Meteorological Spring? 
No, It’s Still Winter in Milford.

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Mother Nature said no on Sunday, March 3 and Monday March 4. Milford and surrounding towns were hit by its biggest storm of the season, about 16 inches of wet, heavy snow. While it covers everything with a fluffy blanket of white, humans, birds and all other creatures would rather have blue skies and warm weather. A deep freeze followed the snowstorm letting New Englanders know that winter was not done yet. Harry Platcow photo

Planning Board Opposes Sale of Watershed Lands

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

With the Board of Selectmen discussing the potential sale of several parcels of “surplus” land at its February 11 meeting, the Planning Board weighed in on February 19 by questioning why—given the town is moving forward with acquiring the privately owned Milford Water Company – it would sell off unbuilt land viewed as protecting the water supply.

“If these parcels are of importance to the town, not only for open space, but for drinking water protection,” Town Planner Larry Dunkin told the Planning Board last month. On January 14, with Selectman William Buckley absent from the meeting, Selectman Chair Michael Walsh and Selectman William Kingkade voted to declare five parcels of land-locked land owned by the town and located near Rt. 1-495 to be “surplus” property. Town Counsel Charles Kennedy told them no town department had any interest in keeping them and that an un-named abutter wished to buy them.

Last month, Dunkin gave Planning Board members a copy of a February 8 memo he wrote to Town Administrator Richard Calagione said only one of the five parcels—the site of the former Braggville School on East Main St. (Rt. 16) makes sense to sell. “This is us making a statement because we saw this going on,” he said.

With the town trying to buy the water company, why would it be selling land within the water resource area, Calagione questioned.

Former Town Planner Reno DeLuzio said that four of the five parcels are within the Charles River watershed and should be left in their natural state. “Every acre that we can keep in its natural state provides one more acre for aquifer recharge,” he said.

A committee formed by selectmen in 2000 recommended protecting these parcels he said, noting he served on that committee as the town planner and it was chaired by Lena McCarthy, a current Planning Board member.

“No one creates more land,” Kennedy said. “And I don’t see the benefit for the Town of Milford to dispose of it for short money.”

The Planning Board voted unanimously to send selectmen a letter opposing the sale of the parcels in question.

Walsh Tells Selectmen:
Don’t “Muddy the Waters”

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Selectmen Chairman Michael Walsh took umbrage on February 25 at his two colleagues’ desire to have the Board of Selectmen provide comment to the Police Chief Search Committee about the criteria selectmen believe should be looked for when search for Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin’s replacement. Walsh is the selectmen’s representative on that committee, which—as of February 25—had yet to set an initial meeting date.

“Let the committee be the committee,” Walsh said, later adding, “I don’t think we need to muddy the waters.” Walsh said he reviewed the town by-law that stipulates who sits on the search committee and noted it specifies six criteria as well as saying the search committee should select and recommend three-to-five finalists from which selectmen should pick a new chief. “I’m not trying to interfere,” Selectman William Buckley said, but merely offer—through Walsh—suggestions for what selectmen desire in a new chief. The search committee would be free to disregard those suggestions, he said.

As Buckley explained it, without the selectmen giving their boards input up front, then when the search committee members ask Walsh how Selectmen feel about a topic of discussion, Walsh would have to come back and ask his colleagues. Further, Buckley noted, the by-law creating the search committee process was written in 1998 and many topics, such as use of social media, have arisen since then and the by-law’s wording “doesn’t necessarily cover looking for a police chief in 2019.”

When Walsh again said the by-law’s wording describes what the search committee needs to do. Selectman William Kingkade responded, “There are other things that can be included.” Kingkade said he agreed with Buckley that giving selectmen suggestions for Walsh to bring to the search committee made sense. Walsh suggested Kingkade and Buckley relay their ideas to Town Administrator Richard Villani, who would then convey them to Walsh. The chairman noted he can always return from the search committee meetings and discuss its progress with Buckley and Kingkade in closed-door, executive sessions. Buckley responded that the discussions were held in public. Villani said all 12 members of the search committee have been contacted and have accepted their position on it. “Everyone’s on board,” he said.

The Police Chief Search Committee will hold its first meeting at 7 p.m. on March 12 at Town Hall, according to Villani.
Lioce Properties Group

The red signage outside may say Keller Williams but Joshua Lioce, owner of Lioce Properties Group, wants everyone to know the real estate business hasn't gone anywhere. Although the two businesses merged in July 2018, Lioce Properties continues to be the friendly and committed real estate business that so many have counted on (and raved about) when it comes to the sale or purchase of their homes.

Lioce has been in the industry for 19 years and it's easy to tell his enthusiasm for real estate has only grown over that time. He actually began working in the family business, but eventually decided to obtain his real estate license and started working part-time as an agent. It didn't take him long to realize he found his career and his passion.

In 2003, he opened his own office in his hometown and over time grew it into the top real estate business in Milford. Nonetheless, always wanting to take advantage of opportunities, he saw the merger with Keller Williams as a positive move.

Keller Williams is the number one real estate franchise in the country and through its resources has helped bring Lioce Properties Group to another level. In 2017, Keller Williams invested $1 billion in technology advancements. "They're leading the charge in technology, agent and consumer applications, information accessibility; really everything. All those advancements help our agents provide even more value to our clients," explained Lioce.

Another change since the merger is Lioce Properties Group no longer takes on brokerage responsibilities. "It allows us to focus 100% on assisting clients buying and selling real estate," said Lioce.

Still, what hasn't changed is the real estate team's welcoming approach, reliability, and enthusiasm to see clients achieve their goals of selling a property for the best possible price or buying their dream home.

And the testimonials from some very satisfied clients say it all. "We cannot thank Josh and Lioce Properties enough for everything they did for us during our buying and selling process. No request was too big and no question unanswerable," said one client. Another stated, "Lioce Properties worked hard to sell our home and to help us find our new home. The professionalism of the staff went above and beyond our expectations." Anyone thinking about buying or selling a home, Lioce Properties Group is located at 230 Main St. and can be contacted at 508-422-9750. For more information, view www.lioceteam.com or email Josh at josh@lioceteam.com.

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Centerpoint Driving Academy

When it comes to the safety of new drivers, founders of Centerpoint Driving Academy (CDA) – Jim Beyer and John Anderson – believe teaching the bare minimum is simply not enough.

"We felt there were gaps in traditional Driver's Ed training," CDA president, Beyer, stated. "That's where our free, one-of-a-kind Life Skills Class comes in, offering real-world experience to make our students confident and better prepared to begin their driving careers safely."

Fully licensed and insured, CDA is the only driving academy offering the Life Skills program. It is included in all driving packages, along with the state-required 30 hours' classroom training by Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV)-certified driving instructors, 12 hours of driving time in a CDA vehicle and six hours observation.

The bonus Life Skills Class offers hands-on experience with important technical skills including changing a tire, inflating tires to correct pressure and changing oil and air filters.

Additionally, CDA invites a uniformed officer to address students about what to do if stopped by the police and the dos and don'ts if there is an accident and brings in local insurance agents to discuss proper coverage for young drivers.

"We offer as much individualization as possible," Anderson added. "The class teacher is also the driving instructor because we feel that provides tremendous continuity of service."

Another key differentiator is that all CDA students learn to drive in a newer RAV 4 SUV. "Almost every driveway has an SUV in it these days," Beyer added, "so we wanted to offer the kind of car most students would be driving."

As parents, who together have seven children, Beyer and Anderson know an adult may not always be available when a teenager needs assistance on the road, so they've made it their priority to give young people the skills and confidence needed to help themselves.

This is a population they know well and care about.

Both have years of experience coaching young people. Long-time resident Beyer coached Milford High School tennis, along with community youth programming, before moving to Mendon. Anderson was heavily involved in youth sports from Pop Warner football to serving on the board of the Hopkinton Basketball Association.

To celebrate CDA's Grand Opening, their 17-module instruction package is offered for $790, a $240 discount. Included are the bonus Life Skills Class and RMV certificate.

Take advantage of this time-limited offer by registering online. A Student Portal is also available 24/7 to schedule classes or a make-up session and track your progress on classroom instruction.

As a community service, the Resource section provides links to the RMV to download driving manuals or obtain learner's permit applications, local resources about insurance options, road-side assistance, information about buying a car for your teenager and more.

Open daily from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m., CDA is at 31 Granite St., Ste. 4, Milford. The company will offer instruction in Hopkinton soon. Discover more at CenterPointDrivingAcademy.com or call 508-217-4447 for an appointment.

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SHOP LOCAL!
BUY LOCAL!
**Hockomock Area YMCA Hosts Food Drive**

**Donation Locations and Community Partners Needed**

The Hockomock Area YMCA welcomes donations to the fifth annual Healthy Futures Food Drive, which will take place at all three Hockomock Area YMCA branches and at locations within the community March 12th to April 7th. The Hockomock Area YMCA’s Healthy Futures initiative is committed to reducing inactivity and poor nutrition.

This year, the food drive will be supporting school-based food pantries in the Hockomock YMCA service area, including ones in the Milford Public Schools. These programs are designed to eliminate child hunger and alleviate household food insecurity. Having healthy food available at schools removes challenging barriers to food access for busy families, such as long work hours and transportation. Concerned citizens can directly support local students by donating healthy, kid-friendly food to the 2019 food drive.

Suggested items include: low-sugar cereal, oatmeal packets, low-sodium microwavable meals and soups, low-sodium canned vegetables, canned fruit in juice, unsweetened applesauce, whole grain pasta, white or brown rice, almond or sunflower seed butter, canned tuna or chicken, almonds, walnuts, or sunflower seeds, olive/canola oil in plastic bottles, fruit snacks (100% juice), whole-grain snack crackers, macaroni and cheese, whole-grain granola bars, microwaveable popcorn, pudding cups, shelf-stable milk, and personal care items.

The Hockomock Area YMCA is also looking for community partners to assist with this effort. Community partners such as churches or businesses help the YMCA team in a variety of capacities including: collecting and weighing donations, transporting donated items to area schools, and helping spread the word about this initiative with friends and neighbors.

The first drop off site for Milford is Milford Town Library, 80 Spruce Street, Milford, during regular library hours. We are looking for other locations or businesses that can be drop off sites in Milford.

For more information, please contact Shannon Nisbett at shannon@hockymca.org or Marykate Bergen at marykateb@hockymca.org.

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**Milford Democratic Town Committee to Honor O’Loughlin**

The Milford Democratic Town Committee (DTC) will honor longtime police chief Thomas O’Loughlin at their second annual spring brunch, on Sunday, March 31, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Crystal Room, Cedar St., Milford. O’Loughlin has served as Milford’s police chief since 2001, and has proven himself invaluable in the fight against crime: according to official statistics, Milford’s crime rate in 2018 reached its lowest level in a decade.

Under his direction, the Milford Police Department has tackled the opioid crisis by partnering with social service organizations to rehabilitate users. The police department was one of the first in the state to provide Narcan to officers to prevent deaths from drug overdoses.

For 18 years, Chief O’Loughlin has served this community well and creatively,” said Milford DTC chair Christine Crean. “He was able to collaborate with other community services and always tried to be helpful. And the support he has is a testimony to how his staff and how this town sees him.”

Speakers at this year’s brunch will focus on a theme of transparency and inclusion in government. The keynote address at the brunch will be delivered by State Senator Jamie Eldridge, a tireless supporter of progressive causes in his 15 years in the state legislature. Framingham city councilor Margareth Shepard, the first Brazilian immigrant elected to a city council in the United States, will also be speaking.

“It is fundamental that immigrants be informed and participate in politics at the local level,” Shepard said in a Facebook post announcing her participation. “We need to represent ourselves.”

Also scheduled to speak is longtime Milford selectman and current State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford, and Milford native Jeffrey Roy, the current State Representative for Franklin and Medway. The speakers will be joined by candidates in Milford’s town election, in one of the last stops on the campaign trail before the election on April 2.

Brunch tickets are $25, with proceeds benefiting the committee’s outreach programs, including their annual high school scholarship. Tickets may be purchased from committee members or the committee’s ActBlue website, http://www.actblue.com/donate/milford-dtc-1. More information on the brunch and other committee events is available through the Milford DTC’s Facebook and Twitter pages, @MilfordMaDTC.

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**My Experience in Milford**

- Milford Board of Selectmen
- Milford School Committee
- Milford Youth Commission
- Milford Armory Renovation Committee
- Sacred Heart Parish Finance Committee
- Sacred Heart Parish Council
- Milford Catholic Elementary School Board

“I have lived in this community for over 30 years. I don’t criticize from the sidelines, I get involved and find solutions to benefit the citizens of Milford.”

Vote for Mike Walsh
April 2, 2019

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**Paid for by the committee to reelect Mike Walsh for Milford Selectman**
Thanks from Thanks To Yanks
Mike Calzone of Foy Insurance Milford receives a certificate of appreciation from Mike Shum founder of Thanks To Yanks. The firm has supported Thanks To Yanks, a charity dedicated to assisting those who serve in the military and the families that love them. For more details, visit ThanksToYanks.com or on Facebook. Contributed photo

Candidates for Milford School Committee and Selectman interviewed on 30 Minutes
Candidates running for the Milford School Committee in the April 2 Annual Town Election are the guests on the March episodes of 30 Minutes with The Town Crier. The show airs at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays on Milford TV – Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 38. In addition, candidates for the Board of Selectmen will be featured on episodes airing on March 19 and 26. Episodes featuring other candidates that already are available on YouTube are: Future episode will continue to feature candidates in Milford’s April 2 Annual Town Election:
• February 15: James Ligor, candidate for re-election to the School Committee
• February 22: Michael Visconti, candidate for School Committee
• March 1: Tarik Miranda, candidate for School Committee
Episodes of 30 Minutes with The Town Crier air on Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m. on Milford TV, and are repeated several times the following week. Each episode also is available on YouTube. The half-hour show is produced by Town Crier Publications, Inc. – publishers of The Milford Town Crier and The Upton & Mendon Town Criers and focuses on Milford’s government, culture and history, news, businesses and charitable organizations. The show is co-hosted by Town Crier Publisher Al Holman and Town Crier columnist Kevin Rudden.
Tuesday, March 12
12:30 p.m. Happy Hour
2 p.m. Free Guest Lecture
5 p.m. Social Hour
7 p.m. Zumba Gold
8 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
8:30 p.m. Portrait Session
9 p.m. Couples Dance Party

Wednesday, March 13
5 p.m. Social Hour
6 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
7 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 under 60
8 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
9 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

Thursday, March 14
8 p.m. Social Hour
9 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

Friday, March 15
5 p.m. Social Hour
6 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

Saturday, March 16
8 a.m. Walking Club
10 a.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
1 p.m. Social Hour
2 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
3 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
4 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
5 p.m. Social Hour
6 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
7 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
8 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

Sunday, March 17
10 a.m. Social Hour
11 a.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
12 p.m. Social Hour
1 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
2 p.m. Social Hour
3 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
4 p.m. Social Hour
5 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
6 p.m. Social Hour
7 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
8 p.m. Social Hour
9 p.m. Pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

The Advertiser’s Club Directory
The Advertiser’s Club is listing those businesses that have contracted to advertise at least 12 times a year in The Milford Town Crier. Features include a listing in this directory, discounts and a feature article about your business (size and frequency requirements apply).

Business Name
Affordable Junk Removal .................. 15
American Climbers .................. 15
Anna Gas Service .................. 15
Barry's Mason Watch Makers ........ 15
Bright Insurance .................. 9
Charles River Bank .................. 8
CIP Inc. .................. 8
Crystal Room .................. 4
Crystal Pools .................. 9
Galmo Moving & Storage ................. 11
Gentle Dental, Milford ................. 4
Guerrents & Haltom, inc. ............. 11
Happy Valley Asian Bodywork .......... 11
Health Source .................. 11
Home Hardware Union .................. 11
Judaurs Plumbing .................. 13
Korea Hardware Doors .................. 13
Joyce Plumbing .................. 12
Kosmo Paint & Lumber .................. 12
Laforet Massage Therapy .......... 12
LaPole Immediate Group .......... 12
Mac Med Shop .................. 7
Mealy Oil & Propylene Company .... 12
Mentor Sweet Surgical Associates ...... 12
Milford Dental .................. 12
Milford Federal .................. 12
Milford Franklin Eye Associates .... 12
Mt. St. Charles Academy ............... 12
Nathans’ weedsers .................. 12
Park Place Dental .................. 10
P&O’s Red & Beacon .................. 10
PBN Electrics .................. 10
Sandusen Furniture .................. 10
Templeman True Service .................. 13
V&D Heating .................. 13
Wakamara Japanese Restaurant ...... 14
Washley Wonders and Family Services .......... 14
Weston Dental .................. 18
Women’s Body Fitness / Mash Up .... 18
Zenden Mortgage .................. 10

The Advertiser’s Club Introduces
A special featured offer to those businesses that contract to advertise 2 times in a year (1/16 page and larger) in the Upton & Mendon Town Crier: For more information contact:

Lori Tate: 508-529-0301
lortatetowncrier@gmail.com
Colette Rooney: 508-922-9674
cerooney@charternet.net
Susanne Odell Farber: 508-954-8148
Sue@sedondcall.com
Two citizen-petitioned articles are being submitted for inclusion on the May 20 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

The first, by Bryan Cole, looks at trying to boost the number of people who vote in Milford’s Annual Town Election by moving it from early April to November, when state and national elections are held.

Here’s the wording of Cole’s proposal:

ARTICLE: That the Town vote to petition the General Court for special legislation to provide for November town elections, which legislation shall provide substantially as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 9A of chapter 39 of the General Laws, article 1 of the General By-Laws of the Town of Milford, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Milford may hold in November its election of officers and the determination of other matters as by law are required to be elected or determined by ballot.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Cole’s reason for the date change is fairly straightforward:

More people vote in the November elections than in the April elections. For example, voter turnout in Milford last November was 57.3 percent, in April, it was 17.7 percent.

The second proposal, proposed by Michael Soares, seeks to expand the membership of the Board of Selectmen from its current three to five members.

Here’s the wording of Soares’ proposal:

ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen from three (3) to five (5) members, and further, that the vote on this article shall not take effect unless the following question is submitted to the registered voters for acceptance, which question shall be printed on the official ballot to be used at the next Town Election:

“Shall the Town vote to approve the action of the representative Town Meeting in increasing the membership of the Board of Selectmen from three (3) to five (5) members?”

If a majority of voters voting on the question shall vote in the affirmative, then the membership of the Board of Selectmen shall be increased, as aforesaid, at the next annual Town election held not less than thirty (30) days after the election at which the increase is voted. At that annual Town election, the Town shall choose by ballot the two (2) additional members of the Board of Selectmen, one (1) for a three (3) year term, and one (1) for a two (2) year term. Thereafter at each term expires, the Town shall choose by ballot a successor member for a three (3) year term. If however the majority of voters shall vote in the negative on the above question, then this vote of the Town Meeting shall be null and void, or take any other action in relation thereto.

The idea of increasing the number of selectmen began to be debated on social media last year during the protests against the 2-1 decision by the current Board of Selectmen not to renew Police Chief Thomas O’Laughlin’s contract.

Soares said his proposal “is not customary on the current board but I just think it’s time we consider increasing the number.”

Encounters of a legal alien
By Christina Barnett

Shopping Paranoia

Grocery shopping in the U.S. is an adventure. I think I wrote about the abundance of peculiar offerings but lack of produce available before. So this time, let me tell you about bags.

What is it with all those plastic bags?

I arrived here from a country where plastic bags are frowned upon. Everybody brings their own baskets or fabric bags to the store. We pack them ourselves. Should you, God forbid, forget your own bags, you may purchase one for a hefty fee. Hefty enough for you to remember bringing your own the next time.

When I went grocery shopping in the U.S. for the first time I almost hit a person in the face for stealing my groceries. Of course it turned out he was an employee whose job it is to bag my groceries. “What in the world?” I thought “Market Basket must be some luxury grocery chain.”

I found out quickly that people bag your groceries everywhere. To this day I have to suppress my urge to push them aside. By now I know, of course, that they aren’t there to steal my stuff.

But it drives me nuts how many bags they wasted when I forgot to bring my own. If I go and buy 10 things, I can end up with as many as 15 bags! Double bagging – it’s a thing. Those bags cannot easily be recycled. Throwing them into your home recycling can render the whole batch unusable. While there are a handful of curbside programs that accept plastic bags, Mendon doesn’t. If you ask a recycling official in the U.S. what is the number one source of contamination in a curbside recycling program, the answer is almost always “plastic bags.” People see the recycling symbol on the product and assume it can be included with other plastics. Unfortunately, bags are usually a nightmare for the machinery at recycling centers. But don’t despair! Almost all grocery stores have collection bins for your plastic bags. They send them to a different facility, where they are melted down and made into new bags.

The best thing you can do is, though, not using plastic bags at all. Indulge yourself and get some pretty cloth bags. I have a whole collection from home that I keep in the car. I usually use them and often the poor baggers are completely overwhelmed, especially when I say “No, three bags are enough to pull 50 items in.”

However, they know me by now and are no longer afraid to squash my produce. Sometimes, if they let me, I pack myself and feel utterly at home for a few minutes.

LETTERS
Letters may be edited for length and clarity and will be published on a space available basis. Maximum 300 words. Must include signature, address & telephone number. Opinions expressed are solely those of the writer. Town Crier Publications will not be responsible for inaccuracies. No Political Endorsements, please.

Thank You to the Community

To the Editor,

We would like to express our sincerest thank you for the many prayers, condolences, kind thoughts, emotional support, gifts, cards, and donations provided us these past few weeks in memory of our dear sweet Aaron.

Aaron was a very loving, caring, giving, and compassionate young man, who touched the hearts of everyone throughout his life and will always be in our hearts and minds and will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Words cannot express our gratitude to the entire Milford community for this outpouring of love and affection they provided to help us through this tumultuous time, including the Emergency Room staff and doctors at the Milford Regional Medical Center, [Superintendent] Dr. Kevin McIntyre and the entire Milford School Department, the Administrative staff and numerous teachers from the Brookside, Woodland, and the Stacey Middle Schools who taught and touched Aaron in so many ways, the Milford Little League, the Milford Special Olympic family, the Milford Police Department, and surrounding towns, including Grafton, Upton, and Hopedale Police Departments for the escort provided for his final services, and all his classmates and dear friends.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Christopher Roney, and the Roney Funeral Home for providing the funeral services, and, Fr. Richard Scioli, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish for presiding over Aaron’s funeral Mass.

Your many acts of kindness and sympathy continue to be a great comfort to us in our time of sorrow. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts Editor’s note: Aaron Zenus was the Milford middle school student who passed away recently due to complications from the flu.

The Zenus Family

Milford

25th Annual Snowman Contest is Ending!!!

Send a photo of your snowman, with your name, hometown, and snowman size to our editor Jane Bigda at TownCrierEditor@gmail.com by March 12.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS

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

Second Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Dinner, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by Food with Friends. 508-473-2300

Last Wednesday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8445 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org. 5-30 p.m. Community Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt.135), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Community Service. 508-435-4356 or StPaulHopkinton.org.

Every Thursday: 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Lunch, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Society. 508-473-2300

Third Thursday 5:30-6 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation, three days ahead by calling 508-329-3142.

Last Thursday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, sponsored by First Methodist Church of Milford volunteers. 508-473-8445 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

Last Friday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Sponsored by the Hopedale Churches (Unitarian, Sacred Heart and Union Evangelical). 508-473-8446 or office@unionchurchmilford.org.

Last Saturday 6 to 7 p.m. Brown bag lunch/ dinner, Unitarian Universalist Parish, 23 Pine St., Milford, use side door. Sponsored by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish of Milford. lnbblackwell@gmail.com.

Saturday 4:30-6 p.m. Supper, Unitarian Universalist Parish, 23 Pine St., Milford. 508-473-3589, or fuumilford@verizon.net.

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The Zenus Family

Milford
Fletcher Tilton Elects Lauren Miller as Officer

Lauren E. Miller of Milford has been elected an officer at Fletcher Tilton, Attorneys at Law. Within the firm’s Trust & Estate and Special Needs/ Elder Law departments, Miller focuses on estate planning, asset protection planning, MassHealth applications for long-term care, and complex MassHealth appeals. She also regularly represents clients in a variety of probate and family court matters, including guardianships, conservatorships, and estate administration. Miller is admitted to practice in Massachusetts and primarily works from the firm’s Worcester office.

Local Legislators Talk Senior Health Care Funding


President of the Massachusetts Senior Care Association Tara Gregorio led a presentation explaining how the Medicaid Funding Gap, the difference between what it costs nursing homes to provide high quality resident care each day and what Medicaid actually reimburses, is the largest in history and among the worst in the nation. This shortfall of approximately $38 per resident per day resulted in 20 Massachusetts skilled nursing centers closing in 2018, displacing 2,000 residents and leaving the same number of employees without jobs.

“We really need legislative support in recognizing this is a crisis,” Gregorio said.

Industry professionals then shared personal struggles within their care communities resulting from the underfunding, and SALMON officials led a tour of Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center at Westborough to help legislators get a sense of a skilled nursing center’s environment and equip them with the knowledge needed to make an informed decision regarding the funding of senior care.

Vaitkunas Honored with Professional Achievement Award

The Massachusetts Health Information Management Association (MaHIMA) awarded Ellen Butler Vaitkunas, RHIA, Director of Human Resources and External Relations with the Clinical Financial Resource, Inc. of the 2019 Professional Achievement Award for active support of MaHIMA’s mission and the Health Information Management profession. Vaitkunas received the award at the annual MaHIMA Winter Meeting, held in Marlborough, on February 1. The MaHIMA Professional Achievement Award honors those individuals who advance the HIM Profession Awarded in memory of Dorothy (Dot) Grandoli-Wag. The Award honors a MaHIMA member for numerous and long-term contributions to the HIM profession.

A Milford resident, Vaitkunas is a graduate of Northeastern University where she received a BS in Health Information Management. She received her Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) credential in 1983 from American Health Information Association.
Citizens for Milford Candidates Forum

Citizens for Milford invites all Milford residents to attend its sixth annual Candidates Forum, which will feature candidates in Milford’s upcoming town election on Thursday, March 14 in the Parish Hall of Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, 17 Winter St. Milford. Main entry into the Parish Hall is located off Sumner St.

All candidates on the April 2 Town Election ballot are invited to meet voters starting in advance to CitizensforMilford@gmail.com. The group will make every effort to moderate the forum.

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Recent Actions by Milford Boards

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Selectmen
• Steve Dibble, Business Development manager for Planet Aid Inc., invited selectmen to tour the non-profit company’s headquarters on Sumner St. (February 25)
• Approved transferring the Common Villuiter license for Five Guys Burgers and Fries at 9 Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) From Five Olssons, LLC of Medway to ERE Milford FLG, LLC of Dallas. (February 25)
• Town Administrator Richard Villani reported that Milford has achieved the designation of “MVP Community”, making it eligible for climate change-related grants under the state’s Vulnerability Program. (Feb. 25)
• Villani reported that – effective February 28 - cell phone calls to 9-1-1 for Police, Fire or Emergency Medical services assistance will go directly to the dispatch center in the Milford Police Department instead of to a State Police facility. “With more and more people getting [just] cell phone, this is important,” Selectman William Kingkade said.
• Granted the Milford Lions Club a Permit to Obstruct a Public Way to conduct a “roll road” at the intersections of East Main St. (Rt. 16) and Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, rain date of Saturday, May 4. (February 25)
• Accepted a $3,532 raised through the 2018 Holistic Health Fair and Regional Substance Navigation Program efforts for the Regional Substance Abuse Navigation Program’s gift fund account. (February 25)
• Awarded a $55,910 contract for implementing an electronic and tangible records management system for Town Hall to King Information Systems, Inc. of Norwood. Funding for the project was authorized at last October’s Special Town Meeting. Villani said more than 30 companies took part of the town’s request for Proposals, but only King Information Systems submitted a bid. (February 25)
• Voted to support the February 25 findings made by Villani – in his capacity as Dog Hearing Officer – regarding a dog named “Odin” owned by Sara Fernandes and Richard Auguste of 44 Prospect St. Odin is to be kept on their property in a securely enclosed and locked pen or dog run area, must have a microchip implanted, and shall not be allowed on or off their property without being on a leash and being muzzled. (February 25)
• Granted Celebrate Milford, Inc. a one-day Wine and Malt license from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. for the annual Celebrate Milford festival scheduled for Saturday, May 18, rain date of Sunday, May 19. Also approved were a Permit to Overhang a Public Way for banner on Main St. near Central St. to advertise the event in advance and a Permit to Obstruct a Public Way for the 9:30 a.m. Youth Parade on Spruce, Congress and Walnut Streets (February 25)
• Approved Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin’s recommendation to install a “Crosswalk” sign with an arrow pointing down on an existing pole with a “Yield” sign at an intersection of East Main St. (Rt. 16) eastbound and Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). Selectman William Buckley noted the sign was just part of resident Mark Reardon’s request, with his other being to keep the crosswalk through the traffic “island” at that intersection plowed when it snows. Villani said he would address that issue with Highway Surveyor Scott Crissafulli. (February 25)
• Approved three separate conservation restrictions already approved by the Conservation Commission and the state Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to protect in perpetuity sites that Town Counsel Charles Boddy termed as “habitats that have been deemed to be important” or archaeological sites by limiting the use of the lands. Boddy noted his suggested amendments to the three conservation restrictions were adopted by the state and Conservation Commission. The three properties in question are a 26.6-acre portion of Kevin Lobisser’s “Whitewood Preserve” subdivision at Kate Lane, Popia Drive and Megan Way; a 19.9-acre parcel off Deer St.; and, a 9.4-acre parcel off Deer St. Both of the Deer St. sites are within the Stone Ridge development by The Gutierrez Company of Burlington. (February 25)

Finance Committee
• Met with Finance Director Zachary Taylor, Town Treasurer Christopher Pillia and Town Accountant Thomas Brown and voted to support their Fiscal Year 2020 (which begins July 1) budget directives to town departments. Pillia said that – as a long-term debt is paid off – he would like to take the money budgeted for those debt payments and move it into the town’s Stabilization Fund to ensure money is available for long-term capital needs. “We’re just trying to plan for the future,” he said. “There’s a school [project] coming in six to eight years,” noted Alberto Correia, Finance Committee vice chair. (February 13)
• Met with Andrew Diorio, Information Technology (IT) manager, to review the status of current and proposed IT projects. The Town Hall, Milford Town Library, Memorial Hall, Milford Youth Center, Highway Department and Senior Center are now integrated and under his jurisdiction, Diorio said. The library has received a $12,500 state grant to update its website, he added. (February 13)
• Chairman Christopher Morin updated members on the status of the plans to acquire and, a 9.4-acre parcel off Deer St. Both of the Deer St. sites are within the Stone Ridge development by The Gutierrez Company of Burlington. (February 25)

Shop Local! Buy Local!
Recent Actions by Milford Health, Sewer and Planning Boards

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Health
• Took under advisement a request by Steve Dibble, Business Development manager for Planet Aid Inc., and Gregory Nesta of Planet Aid to place a used clothing collection bin at the town’s Cedar St. (Rt. 85) transfer station. Nesta noted that a competitor’s bin is now located there. “We do have the room,” Health Officer Paul Mazucchelli said. Planet Aid will donate five cents per pound collected back to the town, Dibble said. (February 25)
• Dibble invited board members to tour the non-profit company’s headquarters on Sumner St. (February 25)
• Met with Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli to discuss re-opening the new leaf/brush collection facility off Fiske Mill Rd. on Thursdays through Sundays beginning in April. Subject to a favorable discussion with his unionized workers, Crisafulli said he was willing to let the Board of Health’s transfer station workers staff the new facility. Mazucchelli agreed to split the estimated $9,700 cost to bring electricity to the site with the Highway Department. “We’re here to partner with you,” Mazucchelli said. The Fiske Mill Road’s hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays and Thursdays and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. (February 25)
• Mazucchelli reported that Simply Recycling’s “pink bag” used clothing curbside collections totaled 31,828 pounds between October and the end of January, netting the town $427.22 in revenue. By reducing those 15.9 tons from the waste stream, the town saved $1,082.15 in trash disposal costs, he said. Board member Kenneth Evans said the income and savings add up to a collective $1,509.37. (February 25)
• Took under advisement an initial draft of a job description for the position of Director of Public Health, since Mazucchelli is retiring at the end of March. (February 25)

Board of Sewer Commissioners
• Approved a sewer connection for a home at 18 Archer Ave. (February 19)
• Approved sewer connection permits for homes at 25A and 25B Taylor St., subject to the plans being changed. (February 19)
• Voted to send the Planning Board a letter stating that a planned to locate an auto body/collision repair business at 288 West St. (Rt. 140) would have no effect on the sewer system since there are no sewer mains in that area of town. (February 19)
• Project Manager James Hoyt of Tata & Howard – the Sewer Department’s Marlborough-based engineering consultants – reported that the construction of the new sludge dewatering facility at the wastewater treatment plant is on schedule and should be completed to allow start-up testing of equipment in August. John Mainini, the Sewer Department’s Director of Operations, voiced concern that date may not be met. “They’ve got a lot of work to do,” he said, regarding contractor Hart Engineering Corporation’s progress. (February 19)

Planning Board
• Voted to determine that a 0.78-acre lot off Patsy’s Lane – a private road running off Prairie St. – is a buildable lot due to recent improvements made to the road, subject to a $9,000 bond being posted to ensure that a finish top coat of pavement, loaming and seeding are completed. (February 19)
• Voted to allow the 0.78-acre lot off Patsy’s Lane to be divided into two zoning-conforming house lots, subject to a $9,000 bond being posted to ensure that a finish top coat of pavement, loaming and seeding are completed on Patsy’s Lane. (February 19)
• Approved a site plan for Master Collision Center, Inc. to locate an auto body/collision repair business at 288 West St. (Rt. 140). Chairman Joseph Calagione asked whether trees to be planted along the front of the property would affect the lines-of-sight for drivers. Town Engineer Mike Dean said they would not because they will be planted about 20 feet back from the edge of the roadway pavement. (February 19)
• Voted to send the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) an unfavorable recommendation on a special permit request by Stephen Lacause to convert the second story of a detached garage at 3 South Free St. to office space and storage. Town Planner Larry Dunkin told the board that the ZBA granted a variance in 2000 allowing a single-story addition, but that variance was never recorded at the Registry of Deeds. In addition, a two-story addition was built and the proposed arrangement of rooms appears to be for a supplemental apartment, which is not allowed, Dunkin said. Board member Patrick Kennedy noted the structure itself is located within two feet of a neighbor’s property line. (February 19)
• Voted to send the ZBA an unfavorable recommendation on a variance request from Mary Lee Siple of Northbridge to divide a 26,656-square-foot lot at 22 Congress Terrace into an 11,632-square-foot new lot and a 15,024-square-foot lot with the existing house. (February 19)
**Milford’s “Top Dog” Contest**

By Kevin Budden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Animal Planet cable television channel has its annual Puppy Bowl. Now—as part of its annual dog licensing—the Milford Town Clerk’s office is sponsoring a “Top Dog” contest complete with first prize and runner-up awards.

The requirements? Register your dog between April 1 and June 30 and provide a photo of your dog. All dog photos will be on display in the Milford Town Hall lobby, with the winners to be picked on July 1. The “top dog”—or, rather its owner—will receive free dog licensing registration in 2020. The runner-up will get a doggy gift bag donated by the Town Clerk’s office.

The 2019 dog registration costs $6 each for a spayed female or a neutered male, and $25 each for an unspayed or unneutered male dog. After June 30, a late fee of $10 is applied to the licensing fee.

Anyone wishing to participate can bring a photo of their dog to the Town Clerk’s office, mail a picture to the office at 52 Main St., Milford, MA 01757, or email one to mlaughlin@townmilford.com. Please include the pet’s name, owner’s name and contact information. Photos will not be returned after the contest.

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**Ad Hoc Committee Appointed to Revitalize Two War Memorial Parks**

The War Memorial Revitalization Committee (WMRC), which was organized last fall by Citizens for Milford to advocate for renovations to both Draper Memorial Park and Calzone Memorial Park, is currently working with Milford’s Parks and Recreation Administrator James Asam and members of the Parks Commission to document existing conditions in both parks and identify the repairs and upgrades to pursue. The committee has also conducted meetings with Milford’s Town Engineer, Attorney, Administrator, and Veterans’ Agent to determine methods of funding and phases of construction.

Among the renovations being sought are restoring lawns, repairing irrigation systems, rehabilitating walkways and stonework, re-scribing of veterans’ names on monuments as needed, improving electrical to accommodate additional accent and holiday lighting, replacing trees and shrubs, plus adding historical signage and permanent waste receptacles.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to name the WMRC as an Ad Hoc committee at its November 15 meeting. Because Draper Memorial Park and Calzone Park are historic properties that pay tribute to Milford’s veterans members of local veterans’ groups were invited to serve on the committee.

“Citizens for Milford has hosted numerous community events in Draper Memorial Park over the last four years, making the slow deterioration of this town jewel apparent to me and many of our members. This concern was discussed with the Parks Commissioners at our public meeting in early 2018, and we are thrilled to have their support—as well as the support of many other town officials—in moving forward with a plan to ensure that both Draper Memorial Park and Calzone Memorial Park are restored to their original glory and remain places of respect and pride for all future Milfordians,” said WMRC chairman Peter Scandone.

Other WMRC officers are Vice Chairman Steve Trettel (Engineering Consultant), Secretary Donna Niro, and Treasurer Nancy Wojick. Additional members appointed by Selectmen include State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford; Selectmen Chairman Mike Walsh, Parks Department Commissioner Paul Pelligrini; Director of Milford Veterans’ Services John Pilla; Milford Downtown Revitalization Committee member Paul Malnati; Milford Tree Warden Charles Reneau; FVW Adjutant Frank Andreotti, Jr.; Senior Vice Commander Joseph Lufty (Disabled American Veterans; Lawrence J. Heron Chapter 6), Finance Committee member Jeffrey Niro, as well as Vincent Kiejzo, Claudia Scandone; and Rosemary Trettel.

The committee meets on the third Thursday each month in Room 14 in Milford Town Hall. All Milford citizens are welcome to attend.

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**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

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Scaling Kilimanjaro to Support Make-A-Wish

Submitted by Brenna Ashby

I am Brenna Ashby, a member of the Hopedale High School class of 2017 and a current University of Connecticut sophomore majoring in Digital Media Design. As a UConn student, I have tried to be involved in community activities. One is a Mount Kilimanjaro fundraiser designed to raise $7000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation is very special to me. My brother was diagnosed with leukemia in 2004 and he was granted a Make-A-Wish trip to Disney World, so I experienced first-hand what a huge difference they can make. This trip allowed us to experience what we hadn’t been able to do in years, what it’s like to be a regular family without the thought of cancer looming over you.

Make-A-Wish provided my family with an incredible opportunity, and now I have been provided an incredible opportunity to pay them back. My goal is to raise $7000 and completing the climb – my primary goal is $7000 and completing the climb – my primary goal is raising the money for Make-A-Wish. I know what it meant for my family, and I want to do what I can to ensure that other families have that same opportunity. If I am able to complete both challenges, I will have taken part in a once in a lifetime opportunity. If I am able to stay calm and focused, I am positive that I will be able to take on this mountain! I hope to share even more about my journey as the trip comes closer, and I am even more excited to share what happens after it is completed.

Although I hope to accomplish both goals—raising the $7000 and completing the climb – my primary goal is raising the money for Make-A-Wish. I know what it meant for my family, and I want to do what I can to ensure that other families have that same opportunity. If I am able to complete both challenges, I will have taken part in a once in a lifetime opportunity. If I am able to stay calm and focused, I am positive that I will be able to take on this mountain! I hope to share even more about my journey as the trip comes closer, and I am even more excited to share what happens after it is completed.

I continue to explore new opportunities for fundraising. Fundraising is only the beginning of my challenge. The climb begins in tropical heat and ascends to oxygen-deprived, arctic-like conditions. The six straight days of climbing range from two-hour warmup hike on the day one to a grueling 19-hour hike on the last. Hikers also have to endure lack of oxygen. Up to 60 percent of those attempting the climb fail, altitude sickness being among the lead cause. It is hard to train for this sickness, caused by lower oxygen at higher altitudes. As part of my conditioning, I have begun regular cardio and weight training at UConn, as well as rock climbing wall training. I am also taking advantage of the UConn Outing Club as frequently as I can by participating in climbing activities on local peaks like Mount Washington.

Although I hope to accomplish both goals—raising the $7000 and completing the climb – my primary goal is raising the money for Make-A-Wish. I know what it meant for my family, and I want to do what I can to ensure that other families have that same opportunity. If I am able to complete both challenges, I will have taken part in a once in a lifetime opportunity. If I am able to stay calm and focused, I am positive that I will be able to take on this mountain! I hope to share even more about my journey as the trip comes closer, and I am even more excited to share what happens after it is completed.

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March Events Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park

The following list of activities are offered by the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park. All programs, which take place at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, under another site is listed, are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request. For more information, to register or get weather updates call 508-278-7604 or email blackstone.heritage@mass.gov.

Maple Days Group Tours. Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guided tours for groups available by pre-registration. Park staff and volunteers take you through the art and science of producing maple syrup. Identify maple trees, see trees being tapped, participate in gathering sap, and visit the steamy sugar house to watch syrup being made. Tours include both indoor and outdoor elements. Dress for the weather, and wear appropriate footwear for a short walk, up to ½ mile. Program is free and for all ages. Pre-registration is required by March 7, first come, first served. Lookout Rock Hike. Saturday, March 16, 1 to 3 p.m. Meet At 366 East Hartford Ave, Uxbridge, Rice City Pond Parking Lot. This three-mile round trip moderate hike along King Philip’s Trail will break at a scenic lookout. Portions of the trail are hilly and steep and may be more strenuous if icy or snow covered. This forest trail has roots and rocks along the path.

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, ongoing daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Following the Plough exhibit explores the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European settlement through European style agricultural development, industrialization, and into today. Guided tours for groups with advance notice.

Community Harvest Project Volunteer Open House

The Community Harvest Project will hold a Volunteer Open House on Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at 37 Wheeler Rd., North Grafton. Learn to become involved with Community Harvest Project as a volunteer working outdoors assisting with daily farm activities in support of hunger relief. There are opportunities for casual volunteers and leadership roles as Team Leaders. Info sessions and tours will be on the hour and half hour, with the last one starting at 2:30 p.m. Community Harvest Project (CHP), a 501c53 organization, is dedicated to improving access to healthy foods through community engagement.

Through their volunteer farming, education, and leadership programs they bring thousands of community members together each year to build an engaged and healthier Worcester County. For more information, visit Community-Harvest.org.

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’s 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, to RSVP call Beth Caico (NMLS #414859) 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.

Annual Street Listing/ Census Forms Mailed

The Town Clerk’s office reminds Milford residents that it is important to review the information sent on 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. Residents who do not or have not answered the annual street listing this year or in past years, may cause their voting status to be changed to “inactive.” Inactive voters will still be allowed 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 online constructioncensus@ townofmilford.com.
The Milford Community School Use Program is presenting two free adult education seminars to help Milford-area residents prepare for the spring real estate market. The Buying Seminar on Wednesday, March 20 and The Selling Seminar on Wednesday, March 27, will focus on buying and selling real estate. Each seminar, which begins at 7 p.m. at Milford High School, are open to Milford residents and non-residents.

Mike Shain of Village and David Hodgdon of Millennium Realty will discuss the process of buying a home in The Buying Seminar for both first-time homebuyers and those who have purchased a home previously. Topics will include types of financing, choosing a buyer’s agent, the home inspection, and legal issues involved in purchasing a home. Other speakers are Upton home inspector Sue Reeder of Keystone Home Inspections and real estate attorney Glen Sutherland of Cushing and Dolan, PC.

The Selling Seminar will feature Hodgdon. In Selling Your Home: Strategies for Success, he will discuss de-cluttering, what repairs to consider, and how agents successfully market a home to maximize the sale price. Hodgdon will be joined by Melissa Lodi, an organizational consultant, giving insights on the purging and packing process. Omar Rohoman, licensed home inspector with Mass Integrity Home and Pest Inspection, will discuss what home inspectors actually look at and what sellers should do before the inspection.

Although each seminar is free, space is limited to only to the first 30 pre-registered attendees. Register on the Milford Community School Use Program website MCS.Milford.MA.us or email Laura Krovocheck at lkrovocheck@milfordma.com.

Recycle Old Batteries to Help Protect Everyone

By Kevin Rudden

EDITOR'S NOTE: Milford residents may recycle household batteries at the town’s annual Beautification Day, which will be held on Saturday, April 27. For more information, call 508-497-8628 or visit milfordma.com.

Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by the Board of Health is scheduled for April 25. In conjunction with this event, Milford Community School Use Program is presenting two free adult education seminars to help Milford-area residents prepare for the spring real estate market. The Buying Seminar on Wednesday, March 20 and The Selling Seminar on Wednesday, March 27, will focus on buying and selling real estate. Each seminar, which begins at 7 p.m. at Milford High School, are open to Milford residents and non-residents.

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Planet Aid plans to create a community garden along the rear of its 47 Sumner St. headquarters abutting the Milford Upper Charles Trail. Steve Dibble, Business Development manager for Planet Aid, met with both the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen to announce plans for creating a community garden where Milford residents could plant and grow their own vegetables. "It's a good way to give back to the community," he said. Health board members advised Dibble to contact both the Parks Commission and Highway Department, because both have jurisdiction over different aspects of trail maintenance. Planet Aid employees 100 people at its Milford facility, which receives primarily clothing and shoes from the company's ubiquitous yellow collection bins scattered across the state. Twenty-two drivers working across 82 routes bring an average of 550,000 pounds of donations to Milford each week, where they are sorted and distributed. The company has similar recycling centers in 22 other states. "We try to recycle everything we get," Dibble explained, whether it is housewares, toys or books. All donations are separated, and the used clothing is baled and either sold to thrift stores for resale or given to charitable causes, he explained. Planet Aid keeps part of its profits to maintain its operations, and donates the bulk of its profits to more than 100 charities in Massachusetts and 50 large-scale humanitarian and environmental causes across the world, Dibble said. Between the vast array of solar panels on the roof - Planet Aid sells the excess electricity – and the clothing recycling, Dibble joked that 47 Sumner St. is "one of the greenest buildings in the state." All of the company's yellow metal collection bins around the country are refurbished and repainted every two years in the Milford facility. Ironically, because of Milford's Zoning By-laws – which mandate that a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals is needed – the only Planet Aid collection bins within Milford are in front of its Sumner St. headquarters.

Planners Support “Projecting” Signs Zoning Amendment

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board voted unanimously on February 19 to request that a proposed Zoning By-law amendment to allow projecting signs be placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The last time the town updated its sign regulations was the time the downtown revitalization ordinance was approved. The new regulations it removed the provisions allowing "projecting" signs – those hung perpendicular to the front of a building – a type which the Downtown Revitalization Committee would like erected to improve the look of downtown Milford. The board discussed an initial draft by Town Planner Larry Dunkin at its February 5 meeting, and he came back two weeks later with an updated version that – if passed in May – would add a definition for a projecting sign and restrict them as follows:

- Sizes no larger than nine square feet,
- Maintains an unobstructed vertical clearance of 10 feet above sidewalks, and
- Projects no more than four feet into a right-of-way.

In the Central Commercial (CA) Neighborhood Commercial (CB) zones, projecting signs would be allowed through a special permit from the Planning Board. In the Office Residential (OR), Business Park (BP), CA, CB, Highway Commercial (CC), Central Industrial (IA), Highway Industrial (IB) and Highway and Neighborhood Industrial (IC) zones, one projecting sign is permitted per building, with additional signs permitted through a special permit from the Planning Board.

"I did note there are some on Main St. They don't project out that much," board member Patrick Kennelly said, referencing projecting signs on Main St. that are "grandfathered" under current zoning. He asked about the potential danger of a sign falling onto a sidewalk and hurting a pedestrian. Dunkin said the state's building code covers that possibility. Board Chair Joseph Calagione said any license agreement between a building owner and the selectmen regarding the sign being in a public way should have wording to cover such potential situations.

Dunkin told board members he would forward the draft article to the Board of Selectmen by the February 28 deadline for submissions for the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Selectmen, in turn, would then remand the proposed amendment back to the Planning Board so that it can hold its legally required public hearing on it.
Girl Scouts

Celebrating 110 Years of Girl Scouting
at World Thinking Day

Milford Town Crier

Milford Girl Scouts hosted the World Thinking Day Festival on February 24 at Woodland Elementary School. This festival is an international friendship day set aside for Girl Scouts to help develop awareness about their sisters around the world, explore cultural similarities and differences across nations, and learn about issues that girls and women all over the globe face. The 2019 World Thinking Day theme of Leadership: 110 Years of Adventure, is dedicated to the girls who championed for a girl-led organization in 1909. That organization, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, now includes 10 million members in 150 countries.

More than 130 Milford Girl Scouts, members of 21 troops, participated in the World Thinking Day festival with their leaders and families. Seniors and Ambassadors, Girl Scouts in grades 9 through 12, hosted games representing Girl Scouts in the past, present, and future. Complete with a walk through “time machine”, they wore uniforms dating back to 1909. That organization, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, now includes 10 million members in 150 countries. More than 130 Milford Girl Scouts, members of 21 troops, participated in the World Thinking Day festival with their leaders and families. Seniors and Ambassadors, Girl Scouts in grades 9 through 12, hosted games representing Girl Scouts in the past, present, and future. Complete with a walk through “time machine”, they wore uniforms dating back to the 1960s and led younger Girl Scouts in discussions and activities with a focus on global goals for peace, gender equality, and making the world a better place.

Karen Raleigh, co-organizer of the event, spoke of the “opportunities to practice leadership skills, challenging girls to work as a team and make decisions at very young ages.”

Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes, which encompasses girls from kindergarten through grade eight, represented countries from the five World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts regions, including Africa, Arab, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Western Hemisphere. Troops researched what life is like for girls and women in their selected country, then created a display, activities, and food samples for other Girl Scouts to explore. Some troops even learned greetings or wore traditional clothing and decorated scarves from their represented country.

Meghan Cartier, another co-organizer, noted the “creativity shown by everyone.” Troop Leader Sandy Knapp added, “this was my favorite Girl Scout event when I was younger. Based on the girls’ enthusiasm, we can’t wait until next year’s festival!”

As troops traveled from country to country, they received stamps in their World Thinking Day Passports and SWAPS or Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere from each display. SWAPS, one of many fun and interesting Girl Scouts traditions, are small tokens of friendship that girls exchange with other Girl Scouts they meet along the way. They are a memento of friends and fun events.

For more highlights check out Milford (MA) Girl Scouts on Facebook.

Enjoying the Outdoors in Winter

Despite the wintry weather members of Milford Brownie Troop 30016 enjoyed a mid-February sleepover at Camp Green Eyrie in Harvard. During this overnight, the girls went on some hikes, learned camping skills like building fires and received their art creator badge by building fairy houses outside and painting. Shown here is Brownie Tayah Pisani tending the fire she has just built. Troop 30016 photo

Photo (Molly Brown, left, and Mikayla Morais of Cadette Troop 30588 represented Japan and taught other scouts to fold origami during World Thinking Day. Contributed photo).
Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Events

**AREA:** The Milford Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will be holding the following events. To register visit: MilfordChamber.org, email hbailey@milfordchamber.org, call 508-478-6700 or stop by the offices, 258 Main St., Suite 306, Milford.

**Business After Hours on Thursday, March 14 at 5 p.m. at Southside Bar and Grill, 146 South Main St., Milford**

The Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration CWL, Connecting Women Leaders, Luncheon on Wednesday, March 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Crystal Room, 49 Cedar St., Milford. How to use Social Media as a Business Tool. Family Fest & Home Show on Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mendon Senior Center, 12 Providence St., Mendon. Free admission. Featuring local businesses, the MACC and Cheese Cook Off, pit eating contest, the Easter Bunny and more.

**Fundraiser for Brain Tumor Research**

FRANKLIN–Join Mendon and Upton residents Deb Gaulitz and Kate Bett for a “Best of Britain” tasting as they raise money for Brain Tumor Research. Why “Best of Britain”? Because they will be running the London Marathon in April in memory of Bett’s brother-in-law Mark Adams who died from brain cancer. The tragic reality is that less than 20 percent of those diagnosed survive beyond five years. The fundraiser will be Sunday, March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Poor Richards Fine Wine & Spirits, 4 Grove St., Franklin. The “Best of Britain” tasting will include British beer, cider, gin cocktails and British themed wines. Light refreshments will also be served. Tasting donations are $20 per person and additional donations can be made for Raffle Prizes.

**Floral Design Workshop**

The Mendon Historical Society will host a portrayal of Massachusetts heroine Deborah Sampson, a poor Colonial farm girl who risked humiliation and imprisonment to serve her country as a soldier on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Upton VFW Hall, Rt. 140. Sponsored by the Upton Historical Society, the informative presentation on Historic U.S. Route 20 on March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Upton VFW Hall, Rt. 140. Sponsored by the Upton Historical Society, the informative presentation will trace the history of the road since its inception as a transcontinental highway on November 22, 1926. Not actually a transcontinental highway at the time, since its path through the mountains of Montana, Idaho and Oregon were often not open in the winter; the highway finally went from Atlantic to Pacific in 1945. The road in New England is based on a Native American trail first used by the early settlers moving west from Boston in 1633. "This is one of the last great highways that you can still drive in its entirety that has not been lost to history, cut up, or rerouted to the interstate" says Farr. The free presentation is open to the public.

**Blackstone Valley Garden Club**

WHITINSVILLE: The Blackstone Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 7 p.m. in the Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church, 61 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville. parking is off Church St. at the rear of the building. Tina Remis of Remis Farm Nursery in Spencer will speak on Making a Tufa Trough. She will demonstrate how to make a succulent tufa garden, beginning with the making of a hypertufa trough. Hypertufa is a compound which mimics the look of old wicker stone and its appearance improves with age. Remis’ sample creation will go home with a lucky raffle winner. Guests are welcome for $5.

**Historic Route 20**

UPTON-Bryan Farr completed the 3,365-mile cross-country journey on Route 20 from Boston, to Newport, Ore, in 2010. A recap of his trip will highlight his presentation on Historic U.S. Route 20 on Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m. at the Upton VFW Hall, Rt. 140. Sponsored by the Upton Historical Society, the informative presentation will trace the history of the road since its inception as a transcontinental highway on November 11, 1926. Not actually a transcontinental highway at the time, since its path through the mountains of Montana, Idaho and Oregon were often not open in the winter; the highway finally went from Atlantic to Pacific in 1945. The road in New England is based on a Native American trail first used by the early settlers moving west from Boston in 1633. “This is one of the last great highways that you can still drive in its entirety that has not been lost to history, cut up, or rerouted to the interstate” says Farr. The free presentation is open to the public.

**Mistress-of-Disguise**

MENDON–The only woman known to have hoodwinked George Washington’s army by disguising herself as a man, is coming to Mendon to celebrate Women’s History Month. The Mendon Historical Society will host a presentation on the life of Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man, is coming to Mendon to celebrate Women’s History Month.

**Friends of Mendon Elders Book Sale**

MENDON–The Friends of Mendon Elders annual book sale will be Friday, April 5 from 1 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, 62 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.

**Living with Hearing Loss: Share Your Experiences**

NORTHBOROUGH–The Hearing Loss Association of America–Central Massachusetts’ Saturday March 16 “meeting” at the Northborough 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. Everyone will come back together as a full group to find out what each of the groups came up with. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to interact with one another, share experiences, and learn from each other. Light refreshments will be served and CART Provided (Computer Aided Real Time Captioning). First timers welcome. There is ample free parking in the back of the Northborough Library. For more information, please visit Northboroughlibrary.org/hours.asp. Please email info@hearinglosscentralma.org for more information on Hearing Loss Association of America–Central Massachusetts and notification of future events.

**Knights of Columbus Foxwoods Trip**

MILFORD–The Knights of Columbus Malta Council 80 is sponsoring a Foxwoods trip on Friday, April 26. The bus will leave the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church, Milford, at 4 p.m. and leave Foxwoods at 11 p.m. The cost is $20 per person and includes transportation, a free buffet and $10 in slot plays. Anyone interested in attending must reserve a spot by Friday, April 19, by calling James Burke at 508-478-9813. The trip is open to anyone age 21 and above. Please email info@hearinglosscentralma.org for more information.
**Auxiliary Spring Fashion Show**

**MILFORD**-Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold a Spring Fashion Show 2019 on Thursday, April 4 at The Crystal Room, 49 Cedar St. Stamford, CT. Admission is $10 and includes a shuttle ride provided by Katalina's Boutique, Northbridge and Newport. A full course Italian dinner will be served followed by coffee, tea and sweet confections.

Additionally, Katalina's will have a mini pop up boutique for shopping offering a 20 percent discount and there will be a 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will benefit the MRMC. Tickets may be purchased for $50 from any Auxiliary member, at Katalina's Boutique or by calling 508-422-2099.

**March Events at Cornerstone at Milford**

**MILFORD**-Residents are invited to attend the following events at Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch St. All Events begin at 2 p.m.

- **Tuesday, March 13**, Classical Music with pianist Adam Bergeson
- **Tuesday, March 19**, Family Game Night from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 26**, Banjo Rattle Players.

**Bruce Robert Coffin Presentation**

**MILFORD**-Bruce Robert Coffin, a mystery/suspense author whose writing jumps off the page with authenticity because he has lived it will be at the Milford Town Library on Saturday, March 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to discuss his work. Coffin, the bestselling author of the Detective Byrom mystery series, is a former detective sergeant with more than 27 years in law enforcement. At the time of his retirement from the Portland, Maine police department, he supervised all homicide and violent crime investigations within the city. During his 20-year career he has studied the terror attacks of September 11th, he spent four years working counter-terrorism with the FBI where he earned the Director’s Award, the highest honor a non-agent can receive.

Among the Shadows and Beneath the Depths, his first two novels in the mystery series, have been well-received by fans and critics alike. Beyond the Truth, his latest, is an Agatha Award Nominee for Best Contemporary Novel. Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, this event is free and open to the public.

**Spring Adult Courses**

**MILFORD**-Milford Community School Use Program, 31 West Foun- dation Road is now accepting registrations for the Spring Adult Courses. The complete list of classes and details may be found on the Milford Community Program website, MilfordCom-

**Programs**

- **Spring Adult Courses**
- **MILFORD**-Get into shape with one of the Milford Community Use Program's water programs at the high school pool. Water Aerobics classes, **Monday and Wednesday** at 6:15 p.m., include a thermal warm-up, a 30-minute aerobic routine, followed by a cool-down stretch. Everyone is encouraged to exercise and move at his or her own pace. Aqua Rosé Camp classes, Friday at 6:15 p.m. are appropriate for ages 16 to middle age and include physical training with interval and plyometric shallow routines combined with resistance pool dumbbells and noodles training techniques. Modifications provided for beginners or those with special conditions.

For more information, call 508-725-1876.

**Thru Hiking the Appalachian Trail**

**MILFORD**-Sam Dunham will be Thru Hiking the Appalachian Trail on Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Taft Public Library. Dunham will speak about his modern-day adventure during a thru hike trip from Springer Mountain, Ga. to Mount Katahdin, Maine. During his six month journey he documented the rugged beauty of the Appalachian Mountains, the wildlife, the hardships encountered on the trail, as well as the people, culture and humanity at its finest. Dunham then returned to the trail the following year, connected with aspiring Thru Hikers, sharing his story and advice.

This 90-minute presentation goes through the trail towns, over the mountains and through the backcountry providing listeners with a renewed awe of the beauty of the country and its people.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, this event is free and open to the public.

**MYC St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser**

**MILFORD**-The Milford YMCA (MYC) invites community members to the 9th annual St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser, Saturday, March 29 at Craftbeets Brewing, 5 Industrial Rd., Milford from 7 to 11 p.m. The event, the largest annual fundraiser for the center, will include live music provided by Zach Innis & Honeybees, community awards, raffles and appetizers! The band is comprised of Milford residents Scott Ayotte, Jeff Edwards, Zach Innis, Lindsey Nogueira, Bill Shaner and Chris White.

Tickets, which are $30 each and come with a pint of beer, are available at the Youth Center and at MilfordYcenter.org. Proceeds will be earmarked for the center’s unmet and basic needs support activities for active duty military, veterans and their families.

For more information about the Y youth Center of the St. Patrick’s Day Fundraiser, please call the Center at 508-473-1756.

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**About Milford SEPAC**

The Milford SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council), a section of the Milford School District, is a non-political 501(c)(3) organization that was incorporated in 1990. The Milford SEPAC's goal is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and concerns related to the education of students with disabilities. The SEPAC serves the community by providing a support system for families and educators to advocate for the educational success of all students. The SEPAC's mission is to ensure that all students with disabilities receive a free, appropriate education in the least restrictive environment, and to promote community awareness and understanding of disabilities.
Blackstone Valley Tech Superintendent’s Scholars Named

Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2019 Valedictorian Zoe Mahoney of Sutton was recently named a recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. Zoe will graduate in May from Valley Tech’s Engineering Technology program. BVT photo

Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2019 Salutatorian Alex Goldberg of Milford was recently named a recipient of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence. Alex will graduate in May from Valley Tech’s Engineering Technology program. BVT photo

Blackstone Valley Tech announces that Zoe Mahoney and Alex Goldberg have been named BVT’s recipients of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence.

Also known as the Superintendent’s Scholar Award, the annual commendation is presented to two BVT seniors who exemplify the school’s commitment to career technical training and academics. Zoe, a Sutton resident, and Alex, a Milford resident, will graduate in May from the Engineering Technology program. Both plan on attending college in the fall.

Zoe is the Class of 2019 Valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. She received the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence. Zoe is the captain of the Varsity Field Hockey team and a CAL All-Star. A member of the Robotics Club, she received the Robotics 2018 Fall Classic Excellence Award. Zoe is Treasurer of the Aviation Club, competes yearly in SkillsUSA, is a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee and volunteers as a student ambassador and a peer mentor at BVT.

Alex is the Class of 2019 Salutatorian and is Vice President of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. He is this year’s recipient of the Rensselaer Medal, which is awarded for outstanding achievement in Math and Science. Alex is a member of SkillsUSA and will be participating this year in the Related Technical Math competition. He is Secretary of the Gaming Club. He volunteers his time at the Milford Youth Center as a homework helper and tutoring students. Alex also enjoys playing video games and writing stories.

Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Anthony Steele congratulated Zoe and Alex on their awards and thanked them for their many contributions to Valley Tech, saying, “Zoe and Alex are shining examples of the excellence we all strive for at BVT. It has been a pleasure to see their growth and hard work pay off.”

On behalf of Zoe and Alex, Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Anthony Steele congratulated Zoe and Alex on their awards and thanked them for their many contributions to Valley Tech, saying, “Zoe and Alex are shining examples of the excellence we all strive for at BVT. It has been a pleasure to see their growth and hard work pay off.”

Dean’s List

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

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.: Liam Sullivan majoring in computer engineering.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst: Ciara Nicole Agnew, Kayla Antonellis, Haley Ashton Avila, Julie Ann Bak, Olivia Frances Carneiro, Jingjing Chen, Emily Louise Condon, Ryan Kenneth Dahlgren, Alex and Zoe are shining examples of the excellence we all strive for at BVT. It has been a pleasure to see their growth and hard work pay off. Zoe is a Sutton resident, and Alex, a Milford resident, will graduate in May from the Engineering Technology program. Both plan on attending college in the fall.

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Zoe is the Class of 2019 Valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society. She received the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence. Zoe is the captain of the Varsity Field Hockey team and a CAL All-Star. A member of the Robotics Club, she received the Robotics 2018 Fall Classic Excellence Award. Zoe is Treasurer of the Aviation Club, competes yearly in SkillsUSA, is a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee and volunteers as a student ambassador and a peer mentor at BVT.

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Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Anthony Steele congratulated Zoe and Alex on their awards and thanked them for their many contributions to Valley Tech, saying, “Zoe and Alex are shining examples of the excellence we all strive for at BVT. It has been a pleasure to see their growth and hard work pay off.”

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Milford SEPAC Welcomes Sarah Ward

An internationally recognized expert on executive function skills, Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP is presenting a seminar to teach parents hands on practical strategies to improve their children’s Executive Function skills on Wednesday, March 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Stacy Middle School Auditorium, School St. Sponsored by the Milford SEPAC, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, the seminar will help parents teach their children to manage, time, space and materials while keeping emotions in check. The powerful, practical strategies, called 360 Thinking Executive Function Program, can help a child become more independent and can help improve academic and personal performance. Participants will learn dozens of easy to implement strategies to improve motivation and task initiation.

Ward has conducted numerous presentations at international and national conferences and has consulted to over 1000 schools on the 360 Thinking Executive Function Program. Described as revolutionary and groundbreaking 360 Thinking Program received the Innovative Promising Practices Award from the National Organization CHADD.

The free program is open to all area parents.

MHS Theater Workshop Presents Urinetown: The Musical

The Milford High School Theater Workshop will be presenting Urinetown: The Musical on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m. at the Milford High School David I. Davoren Auditorium.

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

The Milford High School Theater Workshop will be bringing political satire, comedy, music and dance to the stage as they present Urinetown: The Musical this weekend.

Urinetown is a satirical comedy musical about capitalism and politics that also makes fun of the musical genre itself by parodying other famous musicals. With music, lyrics and book written by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis, Urinetown was produced on Broadway in September of 2001 and won three Tony Awards during its run.

Over 100 students in the Milford High School (MHS) Theater Workshop’s cast and crew have been working for months to prepare for a production that is different from any they have done in the past few years.

"It’s a dark comedy," said Director and MHS English Teacher Margaret Girouard. “The students were excited to do something that was interesting and complicated like this musical is, one that isn’t seen very often.”

The show is set in a society that has been completely destroyed by a drought, and everyone is forced to use public toilets which are regulated by a large corporation called UrineTech.

"It’s on the darker side but it’s a very self-aware show. The audience can see that the characters are in on the joke with them," she said.

Performances will be held on Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m. at the Milford High School David I. Davoren Auditorium. Tickets, $5 for students/seniors and $10 for adults, may be purchased at the door on the day of the performance.

Congressman Kennedy Responds to a Student Request

Congressman Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) visited Woodland Elementary School on March 1 at the invitation of 4th grader Sarah Balducci. Sarah, who is in the 4th grade classroom of Coree Daniels, has an interest in politics, government, and the Kennedy family. She wrote to the Congressman for a school assignment, and he responded by arranging a visit with her class and teachers.

Kennedy spoke with the students about ways to make schools safer, how laws are created, and answered questions from the students about life in politics.

Kennedy also took a tour of the new Woodland building.

Woodland 4th Grader Sarah Balducci with special guest Congressman Kennedy at Woodland. Woodland photo

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By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After sharing the Hockomock League’s Davenport Division title over the winter, Milford High track coach Derek Rose said the boys’ spring program could challenge for a dual meet crown during the outdoor season with depth and flexibility leading the way.

The Scarlet Hawks versatility starts with Joseph Madden, who Rose said has shown an ability to run pretty much any race on the track and field program. “He can do so much, I’ve seen him around,” Rose said. “I can see him being the leadoff for the 4x100 relay. He can long jump, he can triple jump, he is a talented kid.”

Sean Lehane will excel in the sprinting events as well as some of the jumping events, his coach said. “He has really come around,” Rose said. “I can see him being the leadoff for the 4x100 relay. He can long jump, he can triple jump, he is a talented kid.”

The girls 4x200 relay team, featuring Sydney Sutton, Keithly DiStauro and Sienna Pierce, the Milford High Girls 4x200 relay team finished 15th overall in the recent New England Regional track meet. MHS photo.

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MHS Winter Track Finishes Strong

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School winter track teams finished one of the most successful seasons in recent memory with standout performances both at the all-state meet and the New England regional track meet. “I think this was our strongest finish since I have started at Milford, so I was pleased with the whole season went and how the kids just kept getting faster and faster,” said head coach Derek Rose. “Even when athletes were doing things they hadn’t done before, they took the pressure of their new roles and went with it.”

Joseph Madden finished seventh overall in the 1,000 meter run at the New England meet with a time of 2:23.4. “He wanted to go out aggressive and he couldn’t quite hold it,” Rose said, noting Madden led the race for the first three laps before fading. “He tried to push it, but overall he had a really great season.”

The girls 4x200 relay team, featuring Sydney Sutton, Kerry O’Connor, Sienna Pierce and Sarah Flanagan, finished 15th overall in the New England Regional track meet. Shown, l-r, are Joe Madden, Rafael Feliciano, Hugo Lopes and Ryan Kelley the Milford High Boys 4x400 team who placed 10th overall in the New England Regional track meet. MHS photo.

MARCH 8, 2019

Shawn, l-r, are Sarah Flanagan, Kerry O’Connor, Sydney Sutton and Sienna Pierce, the MHS Girls 4x200 relay team finished 15th overall in the recent New England Regional track meet. MHS photo.

MARCH 8, 2019

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Local Milford Wrestlers Achieve 100+ Wins

Nick Marcolini, a senior at Milford High School and Nick Mazzuchelli, a junior at Saint John's High School, Shrewsbury, have a lot in common. Both have won over 100 wrestling matches each in their high school careers. Both are in the 152-pound weight class. Both are captains of their teams. And both have been wrestling together since they were six-years-old in the Milford Youth Wrestling Program. Marcolini accumulated over 200 matches and numerous tournament wins in his youth career before entering high school and wrestling under the Milford High school coach PJ Boccia. He ended up with a 131-30 record, even after sitting out most of his sophomore year due to injury. His senior year he won the Framingham Holiday Tournament and the Milford Tournament, receiving the outstanding wrestler award. Marcolini finished his high school career placing second in the sectional and state tournaments. 

Mazzuchelli, a starter since his freshman year at St. John’s also began his career in the Milford Youth Program. Coached by Kevin DeNorscia, Mazzuchelli has his 100th win with a hopeful senior year ahead of him. This year, Mazzuchelli placed first in the Division 1 sectional tournament and third in the states. He had nine pins out of 10 matches in those two tournaments alone, and won the MIAA Most Pins in the Least Amount of Time Award.

Wrestling coaches noted over 100 career wins is a great honor which takes a lot of hard work, dedication and discipline.

Assabet Rematch for Grafton/BVT in Hockey Tourney

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
The last time Grafton/Blackstone Valley Tech’s ice hockey co-op squared off against Assabet Valley it was December and the two teams were only a few games into their respective seasons, so Grafton/BVT head coach Mike Binkoski does not see that result — a 4-0 win for his team — having much of an impact when the two meet Saturday in the Division 1A Central Mass. quarterfinal.

“It’s been over two months, they have gotten better as a team and I think we have too,” Binkoski said. “They are very well coached and when you look at their scores, they are in every hockey game they play. It’s going to be a tight game, a battle, we need to swing some stock indexes, currencies and futures. "I have always been interested in the stock market, so applied to large southern schools primarily, and wants to study business. Instead of points and touchdowns, the numbers he’ll care about going forward could be stock indexes, currencies and futures. “I have always been interested in the stock market, so applied to large southern schools primarily, and wants to study business.

Big Games Highlight White’s MHS Career

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Milford High School senior Brendan White has never shied away from big moments, no matter what sport he is playing. A "throwback" three-sport star, White put together some of the most eye-popping single-game performances in recent MHS history on both the football field and the basketball court.

In a Thanksgiving Eve win over Maynard, he scored four touchdowns and intercepted a pass. In a Hockomock League contest this winter against Stoughton, the 6-foot-1 forward scored a career-high 40 points and pulled down 18 rebounds.

“I had a pretty good year,” he said following the end of the basketball season. “I was expecting to step into more of a leadership role this year. I think it was good trying to help the younger kids understand how I play and teach them how Milford basketball is played.”

White averaged 18 points per game and around 10 and a half rebounds per contest. Even as a standout on both the football and lacrosse teams, White said his best sport is probably basketball. Oddly enough, it's also a sport he almost didn't play at the high school level.

“I had to choose between basketball and hockey because I played both, and I choose hoops,” White said, noting it was because he had a chance to be a member of the junior varsity team his freshman year. The scoring and rebounding numbers this season were impressive for the Hockomock League All-Star, but adding to the challenge is the fact that White was usually called on to guard the best offensive player on the opposing team, regardless of how tall that player happened to be. “There were a lot of times where I would get a tough matchup and end up on a point guard or a big man,” he said.

All of the success leads to the logical question of whether White would pursue football or basketball at the college level. He said he received interest from Division II and III programs in both sports, but ultimately chose a third-focus student. White said he has applied to large southern schools primarily, and wants to study business.

Instead of points and touchdowns, the numbers he’ll care about going forward could be stock indexes, currencies and futures. “I have always been interested in the stock market, so applied to large southern schools primarily, and wants to study business.

Hopedale Hockey Co-op Ends Year with Playoff Berth

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
The Hopedale ice hockey co-op earned a playoff berth this season and put together the strongest 15 minutes of hockey it had played all year in the Central Mass. Division 3A quarterfinals, but ultimately saw its season come to an end in overtime with a 5-4 loss to Lunenburg.

“We came out and played our best period of the season and it kind of shocked them,” said head coach Greg Lallosiere. “It’s been nice to see all the things we were working on that year come out in that period.”

Hopedale, which co-ops with Milford, Millis, Douglas and Whitinsville Christian, led 3-0 at the end of the first period. Lallosiere told his players Lunenburg would certainly respond, and the higher seeded team did with an even strength goal early in the second period. Lunenburg added a power play goal, but Hopedale clung to a 4-2 lead the end of the second periods. Despite a herculean effort from Milford High senior goalie and goalie Matt Shaver, Hopedale managed to tie the game in the third period and ended up winning about two minutes into overtime. “Overall, it was a successful season, but we would like to have been a bit more consistent overall,” Lallosiere said. “We are a younger group and we are going to hit those bumps. We are going to lose a few key guys but the good group of guys are coming back, including my whole first line.”

The Blue Raiders will lose Shaver, who made 48 saves in the district tournament game. “That last game summed up his whole career,” Lallosiere said. “He has been phenomenal, not only in goal but as a leader.”

Milford freshman John Tomaio, who started three games in net this year, will likely take over in goal as a sophomore next season.

“As difficult as it will be to lose Shaver, we definitely know we have our future goalie there,” Lallosiere said. “He was unreal and he is only going to get better.”

Hopedale also returns Milford junior PJ Gray to the top line after he led the team with 13 goals this year and scored two more in the postseason game, earning Central Mass. all-star recognition. Junior Nick Patterson will be back to the top line. He scored a goal in the playoff game and took a significant step forward relative to his previous seasons.

Milford freshmen Matt Girard and Eric Landry logged major ice time down the stretch and Lallosiere said he is excited to have both back.

“I’m sure there were some nerves out there during the playoff game,” he said. “But you couldn’t tell by the way they played.”
running Events Should Lift
MHS Girls Spring Track

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

A strong pack of sprinters and middle distance runners coupled with an improved pack of long-distance runners should be the Milford High School girls’ track and field team’s formidable squad this spring, according to head coach Derek Rose.

“It’s going to be a very interesting season because there is a lot of young talent and we will be sprinkling in more veteran girls as well,” Rose said. “They are going to be strong in the sprints and mid-distance and the distance runners made great strides during cross country and indoor track.”

One of the featured events this spring will be the girls’ 4x400 relay team, which Rose feels can compete for an all-state championship and run a sub-four-minute time. Sophomore Emma Lawrence figures to be part of that team along with Kerry O’Connor, Bella Gonzalez, Alexis Marcolini and Sierra Pierce, along with possibly two or three other runners.

The depth is a common theme for many of this spring’s events, Rose said. “There are going to be a bunch of people competing in that event,” he said. “We have a lot of flexibility there.”

The Scarlet Hawks should be strong in the high jump as well, with freshman Sarah Brogoli and co-captain Ariana Covino competing in the event.

Gonzalez is closing in on the school record in the 400 hurdles and will run the open 400 and the 200, along with her relay leg, Rose said. O’Connor is perhaps the most versatile of the MHS athletes. In addition to being a relay runner, she can compete in the 200, 400, 800 and long jump. “She is flexible in terms of her events and super talented,” Rose said. “She can do it all.”

Lawrence will run the 200, 400, and 800 at various times this year. Sydney Sutton is expected to contribute in the sprinting events and may try the long jump. Marcolini has shown promise in the 800, the mile and the 300. Sara Comisky is among the team’s top distance runners, a key cog in the events and may try the long jump.

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Shaver Stands Tall in Net for Hopedale Hockey

The final game of Matt Shaver’s high school hockey career, an overtime loss in the district tournament, was the quintessential Shaver effort, according to his head coach Greg LaBossiere. The Milford High senior stopped 48 shots and, as the old hockey cliche goes, “stood on his head” to keep his team in the game.

Shaver capped off his career by helping the Hopedale co-op earn a spot in the district tournament. “I feel like this was our most successful season,” he said. “It’s a culture that spans over 40 years.”

The final game of Matt Shaver’s high school hockey career, an overtime loss in the district tournament, was the quintessential Shaver effort, according to his head coach Greg LaBossiere. The Milford High senior stopped 48 shots and, as the old hockey cliche goes, “stood on his head” to keep his team in the game.

Shaver, 18, started playing hockey in middle school. Initially he was a defenseman, but a buddy of his suggested he give goaltending a shot and Shaver took to the position. “It kind of feels like the spotlight is on you sometimes,” he said. “I like that.”

An admirer of the Boston Bruin’s Tuukka Rask, Shaver said he developed an aggressive style in net, often coming out to challenge opposing skater and force them to make a decision about what to do next.

Shaver has been the starting goaltender since Milford athletes joined the Hopedale program three years ago, before his sophomore season. He said the co-op has been an incredible experience. “I love it, meeting new people from four other towns, some of my best friends are on this team and they are not even from Milford,” Shaver said. “It’s all through hockey.”

The bond has extended beyond the ice, Shaver said. The group has gone to a few Boston Bruins’ games together and gathered for numerous pasta dinners. “The atmosphere around this team, even off the ice, has been great,” Shaver said. “We have made some great memories off the ice.”

On the ice, Shaver said the postseason game was the peak for him. Calling it the “best the program has ever played.” Hopedale went toe-to-toe with Lunenburg, one of the top teams in the district and pushed the squad to overtime before falling 5-4.

With winter turning to spring, Shaver will trade in his goalie pads for a glove and play middle infield again for Milford High as well as the Milford Legion team. He plans to play baseball next year at Framingham State, but he left the door open to a return to the ice at some point. “I think I could probably play club hockey, I would need to see how it times out,” Shaver said. “But it’s a possibility.”

Winter and Fall Champions Honored by School Committee

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter
Several Milford High School athletic teams were recognized during the February 28 for being fall and winter season Hockomock Championship Teams.
Milford High School’s Athletic Director Peter Boucher presented the coaches and team captains to the School Committee, giving them all kudos for their performances on and off the field.

The Varsity Boys Soccer team was congratulated for their championship winning season. “This is the first championship [for Boys Soccer] in 19 years for Milford High School in the most competitive league in New England,” said Boucher. “This is the best Boys soccer team I have ever seen.”

Head Coach Brian Edwards, Assistant Coach Oliver Michalewski, and Captains Tiago Carvalho, Tiago Filadelfo, and Joey Madden were also congratulated by the School Committee.

“It was an amazing season,” said James Ligor. “I also want to say congrats to the coaches (who are also both teacher in the Milford Public School district). It’s that kind dedication and perseverance in the coaching stuff that we are very lucky to have here.”

The track team earned their first league championship in the school’s history and had many record-breaking races for the team. A number of track athletes are also heading to the National Indoor Track event in New York in early March after earning qualifying spots. The team captains, who each held school records of their own, were Milford High School seniors Zach Browne, Anthony DiStauro, and Joey Madden. “They impress me every time with their talent and drive,” commented Michelle Savoie, who along with Glenn O’Connor assisted Derek Rose in coaching the track team this year. “To come out as league champions is amazing.”

The last Milford High School team to receive the coveted title of Hockomock Champion this school year was the Swim team.

Coached by Dave Chaplin (Head Coach), Oliver Michalewski (Varsity Assistant Coach), and Kate Janosko (Girls Head Coach/Boys Assistant Coach), swim team coaches and athletes were applauded for their drive and dedication.

“I am very proud of this team,” said Chaplin. “They work together, and that’s why it works. It’s a culture that spans over 40 years.”

Captains Riley Lynch and Gianni Panno not only were part of the swim team, but are also musicians in the MHS band, and frequently play the National Anthem at the meets.

What impresses me is that you see such a round student profile [with all the teams],” commented Ligor. “It’s remarkable to see you guys do multiple sports, theater, art, music, everything. This is a legacy that guys are leaving behind.”

Milford Girls Hoops Caps Year on Positive Note

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Winning the season finale after 19 straight defeats gave Milford girls’ basketball coach TJ. Dolliver the chance to see his girls smile as they walked out of the gym for the final time this season, something that made the hard work and challenges the young team endured this season worthwhile.

“We said to the girls, ‘this is what it’s all about, this is why we coach, to see the smiles on your faces after a win,’” Dolliver said. “To have all the hard work we put in correspond to winning a basketball game, it was a good way to go into the offseason and give some momentum to the girls returning.”

Milford knocked off Worcester Burncoat 51-29 in the final game of the year, pulling away in the second half of a senior day game played mid-afternoon at MHS during vacation week. “We showed some improvement and we played hard,” Dolliver said. “You saw a lot of positive energy from the players on the bench and on the court. You saw the life in their eyes, they were excited to go out and get their first win.”

Sophomore Katie Maitia led the team with 17 points in the win and Dolliver said she came alive in the second half to post the career-high point total. “We went to her a lot once we saw she was playing well and able to take advantage of the matchup,” he said. “She was a bright spot for us.”

Another bright spot was fellow sophomore Jillian Michaelson, who scored 11 points and continued to be what Dolliver has described as the team’s “motor” out on the floor. The win also allowed the Scarlet Hawks to send seniors Lily Borst and Grace Risio off as winners in their last game.

Dolliver said the lesson to be learned from this season is to try to gain as much experience as possible.

“This was a year to try to learn as much as they can about the games,” he said. “With such a young group, most of the team were freshman and sophomores, this is important since they have another year or two and we are hoping the experience will pay off.”

The coach said his hopeful the positive ending will motivate his team’s preparation for the 2019-2020 campaign. “They can put in the work in the offseason,” he said, “so we have more smiles next year.”
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others, I have produced a true record of accomplishment, leading to positive
changes for our school district. It will be a privilege to continue this
effort.

For School Committee

John Erickson

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