Our celebration of local graduates continues. In this paper, we are celebrating local students who graduated from universities and colleges, plus the Mendon and Upton graduates of Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical School. Please turn to pages 22 to 24, to see our coverage.

In our July 5 issue we will celebrate the Class of 2020 from Nipmuc Regional High School. We hope you will enjoy our extended graduation coverage and join us in wishing congratulations to all the 2020 graduates.

Mendon Selectmen’s Race
Going to a Recount
Tinio Wins by One Vote

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Unofficial results posted the day after Mendon’s June 9 Town Election reveal incumbent Lawney Tinio won Mendon’s three-year Select Board seat over David Atkinson by one vote; 548 to 547.

On June 11, Town Clerk Ellen Agro confirmed a recount will take place. No date recount date has been set. Agro stated it will occur after June 19, the filing deadline for recount petitions.

The second race on the ballot for Town Moderator was won by incumbent Jay Byer over Matthew O’Brien in a 631 to 450 vote.

The two questions on the ballot both passed. Question 1 was to abolish the town’s farm tax, which voters overwhelmingly supported 854 to 267. Residents also passed Question 2 by 711 to 445; the first of two votes to abolish the town’s farm tax, which voters overwhelmingly supported 854 to 267.

Dr. Joseph P. Maruszczak said that the district was looking at a scenario of potential loss of 10 percent of the funding normally received from the state for Chapter 70 funding due to the COVID-19 crisis. A 10 percent loss of Chapter 70 funding would mean a reduction in budget of close to $1.25 million. “With this uncertainty, the district needs to plan for all scenarios, including worst case,” Maruszczak had said.

The district began with an original certified budget of $38,961,160 (a 6.99 percent increase from FY20) before reducing it to $37,137,486 (a 1.97 percent increase) on May 5. The reduction was partly due to the fact that there was money savings that could be carried over into FY21 since schools have been closed since March. Even with the reduction, in order to keep level services (the same programs and services in place) for FY21, the district needed the successful passing of a $271,820 override by Mendon, which would also allow Upton to increase their contribution by $202,261 as well for FY21. The override, however, will only save approximately eight to nine staff positions, with the rest of budget’s fate being determined by what happens with the state aid. Along with positions, Maruszczak said that the new budget also includes a reduction of $350,000 from materials, supplies, professional development, and athletic supplies and transportation. There could also be reduction in extracurricular activities and an increase of athletic fees of over $200 plus. The district will have to wait until sometime in July to see what the state determines for Chapter 70 funding. Because school budgets have to be determined by July 1, and the state most likely will not have Chapter 70 funding until mid to late July, the district has applied to submit a one-twelfth budget (one-month) into FY21 since schools have been closed since March.

The Department of Public Works is also asking for several capital purchases, including Article 22 which is seeking $10,000 to purchase a used replacement forklift for the Highway Division. The town currently utilizes a 1993 propane driven forklift.

Article 25 is requesting $8,000 for a replacement turf truck for the DPW’s Parks/Forestry/Cemetery Division. The current truck utilized is nearly 20 years old and is used to maintain 28 acres of athletic fields and cemeteries in town.

Some of the other financial articles on the warrant include Article 6 which is seeking $73,370 to fund the towns PEG Access and Cable Related Fund and Article 9 is to raise and appropriate

Mendon Voters Pass School Override at Polls; Town Meeting Approval Needed

By Melissa Offr
Staff Reporter

The first hurdle was cleared in the approval of a $271,820 Proposition 2 ½ override for the Mendon Upton Regional School District when the residents passed the article at the June 9 town election. After a 711-445 vote in favor of approving the override, the vote will now be sent to Town Meeting for final approval on June 29. The override was a necessary one, according to school officials, who had already given 28 staff members pink slips at the end of May due to the uncertainty of funding for the year. During a June 1 School Committee Meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph P. Maruszczak said that the district was looking at a scenario of potentially losing 10 percent of the funding normally received from the state for Chapter 70 funding due to the COVID-19 crisis. A 10 percent loss of Chapter 70 funding would mean a reduction in budget of close to $1.25 million. “With this uncertainty, the district needs to plan for all scenarios, including worst case,” Maruszczak had said. The district began with an original certified budget of $38,961,160 (a 6.99 percent increase from FY20) before reducing it to $37,137,486 (a 1.97 percent increase) on May 5. The reduction was partly due to the fact that there was money savings that could be carried over into FY21 since schools have been closed since March. Even with the reduction, in order to keep level services (the same programs and services in place) for FY21, the district needed the successful passing of a $271,820 override by Mendon, which would also allow Upton to increase their contribution by $202,261 as well for FY21. The override, however, will only save approximately eight to nine staff positions, with the rest of budget’s fate being determined by what happens with the state aid. Along with positions, Maruszczak said that the new budget also includes a reduction of $350,000 from materials, supplies, professional development, and athletic supplies and transportation. There could also be reduction in extracurricular activities and an increase of athletic fees of over $200 plus. The district will have to wait until sometime in July to see what the state determines for Chapter 70 funding. Because school budgets have to be determined by July 1, and the state most likely will not have Chapter 70 funding until mid to late July, the district has applied to submit a one-twelfth budget (one-month) into FY21 since schools have been closed since March.

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Some of the other financial articles on the warrant include Article 6 which is seeking $73,370 to fund the towns PEG Access and Cable Related Fund and Article 9 is to raise and appropriate

New Budget, Additional School Funding, and Capital Purchases on Upton Warrant

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

On June 23, Upton will hold its Annual Town Meeting at Nipmuc Regional High School beginning at 7 p.m. Town officials are hoping to hold the meeting in the auditorium however, with the social distancing guidelines that must be followed, the meeting may have to be pushed to the gymnasium. That will be determined based on the number of people who attend.

One of the first articles to be voted on, 2A, concerns the additional school funding needed for the Mendon Upton Regional School District and Blackstone Valley Tech totaling of $259,699, $202,261 for MURSD and $57,438 for BVT. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee have recommended the $259,699 be taken out of stabilization.

The following article, Article 2B, is the new fiscal year 2021 recommended budget totaling $24,656,796, an increase of $878,874 or 3.7 percent, over last year’s budget of $23,777,922.

Several capital purchases are also on the warrant and include Article 18 which is seeking $159,000 to purchase portable radio equipment for the Fire Department, and Article 19 is requesting $11,070 to purchase three sets of personal protective equipment for the Fire Department.

Due to heating and cooling issues with the fire station, Article 20 is seeking $25,000 for upgrades to the heating system and to replace the air conditioning conditioning unit.

The Department of Public Works is also asking for several capital purchases, including Article 22 which is seeking $10,000 to purchase a used replacement forklift for the Highway Division. The town currently utilizes a 1993 propane driven forklift.

Article 25 is requesting $8,000 for a replacement turf truck for the DPW’s Parks/Forestry/Cemetery Division. The current truck utilized is nearly 20 years old and is used to maintain 28 acres of athletic fields and cemeteries in town.

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Upton School Funding p. 10

Soon-to-be graduates from Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School were each presented with a t-shirt decorated with this logo, celebrating the unique nature of the Class of 2020. The school plans an in-person graduation ceremony in August. BVT photo

Celebrating Our Graduates
Vincent Coffey, Caretaker & Organic Farm Manager, preparing garden for tentative opening of Daniels Farmstead Farmer’s Market, 296 Mendon St., Blackstone on Sunday, July 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are growing specialty kale, tomatoes, eggplant, cabbage, broccoli, summer squash, cucumbers and pumpkins.

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Milford Regional Reopens All Services

As Milford Regional Medical Center (MRMC) reopens all services to the community, safety for patients, visitors and staff is a top priority with the hospital following all state and federal guidance. All MRMC employees are screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms. Those with symptoms are not allowed to work until they are free of all symptoms based upon pre-established guidelines. All wear masks and other appropriate personal protective equipment.

Patient companions are allowed in Maternity, parents or guardians for patients under 18, attorneys and for those with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. Admitted patients, except those with COVID-19, may have one visitor from 5 to 7 p.m. a day. Visitors must be screened, sanitize and wear a face mask and visitor’s tag. Emergency Room patients may have one companion and compassionate care patients may receive visitors depending on the decision made by the care team and family.

All visitors should enter and exit through the Emergency Department Entrance behind the hospital under the parking garage. The Hill Center Entrance is used by admitted, outpatient and day surgery patients. The Imaging Entrance is open for outpatient imaging appointments. The Main Entrance is closed.

No companions are allowed for Outpatient Services and Day Surgery except for OB appointments, when one support partner may accompany the patient.

COVID-19 patients are cared for in separate areas. Social distancing and sanitizing is practiced by everyone in the hospital.

Patients scheduled for surgery will need to follow specific procedures for screenings and tests including a COVID-19 test. Surgery patients should be dropped off for their procedure and picked up when it is over. Visit MilfordRegional.org for more details. Not combinable with any other discounts or promotions. May require dealership source financing. Not responsible for typographical errors.

JUNE 19, 2020

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- FINANCE MANAGERS

- SALES MANAGERS

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Changes to UniBank Commercial Banking Team

UniBank’s CEO, Michael Welch, recently announced two expanded roles and a promotion for key members of the commercial banking team. Todd Mandella, John Kelley and Shannen Gray. Mandella expands his role being named Director of C&I Lending for the Bank. In this role he will play an integral part in driving the bank’s strategy and growth initiatives for commercial and industrial companies across the region. Mandella has over 18 years of experience and will continue to focus on commercial market growth and relationship management. He 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.

A resident of Worcester, Mandella serves the community as a Board Member Boys and Girls Club of Worcester and Seven Hills. Kelley was named Director of Commercial Real Estate Banking expanding his role to develop and implement the bank’s real estate strategy. His years of real estate experience will help position the bank in a position to deliver for its client and customers throughout New England. Kelley, who spent his banking career focused on real estate transaction and is considered an expert, holds both a BBA in Finance and Banking from American International College. Gray, cash management relationship manager, was promoted to an Officer of the bank as a result of her leadership and professionalism leading the commercial team’s focus on deposit and treasury services. A

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

These are the businesses that contract to advertise in The Upton and Mendon Town Crier at least 12 times a year in any frequency. A citation of merit, with feature article about their business (minimum 1/8 page ad) and listing in this directory.

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

Amazing Cleaners ............................................ next
Bright Insurance Agency ................................. 7
Boston Eye & Laser ...........................................8
C&I Lending......................................................next
Ceruti’s Mexican Restaurant ........................... 8
Cook Company................................................next
CPR Etc.........................................................next
Frank’s appliance .................................................8
Gaffles Restaurant .......................................... 14
Iakovela Plumbing & Heating ......................... 8
Imperial Car Care..............................................1, 3, 4, 24
J.C. Parmenter....................................................8
Jolicoeur Overhead Door ................................next
Lapier Plus....................................................... 19
Little Coffee Bean.............................................next
Maple Farm Dairy............................................. 20
Marzocco Electric..............................................next
Medway Oil & Propane Company..................... 9
McCormick Properties ................................. next
Mendon Motors................................................next
Mettrosoft Oral Surgical Associates.......................next
Milledgeville.................................................. 11
Muffin House Cafe...........................................next
Nathan’s/Jerod’s...............................................next
New England Steak & Seafood .....................11, 19
P & B Furniture................................................next
P.A.W.S. Bed & Biscuit................................next
Phips Insurance Agency .................................. 2
Reliable Pet Sitting.............................................17
Riteaway Power Equipment............................next
Ropyn Saints, Real life Realty Group .................next
Rossmo Garden Restaurant & Lounge ............next
Boston Eye & Lasik.........................................next
Semmes Electric.............................................next
Templeman True Services.............................next
UPS Store Milford & Franklin .........................next
Upton Foreign Motels ....................................next
Vanzuokura Japanese Restaurant ....................next
Wayne General Electric....................................next
Williams-Peckham Funeral Home...................2
Wolf DDS.........................................................next
Wright’s Dairy Farm ....................................next
WPC Pest Control..........................................next

Leaving a Lasting Legacy, Dennis Ceruti

Because of social distancing regulations, there was no public wake, so Upton residents took the streets to watch the funeral procession of Dennis Ceruti go by in late May. Dave Kirby photo.

By Scott Calcolia
Staff Reporter

The sidewalks of the soccer fields in Upton will never be the same after the passing of Dennis Ceruti. The husband, father, brother and friend lost a two-year battle with ALS on May 24, leaving behind what is sure to be a lasting legacy, and according to friends, some very big shoes to fill.

Born and raised in Framingham, he was a son of Jean (Alluzio) Ceruti of Medway and Joseph Ceruti of Framingham. In 2002, he made Upton home.

A graduate of the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School of Franklin, Class of 1991, he was a three-sport athlete and inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Dennis worked as an apprentice for a few years before starting Ceruti Electrical Corporation in 1998.

His wife of 21 years, Suzanne Ceruti, said he loved his work, but sports were his passion, and his four daughters were a way for him to get back on the playing field. “Dennis was always someone who put other people first,” she said. “He felt very strongly about supporting the kids in sports, he wasn’t one to be standing on the sidelines. He wanted to be involved.”

Suzanne said he coached their daughters right up until the end, shouting words of encouragement from a wheelchair. “He went to all of the girls’ games, it was very important to him,” she said.

Dennis played an integral role in enhancing the league’s soccer programs, making sure everything was perfect. He would even paint the lines on the field, using a laser grid for precision. He also helped organize fundraising events like Octoberfest, which raised $2,000 in a single day. In total, he raised about $130,000 for Upton soccer programs.

Family friend, Dave Kirby, met Dennis through soccer. He said Dennis taught him how to keep a cool head as a coach.

“If I was starting to break even when there was a practice or a game, Dennis was the one to calm me down,” he laughed. “He always made sure we were on the right track.”

Dennis lead three of his daughters to victory at the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions three years in a row with his coaching. “He never did anything halfheartedly,” said his younger brother, Rich Ceruti. “Everything was 100 percent. It doesn’t matter what he was doing, it had to be perfect.”

Rich said Dennis wasn’t only someone he could always look to, but also his best friend.

“He was kind of like the ultimate big brother to me,” he said. “Growing up with him, he was probably more like a dad than anything to me. He was everything you could want as a big brother. It’s hard to put into words.”

The three-year difference between brothers wasn’t a problem, they did everything together.

“We never drifted apart, we’ve always been super close,” Rich said.

Throughout the progression of the disease, Dennis kept a proactive attitude, using his fundraising expertise to work toward an ALS cure. He and Kirby helped coordinate a beer and wine festival for the ALS Therapy Development Institute (TDI) in Cambridge last August.

“Dennis was our inspiration and the founder of Brewing for a Cure for ALS,” Kirby said. “With his support, we raised $143,000 in that single event, which was record breaking for ALS TDI.”

Dennis will be remembered as a coach and advocate to the community, living on in the hearts of loved ones as a best friend and dad they could always count on.

“We had a tremendous amount of support through this whole thing,” Suzanne said, choking up. “We have an amazing group of friends.”

To donate to ALS research in Dennis’ memory; visit FundRaise. als.net/DennisCeruti.

Mendon Area Chamber of Commerce Events

AREA-The Mendon Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will be holding the following events. To register visit MillfordChamber.org, email bhsley@millfordchamber.org, call 508-478-6700 or stop by the offices, 238 Main Street, Suite 306, Millford.

Monday, June 22, Honors Scholar Night. MACC and community businesses have annually honored the academic success of the top 10 percent high school seniors from area high schools. Although the live event is cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, MACC is honoring the scholars with a commemorative Honors Scholars Keepsake Book. All 300 students will receive this Keepsake Book, along with a citation of merit from their elected official.

To honor the book the visit MillfordChamber.org.

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

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

Visit the chamber website for links to all Webinars. Build a Better Business post COVID-19 webinar, Tuesday, June 23, at 1 p.m. Grow with Google Live Stream Event, Digital Summer Skills, Wednesday, July 22, 12 noon.

June 19, 2020
Upton, Mendon Town Crier
When it became evident that the COVID-19 pandemic would cancel or change graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020, I realized that this year’s group of seniors would not be afforded the same opportunities that my classmates and I had a few years ago. I too had a cancelled graduation.

I went to college at Northern Illinois University. The school is located in DeKalb, at the northern end of the prairie that spreads west through the state and beyond. Late spring in Illinois is tornado season. And back in the early ’70s when the use of radar for weather forecasting was just beginning, storm warnings depended on the eyes of tornado watchers. When conditions were right for a storm, the watchers would make their way to the highest perches available and train their binoculars to the southwest. In DeKalb the 14 story high dorms were the tallest buildings. Tornado watchers regularly used the banks of windows in large communal areas on the top floors to issue their warnings. And since these were visual observances, warnings usually came very close to start of the storms.

On the day of my graduation, the weather was hot and humid. We all knew a storm was brewing. As the day drew to a close, parents, friends and others gathered on campus and over a thousand of us who were marooned in our caps and gowns. We all made our way to the football stadium. The audience filled the stands and we, the graduates, covered the field. No sooner had we all assembled when the tornado watchers issued their warnings. The National Anthem was played and before we could sit down, the college president announced, “There is a tornado on the way. You have all graduated. Clear the stadium.” And we did. The tornado missed DeKalb but hit a nearby small town. The stadium and any strugglers were drenched with rain and buffeted by high winds. Thunder boomed, lightning flashed and our diplomas were mailed to us at home.

My non-graduation is something I have never forgotten. My high school graduation, which was held indoors without a hitch, is something I don’t really remember.

I realize my graduation and the missed or delayed ceremonies of 2020 aren’t nearly the same. I did get to enjoy many pre-graduation activities and you have not. But I promise you, that while this new normal will not allow you to protect your face for your achievements, it will always bind you together and will be something you will never, ever forget.

I realize my graduation and the missed or delayed ceremonies of 2020 aren’t nearly the same. I did get to enjoy many pre-graduation activities and you have not. But I promise you, that while this new normal will not allow you to protect your face for your achievements, it will always bind you together and will be something you will never, ever forget.

One thing not canceled this summer is the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor 2021 Calendar Photo Contest. Current social distancing guidelines still allow photographers to grab a camera and explore the Blackstone Valley, capturing some great images for this year’s theme: Historical Landmarks & Artifacts. While many of the museums and historical buildings may remain closed, their outer features provide endless opportunity for taking creative shots. But don’t stop there. Let the theme be an inspiration to search for the not-so-famous landmarks and artifacts, too! Share what the finds by entering the discoveries into the Blackstone Heritage Corridor’s 2021 calendar photo contest.

The annual calendar photo contest receives hundreds of entries, but only 13 images will be selected for the 2021 calendar to illustrate the cover and each of the 12 months. Submitted images not selected for the calendar are used throughout the year for the Corridor’s various promotional materials, including its website, social media, brochures, and much more.

To be considered for the 2021 Calendar, photos must focus on historical landmarks and artifacts in the 25 communities of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and must be original digital photography. Photos must be submitted in high resolution (300 dpi minimum), horizontal JPG format. No black and white or altered images, please.

Contest deadline is Friday, August 14. Submit photos to Blackstone Heritage Corridor at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org, and use the online calendar contest submission form. To request a paper form, contact Bonnie Combs at bcombs@BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org. There is no limit on the number of entries. Each photo must be submitted separately with the description, etc. Winners will be notified in early September.

Obituaries

Eleanor ‘Ellie’ Joan Clifton
MENDON-Eleanor ‘Ellie’ Joan Clifton of Mendon, formerly of Mashpee, passed away at UMASS Memorial Hospital in Worcester on May 24, 2020 at the age of 91. She was the beloved wife of the late Alan Clifton. She was the loving mother of Carol Clifton, of Mashpee, N.H. Ellie is also survived by her sister Norma Putman of Verona, Penn.

UPTON-Kenneth E. White, 83, of Upton, passed away on June 10, 2020, at home after a brief but furious battle with cancer. Ken was born on September 21, 1936 to the late George and Gertrude White in Upton.

He attended Worcester Boys Trade High School where he studied the art of Mechanical Drafting.

After high school Ken served four years in the United States Air Force before beginning a long and interesting career as a draftsman. He worked on many projects for companies such as David Clark, Raytheon, and Polaroid. One of the projects he worked on was the design of NASA astronaut space suits for one of the Apollo projects.

Kenneth is survived by his children from his first marriage, David White and his wife Michelle, Karen Heney, Patty Palmer and her husband John, Kimberly White, all of Northbridge, and Robert White and his wife Susan of Clermont, Fl.

He is also survived by his step-children from his second marriage, Suzanne Axelor and her husband Neil of Martetta Ga., Cheryl Alonso and her husband Vincent of Elizabethtown, Ky., Sandra Austin and her husband Glen of N.H., Michael Egeland and his friend Kathy of Ashby, John Egeland and his wife Eileen of Clinton, David Egeland and his wife Amy of Ashby and Daniel of California.

Additionally, he is survived by his brother, Norman White of Florida and his sister, Gloria Nelson of Upton with whom he lived and who took such good care of him until the very end plus numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Ken was predeceased by his wife of 28 years, Delma White, his stepson William and his beloved dog-son Wellington.

The Pickering 80 On Upton Funeral Home, Inc. (former Williams-Pedersen Funeral Home) is honored to be assisting the White family with arrangements. Ken will be laid to rest in July at Winchendon Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon.

Service details will be posted at PickeringFuneralHomes.com.
Area COVID Numbers Continue Leveling Off

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist
During the week of June 8, Mendon and Upton's Select Board and Board of Selectmen, respectively, met to discuss the applications going forward. Mayor Simas. "We want to get these businesses up and running," he said, adding that they certainly want to help small businesses and that the applications are allowed to be reviewed by the town officials.

District COVID-19 cases continue to trend downward as well as the number of deaths, the Governor announced Phase 2 of the state's reopening could begin, permitting restaurants to provide outdoor dining. In order for outdoor dining to commence, restaurant owners must complete an application to be approved by town officials. Applications require owners to submit a description and dimensions of the area for outdoor dining, which must be at least 6 feet apart and barriers must be used around the perimeter of the outdoor dining area. Applications also call for a list of protocols that must be adhered to regarding social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting. During Mendon's June 8 meeting, Select Board member Lawney Tinio stated he visited restaurants in town "to make certain they were prepared" to begin their outdoor dining service.

Several local eateries have already been approved for their limited re-opening, including New England Steak and Seafood in Mendon. Owner James Quirk recently opened his outdoor dining area that contains 19 tables of various sizes, seating a maximum of 6 to a table. During the opening day, he was at capacity serving his regular customers and was thrilled to be interacting with them once again. "It was absolutely fabulous," Quirk said "It's such a huge part of what I do."

However, now Quirk, like other restaurant owners, is eager to begin serving indoors as well. "I told the [Select Board] that I need to open our restaurants and bars to be re-opened," he said. "I think I can very safely re-open my restaurant."

Upton's Board of Selectmen met on June 9 to discuss the outdoor dining phase and approved applications for 151 Main St. Kitchen & Spirits, Red Rock, and Breakfast at Stephanie's.

"As a small business owner myself, I certainly want to help small businesses owners as much as I can," said Upton Select Board member Lawney Tinio. "We want to get these businesses up and running."

Massachusetts RMV New Initiatives

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) announces new initiatives for customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiatives include:

- Additional Appointment Capacity at Open Service Centers: customers will now be able to make appointment-only reservations between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Service Centers currently open to the general public. The RMV anticipates reopening the South Yarmouth Service Center on Monday, June 8.
- Learner's Permit Tests Restart Online: customers are now able to make an appointment to take their Learner's Permit exam. Applicants will be required to take their Learner's Permit test up to 60 days after completing their appointment in a Service Center. Appointments will initially be restricted to teenagers turning 16 between March and June 2020 and whose permit test was delayed. Effective May 15, the Leominster and Watertown Service Centers will open for appointments to be made by the customer directly for Learner's Permit appointment transactions. Permit appointments will be available at other locations. The RMV also anticipates opening the Danvers Service Center on Monday, June 29, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. strictly for Learner's Permit appointment transactions.
- New Protocols for In-Person Service Centers: customers will be required to wear a face covering during the RMV's resumed public road tests, with preference initially for individuals who had their road test appointment in March, April, and May canceled. Road tests for new applicants will begin after those whose appointments were postponed. Customers who have a road test rescheduled are being contacted directly by the RMV with a new appointment. The RMV is implementing new road test protocols, including the exclusive use of specific state or driving school vehicles, which will be cleaned after each test. Only the customer and the testing official will be inside the vehicle.
- Supervised Driving Privileges Prior to Learner's Permit: eligible teenagers turning 16 between March 1 and June 30, 2020, may be able to apply for a new "Supervised Driving Recept" (or SDR) prior to their ability to obtain an appointment for their Learner's Permit. For the SDR to be attainable the customer will be required to consent to apply and take their learner's permit test online. Printed at home following successfully passing the learner's permit test, an SDR will carry strict requirements. The SDR will also allow an eligible teenager to enroll in an education and training course and begin their required observation hours but will not count towards a junior operator's required six-month clean driving record. SDRs will be valid 90 days from the date of issuance and will only be issued through August 12, 2020. Eligible customers applying for an SDR should continue to check Mass.GOV/RMV as the RMV for application availability. Learner's Permit applications will continue to be processed by appointment only at a Service Center when identity, lawful presence, residency and vision have been verified. SDR REAL ID Upgrade Fee Waiver: over 500,000 Massachusetts residents will need to renew a driver's license this summer, and will not need a REAL ID -- which requires an in-person visit to verify lawful presence -- for at least another year due to the federal government's new deadline, October 1, 2021. The RMV is not currently accepting appointments for REAL ID renewal upgrades or amendments. Customers who renew for a standard Massachusetts driver's license or ID card online through August 12, 2020, will be able to upgrade to a REAL ID if they need it in 2021 at no additional charge. The cost of a license or ID card renewal is $50 for a standard REAL ID, while the amendment or upgrade fee waived by this Executive Order is $25.

In-Car Observation Hours for Junior Operators: an Executive Order will allow for 46 hours of supervised driving hours to be completed with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over a year, minimizing the need to spend additional time in a vehicle with individuals from different households.
- Grace Period for Registration Transfers after Vehicle Purchase: an Executive Order temporarily extends the time to transfer registration for a vehicle purchase to 90 days.

As all RMV customers are encouraged to visit Mass.GOV/RMV to make needed appointments, review current procedures and regulations, determine deadlines and complete over counter transactions online only during normal business hours. All customers visiting an RMV Service Center by appointment must wear face coverings during their entire visit. No walk-ins are allowed and customers without an appointment will be asked to leave and make a reservation online to return at a future date.

Local Restaurants Starting to See Some Light

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter
During the week of June 8, Mendon and Upton's Select Board and Board of Selectmen, respectively, met to discuss the applications going forward. Mayor Simas. "We want to get these businesses up and running," he said, adding that they certainly want to help small businesses and that the applications are allowed to be reviewed by the town officials.

District COVID-19 cases continue to trend downward as well as the number of deaths, the Governor announced Phase 2 of the state's reopening could begin, permitting restaurants to provide outdoor dining. In order for outdoor dining to commence, restaurant owners must complete an application to be approved by town officials. Applications require owners to submit a description and dimensions of the area for outdoor dining, which must be at least 6 feet apart and barriers must be used around the perimeter of the outdoor dining area. Applications also call for a list of protocols that must be adhered to regarding social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting. During Mendon's June 8 meeting, Select Board member Lawney Tinio stated he visited restaurants in town "to make certain they were prepared" to begin their outdoor dining service.

Several local eateries have already been approved for their limited re-opening, including New England Steak and Seafood in Mendon. Owner James Quirk recently opened his outdoor dining area that contains 19 tables of various sizes, seating a maximum of 6 to a table. During the opening day, he was at capacity serving his regular customers and was thrilled to be interacting with them once again. "It was absolutely fabulous," Quirk said "It's such a huge part of what I do."

However, now Quirk, like other restaurant owners, is eager to begin serving indoors as well. "I told the [Select Board] that I need to open our restaurants and bars to be re-opened," he said. "I think I can very safely re-open my restaurant."

Upton's Board of Selectmen met on June 9 to discuss the outdoor dining phase and approved applications for 151 Main St. Kitchen & Spirits, Red Rock, and Breakfast at Stephanie's. "As a small business owner myself, I certainly want to help small businesses owners as much as I can," said Upton Select Board member Lawney Tinio. "We want to get these businesses up and running."

"To expedite the process, both Upton and Mendon boards voted unanimously to permit Town Manager Derek Brindisi and Town Administrator Kim Newman to approve the applications going forward. "We now have the expertise in these businesses," said Upton Selectman Brett Simas. "We want to get these businesses up and running."
The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced resurfacing and intersection improvement operations have begun on Rt. 16 and Rt. 140 in Milford and Hopedale. On June 2, Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack and Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver joined members of the Massachusetts Legislature, officials from the Towns of Hopedale and Milford, members of the project team and other stakeholders to celebrate this groundbreaking for this construction project. “This project is improving a well-traveled corridor between Milford and Hopedale, and most importantly making changes which will make it safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and people of all abilities,” said Secretary Pollack. “We have appreciated the support of local leaders and the public during the planning and design process and we look forward to when the work will be completed.”

This $3.3 million project includes pavement rehabilitation, sidewalk reconstruction, and facilitating ADA accommodations on Rt. 16. The project also includes improvements to the intersection of Routes 16 and 140, including upgraded signal equipment and widening, drainage improvements, and utility pole relocations for ADA compliance on sidewalks. As a result of COVID-19, MassDOT worked closely with Milford Regional Medical Center to determine a work start date. The project is anticipated to be completed in September 2021.

**Animals at Play**

Baby beavers, or kits, like to wrestle and play with each other. Join us to enjoy the wildlife and beauty being on the water at the Inman Pond in Mendon’s Meadow Brook Woods Conservation Area. There will be a volunteer day in July. Solitude Lake Management will provide boats and instruct volunteers how to pull invasive, non-native water chestnut weeds. For more information email landiuscomm@mendonma.gov. Cheryl Reynolds photo

**How to Mail and Ship Without Leaving Home**

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Need that package picked-up? Go to USPS.com and schedule a free carrier pick-up. In your request, let your local Post Office know where they can find the package or packages and the carrier will retrieve them when he or she delivers your mail. USPS postal employees are working around the clock to ensure you get your important letters and packages. Skip the trip to the Post Office by ordering stamps, package supplies, and printing package postage from your home. Mail Carriers will pick up your packages too.

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Upton’s Moderator Suggests Protocols for Upcoming Town Meeting

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

With Upton’s Annual Town Meeting scheduled for June 23, town officials are finalizing the logistics of the meeting and protocols that voters will be asked to adhere to if attending. During a June 2 Board of Selectmen’s remote meeting, Town Moderator David Loeper presented his thoughts on the matter.

Loeper agreed that the meeting will be held at Nipmuc Regional High School at 7 p.m.

Loeper explained to the Board that he and Town Clerk Kelly McElreath met at the high school to determine how many residents the auditorium and the gymnasium could hold while also practicing social distancing guidelines. The auditorium Loeper said could hold up 120 people and the gym could hold up to approximately 170 people. Loeper said he’d like to keep the meeting in the auditorium if the numbers permit.

Attendees will be kept approximately six feet away from each other. However, immediate family members, such as a husband and wife, may sit next to one another. However, immediate family members, such as a husband and wife, may sit next to one another.

Loeper stated he had a concern with multiple people utilizing the general microphone and suggested wiping it down after each person speaks into it. He also recommended that he read all the motions to help cut down on microphone use.

In speaking with the Board of Health, Loeper said attendees will be required to wear face coverings throughout the meeting. “Everyone wears a mask; myself included,” he said. When we speak, we will be wearing the mask. I know that make it difficult but that really is the only way we can do it,” he said.

The Town Moderator also suggested there be no voice votes at this meeting. Instead attendees will vote by raising a green card or red card. “If it looks really close, then we’ll have a standing vote,” he said.

Selectman Chair Stephen Matellian agreed with utilizing the cards to vote. “We certainly don’t want to be yelling votes over one another’s shoulders,” he said.

It was also suggested to cut down on certain visitors, such as Boy Scouts or Girls Scouts, from attending the meeting. Town employees who do not reside in Upton and press would be welcome.

The Town Nurse agreed to be at meeting. “It wouldn’t be a bad idea to have one there anyway, in case questions come up with Board of Health type issues,” said Loeper.

The consent calendar will also be utilized to save time. The Selectmen agreed to appear with the Town Moderator’s suggestions but will continue to review protocols. “There are unique circumstances for this meeting. It’s worthwhile to recognize that and behave accordingly,” said Selectman Brett Swan.

Residents who are planning to attend the Annual Town Meeting are encouraged to visit UptonMA.gov to review the final guidelines for the meeting.

Recommended $24.6 Million Budget to Be Presented to Upton Voters

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

During Upton’s June 23 Annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee will recommend a new fiscal year operating budget totaling $24.6 million.

Upton’s Town Meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Nipmuc Regional High School. Town officials are hoping to move attendees in the auditorium but may have to utilize the gymnasium instead, depending on the turnout.

Article 2A on the warrant is the new operational budget recommended at $24,656,796, an $878,874 or 3.7 percent increase over last year’s budget of $23,777,922.

According to the Finance Committee’s report, the drivers for the new budget “are familiar and include primarily increases in insurance, healthcare, wages, pensions, curbside trash, and recycling and education expenses. Approximately 57 percent of the town’s new budget goes towards the schools, followed by 14 percent for public safety, ten percent for public works, nine percent for employee benefits, five percent for government, two percent for health and human services, one percent for culture and recreation, and two percent for debt services.

The overall recommended funding for the Mendon Upton Regional School District and Blackstone Valley Tech, totals $13,983,944, a 4.63 percent increase. For Upton, the School’s Regional Operating expenses total $12,223,378, with an additional $418,875 in debt exclusions. UVT’s operating expenses total $1,323,402, plus an additional $16,039 for the school’s capital assessment. The budget also shows an overall salary increase for the schools of $2,250.

Another notable increase in the new budget is the Board of Health’s ask for an additional $43,000 for curbside trash and recycling. According to the Town Manager’s Budget Recommendations Report for fiscal year 2021, the escalating costs are due to an annual increase for EI. Harvey of three percent, as well as the escalating costs of recycling. Charges for curbside recycling will increase from $70 per ton to $95 per ton for 2021.

Per the Finance Committee’s report, “All municipalities are grappling with this problem and Upton will need to soon decide whether to keep paying these large increases each year or do something different.”

The town’s mandated Worcester County Retirement Fund’s contribution for the year totals approximately $696,000 and liability insurance shows an increase of 8.13 percent to $1,344,400.

The Police Department’s new budget for the year is proposed to have a small overall increase of 89 percent, or increasing from $1,836,449 to $1,852,749. Part of those increases are for building maintenance, training, and clothing allowances. The Fire Department is proposing a 5.67 percent overall increase to its budget from last year’s $1,352,371 to $1,217,707. Salaries, building maintenance, and department expenses are part of those requested increases.

Proposed salaries in the budget reflect a two percent cost of living raise, step increases for several employees and added hours for some positions as well. Residents are encouraged to visit UptonMA.gov to review any protocols that will need to be adhered to regarding face coverings and social distancing measures.

Upton School Funding

Upcoming Town Meeting

Submitted by Tracey Tardy
Upton Board of Assessors Coordinator

According to an article by Joanne Graziano, for the May 7 Massachusetts Department of Revenue/Division of Local Services City & Town, assessors are required by Massachusetts law to assess all real and personal property at its fair cash value as of January 1 each year. Fair cash value correlates to fair market value, the price a willing buyer and a willing seller would settle upon in an open market transaction. Property assessments are retrospective in Massachusetts and based on the market conditions that occurred in the previous calendar year. The date of value for the assessments for Fiscal Year 2021 reflects January 1, 2020. The LA3 Sales Analysis report demonstrates that assessments are at or near the statutory standard of fair market value and that there are not significant variances in assessment levels among the property classes. This is measured by an assessment to sales ratio with a median that must range between 90 to 110 percent for all classes. This requirement maintains an equitable approach to the allocation of the property tax burden.

Finalizing assessments for FY21, the assessor will review the real estate market in calendar year 2019.

Assessing at Fair Cash Value

While it’s not possible to completely ignore the financial collapse of certain businesses due to the COVID19 crisis, the assessor is expected to minimize the influence of this new information by viewing through the eyes of market participant as of the assessment date, the beginning of the year. To learn more about property taxes, visit MASS.gov/guides/ massachusetts-property-taxes.

COVID19 Impact on Assessments: While the COVID19 crisis has severely impacted unemployment and certain businesses, it is unclear what effect it will have on the market for real estate. Because assessments are retrospective, any abatement due to overvaluation filed in FY21 must be based on the analysis of market conditions that occurred in 2019 or an actual error in data and not on the COVID19 impact. It will be essential to continually communicate this message to taxpayers through information provided on community’s websites. Over the next year, assessors will be monitoring the real estate market and see its impact on sales and investment properties in preparation for assessments for FY22.

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By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter

Bylaws amendments concerning common driveways, the date of the Town Election, and special legislation related to the Treasurer/Collector's position will be determined at Upton’s June 23 Annual Town Meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Nipmuc Regional High School.

Article 30 concerns the Treasurer/Collector’s position which is elected by residents. The article is proposing to authorize the Board of Selectmen to submit special legislation changing the position from elected to appointed; a move current Treasurer/Collector Ken Glowacki supports.

Glowacki is preparing to retire no later than July 1 after serving in the position for more than 20 years. He feels it's best for the town to appoint the best qualified person moving forward.

Nearly ten years ago, an auditor's report recommended the position be changed to appointed. Part of the auditor’s letter stated, “While the current Treasurer/Collector (Glowacki) possesses the skills necessary to support this position, future elected Treasurer Collectors may not.

Upton voters rejected the same measure in 2014.

Article 16 is requesting to amend the town’s zoning bylaws concerning common driveways. The bylaw will insert new language stating, “Common driveways shall only be allowed by special permit subject to the provisions of, Section 9.3 of this bylaw. The special permit granting authority shall be the Planning Board of the town of Upton.”

In addition, building permits and occupancy permits will be not issued until driveway’s layout and completed driveway have been inspected by third party engineers. Article 32 is requesting a change to the Act Establishing the Office of Town Manager in the Town of Upton that would permit the Town Manager to appoint the Assistant Assessor and for the Assistant Assessor to be an elected member of the Board of Assessor’s.

Article 33 is to amend the general bylaws that discusses the dates of the Annual Town Election and the Annual Town Meeting. Article 34 concerns posting requirements of town meeting warrants. The article will amend the general bylaws and insert text stating copies of warrants will be posted on the Upton Clerk’s bulletin board at the Town Hall, on the town’s Web site, an in any other manner the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate.

The measure is meant to provide more up to date access of the document to residents.

The finalized warrant is posted on the at UptonMA.gov on the Board of Selectmen’s page.

Selectmen Hear Latest Open Space and Recreation Plan

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter

Bill Taylor, Chair of the Open Space Committee, presented the latest edition of the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Board of Selectmen during a May 19 meeting. This is the fifth edition of the plan; the last one was updated in 2011. Taylor was hoping to receive a letter of support regarding the plan from the Selectmen that evening. The multi-page draft document describes Upton's natural resources, provides an inventory of open space and recreational facilities, sets goals for the town regarding land and recreation, and provides an action plan over the next seven years.

One of the reasons for updating the plan is to be eligible for grants from the Division of Conservation Services. Taylor explained the key to the Open Space and Recreation Plan is its seven-year action plan, “Which is the outcome of all the different kinds of research that goes into it,” he said. The action plan takes into account the build out analysis that was completed by the CMRPC, the Master Plan, along with other data.

Taylor also discussed the results of a town-wide survey that was mailed out in January to 2,900 households within the census. Nearly 900 surveys were completed and returned. The survey asked residents a number of questions pertaining to open space and recreation areas used and improvements they'd like to see.

The main location of the Upton State Forest, Pratt Pond Conservation Area, and Lakeview Cemetery were the top visited open space areas visited in town, followed by Heritage Park, Peppercorn Hill, and Stefan's Farm.

Taylor noted open space areas have been getting more use over the last two months or so. “The lockdown appears to have given people more time to go out and take advantage of the town's open spaces.” When asked which of the town's recreation areas and facilities have residents visited—Kiwanis Beach for swimming was most popular, followed by the FVWF playground, the Kiwanis Beach athletic fields, the BVT outdoor track, and Kiwanis Beach picnic area with others following. Activities that residents enjoy most include walking, dog walking, swimming, nature/wildlife observation, fishing, playground activities, and watching local sporting events.

Deterrents from taking part in activities include ticks, lack of time, poor water quality, lack of trail maps, and not wanting to hike alone.

“I'm hoping, over time, we can have group hikes,” said Taylor. Improvements residents would like to see include a town wide loop trail, better trail signage, and a dog park. Selectman Chair Stephen Mattalian asked Taylor about total acreage in town. The Upton State Forest has approximately 2,300 acres, conservation/open space land totals 940 acres, 318 acres are made up of land trusts, there are 193 acres of private land trusts protected by conservation restrictions, and the Army Corp of Engineers has 64 acres. “That protected open space of just about 4,000 acres,” said Taylor. The Selectmen voted unanimously to write a letter supporting the latest edition of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

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In January, Mendon resident Tom Glowa lost his battle to cancer. He left his wife, Missy, and two young children, Chelsea and Colin. His family is installing a Memorial at the Taft Public Library to help remember him. The pergola will include a comfy outdoor reading area. His wish was to have a peaceful place that his family, and many others could enjoy for many years to come. The pergola will also be available to the community so families and groups can use it for a variety of activities such as Library storytimes, programs, Scout meetings and more.

The project was approved by the Taft Public Library Board of Trustees and Select Board before the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the state shut down, the project was put on hold for a while but is now back on track. NE Outdoor Sheds installed the pergola in mid-June in time for Father’s Day. The firm is being assisted by the Brothers of the Brush who take care of site preparations.

Originally, a grand opening to which friends, family and the community would have been invited was to have celebrated the project’s completion but, with social distancing that is not possible. Instead a guest book will be placed at the site and visitors are asked to visit enjoy the Memorial and write a few words or remembrance for the family. Tom Glowa with his wife Missy, and their children Chelsea and Colin.
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Happy 101st Birthday!

Even though people have to stay apart due to the pandemic that did not stop the friends and relatives of Georgia Deane from celebrating her 101st birthday on June 9. About 45 to 50 cars decorated with homemade signs and balloons and full of smiling waving people drove by her Mendon home with music playing and horns tooting expressing their love, energy and birthday wishes. Miss Georgia, as she is known to the thousands of dance students she has taught, stood at picture window and waved to everyone who stopped and sang Happy Birthday. Later Miss Georgia sang on a microphone to the crowd. She was surprised by the birthday parade and really loved the whole thing! It was like a great reunion. As Mendon’s oldest resident, Miss Georgia still has the town’s Golden Cane. Contributed photos

Mendon Voters to Act on 25 Article Warrant

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Voters will act on 25 articles during Mendon’s Monday, June 29 Annual Town Meeting at Misconce Hill School at 7 p.m. The meeting’s exact location at the school has not been finalized as of June 12. Town officials discussed having the school’s gym or outdoors near the baseball field. Residents planning to attend should visit MendonMA.gov for the location and protocols.

For this year’s meeting, the Select Board tried to simplify the warrant as much as possible and hold a number of articles until the fall.

Article 3 is the new recommended $20.4 million budget and the following article is the override for the MURSD totaling $271,820. Articles related to Community Preservation Act funding includes a request for $10,000 to fund engineering costs needed for projects at the Town Beach addressing drainage/storm water run-off issues, fixing landscaping problems, repairing retaining walls, cleaning up the playground area, and purchasing equipment. Another CPA request seeks $1,000 for the installation of gutters on the Records Room building to help keep water away from the foundation.

Article 22 seeks $10,000 of CPA funds to install a pollinator garden on the Muddy Brook conservation area and Article 23 requests $10,000 of CPA funds for public water supply permitting needed for affordable homes at 52 Providence St.

The last article on the warrant, Article 25, requests $50,000 to replace or repair the Town Hall’s well. The well has failed several times. Once the project gets underway and funding is possible and hold a number of articles until the fall.

New Budget, Override on Mendon’s Warrant

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

Mendon residents are reminded the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 29 at Misconce Hill School, North Ave at 7 p.m. As of June 12, town officials were determining where the meeting would be held; either in the building’s gymnasium or possibly outside on school’s baseball field. Residents planning to attend should visit MendonMA.gov for the latest information on the location and protocols to be followed.

Voters will act on 25 articles including Article 3, the new recommended fiscal year 2021 budget totaling $20,449,288, a 3.4 percent increase over last year’s budget of $19,777,515.

Regardless of having to navigate multiple budget meetings remotely, Finance Committee Chair Mike Merolli said the budget process went smoothly, “beyond the typical challenges of balancing needs with available resources.”

Mendon’s expenditure projections for FY21 are: schools totaling $11,429,441 or 56 percent of the budget, public safety totaling $3,023,140 or 14.8 percent of the budget, employee benefits totaling $1,940,186 or 9.5 percent of the budget, general government totaling $1,224,078 or 6 percent, public works totaling $887,905 or 4.3 percent, public welfare totaling $675,202 or 3.3 percent, culture and recreation totaling $381,930 or 1.9 percent, debt service at $826,276 or 3.6 percent, and special articles and other expenses totaling $161,130 or 0.8 percent. As a result, the new balanced budget equates to $20,449,288.

Besides the schools, some of the other drivers behind the 3.4 percent increase include health insurance, the Worcester County Retirement contribution, and funding a new ambulance.

The recommended combined total for the Mendon Upton Regional School District (MURSD) and Blackstone Valley Tech. comes to $11,429,441, an overall percent increase or $2,658,336.

If approved, the Regional School District’s new recommended budget request from Mendon totals $10,329,065, an increase of $237,490 from last year. Also, on the warrant is an override request for the MURSD totaling $271,820.

Blackstone Valley Tech. High School’s recommended budget request from Mendon totals $1,100,376, a decrease of $15,854 from last year.

The FY21 contribution to the Worcester County Retirement Fund is $717,711, an increase of $53,140 over FY20.

Health insurance and employee benefit has also increased by $85,175, or 9.41 percent, totaling $990,275. In addition, funding for the town’s new ambulance totaling $42,314 is a new line item in the Fire Department’s budget.

Article 4, is the Proposition 2½ override for the Mendon Upton Regional School District totaling $271,820. Residents passed the override at the town election by a vote of 711 to 445. Now, the measure must pass at the town meeting. The tax impact to a $425,000 home will be approximately $118 per year, which includes the three percent CPA charge.

Your Connections While Distancing

To reach our Customer Care Team during business hours: 
- Mendon Office (508) 533-8641
- Medway Office (508) 533-8641

For important updates and current hours: 
Visit CharlesRiverBank.com/COVID-19

Member DIF 
Member FDIC 
Your Deposits are Insured in Full
Monson officials have released the following COVID-19 updates.

**Annual Town Meeting**
Monson’s Annual Town Meeting is Monday, June 29 at 7 p.m. at Miscoe Hill School, North Ave.

**Parks Department**
The Memorial Park tennis courts, playground and bathrooms are now open. The Memorial basketball courts remain closed. Look for updates on Massachussets reopening process. The fields are open for individual / family use only.

The Summer Recreation program and town beach open June 29. Register at MendonMA.gov/parks. Swim lessons and ARMI concerts are cancelled. Youth sports will resume following guidelines.

**Trash Service**
Trash stickers can be obtained by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope along with a check in the amount for the number of stickers ordered, $2 each, to the Board of Health Office, 18 Main St., Mendon 01756.

Massachusetts Simple Recycling and bulk pickups have resumed. The Recycling Center at the Highway Barn is open. Payment is by check only, drivers must stay in their vehicles, your driver’s license is their ID and please wear a mask at a time. Contact the Board of Health, 508-634-2656, for information.

**Open Space**
All trails and open space properties are open for individual and family use. Users should observe social distancing and have a face mask ready to wear if needed. Visit TaftPublicLibrary.org for details and information online services.

**Senior Center and Food Pantry**
Please call 508-478-6175 or email cssa@mendonma.gov for assistance. Food Pantry orders are accepted and pickup times arranged.

**Tarf Public Library**
Curbside pickup and drop off of materials has started. Visit TaftPublicLibrary.org for details and information online services.

**Bills**
Use the drop-box by the Town Hall front entrance for payments, completed census forms, dog licensing and applications. Checks should be used for payments. Payments may also be mailed to P.O. Box 11, Mendon, MA 01756, or handled online at MonsonMA.gov and clicking on the Online Payment link.

**Building Department**
Building Department/Permitting Offices payments and paperwork may be left in the drop-box outside the office in the former Taft Public Library Building. Online permitting is available at MonsonMA.gov/viewpoint.

**Library**
Curbside pick up and drop off of materials has started. Visit TaftPublicLibrary.org for details and information online services.

**Zoobean**
Zoobean is great and there is even an app you can download that makes for easy logging. When calling the library or emailing, have a few alternate titles in mind should anything you request be unavailable. Library staff will collect your items, bag them, and call you when your order has been completed. Pickup times are Wednesday and Friday, 12 to 4 p.m., and Thursday to 6:30 p.m. For additional information please visit TaftPublicLibrary.org and click on the “Curbside Pickup begins June 10th” Banner.

**Summer Reading at Taft**
Welcome to Summer Reading 2020. … Pandemic Style!
It may look a bit different. It may be a bit different. But we will still make the most of it! It’s going to be a great summer! Make sure to visit TaftPublicLibrary.org on July 1 to register your whole family for our summer reading program. This summer we will offer curbside pickup and log-in logging of minutes. Our new platform, Beanstack by Zoobean, is great and there is even an app you can download that makes for easy logging! Make sure to log those hours! Throughout the summer we will hold random drawings for all ages, including a weekly adult drawing. Sadly, this summer there will not be a treasure chest for kids or a wheel to spin for teens, but don’t be too glum. There are still great weekly prizes to be won! Check the website for information on how to redeem your prizes. We will have many fun and entertaining virtual programs for all ages this summer. Make sure to check our website often and follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information about our online programming.

**Curbside Service**
Curbside service has begun at the Taft Public Library. Patrons may request items Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in one of three ways.
One way is to place holds on items, limiting searches to the Mendon Taft Public Library, through your library account online. The second is email taftpubliclibrary@ mendonma.gov with the list of items. And third, call the library at 508-473-3259.
There is a limit of five items requested by phone, 10 item limit per card. Holds can be placed with books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, and videogames. When calling the library or emailing, have a few alternate titles in mind should anything you request be unavailable. Library staff will collect your items, bag them, and call you when your order has been completed. Pickup times are Wednesday and Friday, 12 to 4 p.m., and Thursday to 6:30 p.m. For additional information please visit TaftPublicLibrary.org and click on the “Curbside Pickup begins June 10th” Banner.

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**Mendon Trash Bills**
Trash bills for the first half of fiscal year 2021 were mailed out and due June 15. This billing covers trash and recycling service from July 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020. The rate charge is $143 and for quantities services 871. If residents have not received a bill or have any questions, please contact the Board of Health office at 508-634-2656 or boh@mendonma.gov.
Pandemic Leaves Martocci Waiting on College Plans

By the middle of June, Mary Martocci was hoping to be on the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) campus with an eye towards traveling to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for the fall. But, as has been the case for thousands of students nationwide, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the best laid plans on hold. Martocci is waiting to hear from FAU about whether she will resume her personal instruction next semester. If school is back in session, she will head down and try out for the track team. If it isn’t, she’ll spend another year in Massachusetts and take classes at a community college.

“It’s been pretty stressful,” she said. “I am worried about my plans but I have been trying to take it one day at a time.”

Martocci is hoping to continue her hurdling career at the Boca Raton university. She was a standout at BVT from the very start of her time with the track program. Martocci competed at the varsity level since seventh grade and broke the 100-meter hurdle record and lowered it once. Martocci also set the 400 hurdle record and lowered it once.

“Larger playing areas and surfaces, such as athletic fields, tracks, tennis courts, and full size basketball courts, may be used by more than one group of 10 at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained,” the guidance states, noting that separate facilities, including pools, fields, courts, gyms, tracks, dance facilities and batting cages, among others, to reopen. While locker rooms associated with these places will stay closed during Phase II, bathrooms will be allowed to open up.

Much of the guidance connected to the return of youth sports is familiar during the health crisis, including practicing social distancing, frequent sanitization of surfaces, hand washing, and not allowing employees or participants to come in if they are feeling sick.

“Larger playing areas and surfaces, such as athletic fields, tracks, tennis courts, and full size basketball courts, may be used by more than one group of 10 at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained,” the guidance states, noting that separate groups of 10, which includes coaches or other employees, must be spaced at least 20 feet apart if they are sharing the same court or field.

While athletes are allowed to train, they cannot use weight rooms and for most sports, games will not be allowed until Phase III. “Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercises,” the regulations state.

Contact sports, as defined by the state guidance, includes baseball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, football, and ice hockey, but notes that the definition is not limited to those sports alone. Non-contact racket sports, such as tennis may partake in competition under the Phase II guidance. Golf returned prior to the start of Phase I and that sport has been operating with some restrictions in place that have loosened a bit since it first reopened.

Facilities and camps are also asked to limit the number of spectators in attendance and those who are observing must observe social distancing protocols and wear face coverings, per the guidance.

Phase III, which can begin as early as June 29, would bring with it the return of games as summer baseball and basketball leagues cautiously hope for the green light to start their seasons in July.
Upton, Mendon Town Crier

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition Statewide Against the Tide

With the health and well-being of participants, volunteers, and sponsors in mind, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) has developed a new schedule for its annual, statewide Against the Tide athletic fundraising events for 2020. MBCC is postponing the in-person events originally scheduled for June 20 in Hopkinton and August 15 on Cape Cod to new dates in September, and instead will be offering virtual options for both summer dates. Both of the in-person events in the fall will also offer virtual options.

The new event schedule is as follows:
- Saturday, June 20 and Saturday, August 15 – virtual options
- Saturday, September 19 – 28 Annual Metro-Boston Against the Tide in DCR’s Hopkinton State Park, also includes a virtual option
- Saturday, September 26 – 21st Annual Cape Cod Against the Tide in DCR’s Nickerson State Park, Brewster, also includes a virtual option

All proceeds from Against the Tide benefit MBCC, which is the state’s leading breast cancer organization dedicated to preventing the environmental causes of breast cancer through community education, research advocacy, and changes to public policy.

All Against the Tide virtual participants will receive a Participant Fun Pack. The in-person events will offer participants of all ages the choice of up to four of the following components: competitive and recreational swims, recreational kayak, fitness walk, paddleboard, and USA Track & Field certified 5K/10K runs. The event also offers an Aquathon “Splash and Dash” component, where participants “splash” in the competitive one-mile swim and immediately “dash” in the 5K or 10K run. Additionally, in Hopkinton, there will be a kids’ fun run. New for 2020, MBCC is pleased to announce that both events will also feature a one-mile U.S. Master Swimming (USMS) sanctioned swim. Prizes will be awarded to the podium finishers, top age group finishers, and top fundraisers.

To learn more visit MBCC.org/swim or call 1-800-649-MBCC (6622).

Nipmuc Softball Seniors Kept Hope for Season Alive

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

More than three dozen hopefuls are planning to suit up for Milford this year as American Legion baseball coaches are sewing up plans to go forward with a baseball season even after the national organization announced it would not be sponsoring a season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 10 teams that play in Zone 4, including Milford, which hosts athletes from Nipmuc and Blackstone Valley Tech, are planning to take part in the Worcester County Baseball League.

Milford Post 59 manager Steve DiVitto said the league will be split into two divisions. In one division, Milford will compete with Framingham, Leominster, Northboro and Shrewsbury. In the other, Sturbridge will play along with Cherry Valley, which is based in Leicester, and three Worcester teams: East Side, Grafton Hill and Main South.

“All of the coaches want to do whatever we can to find a way for these kids to play in the safest way possible,” said Milford Manager Steve DiVitto. “We have decided to move forward with an independent league. It will not be sponsored by legion but it’s going to have the same feeling, the same rules, and the same age, it just won’t be under the American Legion umbrella.”

DiVitto said as many as 10 players from Upton and Mendon have expressed interest in being a part of the program.

Under the Phase II guidance for reopening the state, teams could hold tryouts in small groups this month. Phase III, which allows for youth sports competition to take place, would need to begin in order for the league to get off the ground.

Some modifications will be made. Instead of the traditional 18-player legion rosters, teams will carry up to 25 players to account for the fact that spring seasons were canceled and players, especially pitchers, have not had the chance to get their bodies in shape.

The planned schedule calls for a 15-game regular season starting July 8 with up to four games per week. Weekends would be left open for tournament play, DiVitto said, noting that there are tentative plans to play teams on Cape Cod sometime in late July.

Many details are still being sorted out. While players will have to use their own equipment without the benefit of team helmets or bats, it is unclear whether they will have to wear masks in dugouts or whether dugouts could be used at all. Whatever decisions are made will follow guidance from health officials, DiVitto said.

“It’s all coming together quickly,” he said. “We want to play but we also have to protect everyone involved.”

A Real and Virtual Karate Champion

Submitted by Steve Ruddock

Upton’s Kevin Ruddock isn’t letting a global pandemic get in the way of his dream of becoming a karate champion, and competing in the Olympics.

The 11-year-old Jr. black belt at Nick Cerio’s Kenpo Karate in Bellingham took another step towards turning his dream into a reality when he recently captured his first world championship.

Coronavirus may have closed his martial arts school and postponed the in-person martial arts tournaments he loves for the foreseeable future, but Kevin is still training and competing. He’s just doing it virtually.

“It’s not the same, but being able to compete virtually has helped me stay motivated,” said Kevin, the son of Mindy and Steve Ruddock.

The shutdown has also provided Kevin with new opportunities. Martial arts schools have moved their classes online during the state-mandated closures, but through Zoom classes, Kevin has been able to stay connected to his karate friends and has even taken classes with schools in other states.

“Some of the judges and instructors I’ve met at tournaments have invited me to take their online classes,” he said. “It’s been a great opportunity, and I can’t thank them enough for all they do for me.”

One event Kevin was hoping to attend in 2020 was The Grand Internationals, a world championship event taking place in Portimao, Portugal, in October. The organizers were forced to cancel the event but came up with the idea of hosting it virtually and rebranding it as the Martial Arts Virtual World Championships.

Under the new format, competitors from all over the globe submitted videos of their kata performances (martial arts forms) to an international panel of judges.

Kevin entered four divisions broken up by rank, age, and style.

1. World Karate Federation (WKF) traditional kata, 12 and under
2. Open, kata any style, 12 and under
3. Traditional weapon kata, 12 and under
4. Open, creative weapon kata, 12 and under
5. He placed first in the open kata division, securing his first world championship, second in WKF traditional kata, third in traditional weapon kata, and fourth in open weapon kata.

In 2019, he competed in a total of 35 events at 16 different tournaments. He placed first 24 times, along with nine 2nd place and two 4th place finishes. He finished the season as the IPPONE-Circuit’s champion for kata and weapon kata in the 12 and under black belt division.
Allen said he will likely be continuing to compete for face-offs in college as well as playing midfield. “I think I am going to shake some things up and compete with some of the guys they have now for playing time," he said.

To that end, Allen said he will be spending the summer working on sharpening every aspect of his game and conditioning, including passing and shooting. “I want to make myself a complete player," he said.

Allen also is looking to study nursing in college with a goal of working in emergency or trauma-related medicine. “I feel like it’s fast paced and first aid is something I have been interested in," he said. “Being able to take it to a high level and make an impact on someone who needs help is important and it’s something where you can see the results right away.”

Allen said his interest in nursing began through an exploratory program at Valley Tech. “I found a couple of schools that had what I was looking for but in the end the deciding factor was the location," the Blackstone Valley Tech senior said.

Allen said it’s important to be a part of and that made Curry the home for me.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Sawyer Allen was looking for a place where he could play lacrosse and study nursing at a high level and he found that perfect opportunity at Curry College. “I found a couple of schools that had what I was looking for but in the end the deciding factor was the location,” the Blackstone Valley Tech senior said. “I realized playing lacrosse in college is something I wanted to be a part of and that made Curry the home for me.”

Allen has been a dominant face-off man for the Beavers over the past several seasons. He came close to setting a single-season state record for face-offs won and had a chance to capture the career record for Massachusetts lacrosse players. Rivard has been a standout discus thrower during his time with the Beavers.

“I have seen her blossom over the past four years,” Coonan said. “She was a competitor from the get-go when she got here. She just works hard and she has earned her success.”

Rivard also has the opportunity for me to do track in college. ”

Talented Group

Rivard Lands D1 Track & Field Opportunity

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Blackstone Valley Tech senior Maddie Rivard has made a significant impact on the track and field program over the past four years and her success earned her the chance to compete at the Division I level at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

“I really loved the school when I toured it,” Rivard said. “I loved the environment and everyone seemed to be very welcoming and it was a great opportunity for me to do track in college.”

Rivard has been a standout discus thrower during her time with the Beavers. But she will be able to expand her events in college, which has the hammer throw and weight throw, which are not part of the high school program.

She heads to college after a successful high school career that included a win at the state vocational championships and a personal best of more than 92-feet in the discus. Rivard said spending time with her coach, Barry Coonan, and her teammates was also a highlight of her time with BVT.

“They really make it an environment that helped me grow,” she said. “Going into high school I had never done track and field before and I just went into tryouts without any expectations. To come out going into a Division I school for the sport is a big deal for me.”

Rivard started by watching online videos to learn the proper technique for throwing the discus. “It was hard at first,” she said. “But I kept practicing and practicing and drilling it in.”

“I have seen her blossom over the past four years,” Coonan said. “She was a competitor from the get-go when she got here. She just works hard and she has earned her success.”

The 18-year-old Douglas resident credited the support of her parents, Brenda and Chris, with giving her the confidence to pursue a Division I opportunity. “They were so supportive,” Rivard said. “They pushed me to fill out the recruitment forms. I was thinking ‘I’m not sure if I’m quite good enough yet, but my mom said ‘you have to go after this.”

Rivard will also have the chance to pursue studies in the field of nursing, another passion of hers. “I really love helping people,” she said. “I think I have type one diabetes so that gives me some background in the medical field because I have been around doctors and nurses a big portion of my life. I hate seeing people struggle, like they are with the coronavirus right now, and I really like helping people get better.”

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Success Story of Brian Gay

Our Lady of the Valley Announces Principal

The Consultative Board of Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, Uxbridge, named Edward Reynolds as the school principal effective July 1. Reynolds succeeds Marilyn Willard, who is retiring after 13 years at Our Lady of the Valley (OLV).

Reynolds, who has 19 years administrative experience, has previously served as principal and headmaster at Holy Name Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School, Worcester. He states, “I am excited to join the Our Lady of the Valley Catholic school community, and I look forward to building upon the wonderful foundation that is currently in place. It is an outstanding school with a dedicated and talented faculty, and I am grateful to the Consultative Board for this opportunity to lead them.”

Rev. Nicolas Desimone, Pastor of Saint Mary Church and Our Lady of the Valley Regional School, Uxbridge, named Reynolds at ed.reynolds@olvuxbridge.org or call 508-278-5851.

HOMEMAKERS/ PC AIDES WANTED

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(508) 478-3500

for more information

Our Lady of the Valley Announces Principal

By Scott Calzolaio

Our Lady of the Valley Regional School Spanish Immersion teacher Katie Cardamone was named to the President’s List for a GPA of 3.9 or higher for the Spring 2020 semester. The following local students have been named to the Dean’s List at their respective schools for the spring 2020 Assumption College, Worcester: Mendon- Kayla Peabody Class of 2020 and Tatiana Wuerman Class of 2022. Upton- Brianna Heffron Class of 2022, Erin Smith Class of 2021 and Kali Schrroco, Class of 2023. Becker College, Worcester/Lancaster: Mendon- Brittany Wolfe, Bachelor of Arts degree in Interactive Media Design, Game Design Concentration. Connecticut College, New London, Conn.: Mendon- Christina Lobos, Class of 2023, undeclared major. Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Mo.: Upton-Mark Jango was named to the President’s List for a 4.0 GPA. Endicott College, Beverly: Mendon-Cameron Busby, Criminal Justice and Psychology, Justin DaAntonio, Bioengineering, Collin Flanagan, Marketing and Business Management; and Kealani Peters, Marketing. Laura Peters and Michael Peters. Upton- Maria Buono, Computer Information Systems/Advertising; Melanie Morgan, Finance, and Kaitlyn Schimp, Nursing.

Nicholls College, Dudley: Mendon-Olivia Lareau an Accounting Major. Upton-Matthew Bern an Accounting Major; and Michael Lassalle a Mathematics major. All were named to the President’s List for a GPA of 3.85 or higher.

Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N.H.: Mendon- Samantha Williams. Upton-Jacob Derother and Zachary Hunter.

Stena College, Loundounville, N.Y.: Upton-Abigail Rapijeko President’s List for a GPA of 3.9 or higher.
School News

Farewell to Nipmuc Class of 2020 Musicians

Since the 2019-2020 school year ended without the usual ceremonies that students experience, the Mendon Upton Music Boosters would like to congratulate the following senior musicians from the class of 2020: Emily Borst, Evan Bulock, Ian Burke Perez, Rachel Cassinelli, Liam Crisfield, Rory Crisfield, Emily Croseur, Lauren Davis, Else Deschenes, Rachel Dunlay, Nyah Ganda, Brett Hackenson, April Hackenson, Charlie Harper, Mackenzie Healey, Sarah Hutley, Erika Johe, Jared Joyce, Katie Laurence, Felype Lamas, Francine Labin, Rory Mosher, Andrew Muhareb, Coleman Lee, Justine Nicholson, Javier O’Brien, Dylan Ragan, Allison Shepherd, and Aaron Spindel. Although the concert season was cut short due to COVID-19, the Nipmuc music program had several notable successes. For MAJE districts, the lab band won silver, and the jazz ensemble won gold. The jazz ensemble also won gold at the Norwood Jazz Festival. Several talented band and chorus students participated in the Central District concert at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, and the Acastock concert featured the chorus, as well as a phenomenal performance by “Five O’clock Shadows.” In addition, Mr. Harding launched the music mentoring program between the high school and middle school students. None of this would be possible without the support of families and friends in the community. The boosters thank the program sponsors for their generous donations: Imperial Cars, Galliford’s Restaurant, Dance Works Academy, The Little Coffee Bean, Hopkinton Center for the Arts, P&N Realty/ Mike Lynch, Fleet Street Barbering, and Music and Arts.

BVT Again Earns National Distinguished School Recognition

For the third consecutive year, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is recognized as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for increasing access, engagement, and achievement in the PLTW Computer Science and Engineering pathway.

The national nonprofit organization PLTW serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in over 12,200 schools across the country. BVT is one of 143 high schools to receive this designation for the 2019-2020 school year and the only high school in the state to do so consecutively.

“it’s always an honor for our school system to be recognized by Project Lead The Way as a Distinguished School,” said Vocational Director Dr. Matthew Connors. “This accolade is a testament to BVT’s sustained approach in delivering quality vocational instruction and the willingness of the students to constantly go the extra mile.”

To be eligible for this designation, BVT had to offer at least three PLTW courses; of the students participating, at least a third took two or more PLTW courses during their high school tenure with at least 95 per cent of students completing the PLTW End-of-Course assessments, and have strategies and procedures in place to support a reasonable proportion of representation regarding race, ethnicity, poverty, gender.

BVT currently offers six PLTW courses in the Engineering Pathway and has implemented the Computer Science Pathway in its Information Technology program. The second of four courses in the Computer Science Pathway was provided in the fall with the other two classes to roll out in consecutive school year. BVT also plans to move forward with an academic set of courses in the PLTW Biomedical Science Pathway this fall.

The PLTW Biomedical Science introduces high school students to medicine and human body systems and a wide array of biomedical science careers. Throughout the program, students take on the same real-world challenges as biomedical science professionals, preparing them for careers in medical and health-related fields. The PLTW Computer Science interdisciplinary courses engage students in compelling, real-world computer science challenges. As students work together to design solutions, they learn more than just how to code, developing computational thinking, and communication skills for our increasingly technology-based economy.

The PLTW Engineering empowers high school students to step into the role of an engineer and adopt a problem-solving mindset. Students engage in collaborative, real-life activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices, or robotic arms and exploring algae as a biofuel source.

“Creating a positive learning community that prepares our students for success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of vocational, technical, and academic skills is all part of our mission in transforming education,” said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “Being consecutively recognized for the success of our PLTW curriculum is an honor.”

Christin’s Gallery

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Infos on my website or email me!

Private bookings for your club, charity, birthday etc. always welcome! I am happy to travel to your location, host at my studio or remotely. Don’t hesitate to contact me with questions and your ideas and requirements.

SUMMER ART CAMPS FOR KIDS

week 1: July 6-10 / week 2: July 13-17 / week 3: July 20-24 / week 4: July 27-31

Grades 1-4

$250 per kid

Mon-Fri

9am-2pm

Let’s have some messy fun this summer! Art Camp at Christin’s Gallery takes place outside! We will create some awesome nature artwork, have “paint bomb battles”, run through sprinklers, have picnic lunches, learn to focus on objects or plants and capture their essence with drawing, play games and enjoy laughs.

Camps are happening - limited spaces

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7 DAYS A WEEK

June 19, 2020

Upton, Mendon Town Crier
CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations Valley Tech Mendon Upton Graduates

Mendon
Dominic Gregory Algiezza, Plumbing
Luke Joseph Baloccia, Electronics & Engineering Technology
Ryan Paul Braun, Multimedia Communications
Carlie Anne Brown, Health Services
Alexander David Carcchio, Automotive Technology
Justin David Carnaroli, Automotive Technology
Isabella DePancoceo, Dental Assisting
Chase Henry Duncan, Engineering & Robotics
Paige Elizabeth Garrison (NHS), Culinary Arts
Kate Elizabeth Healy, Health Services
Clark Anthony Ambrosino, Construction
Robert Kajtar, Construction
Taylor Turosky, Plumbing
Trevor Alagoa
Braxton Alagoa
Wyatt Holman
Brooke Wells, Craft/DIY
Coby Reuben Asselin
Lora Marion Antaya
Evan Patrick Berno, Multimedia Communications
Cameron Metcalf, Technology
Joseph Hurley Mendes, Technology
Andrew David Meacham
Garrett David MacKinnon
Darren Sampey, Plumbing
Kee Will attend the University of Massachusetts Lowell

Upton
Heather Kaplan, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Cole Philip Peterson, Electronics & Engineering Technology
Abigail Denise Pintzler (NHS), Health Services
Hannah Susan Scarano, Cosmetology
Charles William Schrammey IV, Engineering & Robotics
Dylan Johnson, Technology
Emma Gallina, Health Services
Nolan Whitcomb Ballard
Abigail Denise Pontzer
Kyle David Tavares, Construction
Joseph David Antaya, Automotive Technology
Brian Frederic St John (NHS), Engineering & Robotics
Keesler Chase
Lora Marlow Antaya, Culinary Arts
Coby Rachell Joslin (NHS), Electronics & Engineering Technology
Noah Whitcomb Ballard, Construction Technology

Tops in their Class: Valley Tech 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Brandon Kee, the son of Diane and Dwight Kee of Milford, is the Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2020 Valedictorian.

Donald McDonald, the son of Katherine and Clayton McDonald of Grafton, is the Valley Tech Class of 2020 Salutatorian.

Brandon Kee, BVT Class of 2020 Valedictorian

Donald McDonald, BVT Class of 2020 Salutatorian
Assumption College

On May 10, Assumption College, Worcester conferred degrees to 522 that was live streamed. It is hoped an in person commencement ceremony will be held on August 23. Local students being awarded degrees are: Mendon residents Alyssa Cicconi who received a bachelor's degree in English and Kayla Peabody, who received a bachelor's degree in Management.

Sara Perregaux, MD
Sara Perregaux, MD daughter of Kathy and Ken Perregaux of Upton, graduated from The University of South Carolina School of Medicine. She begins a residency in General Surgery at Prisma Health System in Greenville, S.C. on July 1.

Becker College

Becker College, Worcester, announces the graduation of more than 430 students at a virtual commencement celebration, including the following local residents: Lauren Drainville, of Upton; has graduated with an Associate of Science in Veterinary Science, Veterinary Technology Concentration. Britanny Wolfe, of Mendon, has graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Interactive Media Design, Game Design Concentration.

Charles Brodeur
Charles Brodeur of Upton graduated from the University of San Diego for the 2019-2020 school year. He earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering.

Isabel DesRoches
Isabel DesRoches, the daughter of Amy Fahey and John DesRoches of Mendon, graduated from Boston College this spring. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Magna Cum Laude. She will be working as a medical-surgical nurse in a Boston-area hospital.

Kevin Hack
Kevin Hack, 2016 Nipmuc graduate and son of Chris and Cathy Hack of Uxbridge, graduated from Assumption College in Worcester, with a degree in Business Management. He has started his career at King Gage Engineering, in Mendon.

Matthew C. Morano
Matthew C. Morano, the son of Dave and Mary Morano of Mendon, graduated from Emmanuel College, Boston with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies with a concentration in Security & Diplomacy and minor in Middle Eastern Studies and Arabic. This fall he will begin pursuing a Masters in Global Policy at Suffolk University, Boston.

Kathryn Patrick
Kathryn Patrick, daughter of John and Patricia Patrick of Upton received a Juris Doctorate from Western New England University of Law and a Master's degree of Social Work from Springfield College. She was fourth in her law class and earned a 4.0 GPA in her Master’s program. She received three CALI awards and the Abraham Smith award for achieving academic excellence in her law classes. She will be working as in-house counsel for Eastland Title Services, South Windsor, Conn.

Emily C. Perry
Emily C. Perry, daughter of David and Beth Perry of Mendon, graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at U-Mass Amherst with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. She is employed by Bigelow Nurseries, Northborough, and is the sole proprietor of Soils and Stems offering floral event design services. Perry plans to pursue agricultural education masters.

Quinsigamond Community College

Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester held a May 21 virtual commencement ceremony, which can be viewed at QCC.edu/commencement. Among the graduates were:

Mendon
- Ryle Martell, Associate in Arts
- Kelley Aubut and Nicholas Roy, Associate in Science
- Ryan Horn, John Schmitt and Conner Young, Certificate

Upton
- Donald Coley and Story DuVall, Associate in Science

Saint Anselm College
On May 16, Saint Anselm College, Manchester, N.H. celebrated its graduating seniors with a live streamed Celebration in Honor of the Completion of Graduation Requirements. Among the 483 graduates was Jared Plumb, Bachelor of Arts, Biology, Summa Cum Laude, of Mendon. Upton graduates were Kiley Larocque, Bachelor of Arts, Biology, Magna Cum Laude, and Natasha Levell, Bachelor of Science, Nursing, Cum Laude

University of Vermont

Among the 3,183 students awarded degrees during the University of Vermont’s 220th commencement ceremonies this spring are two Upton residents – Danielle McAree and Edward Taylor.

University of New Hampshire

The following students graduated from the University of New Hampshire in Durham Saturday, May 16, 2020, during a virtual celebration. Students who received the honor of summa cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0. Mendon
- Elizabeth Hilton, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Summa Cum Laude
- Antonio Barbona, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Upton
- Lauren Comfort, Masters of Education in Elementary Education.

Amanda St Germain
Amanda St Germain, daughter of Richard and Gail St Germain of Upton, has graduated Summa Cum Laude from Worcester Polytechnic Institute of Worcester with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and a Minor in Mechanical Engineering. She will be starting her career as a Design Assurance Engineer at Insulet Corporation.

Kailyn M. Stephens
Kailyn M. Stephens of Mendon graduated in May from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

Carly Thibodeau
Carly Thibodeau, daughter of Andy and Georgia Thibodeau of Mendon, graduated from Westfield State University, Westfield, with a double major in Economics and Environmental Science, and a minor in Spanish, with a cumulative GPA of 4.0. She earned multiple awards including the 2020 University’s 29 Who Shine Award presented annually by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education to 29 Commonwealth graduate who exemplify the community service and academic experience. She will pursue an interdisciplinary Master's degree in Sustainability at Tufts University.
Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School
CLASS OF 2020

JUNE 19, 2020

As low as
As low as
As low as

JUNE 19, 2020

A photographer was on hand to capture this very spirited photo of the Valley Tech Class of 2020 at a pep rally earlier this year prior to Governor Charlie Baker closing all Massachusetts schools in March. Senior activities and graduation staff have either been cancelled or delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic this spring. But Valley Tech and its Class of 2020 have rallied to create an alternative schedule of senior events. It began Monday, June 15, when the school held Senior Checkout Day. BVT seniors report back to campus to receive their caps and gowns, graduation tickets and honor society stoles and cards. The school and students hope graduation activities can continue in August. A Senior Breakfast is planned for Friday, August 7 in the school cafeteria followed by graduation rehearsal. BVT has planned a variety of Graduation Ceremonies for Saturday, August 8 depending on social distancing requirements at the time. The ceremonies are scheduled to be held at 11 a.m. at the school either on the athletic fields or in the Competition Center. BVT photo