not happened, Antonellis said.

Both Selectmen William Kingkade and Michael Walsh said they were unhappy about the idea of taking away the former Truffles’ liquor license after RD Management paid $59,000 for it, but both also noted that Rail Trail Flatbread Company needs a license. “We’re trying to bring economic development to the downtown area,” Walsh said.

Town Council Charles Boddy suggested an interim solution which he thought would make everyone happy: the board should take no action on revoking the license until January 13, which would give Antonellis’ clients a chance to sell the license to Rail Trail Flatbread. In return, RD Management would waive its right to appeal the board’s revocation next month.

Antonellis said he needed time to discuss the proposal with his client, at which time selectmen continued the hearing until December 4. At that session, selectmen voted to continue the hearing until January 13 after learning that RD Management and Rail Trail Flatbread Company were negotiating the sale/acquisition of the license.

Technically, the liquor license is held by Milford Restaurant Holdings, LLC in care of RD Management, LLC in New York City.

In advance of any agreement between RD Management and Rail Trail Flatbread Company, selectmen included an article on the January 13 Special Town Meeting warrant to petition the state legislature to approve another All-Alcoholic Beverages license, specifically for Rail Trail Flatbread.

Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

• Following a public hearing – which no one representing the former Mango Tree, Inc. restaurant at 206 East Main St. attended – voted unanimously to revoke its Wine and Malt Bervages with Cordials liquor license. Town Counsel Charles Boddy told selectmen the restaurant is no longer in business, no longer at that location, and its owner did not respond to the town’s letter asking about continuing to use the liquor license. December 2

• Gave Boddy permission to ask town departments whether they had any interest in using a 1.5-acre parcel at 142 Purchase St. which the town acquired through tax title foreclosure. The next step would be to sell the property, he said. Chairman William Buckley suggested looking at all 10 properties the town owns through tax title foreclosure, taking them off at once. “We should not be owning property that we can’t maintain,” he said. “It’s time to move on these properties,” Selectman Michael Walsh said.

• Now that he has obtained state certification as a Building Commissioner, unanimously appointed Marc Marzotte to that position. He previously held the position on a provisional basis while completing his certification.

• Voted unanimously to recommend that the Personnel Board increase Marcotte’s salary from Level 4, Step 3 ($58,563) to Level 4, Step 6 ($69,411). “People often forget that the Building Commissioner is a public safety position,” Selectman William Kingkade said. (December 2)

• Town Administrator Richard Villani thanked town officials and other volunteers who planted 40 arborvitae trees to shield the Countryside Health Care facility from the town’s leaf and brush dump. Local builder Dominic Afonso donated the trees, Villani said.

• Villani reported that special legislation to get a liquor license for Canvas n Cup at 189 Main St. was passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives and will now be taken up by the state Senate. (December 2)

• Villani thanked Fire Chief William Touhey and Maintenance Supervisor Carlos Benjamin for making sure all the Main Street holiday decorations were in place for the annual Welcome Santa parade. (December 2)

• Voted unanimously to renew various licenses for 2020 as follows: Automatic Amusement device licenses at eight locations; Boarding House licenses at four locations; Class 1 New Car Dealer licenses at six locations; Class 2 Used Car Dealer licenses at 31 locations; a Class 3 Junk Car Dealer license at one location; Common Vicaruller licenses at 50 locations; Common Vicaruller All-Alcoholic licenses at 34 locations; Common Vicaruller Wine and Malt Beverages Restaurant licenses at two locations; Common Vicaruller Wine and Malt Beverages with Cordials licenses at three locations; Entertainment licenses at 15 locations; a Farmers Brewers license at one location; a Fortune Teller license at one location; Retail Package All-Alcoholic licenses at seven locations; and, Retail Package Wine and Malt Beverages licenses at 11 locations. The voted stipulated that license for any businesses owing the town real estate and/or personal property taxes will not be issued until the taxes are paid. (December 2)

• Voted unanimously to allow The Trademan, Marchegiano Club, Double Tree Hotel, Pinz, Portuguese Club and South Side Bar & Grill to extend their serving hours on New Year’s Eve. The voted stipulated that the extended hours license for any businesses owing the town real estate and/or personal property taxes will not be approved until the taxes are paid. (December 2)

• Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Claudia Scandone and Vincent Kiejzo from the War Memorial Revitalization Committee. (December 2)

• Approved CraftRoots Brewing’s request to extend its Live Entertainment license to Sundays. (December 2)

• Approved Temple Beth Shalom’s request to hold the annual Menorah lighting at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 22 – the second night of Hanukkah – at Draper Memorial Park. A display of Hanukkah lights will be set up to those attending. The Menorah will be lit each night through the evening of December 30. (December 2)

Selectman Delay License Revocation until January 13

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Police Board of Selectmen this month to recognize the life-saving first aid he gave to an injured, off-duty Milford firefighter on November 5. In a letter to Police Chief Michael Pighetti (right), Fire Chief William Touhey (left) noted that Sousa’s applying tourniquet to the accident victim’s arm “may very well have saved the life of the patient.” Chairman William Buckley (second from right), who read and presented the citation, noted, “Someone’s alive and well and going back to their loved ones. “ Added Selectman William Kingkade. “He happened to be in the right place at the right time with the right training, “ Touhey commented. “His quick action saved his (the injured persons) life.” Kevin Rudden photo
Milford News

Tuesday, December 17
10 a.m. Book Club Hiddenenes: A Tale of the Once and Future Outsroker by Gregory Maguire

Thursday, December 19
12:30 p.m. Healthy Living Luncheon Annual Holiday Party, Optional $10 Yankee Swap, Sponsored by Milford Regional Medical Center

Friday, December 20
12:30 p.m. Free Movie Friday, Christmas in Connecticut, Bring Own Lunch, Free Popcorn

Tuesday, December 24
Senior Center Closing at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25
Senior Center Closed

Tuesday, December 31
Happy New Year 2020 Party, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Senior Center Closing at 1 p.m.

Monday
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. Outreach Services
8:30 a.m. Express Muscle & Mat, $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
9 a.m. Cribbage
9:30 a.m. Barre Above®, $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold
1:15 p.m. Safe Exercise

Tuesday
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by Appointment
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold
11 a.m. Whist
11:45 a.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
12:30 p.m. Turkey Foot Dominos
1 p.m. Mah Jong

Wednesday
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by appointment
8:30 a.m. Outreach Services
9 a.m. Zumba Gold Toning
9 a.m. Wellness Nurse
10 a.m. Watercolor Class
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:15 a.m. Fall Prevention Exercise Class
1 p.m. Bingo
1 p.m. Chess

Thursday
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by appointment
9 a.m. Knitting and Sewing Class
9 a.m. Wellness Nurse
9 a.m. Yoga
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Line Dancing
1 p.m. Cribbage
1:15 p.m. Safe Exercise

Friday
8 a.m. Walking Club
8:15 a.m. Advanced Tap Dance (Alternative Friday)
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by Appointment
8:30 a.m. Outreach Services
8:15 a.m. Beginner Tap Dance (Alternative Fridays)
9:15 a.m. Tap Dance
9 a.m. Hairdresser/Barber (by Appointment)
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold
11:45 a.m. Strength and Stretch
11:45 a.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

Positions Open in Milford’s Annual Town Election

Here is a list of positions open in Milford’s April 7, 2020 Annual Town Election:

- Board of Assessors: three-year term (now held by Joseph Niro)
- Board of Health: three-year term (now held by Leonard Izzo)
- Board of Library Trustees: two, three-year terms (now held by Edward Bertorelli and Alfred Spitterl)
- Board of Selectmen: three-year term (now held by William Buckley, who will not be running for re-election)
- Board of Sewer Commissioners: three-year term (now held by Richard Cenedella)
- Highway Surveyor: three-year term (now held by Scott Crisialfii)
- Park Commission: three-year term (now held by Joseph Arcudi)
- Planning Board: five-year term (now held by Marble Mainini)
- Town Clerk: three-year term (now held by Amy Hennessy Neves)
- Town Moderator: three-year term (now held by Michael Noferi)

Superintendent: three-year term (now held by Charles Reneeu)
- School Committee: two, three-year terms (now held by Joseph Callery and Jennifer Parson)
- Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery: two, three-year terms (now held by Jimmy Luchini and Henry Shahmanam)

There also will be 10 Town Meeting Members elected in each precinct.

Milford Town Clerk Awarded Certification

Milford Town Clerk Amy Hennessy Neves has earned the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Inc., which grants the CMC designation only to those municipal clerks who complete demanding education requirements and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community and state.

“In light of the speed and drastic nature of change these days, lifelong learning is not only desirable, it is necessary for all in local government to keep pace with growing demands and changing needs of the citizens we serve. Your town can take immense pride in Amy’s educational accomplishments and achievement of this milestone,” IIMC President Stephanie Carouthers Kelly said.

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks, founded in 1947, has 14,000 members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries. The mission of this global non-profit corporation is to enhance the education opportunities and professional development of its diverse membership.
Clough: Clough students participated in a district wide Inspired Learning Day on December 11. Students were able to choose their own learning experience and spend time, with a guide learning about a topic of their choice. Some students learn about chemistry while others learned to code, use American Sign Language, or even about a career as a Firefighter. Kristen Bertha’s 4th grade students made Holiday Cards to include with their pen pal letters at the Mendon Senior Center. Clough students in second, third, and fourth grade along with their KCR teachers received news that a member of the Air Force, who was due home for the holidays is not coming home at this time. The students wanted to spread holiday cheer and thank them service members by writing letters to them. The letter were sent out to the troops in time for the New Year. Clough students and staff will participate in a Winter Sing-a-long on the last day of school before Winter Break.

Mendon Upton PreK Open House

The registration dates for the Mendon – Upton Integrated Pre-K for the 2020-2021 school year start January 24, and end on February 7, at 3 p.m. To register, children must be three or four years old on or before August 31, 2020. A lottery will be drawn on February 7. For more information, email Jackie Wheelock, Early Childhood Coordinator, jwheelock@mursd.org.

Mendon Upton Music Boosters Bookfair

The Mendon Upton Music Boosters will be hosting its 6th annual Barnes and Noble Bookfair fundraiser on Friday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble, Holliston. The weekend will feature; music performances by the Mendon Hill Middle School and Nipmuc Regional High School Jazz and choral ensembles, showcasing artwork from the elementary and middle school students plus gift wrapping. Santa will be in the store on Friday, December 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. for time and activities. Come out and support the music department and take care of some holiday shopping at the same time. The Bookfair ID is 12560322. 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.

Mendon Upton Kindergarten Registration

H.P. Clough School in Mendon and Memorial School in Upton will hold informational evening meetings for parents of students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2020. The Kindergarten program will be discussed at the informational meetings, there will be time for questions and answers, and registration packets will be available. Anyone unable to attend the meeting, should stop into the school office to pick up a registration packet and make an appointment to come in and register your child. Packets will be ready in the office on January 2.

In Mendon, the informational evening will be held on Wednesday, January 15, in the Clough cafeteria at 6 p.m. (snow date TBD). In Upton, the informational evening will be held on Thursday, January 16 in the Memorial cafeteria at 6 p.m. (snow date TBD). Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year is by appointment. Registration at Clough will be on February 5 and at Memorial on February 11 and 12. Incoming kindergarten students be five years old on or before August 31, 2020. Registration is for parents only students do not need to attend. Proof of residence, original birth certificate, and immunization records are required at registration.

Mendon Upton Regional School District also offers a Spanish Immersion (SI) Program that begins in Kindergarten. An SI Information Night will be held on Wednesday, January 22 at 6 p.m. in the Memorial School Cafeteria. Childcare will be available. Please RSVP to ohendricks@mursd.org or ograu@mursd.org for childcare.

For information, contact the appropriate school office: H.P. Clough School, 10 North Ave, Mendon, 508-634-1580 and Memorial School, 69 Main St., 508-529-1020.

Miscoe: Miscoe’s Drama Students will be performing their One Act Plays on Friday, December 13 at 3:30 p.m. for students only and at 7 p.m. for all.

Music Boosters Bookfair

The Mendon Upton Music Boosters will be hosting its 6th annual Barnes and Noble Bookfair fundraiser on Friday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Barnes and Noble, Holliston. The weekend will feature; music performances by the Mendon Hill Middle School and Nipmuc Regional High School Jazz and choral ensembles, showcasing artwork from the elementary and middle school students plus gift wrapping. Santa will be in the store on Friday, December 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. for time and activities. Come out and support the music department and take care of some holiday shopping at the same time. The Bookfair ID is 12560322. 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.
Helping Milford High Students Achieve in Math and College

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford High School’s Principal Joshua Otlin gave an update to the School Committee on gains in math MCAS scores and the progress of the Early College Program during their December 5 meeting.

Otlin thanked the Committee and the Milford community for approving an additional Math teacher back in 2017, an improvement he said, that has brought excellent returns.

“The MCAS Math Intervention Class [that the new teacher was hired to teach] is making tremendous difference in growth for students coming into grade 10 who are struggling with mathematics,” said Otlin.

The gains can be seen in both the accountability and achievement measures for math, from the 2018 to the 2019 exam.

In the area of achievement, each subject area is rated on a 4-point scale. In 2018, the school received 1 out of 4 points in math achievement for all students. In 2019, that rating increased to 3 out of 4 points. Under the category of lowest performing students, in 2018, the school received 0 out of 4 points for achievement, rising this year to 4 out of 4 points.

Growth is also measured on a 4-point scale. In 2018, the school received 1 out of 4 points for growth in math, and in 2019 the number increased to 2 out of 4 points for all students. For the lowest performing students, growth numbers increased from 0 points in math to 2 points per year over.

“We can see very significant improvement in regards to our mathematics accountability,” said Otlin.

The MCAS Math Intervention Class, which is taken as an elective, has proven to be very effective for students who were struggling with math coming into the high school, Otlin told the Committee.

“Of those students who received that math intervention, 60 percent of them scored in the high or highest quintiles,” he said. “That is phenomenal.”

But the gains can’t all be contributed to the MCAS Math Intervention Class, according to Otlin.

“We are really improving our instructional math program across the board for all students,” he said.

Otlin said that the administration is very optimistic about the growth and achievement in math going forward.

“We have the right pieces of the puzzle in place and I am very pleased we are seeing some early and promising results from the changes we put in place,” he said.

Otlin also updated the Committee on the progress of the Early College Program at the high school. In partnership with institutions such as Framingham State and Mass Bay College, Milford has been able to offer some college level courses at the high school which will equate to college credits for no cost.

The school is currently offering French as an early college course but hopes to expand the program to other offerings soon.

Thanks to a grant received last year, the school is also looking to offer an early college track to an entire cohort of students, starting with the Class of 2024, who will have the opportunity to take early college courses while still in high school as well as career exploration counseling.

“For our students who are economically disadvantaged, the cost of college is an enormous barrier,” said Otlin. “This could cut the cost of an associate degree basically in half.”
By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford High's march to the state final in boys' soccer drew huge crowds to MHS for the tournament tilts and generated excitement within the community. But dozens more Scarlet Hawks' fans also tuned in from Porto Seguro, Brazil, a coastal city about 4,500 miles from MHS and the hometown of start Milford striker Pedro Araujo.

"Most of the tournament games were on Milford TV and, since my parents live in Brazil, they invited a bunch of friends and family who wanted to watch us play," Araujo said.

Milford TV live streamed Milford's tournament games against Nauset, Dartmouth and Catholic Memorial, along with a few regular season contests. Araujo's parents, Charles de Moura and Regina Moura, were able to pay for a live stream of the state title regular season contests. Araujo's parents, Charles de Moura and Regina Moura, were able to pay for a live stream of the state title game as well.

Araujo's father developed a little side-hustle, charging people $10 to join the viewing parties.

"He's crazy," Araujo said, laughing. "He said the atmosphere at my house was insane, everyone was cheering, everyone was going crazy, he said it was awesome."

The excitement was palpable in Milford as well. MHS head coach Brian Edwards said local businesses streamed the tournament games and fans turned out in droves to take advantage of the fact that Milford played three tournament matchups at home.

"I think it was nice for people in town to get behind the team," Edwards said. "The home support was tremendous in the playoffs, especially the Nauset game in the district final. That was the most memorable high school sporting event I have ever been to, it was incredible."

After graduating a fairly large senior class last season, Milford may have caught many by surprise with an undefeated run to the state title game, just the second appearance in a championship tilt in program history. Araujo, a senior, was a huge part of the team's success. He scored a whopping 50 goals in 21 games and added 13 assists.

He said he and his teammates began to sense they were on the verge of something special during the summer league. "We knew we could go far," Araujo said. "We thought our team had the potential to be a top-five or even a top-three team in the state." Araujo said.

The Thanksgiving Day rivalry between the Blackstone Valley Tech and Nipmuc football teams was renewed this fall after a one year hiatus, and both programs have been working hard to restore what has gradually become a Mendon and Upton sports tradition.

"I think everybody was on the same page with canceling the game last year," BVT head coach Jim Archibald said. "It was a decision from the contest with both programs heading to state title games the following week. "But there was something missing, it's a tradition," Archibald said. "Everybody goes to the game and it's a throwback to what high school football was before the new playoff system." Nipmuc head coach Dave Tupper agreed.

"The atmosphere was incredible, it was a good crowd," Tupper said. "A lot of our kids from the past couple of years came back to support the team. "This is what Thanksgiving football should be." The game itself ended with a 35-7 Beavers victory. The explosive Valley Tech offense, led by running back J.D. Antaya, proved too much for the Warriors despite the fact that Nipmuc controlled the clock and the line of scrimmage for much of the game. Antaya finished his high school career with 220 yards rushing and four touchdowns, including a 60-yard score on BVT's first play that set the tone.

"I don't know if you can put into words what he has meant to the program," Archibald said. "He came in and started as a role player as a sophomore and expanded into a leadership role he brought to the team was more of a surprise than his physical abilities." Nipmuc, slowed by injuries all season, was able to welcome back Nate Gould on a limited basis. He caught the first two completed passes of the game for the Warriors, but the Beavers quickly adjusted and focused on him closely. "He's a player," he said, describing the lone Nipmuc touchdown with a 10-yard run to pay dirt in the first quarter. BVT finished the season 9-2 overall, including an appearance in the Central Mass. title game. The loss dropped Nipmuc to 3-8, but with a number of close calls throughout the season in which the Warriors hung in with strong opponents and in the face of numerous injuries.

"We were very happy that the kids never quit, that was a big thing for us once we realized we were probably not going to make the playoffs," Tupper said. "It was a good season overall and I can't say enough about our kids."

I am willing to do whatever is needed to make sure the kids have what they need to be successful."

The positive effects of Hadfield's commitment to soccer in Mendon and Upton may be spilling across the street. The Blackstone Valley Tech boys' team won the district title this fall. The girls' programs at both Nipmuc and BVT have also been championship caliber in recent years. Hadfield has set a high bar for his program. He routinely schedules the strongest teams in the area and, as a result, has not always been able to garner a high seed in the tournament bracket. Still, Nipmuc has gone out on the road and won games on multiple occasions over the past seven years to always be one of the last two teams in the district standing. This fall, that schedule included Westboro, a team Nipmuc had not beaten in several years. In a game that was also to commemorate longtime Nipmuc soccer coach and former Athletic Director Bill Leaver, who passed away in the spring, Nipmuc delivered a 3-0 win. Of all his accomplishments, filling Leaver's shoes is something in which Hadfield takes the utmost pride.

"He was there for 23 years and he was my varsity coach for four years," Hadfield said. "As an alumnus of the program, I am proud to be giving back and continuing the success he built."

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

15, with a dinner and inauguration ceremony at the street. The Blackstone Valley Tech boys' team won the district title this fall. The girls' programs at both Nipmuc and BVT have also been championship caliber in recent years. Hadfield has set a high bar for his program. He routinely schedules the strongest teams in the area and, as a result, has not always been able to garner a high seed in the tournament bracket. Still, Nipmuc has gone out on the road and won games on multiple occasions over the past seven years to always be one of the last two teams in the district standing. This fall, that schedule included Westboro, a team Nipmuc had not beaten in several years. In a game that was also to commemorate longtime Nipmuc soccer coach and former Athletic Director Bill Leaver, who passed away in the spring, Nipmuc delivered a 3-0 win. Of all his accomplishments, filling Leaver's shoes is something in which Hadfield takes the utmost pride.

"He was there for 23 years and he was my varsity coach for four years," Hadfield said. "As an alumnus of the program, I am proud to be giving back and continuing the success he built."

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The inaugural class to be inducted into the Nipmuc Regional High School Hall of Fame will be revealed to the public in early January, according to Athletic Director Chris Schmidt. Schmidt said the program he now leads.

"My passion is sports and athletics, any way I can contribute to the athletic program as a whole is great," Hadfield said. "For the soccer program, I just make sure the things that are needed are things we get. If that requires additional fundraising or networking or helping out with parents, the kids slated to be enshrined and, once they accept, the class will be unveiled."

For Schmidt, the Hall of Fame is five years in the making and was part of his plan when he first took the helm of the department. The project has allowed him to become closely connected to the history of the program he now leads.

"I only go back five years," he added, "so there are a lot of names I have heard about and now I have been able to meet a lot of those people that go as far back as the 1960s and even those who graduated in the late 2000s."
**Linda Morcone Remembered for Dedication To Post 59**

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnlist

Linda Morcone was a devoted and loving mother to her three sons Christopher, Stephen, and Michael. But, as Rep. Brian Murray, D-Milford, put it when he spoke at her funeral earlier this month, her boys had some “serious competition.”

“There was something else that she loved almost as much as her family: the Milford Legion Baseball Club,” Murray told those gathered at Sacred Heart.

Morcone, who passed away the day after Thanksgiving, was a fixture at Fino Field. She and her husband Chris lead the board of directors for years and dedicated countless hours throughout the year to making sure Post 59’s players had everything they needed to be successful and represent the community.

“She heart,” Murray said, “was with the players.”

Chris, as he experienced his own health challenges in recent years.

“Her heart,” Murray said, “was with the players.”

“Her heart,” Murray said, “was with the players.”

“Her heart,” Murray said, “was with the players.”

Heaven has a baseball team, I am sure,” Murray said at the funeral. “And Heaven has a baseball team, I am sure.”

She is survived by her husband, Chris, and her three sons, one sister, and three grandchildren.

“Her heart,” Murray said, “was with the players.”

A Quote written originally by Tim Notke, who was a High School Basketball Coach. However, most people believe that Kevin Durant was the originator. Durant just made it famous during his draft into the NBA.

Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard.

Tim Notke

A Quote written originally by Tim Notke, who was a High School Basketball Coach. However, most people believe that Kevin Durant was the originator. Durant just made it famous during his draft into the NBA.
Sports

Heath Challenges Can’t Stop Milford’s Kidman

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Julia Kidman has more heart than most athletes, even if hers does not function quite like it should. The Milford High School senior was born with a heart defect that required open heart surgery in June, but she was determined to make it back for the Scarlet Hawks’ field hockey season. In less than three months, Kidman was back on the field. “I think my team mates were a little surprised that I came back so fast,” she said. “I was ready to run, I was trying to make up for the time I lost and they were shocked, but they were happy I was back.”

In addition to her heart defect, Kidman has a rare lung disease that has left her with only one functioning lung. She also has a number of potentially life-threatening food allergies. But the Milford student doesn’t let it keep her from doing what she wants to do, mainly because her parents won’t allow it.

“She has been medically complex her entire life, so there is an ongoing normal concern, but we don’t let her use these things as an excuse,” said her father, Jeff. “She has to try hard and play and give it her all. Sometimes she can’t give as much as everybody else, but that’s OK.”

Kidman returned to the varsity field hockey team in time to play in the first game of the regular season. She scored a couple of goals for the Scarlet Hawks and added some assists as well. The emotional lift she provides for her teammates is even more significant.

“The season would not have felt the same without Julia, she contributes so much more to the team than what her stats show,” said MHS head coach Katie Blackburn. “She is a spark for us and the girls are really inspired by her.”

Kidman is an inspiration for her parents as well. Her father Jeff said “it’s pretty awesome” to see how his daughter has dealt with the hand she’s been dealt.

“She has basically taken on the attitude that (Julia’s mom) Laura and I talked about when she was little, “ Jeff said. “This was not going to be something that went away after one surgery, we have to be replaced, but hopefully not for another 20 years. The Milford senior is focusing on lacrosse in the spring, excited to see what she can accomplish with a full offseason. She’s also weighing which college to attend, but said she wants to pursue studies in the health sciences field.

“I think it’s because I have been surrounded by it my whole life, “Kidman said. “I have viewed, first hand, how it affects someone’s life, and I want to be able to help somebody else.”

Health challenges have not MHS senior Julia Kidman, who lives her life to the fullest playing field hockey just three months after having open heart surgery. Contributed photo

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Sports

The 10 Biggest Local Sports Stories of 2019

2019 was a year to remember for numerous local athletes and teams, providing fans and the local communities something to cheer for and rally around. As has been a holiday tradition for the Town Crier in the past, here we present ten of the biggest local sports stories for the past year. Happy Holidays!

Legion Tourney Back At Fino: For the second time in three years, Milford hosted the American Legion state tournament. The tourney drew rave reviews from fans and the team, which included strong contingents from Blackstone Valley Tech and Nipmuc, finished in the top four.

MHS Cheer to Nationals: A powerhouse in recent years, the Milford High cheerleading team again put together a strong campaign, capturing the South Sectional title and earning a third-place finish at states. The Scarlet Hawks will compete in the national competition next March in Orlando.

BVT Boys Soccer Wins District Title: The Blackstone Valley Tech boys' soccer team advanced to the state semifinals, an impressive campaign that saw the Beavers capture the program's first ever Central Mass. district championship.

Milford Boys Soccer Reaches the Final: The Milford boys' soccer team knocked off the defending state champions from Nauset on penalty kicks to capture the Division 2 South title and advance to the second state final in program history.

Milford Native Selected in NHL Draft: The Minnesota Wild landed a player one number 12 overall pick in the National Hockey League draft.

Nipmuc Boys Soccer Back in District Final: Nipmuc returned to the district final for the seventh year year in a row, continuing a run of dominance in Central Mass.

Nipmuc Boys Soccer Wins State Title: Kerry O'Connor earned a spot at the New England Track & Field meet after she broke her own school record in the 200 meter dash. At the Division 2 state meet, she captured the championship in the 200 and finished third in the long jump with 4.75 inches.

Nipmuc Boys Track Star Wins Title: Kerry O'Connor earned a spot at the New England Track & Field meet after she broke her own school record in the 200 meter dash. At the Division 2 state meet, she captured the championship in the 200 and finished third in the long jump with 4.75 inches.

MHS Relay Qualifies for Nationals: The quartet of sophomores Kerry O'Connor, senior Sarah Flanagan and junior Bella Gonzalez competed at the emerging elite division of the New Balance National Track & Field meet in North Carolina last spring.

BVT Boys Soccer Wins District Title: The Blackstone Valley Tech boys' soccer team captured the championship in the 200 and finished third in the long jump with 4.75 inches.

FTC Esports: This year, FTU Athletics expanded their esports program, giving students an opportunity to participate in competitive video games.

For the second time in three years, Milford hosted the American Legion state tournament. The tourney drew rave reviews from fans and the team, which included strong contingents from Blackstone Valley Tech and Nipmuc, finished in the top four.

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Wishing You and Your Families a Fun Holiday Season and a Safe and Prosperous New Year from all of us at the Phipps Agency
Remembering Aaron Zenus, a Boy with a Big Heart

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The memory of a young Milford boy best known for his kindness and generosity will live on at Stacy Middle School thanks to the school community and a local Eagle Scout. A granite bench now sits in front of Stacy engraved with the words “In Memory of Aaron Zenus,” a 12-year-old who passed away in January 2019 from flu related complications. Aaron was a Stacy student, and on November 22, friends, teachers, classmates and his family gathered for a memorial ceremony to honor a boy who was a friend to all. “For all of you who didn’t know Aaron, he was short,” said classmate and friend Joey Newman during the memorial. “But in that small body was know Aaron, he was short,” said classmate and friend Joey Newman during the memorial. “But in that small body was...