Walsh said he planned to get the search committee’s initial description and update it if necessary so that Walsh could stop the search committee from being formed until after the chief’s request for an injunction – which was denied – to delay the five finalists for the job, he continued, suggesting selectmen forward, “Selectman William Kingkade said. “They need to know there is nothing they need to rush for,” he added. The five finalists for the job, he continued, suggesting selectmen could help by providing the search committee with the details. Not combinable with any other discounts or promotions. Requires dealership source financing. Not responsible for typographical errors.

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Five Races in April 2
Annual Town Election

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

With the February 12 deadline passed for candidates to return nomination papers for running in the April 2 Annual Town Election, there will be five races on the ballot. Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Board of Library Trustees, Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery and Constable. The candidates running in contested races are:

• Board of Selectmen: incumbent Michael Walsh is being challenged by Aimi Clifford for the three-year seat.
• School Committee: incumbent James Liger, Justin Dukak, John Erickson, Tarik Miranda, R.J. Sheedy and Michael Visconti are running for the two available seats. Erickson is Sheedy’s uncle.
• Board of Library Trustees: Stephanie Abisla, Margaret Myatt and Scott Vecchiolla are running for the two available three-year seats.
• Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery: incumbents Marilyn Lovell and Scott Vecchiolla are being challenged by Kristen Gardner for the two available three-year seats.
• Constable: incumbents Joseph Arcudi, Mark Calzolaio, Nadine Ladeau, RaymondPagucci and Mark Tosti face.

Each of the eight people received citations from the Board of Selectmen, the State Senate and the State House of Representatives commending what Walsh termed their “swift, decisive and heroic actions.”

Milford’s eight Public Safety Heroes were honored on February 11 by the Board of Selectmen, State Senator Ryan Fattman and State Representative Brian Murray for saving the lives of ten people during a fire at 16 North Bow St. Kevin Rudden photo
dispatcher and not as a police officer or firefighter; yet act in a “selfless” manner to help rescue people. “For every incident like this, there’s a family that’s thankful for what you do,” Buckley told the eight people being honored.

“Thank you for allowing us to recognize you,” Selectman William Kingkade said. “You’re appreciated. You are heroes. You’re always running into places when we’re running out.”

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Selectmen Envision National Search for New Police Chief

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

After naming the final four members of the twelve-person Police Chief Search Committee on February 11, selectmen discussed the duties of the committee, envisioning a nationwide search that will last beyond the June 30 last day of Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin’s contract.

Article 32 of the Town By-laws specifies who serves on the 12-member search committee. It now consists of:

• Michael Walsh, chair of the Board of Selectmen
• Scott Harrison, chair of the Personnel Board
• Christopher Morin, chair of the Finance Committee
• O’Loughlin
• James Heron, member of the Milford Police Association (replacing earlier choice of Patrick Dailey)
• Richard Heller, a Town Meeting Member appointed by Town Moderator Michael Noferi
• Donato “Dai” Niro, appointed by Noferi
• Dino DeBaroltomese, appointed by Noferi
• Edward Bertorelli, a Town Meeting member appointed by selectmen
• David Brutsch, a Milford resident Dell/EMC employee appointed by selectmen
• Christopher Fritts, a Milford resident Wellesley professional appointed by selectmen
• Jodie Nosiglia, a Milford resident and Human Resources professional appointed by selectmen

“I think we have a very diverse committee to move forward,” Selectman William Kingkade said. “They need to know there is nothing they need to rush for,” he added. The last search – which resulted in O’Loughlin’s hiring nearly 18 years ago – took almost a year,” Kingkade explained.

“There is a lot of work to do,” to come up with three to five finalists for the job, he continued, suggesting selectmen could help by providing the search committee with the qualifications the board is seeing in a new chief. The search committee can then incorporate those suggestions or ignore them, Kingkade said.

Because the search committee is getting off to a late start, “We’re not going to have a new chief by July 1,” Kingkade said. “We have a temporary chief,” Kingkade said. The delay he referred to was waiting for a Superior Court decision on O’Loughlin’s request for an injunction – which was denied – to delay the search committee from being formed until after the chief’s seat over his contract non-renewal was resolved.

Both Kingkade and Selectman William Buckley talked about the search being nationwide. During the last search, the search committee visited the communities where the finalist applicants came from, Buckley recalled.

He suggested selectmen review the current job description and update it if necessary so that Walsh could bring the search committee’s first meeting. Buckley suggested the board place that discussion on its February 25 agenda so that it is conducted in public. Chairman Michael Walsh said he planned to get the search committee’s initial meeting organized by the end of this month.
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25th Annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair

The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, Kennedy-Donovan Family Support Center, Milford Commission on Disability and Milford Family & Community Network will host the 25th Annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair on Saturday, March 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Milford High School Cafeteria, snow date is Saturday, March 23.

The free event will offer a wide range of exhibitors who work with families from the prenatal stage through adolescence, including health care professionals, social services, community and educational programs, day care providers and small businesses. Exhibitors are all encouraged to include a child-friendly activity at their table and entertainment will be offered during the fair.

The Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program (MYCHIP) will be provided again this year by the Montgomery Lodge of Milford, Ancient Free Accepted Masons. MYCHIP is the most comprehensive service of its kind anywhere. The program is free to the public, with all of the identifying items generated during the event given to the child’s family.

A supervised obstacle course will also be offered all day long providing fun for young athletes of all ages. A supervised bounce house will also be available throughout the whole event. And don’t forget to bring a favorite stuffed friend or doll for the Teddy Bear Clinic. The Fair is a great vehicle for families to learn about all the community has to offer. For more information, call Sara Humiston at 508-634-2356.

Charles River Bank VP & Director of Financial Services McHoul Earns CFP® Certification

Clint McHoul CFP®, VP/Director of Financial Services at Charles River Bank in Medway has been authorized by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board) to use the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® and CFP® certification marks in accordance with CFP Board certification and renewal requirements. McHoul joined Charles River Bank in 2017 with more than 10 years of experience working with clients providing expertise with their retirement planning, education funding, business continuity planning, investments and insurance.

The CFP® marks identify those individuals who have met the rigorous experience and ethical requirements of the CFP Board, have successfully completed financial planning coursework and have passed the CFP® Certification Examination covering the following areas: financial planning process, risk management, investments, tax planning and management, retirement and employee benefits, and estate planning. CFP® professionals also agree to meet ongoing continuing education requirements and to uphold CFP Board’s Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Rules of Conduct and Financial Planning Practice Standards.

“Charles River Bank’s customers have a great resource with Clint. They can be assured of receiving the highest level of professionalism and expertise with all their financial planning, investment and insurance needs. His CFP® certification truly differentiates him from other Financial Advisors and we are very proud of his accomplishment,” stated Charles River Bank President & CEO Jack Hamilton.

To make an appointment with McHoul, call 508-321-3144 or email cmchoul@charlesriverbank.com.

Graduates

Jenna Dmohowski
Jenna Dmohowski of Milford graduated from the University of New Hampshire, Durham, in December 2018 earning a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy.

Krystal Volpe
Krystal Volpe of Milford graduated from Lasell College, Newton, in December. Volpe earned a Bachelor of Science in International Business.
Helping Unpaid Members of the Coast Guard
Thanks To Yanks, a local charity/501c3, dedicated to serve those who serve in the military, made a donation in support of those in the Coast Guard, who were not paid their salaries during the recent federal government shutdown. This money was earmarked for food purchases. For more information about Thanks To Yanks, visit ThanksToYanks.org or on Facebook: Thanks To Yanks photo

Sons of Serendip perform with CHSO
Sons of Serendip will perform with the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra on March 2 at 7:30pm in Milford Town Hall.

America’s Got Talent finalist, Sons of Serendip, will join The Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra (CHSO) for Symphonic Serendipity on Saturday, March 2. Sons of Serendip also performed on the Esplanade with the Boston Pops for its annual Independence Day Spectacular. The classical crossover ensemble includes CHSO principal harpist Mason Morton along with musicians Kendall Ramseur (cellist), Cordaro Rodriguez (pianist), Mason Morton (harpast), and Micah Christian (lead vocalist).

The March 2 concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall Grand Ballroom, 52 Main St. Featured performances include “The Red Pony Suite” by Aaron Copeland, Vaughan-Williams’ “Variations on a Theme by Thomas Tallis” music from film favorites and a few more surprises. The Sons of Serendip quartet graduated school, while completing degrees in Cello Performance (Ramseur), Law (Rodriguez), Harp Performance (Morton), and Theology (Christian). The group formed in 2014, a year after finishing their graduate education, specifically for the reality competition, America’s Got Talent (season 9). They finished in fourth place and appeared again on February 4. “I had the pleasure of being the principal harpast with the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra since 2013,” said Mason Morton. “Since first meeting Paul and playing the first few notes with the orchestra, I instantly felt like both family and home.”

“We’ve enjoyed a great creative collaboration,” said Paul Surapine, founder and Executive & Artistic Director of The Claflin Hill Music Performance Foundation, Inc. “We are fortunate to be working with such a creative group of musicians. It makes for great music, and fulfills our mission to bring new artistic experiences to our audiences.”

Tickets for the March 2 concert are available by calling 508-478-5924 or by visiting ClaflinHill.org. The Milford, MA Grand Ballroom is located at Milford Town Hall, an accessible facility located at 52 Main Street in Milford, Massachusetts.

New England Tenors and GMCC Concert
The New England Tenors and Greater Milford Community Chorus will perform a joint benefit concert to support the Union Church of Hopedale, 25 Dutcher St on Sunday, March 10, at 2 p.m. at the Church. Tickets are $20 for adults and $6 for students. The New England Tenors, John Middleton-Cox, Damian Corcoran, and Stefan Barner, will bring their distinctive unique style and flair to the stage as they perform perennial favorites. The 47-member Greater Milford Community Chorus, led by Dan Zabinski, is a not-for-profit organization run under the umbrella of the Milford Community School Use Program and supported by the Milford, Hopedale, and Mendon Cultural Councils. Doors will open for seating and ticket purchases at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about the concert, contact Kristi at 508-473-1476. For information about the GMCC, visit GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.org.

Gentlemen, Raise Your Trophies
Milford’s Pack 4 held its annual Pinewood Derby on January 27 at St. Mary’s Church. There was an impressive array of car designs. Emerging victorious in the speed category were, from left rear: Justin Fuer (3rd), Davin Laramee (1st), Robert Rane (2nd). In front, l-r are: Vinny Mastroianni (1st Place Tiger) and Matthew Parker (1st Place Lion). Lanie Bushell photo

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Learning about Australia

The Outback Steakhouse in Bellingham generously gave back to the community with their invite to Milford Girl Scouts. Cadette Troop 11275 is studying Australia as part of their World Thinking Day event where every troop in town is researching another country that offers Girl Scouting or often called Girl Guides in other countries. This group of Cadette 8th graders enjoyed a complimentary tour, explanation of all things Australian that hang on the restaurant walls, demonstration on how they make a blooming onion, and appetizers for everyone. Troop members thank Outback for their Australian experience. Members of the troop are: top to bottom: Theresa Thomas, Natalie daCunha, Texas Scraggmount, Elena Pulapa, Katie McCarthy, KyLee Nevins, Raquel Lopes, Emily Croteau, Carly Hailey, Caitlyn Pacisco, Sophia Soares, Hailey Beagle. Missing were Dani Atherton and Tzintli Cerda. Contributed photo

QCC Participates in State-Wide Plan to end Youth Homelessness

In Massachusetts, it is estimated that there are at least 1,800 young adults every year who experience homelessness. On January 30, Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced at a comprehensive state-wide plan to end youth homelessness. The plan will deliver funding to 10 community partners throughout the state, in addition to the Massachusetts Student Housing Security Pilot to provide dorm rooms to homeless students attending college, through partnerships with state universities. One of those partnerships includes Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) and Worcester State University. The housing pilot was launched at four campuses earlier this month and each four-year institution will make up to five beds available for students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

QCC President Dr. Luis G Pedraja, three QCC students who are either homeless or experiencing housing insecurity will be part of this initial program.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@gcc.mass.edu

Trinity Episcopal Meat Raffle

MILFORD-Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, is hosting a Meat Raffle on Sunday, March 3 in the upstairs hall starting at noon. Twenty prizes of roasts, filet mignon, breakfast packages, cash and more will be raffled off. Each raffle costs $2 or all 20 for $35. Only 100 seats are available for this event and the rules are explained at the start of the raffle. Light snacks and soft drinks are available to purchase as well. This is a family friendly event and all proceeds after expenses go towards supporting Trinity’s Faith Funding.

ART PALETTE COMPETITION PROVES TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Sen. Louis Bertonazzi Foundation Outstanding Citizenship Award for 2017-2018 has been officially presented to the Town of Douglas for achieving the highest voting participation level among the towns represented by the former Senator. Douglas received a $1,000, which may be used to enhance and improve the voter process and voter turnout, a plaque to display in the Town Hall for two years; and a 15-foot banner presented to the town’s voters proclaiming Douglas to be the “Best Voting Community” and winner of the Citizenship Award for 2017-2018. Douglas, with 30.4 percent had the highest percentage of voters who come out to vote in the 2017 and 2018 local election. Mendon took second with 29.71 percent. Upton was third with 29.33, Hopkinton was seventh with 27.21 and Milford was ninth with 26.76. Shown in the photo are, l-r: Douglas Administrative Assistant Lisa Postma; Douglas Town Clerk Christine Furino; Selectman Timothy Bonin; Senator Louis Bertonazzi; Selectman Harold Davis; Registrar Andrea Corvino; Selectman Chairman Kevin Morse; and Foundation Chairman Dr. Carl DiGregorio

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Call for Artists

In collaboration with The Artist Palette Studio, The Art Palette Contest, which invites participants to transform an ordinary wooden art palette into a unique work of art, will open on Friday, March 8 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery at the Whiton Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville. During the opening and through April 5, guests of the Gallery may cast their vote for their favorite palettes. Winners will receive cash awards in three different categories and age groups.

For more information about participating in the 7th Annual Art Palette Contest please visit: OpenSkyCS.org/news-events/events. This event is sponsored by Jerry’s Artarama, ValleyCAST and Open Sky Community Services.
Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Selectmen

• Approved a request by Richard’s Rd. House at 67 Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) for a Pool Table license and an Automatic Amusement license to install two pool tables and one coin-operated basketball game, pinball machine and “Golden Tee” game. (February 11)

• Agreed to support the Insurance Advisory Committee’s request to put an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to accept a state law that would allow surviving spouses town employees to continue on the town’s group medical and dental insurance plans at the employee contribution rate. The estimated cost this year is $32,000. “This is simply the right thing to do,” Selectman William Kingkade said. (February 11)

• Town Administrator Richard Villani reported that National Grid changed the transformer supplying electricity to Town Hall on February 9, no issues occurred. (February 11)

• Villani reported that he had followed through with the board’s request and National Grid will be installing lighting-emitting diode (LED) street lights along Industrial Rd. at a future date. (February 11)

• Reviewed Finance Director Zachary Taylor’s budget directive for submitting the fiscal Year 2020 budgets, which calls for level-funding General Expense budgets and building Personal Service budgets at current contractual rates or at the 2.5 percent increase recommended by the Personnel Board. Selectman William Buckley said the Finance Committee should not review any departmental budget until after Taylor and Villani have reviewed it first. (February 11)

• Appointed five people to the Milford Cultural Council: Thomas Riley, Bryan Cole, Molly Auger, Geri Eddins and Michael Visconti. Board member said Eddins has volunteered to chair the committee. (February 11)

• Appointed Denise Rizoli as Senior Center Program Coordinator at a salary of $21.69 per hour. Villani said nine applications were received, winnowed to four candidates and three were interviewed. Rizoli has been the Meals on Wheels site manager in Milford for January 11

• Approved Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin’s recommendation to place a 15-minute parking restriction on the two parking spaces in front of the Bright Insurance agency on Congress St. The chief noted similar restrictions have been placed in front of other businesses that have a high volume of patrons for limited duration times. Steven Ellis of Bright Insurance requested the signs. (February 11)

Planning Board

• Approved dividing a 19-acre lot at 30 Beaver St. owned by Test Site Services into three separate lots that are approximately 2.3 acres, 9.4 acres and 7.3 acres. (February 5)

• Approved carving out a 0.22-acre lot from a 10,000-square-foot lot on Deer St. at Cedar St. (Rt. 85) owned by Gutierrez Company, which is developing the Stone Ridge business park. Town Planner Larry Dunkin said there are no required lot sizes in the Business Park (BP) zone. (February 5).

• Approved a site plan allowing Gutierrez Company to erect an 80-foot sign, designated as an attended-service pump. (February 5)

• Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on a special permit request by Volta Oil Company to convert its existing gasoline station at 111 Cedar St. (Rt. 85) to a self-service operation, with pump Number 10 designated as an attended-service pump. (February 5)

• Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA on a special permit request by Robin Harwood to add a supplemental apartment to a single-family house at 30 Ayslum St. (February 5)

• Voted that a schedule submitted by Mirzauddin Ahmed, developer of the Sanylah Crossing subdivision off Fiske Mill Rd., to install engineered block walls by the end of May is acceptable. (February 5)

Upcoming Meetings

NORTHBOROUGH-The Hearing Loss Association of American-Central Massachusetts’ Saturday March 16 “meeting” at the Northborough Free Library from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. will not be the typical chapter meeting. Instead, everyone will be the speakers during the meeting. Attendees will break into small groups to identify common issues experienced with hearing loss and brainstorm potential solutions. (February 5)

The Milford Weekly Meetup Group is held on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Milford Country Club. (February 5)

The Hearing Loss Association of American-Central Massachusetts’ “meeting” at the Northborough Free Library from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. will not be the typical chapter meeting. Instead, everyone will be the speakers during the meeting. Attendees will break into small groups to identify common issues experienced with hearing loss and brainstorm potential solutions. (February 5)

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Imagine that you’re driving somewhere at about 10:45 at night. You see smoke and flames coming out a building window. What would you do?

I’m sure that 100 percent of you would quickly answer, “Call 9-1-1.” But would you do more than that? Would you run into the burning building and alert its residents to evacuate?

I got to shake that kind of person’s hand last week. His name is John Covino. While he is a dispatcher answering Milford’s 9-1-1 calls, he is not a trained police officer or firefighter.

The Board of Selectmen, the State Senator and the State Representative last week acclaimed him, Police Officers Elias Giokas and Jonathan Branch, Fire Lieutenant William Collins and Firefighters David Covina, Daniel Martinus, Doug Lima and Jacob Gronneymeyer as heroes for their roles in saving 10 people’s lives during a fire in an apartment building on North Bow Street.

“Hello,” is a word that should not be used lightly. When you are young, you read about heroes in comic book and see them in movies. As you get older, they are pointed out to you as people who did something dramatic – usually saving other people’s lives.

I think we’ll all agree that it would have been horrifying to wake up one morning and hear television news people intoning that “10 people died last night in a Milford apartment fire” as they stand in front of a burned out building.

But, that didn’t happen. Because of the actions of eight town employees, 10 lives were saved.

Are these eight heroes? In all senses of that word. “Yes,” I’m sure that if you asked them, these eight people would say they were just doing what anyone else would do and were just doing their jobs. Well, there’s no such thing as a job; there’s only a job you’re doing your job. The emphasized words are like Bill Belichick’s “Do Your Job”. You put as much effort into it as you possibly can … and then even more effort.

That’s what we saw this month.

It’s worth remembering their efforts the next time we want to criticize “government employees.” These eight local government employees did their jobs – with just an average effort, but with just an extra effort.

If they think they were thanked enough by the elected officials in town, they were too few.

The next time you see a dispatcher, police officer or firefighter, tell them, “Thanks.” Thanks to their eight “brothers,” there are 10 Milford residents still alive, when it could have been so, so much worse.


e of the U.S. Naval Reserve Shooting Team, he competed in several national matches. He served 40 years in the Navy and attained the rank of Chief petty officer, first class.

An accomplished marksman, he enjoyed big game hunting while on safari in Africa, as well as the occasional trip to the range with his favorite machine gun. He was also a past member of the Harvard Sportsman Club.

In addition to his wife Melanie of 46 years, he is survived by his two sons William C. and his wife Melissa Smart of Norfolk and Thomas R. and his wife Amanda Smart of Uxbridge; “Papa’s grandchildren” Jake, Makenna, and Emilia; a brother David Smart of Kearny; a sister Dorothy Mitchell of Penn., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Buma – Sargeant Funeral Home, Milford.

Graveside funeral services, with military honors, were held February 21, 2019 at the Massachusetts National Cemetery. Furlong is intended to identify current and future Commuter Rail needs and also take place at Worcester Union Station on Wednesday, March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. In addition, a Rail Vision survey may be accessed online: MBTARailVisionSurvey.com. The survey takes less than one minute to complete and will allow MassDOT and MBTA officials to become aware of what’s important to respondents, what may incentivize drivers to use public transit, and what barriers may exist to allowing members of the public to use the commuter rail on a regular basis.

In June 2017, the MBTA released a Request for Proposals for the Rail Vision Study. Since selection of a consulting firm, MassDOT’s Office of Transportation Planning and the MBTA have been meeting monthly with an Advisory Committee composed of individuals who represent diverse perspectives from the MBTA service area. This committee has helped inform several alternatives for the future system. While all alternatives provide higher frequency, all-day, bi-directional service with predictable, consistent schedules, they vary in their focus on service type, electrification, and other key factors. Feedback received during the Open House will provide invaluable input to complement the technical analyses the project will conduct in the coming months.

Obituaries

William M. Smart

MENDON — William M. Smart, 77, of Mendon, passed away February 13, 2019 in the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Bedford. He was the husband of Melanie A. (Chludenski) Smart. He was born in Kearney, N.J. in 1942 and was the son of the late David and Edna Smart; he was raised in New Jersey.

Bill owned and operated the William M. Smart Co. in Mendon for over 25 years. Previously, he had been a construction superintendent, building shopping malls. Bill was a master of many trades and possessed a brilliant mechanical ability. He took great pride in teaching those life’s lessons to his sons. He was a Cub Scout Master in Mendon for several years and enjoyed shooting. He also loved being a “Papa” to his grandchildren.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran and served three tours of duty during the Vietnam Conflict as a “Sealbe.” As a member of
First Self-Service Gas Station in Milford Approved

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen will be issuing a letter this month that updates residents on the progress of acquiring the Milford Water Company. The one-page letter, read by Chairman Michael Walsh at the board’s February 11 meeting, takes the acquisition process through the recent filings by the town and the privately-owned utility with the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

The Town of Milford values the company’s assets at $40 million, with the water company submitting a $118-million higher value of $158 million. After an initial attempt to buy the utility’s stock in 2017, the town filed suit in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, asking it to have the town and the privately-owned utility with the MWC’s assets. The town’s request before the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), asking it to have the town and the privately-owned utility with the MWC’s assets.

Selectmen Provide Update on Water Company Acquisition

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted unanimously on February 14 to approve a special permit allowing the first self-service gas station in Milford – the new Volta Oil Company facility at 111 Cedar St. (Rt. 85), just pass the Rt. 1-495 interchange when heading toward Hopkinton. The eight-pump, four self-service islands are expected to be in operation sometime in March, once the required 20-day appeal period for the ZBA’s decision expires.

Most of the ZBA’s discussion centered on an ambiguity in the Zoning By-law amendment wording that was passed at last October’s Special Town Meeting. The amendment requires at least one gas pump “island” with an attendant for the handicapped, elderly or others who do not wish to pump their own gas.

Attorney Eli Leino, representing Volta Oil, said that – in gas station parlance – an “island” means only one pump, even if there are two back-to-back pumps set up. “That island has to be both,” said ZBA Chair David Consigli, who said Town Planner Larry Dunkin agreed with him.

Peter Garret, president of Plymouth-based Volta Oil, ended the debate by saying he would designate both pumps on the northern-most “island” toward Hopkinton to be full-service. Both full-service pumps also will have attendant call-buttons and all 10 pumps at the gas station will be labeled as to whether they are self-service or full-service, he said.

Until self-service goes into effect, anyone trying to use any of the 10 pumps right now to pump their own gas is prevented from doing so by switches controlled by employees located inside the adjacent convenient store, Garret explained.

Since the new station opened a month or so ago, “What we’re finding is an overwhelming demand for it [self-service],” Garret said. Both town and state fire officials already have approved the fire suppression system required for self-service operation, he added.

“It is long overdue, and you did a great job on the site,” Consigli said. The ZBA members actually took two unanimous votes: the first allowed self-service and designated two pumps as full-service. The second required that the full-service pumps be staffed at all times.
Senior Living

Hearts and Hats, Treats and Tea

Wearing all shades of red and pink, sporting their finest hats and bringing their delicate teacups, Milford seniors celebrated Valentine’s Day with an afternoon tea on February 14. The Valentines Tea, complete with finger sandwiches and mini pastries prepared by students from Blackstone Valley Tech and accompanied by romantic tunes played by students in the Milford High School String Quartet, was held at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center.

Ready to enjoy the Valentine Tea were, l-r: Patricia Platcow, Irene Ferrante and Cynthia Pilla. Harry Platcow photo

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www.rehabassociates.com/lydia

Friends of Mendon Elders Book Sale
MENDON- The Friends of Mendon Elders annual book sale will be Friday, April 5 from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again on Sunday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mendon Senior Center, 82 Providence St. Besides a large assortment of fiction, nonfiction, science fiction, and children’s books, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, and other previously viewed videos will also be offered. All sold reasonable prices. Books are sorted and organized by author or subject to make shopping easier for buyers to find favorite writers and categories. Proceeds support the Friends of Mendon Elders.

An Afternoon of Painting
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold an afternoon of painting at ARTWORKS Studios, 15 North Main St., Bellingham on Sunday, March 10 at 3:30 to 6 p.m. Participants will create “Window Box Geranium”. Tickets are $35 person and includes snacks. Call 774-804-3149 for information. Register at https://campscui.active.com/orgs/ArtworksStudio/season=2596110 or www.artworksstudio.net.

Money raised through this event will be earmarked for the 4th floor renovation of 15 private rooms serving oncology and palliative care patients.

Winter Adult Education Courses
MILFORD-Milford Community School Use Program, has released the schedule for the Winter Adult Education courses. The complete list of classes and their details may be found on the Milford Community Program website, MCS.Milford.ma.us at under Online Registration.

Among the classes are About Boating Safety, American Red Cross CPR and various fitness courses. One-Night Workshops include a Home Buying Seminar, Spring Floral Creations, and Selling Your Home: Strategies for Success. Registrations, which will remain open until the Thursday before the individual program begins, can be completed online or offline using registration forms. Please make checks payable to: Town of Milford – MCSUP. Registrations and payments can be mailed to Milford Community School Use Program, 31 West Fountain St., Milford, MA 01757.
Milford Federal Bank Free Construction Loan Seminar

The inventory in today’s housing market is historically low, making it difficult for individuals trying to find their perfect home. For buyers who are frustrated because the home they are looking for doesn’t seem to be out there, a construction loan might be the answer. Learn about all of the finance options available to build a dream home at Milford Federal Bank Free Construction Loan Seminar on Saturday, March 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Lowell’s Restaurant, Rt. 140, Mendon. Hosted by Milford Federal’s Mortgage Loan Specialists, the free seminar will provide education and guidance on finance options including purchasing land to build a home, building on land already owned, and fixed versus adjustable rate loan programs. Participants will also learn about Milford Federal’s unique construction loan programs with only one loan closing, so no need to refinance after construction is completed.

A family style breakfast will be served to all attendees. Seating is limited, so RSVP call Beth Caico (NMLS # 414439) at 508-234-2450 or Sherice Riel (NMLS #1376939) at 401-765-2900. Or RSVP by email at Beth.Caico@milfordfederal.com or Sherice.Riel@milfordfederal.com.

Town Receives $15,000 Downtown Study Grant

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The town has received a $15,000 Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Technical Assistance (MDI) Program Award from the state to study the best ways to incorporate housing into the downtown business district. Milford was one of only 20 municipalities in the state to receive the grant, according to Ronald Pagnini, chair of the Downtown Revitalization Committee.

The grant will allow Milford to find out how other towns and how they handled issues such as having adequate parking. Selectman William Buckley said.

An Apothecary in Bloom Design

The 2019 Tower Hill Botanical Garden’s February event, Apothecary in Bloom, focused on the mystical and healing power of plants. Greenleaf Garden Club member, Hazel Schroder entered an interpretive design using a container inspired by the seed boxes of old and choosing plants-aromatic herbs, flowers and greenery from the natural world. Schroder used scented Bords (roses, stock and Asiatic lilies) and herbs (lavender, rosemary and eucalyptus) to interpret the theme. Her arrangement expressed the stimulating beauty of the garden and fragrances of the garden to stimulate, uplift and relieve stress.

Schroder is an accredited National Garden Show judge and enjoys studying the natural world and interpreting its beauty through floral design.

The Greenleaf Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.org.

Maple Sugar Days

The sweet tradition of Maple Sugar Days continues at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State, River Bend Farm, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge on Saturday March 2 and Sunday March 3. Learn how maple syrup is made during free 90-minute tours, open to all at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 and 2 p.m. Free group tours will be Saturday, March 9, and Sunday, March 10, call 508-278-7864 to schedule or for more information.

Park staff and volunteers will take visitors through a guided tour so they can learn to identify maple trees, see trees being tapped, participate in gathering sap, and visit the steamy sugar house to watch syrup being made.

Tours are indoors and outdoors so dress for the weather and wear footwear for a half-mile walk. Co-sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Blackstone Heritage Corridor.

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Citizens for Milford will be holding its annual candidates’ forum on Friday, March 14 at the St. Mary of the Assumption Parish Hall, with a “Meet the Candidates” session at 6:30 p.m. and the actual forum beginning at 7 p.m. Interviews with the six School Committee candidates are also airing on 30 Minutes with The Town Crier on Milford TV – Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 38 – from now through the end of March.

Annual Town Election

The Board of Assessors: incumbent Joseph Arcudi,

Planning Board: incumbent Joseph Calagione, and

Park Commission: incumbent Richard Cenedella.

There also will be 10 Town Meeting Members elected in each of the eight voting precincts.

Two candidate forums are already scheduled:

• Milford High School will be holding its second annual candidates’ forum at 8 a.m. on Friday, March 7 for students from the senior class to participate in a question-and-answer session with candidates for the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. The forum will be coupled with a voter registration drive run by the National Honor Society.

• Sewer Commission: incumbent Richard Cenedella.

• Milford Housing Authority: incumbent Loriann Braza,

• Board of Health: Paul Mazzuchelli,

• Board of Assessors: incumbent Joseph Arcudi,

• Board of Health: Paul Mazzuchelli,

• Board of Assessors: incumbent Joseph Arcudi,

Running unopposed are:

10 FEBRUARY 22, 2019

Forms Mailed

Residents who do not or have not answered the annual street listing (annual census) mailed out at the end of January. Anyone who did not receive a form, please contact the Town Clerk’s office.

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The Town Clerk’s office reminds Milford residents that it is important to vote at the polls after they show a valid photo identification and complete an Affidavit of Continuous Residence with the warden in their voting precinct.

Census forms can be returned by mail, with the envelope provided; in person at the Town Clerk’s office in Town Hall, or by email to: milfordannualcensus@townofmilford.com.

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Spring is just around the corner and so are we! We’re located on Route 16 at the Redwood in Mendon. Our order window is open Mon - Sat at 11 am and Sundays at noon. Carhop and waiters service will begin on Wednesday May 2 and will be available every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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High Honor Roll

Acosta, Tyler Thongrug
Applebee, Justin William
Baventura, Joao Pereira
Bereza, Lily Marie
Calvi, Hayley Renee
Campbell, Riley Deanna
Covino, Aris Alexandra
DeSila, Zachary Eugenio
DeBello, Diana Carmen
Derry, Camryn Christopher
Donahue, Katerina Elizabeth
Dorval, Thomas James
Dufresne, Kathleen Mary
Elia, Jacqueline Rose
Enick, Patrick John
Frentin, Mariah Madison de Gennaro
Finocchio, Juliana Marie
Hale, Emily Young
Hanna, Mariam Emile Yousef
Harriet, Michael Joseph
Kelley, Jillian Paige
LeBlanc, Nathan Russell
Madden, Joseph Emmett
Mazzoni, Natalie Marie
Miranda, Anthony Emanuel
Moreau, Alexandre
Moschilli, Molly Ann
O’Shaughnessy, Brendan Melvin
Paes, Jordan Anthony
Pano, Gianni Gregory
Panorace, Matthew Keith
Patel, Ayush Khush
Patel, Ohm Jagdish
Probert, Cassandra Frances
Radziwill, Madeline Ann
Riem, Elias Joshua
Russacci, Valentina Angela
Sarles, Marisa Cameron
Spittel, Matthew Joseph
Tammato, Gale Janet
Velazquez, Elisa Xiomara
Vo, Charles Hong
Wagner, Shau Marc
Weber, Sarah Marie
Weng, Sherry
West, Joel Marcus
Zale, Malcolm Christopher

Juniors

Amiz, Suitah
Austin, Zachary Tyler
Beggs, Chloe Marine
Bennett, Liam Patrick
Boygen, Benjamin Anthony
Boyde, Madison Grace
Canaves Vasquez, Jocelyn
Carras, Viviana
Cervi, Livio
Chiarotti, Kristi Nicole
Corrison, Allison Grace
Costa, Zachary Alexander
Daguse, Matthew Christopher
DeOliveira, Brenda
DeSousa, Isabella Victoria
Sena
Dutchin, Reese Elizabeth
Eubanks, Mary Rose
Flanagan, Anne Marie
Garland, Rose Drena
Goncalves, Bruna Valentina
Hill, Brooke Jacqueline
Karamanian, Nina Alexandra
Kidman, Joseph Rose
Lin, Vivian
Lotito, Matthew
McArdle, Madeline
Lynch, Michael Francis
Maddock, Emily Rose

Dean’s List

The following Milford residents were named to the Dean’s List at their respective school for the fall 2018 semester.

Bryant University, Smithfield, R.I.: Thomas DeWolfe, Christopher Hart and Jordan Silverman

Emmanuel College: Boston. Fernando Ferreira, Meghan Halloran, Cesar Saad

Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn.: Nadiah Hamidi and Mohamed Alkhoja


University of Houston, Texas. Jonas Horgan majoring in Psychology.

University of Hartford, West Hartford Conn.: Shalyn Toor.

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**WANTED:**
- Regular transportation drivers - no special requirements.
- 7D drivers wanted to transport students to and from school in company vehicle. If you are interested but do not have a valid drivers license, we will have all the paperwork to get your license and walk you through the process. It’s very easy.
- Must have 21 years old to apply for a valid drivers license for at least three years.
- Hours are early morning and mid afternoon.

**Monitors also needed!**
- Great if you are retired! Shifts available from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

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Donahue, Katerina Elizabeth
Dorval, Thomas James
Dufresne, Kathleen Mary
Elia, Jacqueline Rose
Enick, Patrick John
Frentin, Mariah Madison de Gennaro
Finocchio, Juliana Marie
Hale, Emily Young
Hanna, Mariam Emile Yousef
Harriet, Michael Joseph
Kelley, Jillian Paige
LeBlanc, Nathan Russell
Madden, Joseph Emmett
Mazzoni, Natalie Marie
Miranda, Anthony Emanuel
Moreau, Alexandre
Moschilli, Molly Ann
O’Shaughnessy, Brendan Melvin
Paes, Jordan Anthony
Pano, Gianni Gregory
Panorace, Matthew Keith
Patel, Ayush Khush
Patel, Ohm Jagdish
Probert, Cassandra Frances
Radziwill, Madeline Ann
Riem, Elias Joshua
Russacci, Valentina Angela
Sarles, Marisa Cameron
Spittel, Matthew Joseph
Tammato, Gale Janet
Velazquez, Elisa Xiomara
Vo, Charles Hong
Wagner, Shau Marc
Weber, Sarah Marie
Weng, Sherry
West, Joel Marcus
Zale, Malcolm Christopher

Juniors

Amiz, Suitah
Austin, Zachary Tyler
Beggs, Chloe Marine
Bennett, Liam Patrick
Boygen, Benjamin Anthony
Boyde, Madison Grace
Canaves Vasquez, Jocelyn
Carras, Viviana
Cervi, Livio
Chiarotti, Kristi Nicole
Corrison, Allison Grace
Costa, Zachary Alexander
Daguse, Matthew Christopher
DeOliveira, Brenda
DeSousa, Isabella Victoria
Sena
Dutchin, Reese Elizabeth
Eubanks, Mary Rose
Flanagan, Anne Marie
Garland, Rose Drena
Goncalves, Bruna Valentina
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**School News**

**VisionPlus to Help Under-Performing and Disengaged Students**

*By Melissa Orff*

Staff Reporter

The Milford High School Pathways Program will be transitioning to a new alternative learning program, one that will help prepare students struggling with the traditional school model reach their full potential and prepare for life after high school.

The school’s “Pathways Program” was developed in 2012 to help students in grades 10 through 12 who had chronic attendance and conduct issues, and who were in danger of failing or dropping out of high school. Students studied at home in groups of up to 10 students, and they would attend a separate program in the high school where they would receive academic and guidance support. Although the program has run successfully over the past few years, school officials felt that there were better ways to prepare these students for the future.

"We weren't doing a great job getting these kids ready, prepping them for life after high school," said Pathways Program Coordinator Steven DiVitto during a presentation to the Milford School Committee on February 7.

After doing intensive research and numerous interviews with students, families, and a "new and improved" alternative learning program – "VisionPlus" – will be rolling out at the beginning of next school year.

"We felt strongly that the moment was right to bring about a shift," said Milford High Principal Josh O'tin. "Pathways was a separate program for a group of students struggling with conduct issues, but not an alternative way to earn their high school diploma."

The idea of the new VisionPlus program is to offer individualized, project-based learning along with other supports for struggling students. The new program will be for students in grades 9-12 who are flagged as not only under-performing, but also students who feel "disengaged" in the school community.

"It is going to take a lot of work to work with each student and their families and the special education department to find that ‘thing’ that is going to spark an interest," said DiVitto. Students in the program will still be working on core concepts including Math, Science and English, but in addition, students will have opportunities for project-based learning and internships/apprenticeships based on their post-high school plans. "It’s critical for students to leave high school with the skill set that allows them to be successful in the workforce should they go that route," said O’Itin. They will also have full access to the high school elective program, something that was not part of the Pathways Program previously. "We don’t want to deprive students from taking electives if that is something that they want to do," said O’Itin. As many of the students enrolled in the program need more than educational support, intensive counseling services and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports will also be available for students in the new VisionPlus program to help ensure school is a positive experience for students. The main emphasis, according to O’Itin and DiVitto, is to make sure to provide students an opportunity to succeed once they leave the four walls of Millford High School. "We want students to feel what they are learning is relevant, useful, engaging, and personal to their interests," said O’Itin. "We need to ensure our graduates, whether they are in our mainstream program or our alternative program are either college or career ready. If we have not accomplished that, we have not done right by our students."

**Class of 2019 Students Recognized by School Committee**

*By Melissa Orff*

Staff Reporter

Several of Milford Public School’s Class of 2019 students were recognized for their leadership, academic and personal achievements during the February 7 School Committee Meeting.

Milford High School (MHS) seniors Riley Campbell and Gianni Pannone were recognized for being chosen as the 2019 Worcester County Superintendent’s Association Scholar. This award is presented to two members of the senior class based on their academic and extracurricular accomplishments. The students attended an annual luncheon at the College of the Holy Cross on January 9 with Superintendent Dr. Kevin McIntyre and MHS Principal Joshua O’Itin where they were recognized among other students from area school District’s for their achievements in and out of school.

MHS seniors Cassandra Probert and Brendan O’Shaugnessy were selected as the 2019 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent’s Award recipients. Students are chosen for this award based on not only their leadership and personal accomplishments, but also their cumulative GPA, class rank, and a personal selection by the Superintendent.

MHS seniors Maria Santiago and Alefe Oliveira were chosen as the 2019 National School Development Council Award recipients. The National School Development Council (NSDC) is a network of regional school study councils, like NSDEC, that supports excellence, equity and continuous education improvement. The NSDC network assists hundreds of schools and school districts nationwide in becoming high-performance organizations. The recipients of this award have shown “tremendous academic growth and leadership at MHS.” All of the students were presented with a certificate for their accomplishments during the meeting by McIntyre and School Committee Chairperson Joseph Callery. “Congratulations to all of you, it is well deserved,” said Callery. O’Itin also thanked the School Committee for taking time to recognize the students during the meeting. "It is really important for the life of the school that we celebrate excellence, that we celebrate our students' accomplishments in front of the whole community," he said. The students were asked what was one thing that they have learned in their past four years at Milford High School. Several students responded that they had learned the variety of athletic and extra-curricular opportunities that are available to MHS students helped them in many aspects of their educational career at MHS.

"Being in all the clubs has shown me a lot about leadership and teamwork," commented Maria. Alefe responded that it was learning the teachers were always there to support students was a learning experience for him. "I never had any difficulty connecting with the teachers...it's not always easy, but I want to say thank you for all they have done with me," said Brendan. McBride stated that he learned that what you put into your educational experience, is what you will get out of it. "One thing that I have learned over my past four years here is that nothing bad comes from hard work," he said.
Valley Tech FY 2020 Budget Up 3.53 Percent; Milford Assessment Decreases

By Jane Bigda
Editor

Using various state and district funds, Blackstone Valley Tech Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick said the projected increase in the school’s overall budget for Fiscal Year 2020 has been held to 3.53 percent. The budget is expected to be approved by the school committee at their March 7 meeting and then be forwarded to the 13 district communities for approval at their Annual Town Meetings. Dr. Fitzpatrick had good news for the towns of Mendon, Milford and Upton. All three will have reduced assessments for next year. The estimated reduction for Mendon is $18,000, for Upton $8,450 and for Milford $55,000. Each town’s assessment is based on a formula that factors in the number of students from that community attending Valley Tech. Fitzpatrick noted that while the overall student population accepted at Valley Tech has risen, the number from specific towns may have fallen in any given year. Other drivers in holding down assessments for the towns are the use of $250,000 from the district’s Excess and Deficiency Account, a zero increase in the health benefits account and use of the Massachusetts Governor’s Economic Equipment bond to purchase new technology and equipment.

The district will also self-fund the reroofing of the 54-year-old building with reimbursement funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority along with the $360,000 realized from the sale of the Trask Land on Chestnut St. The land was sold last summer to Alfonso Builders of Milford.

Fitzpatrick noted that the overall budget increase of 3.53 percent in FY2020 was the result of “normal inflationary costs” including a 2.6 percent in contractual raises. Once the budget is approved by the school committee in March a copy will be available on the school’s website, ValleyTech.k12.ma.us.

Extra Credits
Milford Public School Activities and Events
Compiled by Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

District: The Milford Public Schools will be hosting a Kindergarten Information and Pre-Registration Night on Tuesday, February 26, snow date Wednesday, February 27, at Milford High School. There will be a Parent Information Presentation from 6-6:30p.m. followed by a Kindergarten Pre-Registration and Packet pickup from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic translators will be available. This event is for parents only; childcare will not be provided. Children must be 5-years old on or before August 31, 2019 to attend Kindergarten. For questions, please contact the Family Resource Center at 508-478-1135 x4603.

Woodland: Each month, Woodland Elementary recognizes students in each class that have shown us important core values that contribute to the school community. The following students have been nominated by their teachers for the value of “Inclusiveness”.

- Aubrey Buckley, Emily Pires, Aslen Kok

Stacy: Eight Stacy Middle School students were chosen for the Massachusetts Jt Central District Ensemble. Students will practice throughout the Spring for the concert which is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at Franklin High School. Congratulations go to the following students for their hard work: 7th Grade - Arthur Gomes, Kendall Dexter, Rhea Mathew, Kensha Jufr, 8th Grade - Joshua Anderson, Tzintli Cerda, Rishi Patel, and Madelyn Stochaj.

Whitinsville Christian School Second Quarter Honor Roll

The following local students were named to the Second Quarter Honor Roll at Whitinsville Christian School.

Grade 6
Hons.
- Georgia West - Mendon

Grade 7
High Hons.
- Declan Smith - Mendon

Grade 8
Hons.
- Chloe Richey - Upton
  - Nathan Romine - Upton

Grade 9
Hons.
- Lauren Foellmer - Mendon

Grade 10
Hons.
- Madi Paul - Mendon

Grade 11
Hons.
- Beth Hatton - Milford

Grade 12
High Hons.
- Nadya Chalak - Upton
  - Rachel Cozzens - Upton
  - Christina Leduc - Mendon

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13
Top-10 Finish at States for MHS Boys Track

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School boys winter track team amassed 21 points last weekend at the Division 3 state meet, finishing two points clear of Danvers and securing a 10th place finish as a team. “The boys finished right where they should have,” said Milford head coach Derek Rose. “We may have hoped for one or two more points, but overall it was a great team performance.”

Milford earned one state title in the 4x400 relay with three seniors — Hugo Lopes, Ryan Kelley and Joseph Madden — teaming up with junior Rafael Feliciano to cover the distance in 3:30.66, nearly two seconds faster than second-place Sharon.

“The boys in the relay have worked so hard to improve together and they run for each other,” Rose said. “Winning the D3 title with a school record by two seconds was huge for us and puts them in a position to get to the New England meet.”

The Scarlet Hawks relay team enters this weekend’s all-state meet within two seconds of a top-five time in the state. Madden will also be eyeing a spot in the New England meet after placing second in the D3 meet in the 1,000 meter run. He checked in just two-tenths of a second behind the winner from Walpole.

“Joey has been such a strong competitor that we have been able to count on and he will be tough to replace,” Rose said of his senior. “He has one individual school record and five relay records.”

Madden’s second-place finish marked his second straight runner up performance in the 1,000-meter event. “He is a special athlete that can run the mile and jump on a sprint relay,” Rose said. “He’s very versatile and that will be hard to replace.”

Unlike the MHS girls’ squad, many of the points at the state meet for the boys came from seniors. “The seniors work hard and want to win,” Rose said. “The best part is that they believe they can hit outlandish goals like breaking individual school records, like Hugo and Joey have done, or relay records. They have showed everyone else that big things are possible.”

Senior Zachary Browne earned a sixth place finish in the 55 meter hurdles. Yet another senior, Miguel Torres, checked in 11th in the mile, just ahead of his classmate, Chris Berthrong, who finished 13th. Max Manor, a junior, placed ninth in the two-mile, just missing the podium.

Milford’s Pyne Picks BC to Continue Football Career

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

A chance to play right away helped Boston College land one of the top offensive line prospects in the country, with Milford High School’s Kevin Pyne announcing his commitment to play for the Eagles last week.

Pyne, who stands 6-foot-8, weighs north of 280 pounds and is considered one of the top-25 overall recruits in the nation, picked BC over a number of Division 1 programs, with Notre Dame and Northwestern among the other finalists. “They are all great places, I think I could do great things at any one of those schools,” Pyne said. “I wanted to go somewhere where I could get on the field quicker. It’s a great culture at BC and it feels like a good fit for me.”

Pyne noted the history Boston College head coach Steve Addazio, who signed a contract extension in December, has in developing talent on the offensive line. He said he knows nothing is going to be handed to him at the Heights.

“All they can offer is an opportunity to compete for a position,” Pyne said. “I think it would be great to play as a freshman, but I know that’s going to be very hard. I don’t expect myself to walk in there and be anything special.”

Pyne transferred to Milford High this season after spending three years with Millis High School and credited both high schools with enhancing his development. “In Millis I had a great time, great people, great culture, but I had to leave because they didn’t know if they were even going to have a football program because of the numbers,” he said. “It felt good being back in Milford. I got to play with the same kids I grew up with, so it wasn’t like I went to a brand new school!”

In committing to BC, Kevin Pyne became the latest member of his family to take his football ability to the collegiate level. Kevin’s great-grandfather, George Pyne Jr., grandfather, George Pyne III, and uncle, Jim Pyne, were the first family to produce three generations of NFL talent.

In addition to the pro prowess in the family, Kevin’s father David was an All-American at Lafayette, his uncle George played at Brown and his older brothers David (Tufts) and Austin (Lafayette) have also achieved success at the college level.

The youngest Pyne, who plans to study business at BC, said he enjoyed suiting up for the Scarlet Hawks after suffering an injury two years ago with the Mohawks. “I was happy to be back out there playing football,” Pyne said. “The best part was really just being out there and having fun.”
Maspenson Rod and Gun Club Wins Contest

By scoring 1437 points, Maspenson Rod and Gun Club in Milford defeated DC Shooting Team, which is from Armour, S.D. Maspenson Rod and Gun Club finishes the season in first place overall, with 1-0 record. Maspenson Rod and Gun Club was led by Rya Salian, who shot a 366. Other team members were Manuel Snyderman, Logan Quinn, and Genan Su. They are coached by Manuel Snyderman.

Next up Maspenson Rod and Gun Club will compete against Cowley County 4-H from Winfield, Kan. Cowley County 4-H currently has a 0-1 record. While DC Shooting Team, with an 0-1 record, will compete against GRRP Air Pistol Team, which has an 0-1 record and is from Grandville, Mich.

MHS Girls Track Places 6th At States

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School girls winter track team soared to a sixth-place finish last weekend at the Division 3 state meet, scoring 35 points to edge out Walpole by half a point. “The girls outscored my projection,” head coach Derek Rose said. “We’re very, very proud of you,” Chairman Michael Walsh said. Selectman William Buckley thanked the parents and coaches for their contributions, saying, “It’s a lot of very hard work.” Kevin Budden photo

MHS Girls Hoops Builds Mental Toughness

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The 2018-2019 season has been a challenging one for the Milford High girls’ basketball team, which had yet to win a game heading into the season finale Wednesday against Burncoat, but head coach T.J. Dolliver said his team has been really good job this year. “While challenging, this season has been an important learning experience for players and coaches alike,” he said. “I think we are making progress.” Dolliver said.

“We have done our best to stay positive, stay the course, and continue to work on the things we need to work on but she has always been there during practice and games, working hard and being a good example.”

Sophomore guard Jillian Michelson is one MHS girls’ basketball rifles to rely on next season. Dolliver said Michelson has “a motor that just doesn’t quit.” The coach added, “She is always bouncing around the court, communicating, trying to do things the right way. She has plenty to work on but she has always been there during practice and games, working hard and being a good example.”

Another workhorse for the Hawks is Carly Ferreira, who will return for her junior year after battling down low with taller players for most of this season. “She does a good job getting position and coming down with the rebound,” Dolliver said. “She has done a really good job this year.” While challenging, this season said Dolliver has been an important learning experience for players and coaches alike. “I think we are making progress,” he said. “We have done our best to stay positive, stay the course, and continue to work on the things we are trying to improve.”
Buoyed by Youth Program, O’Connor Wins State Title

Milford High sophomore Kerry O’Connor has been competing in track and field for most of her life, thanks to a strong family lineage in the sport, and an enhance youth and middle school program. The experience has allowed the 15-year-old to quickly excel at the high school level, including a state championship in the 300-meter run at last week’s Division 3 meet.

“I was really nervous and excited, because I was the top seed and I knew there was some good competition in the race,” O’Connor said after the win. “I just wanted to give it my all and run as fast as I could, luckily I was able to beat the other girls to the turn and finish strong.”

O’Connor posted a time of 40.92 seconds, her best in the event by more than half a second. She’s only two or one-hundredths of a second away from the program record in the event, and her day at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston included a second-place finish as a member of the MHS 4x200 relay team and a third place finish in the long jump.

The Milford sophomore has a tremendous amount of talent and drive, and has also been able to take advantage of more opportunities for young athletes and an enhance youth and middle school program the year I was eligible to join, so that helped me get into the sport,” she said. “They started a middle school program a few years ago, and I think they started a middle school program the year I was eligible to join, so that helped me get into the sport.”

Both of O’Connor’s parents, Glenn and Kimberly, are runners and her father is the girls cross country coach at Milford High. She has also taken part in family track nights over the summer, sponsored by the Milford Community Use program. Since shortly after O’Connor could walk, she’s been running.

MHS track coach Derek Rose said the youth programs have been a huge boost to the track program in town. “They have been great in developing kids’ interest in the sport and getting them exposed to it,” Rose said.

O’Connor is moving on to the All-State meet where she could once again find herself on the podium in multiple events. As was the case in the D3 meet, she will be running at Reggie, where Milford competed during the Hockomock League season and a place where O’Connor said she is comfortable running.

Long-term, O’Connor is hoping to be able to run at the collegiate level. But for now, she’s getting used to the surreal feeling of being a state champion. “It’s really weird,” she said, chuckling. “There are so many other girls who have so much talent and put in the effort, it’s just really cool that I was able to accomplish this.”

Milford Boys Basketball
Misses Postseason

By Chris Villani

Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High boys basketball team finished one game away from earning a spot in the district tournament after last Friday’s loss at Canton cemented a third-place finish for the Scarlet Hawks in the Hockomock League’s Davenport Division.

Milford fell to 8-11 overall and 7-9 in the league, one game behind second place Foxboro. The top two teams in each league earn automatic bids to the second season.

“It’s disappointing for me because we have been to the playoffs three years in a row,” said MHS head coach Paul Seaver. “So it’s tough to be out on the outside looking in, especially by one game.”

Seaver said he also disappointed for his three seniors, Brendan White, Brendon Sailer and Danny Corsini, who helmed the Hawks all season long.

White put up eye-popping numbers in his final campaign, averaging nearly 10 points per game and 10 rebounds per contest heading into the final two non-league games of the regular season, Milford’s “Scarlet Hawk Classic” tournament. White, a guard, had nine games in this season in which he scored 20 points or more.

“Jared has been more of a leader than anything else,” Seaver said. “We sell more

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