DeBartolomeis to Chair Police Chief Search Committee

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Former Selectman Dino DeBartolomeis was chosen as chairman of the Police Chief Search Committee during the 12-member committee’s first meeting on March 12. Christopher Fritts volunteered to be the committee’s recording secretary. A second vote to name the committee’s vice chairman will be held on March 26, after the first vote resulted in a tie between Richard Heller and Edward Bertorelli.

“There was an incredible amount of interest from a record number of people,” DeBartolomeis said. “We’ll have several meetings before we can really determine our goals.”

DeBartolomeis called the make-up of the search committee - specified by a town by-law - as “12 outstanding people.” The committee’s job is an important one, he said, because, just like the Superintendent of Schools, “The chief sets the tone for the town.”

Elderly residents want to know that they can walk the streets safely and parents want to know their children are safe in the town’s schools, DeBartolomeis said. “I think the people at this table will be able to do a great job.”

Most of the meeting’s discussion focused on whether or not to have the search committee’s meetings filmed and aired on local cable television. Most of the meeting’s discussion focused on whether or not to have the search committee’s meetings filmed and aired on local cable television. None were taken.

Although Niro wanted the committee to take a formal vote on allowing Milford TV to record and then teleview the meetings, none was taken. DeBartolomeis said the consensus of the committee was to have the meetings televised.

Heller asked whether the committee had a budget, with Villani responding selectmen included a “placeholder” article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for the committee. Villani then asked the committee for information on what the budget should be. James Herron said the two previous searches involved costs such as advertising, hiring consultants and travel to candidates’ communities.

The board also briefly discussed creating a job description that goes beyond the minimum qualifications listed in the current town by-law. O’Loughlin said being a sergeant, lieutenant or deputy chief in Milford now requires more than what the by-law lists as minimum requirements. The chief said he would bring in several job descriptions for review at the committee’s next meeting.

Bertorelli said there was no description of social media in the by-law because it did not exist when it was created. Members pointed out that society and the town have also changed over the past two decades. “Things are a lot different out there than they were 20 years ago,” Herron said.

Rabies Clinic Tomorrow

There will be a rabies clinic tomorrow at the Milford Highway Department facility on Saturday March 23, Front Street. Dogs will be vaccinated from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at these locations:

- By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

There are five contested races in Milford’s April 2 Annual Town Election: Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Board of Library Trustees, Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery and Constable.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at these locations:

1. SELECT YOUR NEW OR USED CAR, TRUCK OR SUV.
2. BRING IN YOUR TRADE AND WE’LL GIVE YOU TO $1,000 MORE THAN KELLY BLUE BOOK VALUATION.
3. WE’LL PAY OFF YOUR TRADE NO MATTER WHAT YOU OWE.
4. EVERY CREDIT APPLICATION ACCEPTED. BAD CREDIT, NO CREDIT, WE FINANCE YOUR FUTURE, NOT YOUR PAST.

Five Races in April 2 Annual Town Election

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

There are five contested races in Milford’s April 2 Annual Town Election: Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Board of Library Trustees, Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery and Constable.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at these locations:

Fun for All at the Family Fun Fair

Offering child-friendly activities along with information for parents and caregivers, the 25th Annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair provided a good time for all on March 16. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services, Kennedy-Donovan Family Support Center, Milford Commission on Disability and Milford Family & Community Network the event was held in Milford High School. A wide range of exhibitors, who work with families from the prenatal stage through adolescence, and a host of fun activities for kids including face painting, an obstacle course, and bouncy house kept everyone busy. The Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program (MYCHIP) was provided by the Montgomery Lodge of Milford.

To see more photos of the 2019 Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair by Harry Platcows visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.

For more information about the fair, visit the Town Library, 154 E Main St, Milford, MA 01757 or call 792-526-0000.

Rabies Clinic Tomorrow

There will be a rabies clinic tomorrow at the Milford Highway Department facility on Saturday March 23, Front Street. Dogs will be vaccinated from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and cats from 2:30-3:30 p.m. The cost is $15 per animal and no checks will be accepted. The vaccinations are good for one year.

The Milford Town Clerk’s office also will be open from 1:30-2:30 p.m. tomorrow to issue dog licenses.
A checking account that pays you 2.25% APY

Free Kasasa Cash® Checking Account.
- Earn 2.25% APY up to a balance cap of $20,000
- No minimum balance
- No monthly fees
- Nationwide ATM fee refunds up to $20 per cycle
- Simple, secure mobile banking through the Homefield Mobile App

Snowman Contest

The winter of 2019 is officially in the books and the 25th Annual Town Crier Snowman Contest has ended. A winter season marked by low snow totals, we had a flurry of entries in the last few weeks. The Nissen family snowman with snow arms was declared the winner at 5’3”. Thanks to everyone who submitted an entry and had some winter fun.

The Winner

Little two-year-old Matthew Tuccio built this cute snowman with the help of his mama Julia in Milford after the 14-inch snow day on March 4. Built while the snow was still falling the snowman was about four feet tall.

The Khushbu Agarwal family of Milford created this 45” snowwoman in late February.

Engineering and building talents were showcased in this 5’3” snowman complete with snow arms created by the Nissen Family of Milford. By a mere few inches this snowman was declared the winner of the Milford Town Crier’s contest.

Mascot, the dog, steals the pitcher’s arm from a snowman created by the Soares family of Milford. The hometown snow athlete was about 5 feet tall.
### 11 Year-old Chess Champion

By Kevin Rudden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Leo Marzoratti is only 11 years old, but he’s already a “ranked” chess champion, taking First Place at his first chess tournament, held on March 3 in Westford by the Massachusetts Chess Association. He’s been playing the strategy board game since he’s been five years old and over the past two years has become part of the free “Chess Village” program offered from 1-5 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Milford Town Library.

“His club,” as his mother Adrienne Marzoratti said, “has been a tremendous find for us” because it offered her son a chance to be challenged beyond playing with family members.

Chess Village’s first home was in the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, but it soon outgrew a room at that location and, this year, moved into the library, explains club director Patty Young. Today, the group has more than two dozen youth participants. Phil Mercurio, who competed in chess tournaments on his younger days, acts as a mentor to the club’s participants.

Young noted that chess will teach children many things, including: how to classify things, learn pattern recognition, decode, make choices, learn game theory and learn how to make predictions.

Leo, who is home-schooled, explained that the 32 chess pieces that sit on a 64-square board provide a huge number of possibilities for someone to make a move. “It has infinite possibilities and anyone has a chance to be good at the game,” he said. “All you need is time and dedication and you can become good at anything,” he added.

In chess tournaments, Leo and his mother explained, participants compete based on their numerical rankings. Since Leo went into his first tournament with no ranking, he competed in the “400 and under” category. After winning his four matches, he emerged with an “804” ranking. At his next tournament, which was scheduled for March 16, Leo was scheduled to compete in the “800 and under” class. Chess grand masters, Young explained, are ranked in the 2,400 range.

Leo easily demonstrated his skills as this reporter – who hasn’t played chess in more than 40 years – took up his offer to play a game. Within three moves, Leo informed me that he had just put myself in a position to be check-mated. In other words, I lost. The lingusit in me explained to Leo the origin of the term “check mate,” which stems from the old Persian words “shah” (as in “shah”) mata, which mean “The king is dead.”

### Milford Federal Bank Recent Promotion

Milford Federal announces the appointment of Jason Silva to Mortgage Loan Specialist (NMLS #21592). Silva will be responsible for mortgage loan business development within the Greater Milford area, working out of the bank’s 246 Main St., Milford office. He can be reached by phone at 508-686-0028 or by email at Jason.Silva@MilfordFederal.com

Silva has 20 years of experience in the industry working most recently at Bank of America as a Home Loans Specialist. Prior to that he worked at Bank Rhode Island as a Mortgage Specialist. He was hired by Milford Federal in May of 2017 as a Mortgage Originator. Silva currently resides in Norton and graduated from Rhode Island College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Resource Management.

### Milford Town Crier

11 Year-old Chess Champion

Leo Marzoratti proudly holds the first place trophy he earned this month at his first chess tournament.
BOY SCOUTS

The Newest Eagle Scout for Milford Troop 4

Joshua Ahrens sits on one of the benches he created for MWRTA bus riders as his Eagle Scout project. Ahrens Family photo

Joshua Ahrens of Milford Boy Scout Troop 4 has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He was feted at a Court of Honor on February 7 at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

Joshua first joined Scouting as a Tiger Cub in Pack 4 in 2008, and in 2013 he joined Boy Scout Troop 4. Joshua’s favorite activities have been the many campouts, hikes, white water rafting and kayaking trips. His most memorable experience was a trip to Tahosa, Colo., where the troop spent several days hiking in the mountains and taking in the scenery. Joshua said, “The experience and views on that trip were truly something else.”

During his career with Troop 4, Joshua earned two Catholic Religious Emblems—the Parvuli Dei Award in fifth grade and the Ad Altare Dei Award in eighth grade. He is currently working to complete the last emblem, the Pope Pius XII Award.

Joshua’s Eagle Scout Project was designing and constructing two benches for the MWRTA bus route service in Milford. The benches, located in front of Shaw’s Supermarket and the Milford High School, provide passengers a comfortable place to sit while they wait. Joshua’s project taught him patience, perseverance and leadership.

Active outside of scouts, Joshua is a Junior at St. John’s High School, Shrewsbury, where he is a member of the varsity football and swim teams. He volunteers as a lector and altar server at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, and plays the trombone. Last summer, Joshua worked as a Counselor in Training (CIT) and lifeguard at Camp Cody, N.H., which has also helped him further refine his leadership skills.

Looking at his scouting career, Joshua offers advice to younger scouts: “No matter what, don’t quit. Whether it’s just having second thoughts about a hike or quitting scouts altogether, always reconsider.”

Talented Outdoor Chefs

Joshua Ahrens is part of the team that won the Bacon Crossing competition at Camp Yawgoog. Connor McNamara and Troy Decosta; won with their Asian style pork chops over couscous. Ahrens Family photo

Milford Troop 314 held their annual Schoched competition during their February camping trip held at Camp Yawgoog. In the Schoched competition, each patrol had to create three meals with mystery ingredients in the allotted time. The weekend was full of fun competitive sporting activities and scout skills that gave the winning patrol advantages in the final competition of the weekend, which was dinner. Some of the competitions leading up to the grand finale were: cooking skills, Canjam, fire starting with flint and steel, and wiffle ball to name a few. The winning Bacon Kings Patrol, shown 1-r: Chris Mason, Roy Benson, Connor McNamara and Troy Decota; won with their Asian style pork chops over couscous. Troop 314 photo
Thank You for powering amazing adventures.

The Milford Girl Scouts enjoyed a fun and challenging day at the Central Rock Gym in Worcester where 35 Girl Scout Cadettes, grades six through eight, spent the afternoon bouldering, climbing, and yelling encouragement as they climbed the numerous rock walls. The camaraderie was wonderful and the challenges inspiring. Shown is Maddie Stochaj in the midst of her climb. Milford Girl Scout photo

Learning how robots really work.

During February school vacation Milford Brownie Troop 30016 went to Fungineers in Norfolk to make robotic arms, which they learned how to control with code. Shown here are troop members, l-r, Ainsley Allen, Kaitlyn Crebrey and Victoria Powers working on their arm. The activity completed the second badge in the Robotics Progression. The troop will earn the final badge at a Robotics competition scheduled for March 30. Troop 30016 photo

Celebrating 107 years of Girl Scouting.

Traditions give Girl Scouts a sense of history. Throughout the year, girls celebrate special days in Girl Scouting, including the Girl Scouts’ birthday on March 12. It commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization’s first 18 girl members in Savannah, Ga. In honor of this event, Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday. These events give girls an opportunity to attend place of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout. Milford Girl Scouts organized a Girl Scout Sunday service at Trinity Episcopal Church on March 17. More than 35 Girl Scouts and their families attended. Reverend William MacDonald Murray, Father Mac, presided over the services, which featured stories and songs highlighting a line from the Girl Scout Law, “Make the world a better place.” Jane Schroeder delivered an impassioned speech recapping her 50 plus years in Girl Scouts and how its values, her experiences, and faith have helped her to make this community a better place for all.

Following the service, Girl Scouts participated in activities to learn about prominent women that made a difference across the globe. Some of the biographies and quotes featured are those of Eleanor Roosevelt, Mother Teresa, Malala Yousafzai, Anne Frank, and Wangari Maathi. Following the event, Tessa Scrimgeour of Cadette Troop 11275 said, “I liked Mrs. Schroeder’s speech best because she reminded us we are all sisters and we all need to act like it.” Girls earned the My Promise, My Faith Award through their participation.

Milford Girl Scouts thank Troop Leader Beth Stochaj for coordinating this fun event. For more information, check out the Milford (MA) Girl Scouts on Facebook.
Selectant, School Committee Candidates on 30 Minutes

Candidates running for the Board of Selectmen and 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.

New episodes being broadcast this month are:

- March 22: John Erickson, candidate for School Committee
- March 26: Ami Clifford, candidate for the Board of Selectmen

Each of these episodes also will be available for viewing on YouTube on the dates listed above. Episodes featuring other candidates that already are available on YouTube are:

- February 15: James Ligor, candidate for School Committee
- February 22: Michael Visconti, candidate for School Committee
- March 1: Tarik Miranda, candidate for School Committee
- March 8: Justin Dulak, candidate for School Committee
- March 15: R.J. Sheedy, candidate for School Committee
- March 19: Michael Walsh, candidate for re-election to the School Board

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 Crier newspapers – 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.

Editor’s Note: For more election coverage turn to pages 9-11 in this issue.

Since Ash Wednesday was a new tradition in the United Parish, the minister, never having done it before, mixed the ashes with cinnamon oil. It smelled so good, but by the time we got down the stairs and out the door our foreheads were burning from the spicy oil. We looked at each other in horror and asked, “Is it okay if we wipe those off now?”

So that was my first experience in attending a Lenten service. I also took a pledge to give up something I really love – SUGAR. I still give up sugar every year for Lent, but 40 days later on Easter Sunday – YOWZA! - you-chocolate Easter Bunnies better run for your lives, I am coming to get you.

This year is different. We still had Ash Wednesday and ashes on our foreheads. But instead of giving up something, we are focusing on getting something during Lent; we are seeking peace and quiet, and a closer relationship with our Higher Power, whoever that may be. Many of us are practicing 40 bags in 40 days, cleaning out the clutter that disturbs our peace in our homes and offices.

Have you seen the piles of stuff at the doorways at our house recently? I just have to wait until the snow melts so I can get the garbage cans out of the snow bank and actually throw the stuff away.

I am cleaning and clearing, reading and praying, meditating and fasting from sugar. I am seeking a quieter and more peaceful life.

What are you doing for yourself during the next 40 days? Namaste!

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**RUMINATIONS**

By Kevin Rudden

Everyone likes a bit of humor now and then to brighten their day.

The staff at the Milford Town Clerk’s office is no exception. Every year at graduation time they receive their annual catch/ street listing, they get a chuckle out of some of the responses. And, they like to share them with me so I’ll pass them on.

So, here are this year’s:

- One family listed its members’ occupations as: “Happiness Advocate,” “Retail Job,” “Doverah” (the only female judge mentioned in the Bible) and “Hampstast.” Last year, by the way; the same people listed their occupations as “Dr. Mrs. Monarch,” “Jedi Knight,” “Leprechaun” and “Potato.”
- A woman also included her Mary Kay business card, offering a complimentary facial.
- One family listed the occupation of a 13-year-old child as “Demon Spawner.”
- A woman whose occupation was listed as “housewife” took issue with that term, “I am not a housewife. I am 29, that was in the 1990s.” Further, she noted, “My kids moved out and it’s none of the town’s business where they moved to!”
- And, next to the word “retired” under occupation, one person drew in a smily face.

They’ve inspired me. When I fill out my form next year, I plan to list my occupation as “Bank of Dad.” Even though my youngest child graduates from college this spring, I have a feeling that role just won’t go away!

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**BLOSSOM DO-GOOD**

by Marilyn Holman

So here it is the 12th of March as I write this column. I don’t usually write columns but when we got the paper all finished this afternoon there was this big gaping hole on the Opinion Page. I suggested to Al that he had not written “From the Publisher’s Desk” in a long time, and could he write a column to fill this space.

To which he replied “My dear wife, partner, co-owner of this newspaper, it has been an even longer time since Blossom DoGood wrote a column.” So here’s, here I am about to tell you what is on my mind.

Well, last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, so we are in the period of time called Lent. Now, I was raised a Christian, so Easter is very important to me. But I was raised a Protestant, not a Catholic, so the idea of observing Lent was foreign to me. About 12 or so years ago we celebrated Ash Wednesday at United Parish for the first time. We observed a 7 p.m. service of hauntingly beautiful Taizé music in the candlelight, and went forward to receive ashes on our foreheads. “From dust we are made, and to dust we will return,” said the minister as she drew a cross on each of our heads.

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**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**

Graduating from High School or College this Spring?

Want to be included? Send a brief graduation announcement, (75 words) as a Word Document AND a 250 DPI photo jpg attached by email to Jane Bigda, TownCrierEditor@gmail.com. Include the graduate’s name, parents, hometown, high school or college, college degree and any special academic honors.

Deadline is June 4.

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**OUR MILFORD SOUVENIR GRADUATION ISSUE IS JUNE 14.**

Submissions are not needed for graduates of Milford High School or Blackstone Valley Tech, since our reporters are covering those graduations.
**Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards**

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

**Board of Selectmen**
- Approved a change of manager for 19th Golf and Grill at 350 East Main St. (Rt. 16) from Michael Hicks to Vincenzo Sardinha, Jr. (March 7).
- Approved a license amendment allowing Waters Corp. to store up to 2,500 gallons of Class I flammable liquids (the previous limit was 500 gallons), with 2,063 gallons on hand, up to 3,270 gallons of Class II combustible liquids (the previous limit was 770 gallons, with 2,473 gallons on hand) and up to 3,200 cubic feet of flammable gases (no current permit) at the company's 5 Technology Dr. facility. (March 7)
- Approved a license amendment allowing Waters Corporation to store up to 2,500 gallons of Class I flammable liquids (previous license limit not given, with 1,609 gallons on hand), up to 4,000 gallons of Class II combustible liquids (the previous limit was 2,500 gallons, with 3,630 gallons on hand) and up to 3,200 cubic feet of flammable gases (no current permit) at the company's 5 Technology Dr. facility. (March 7)

**Lawyers for the Town of Milford, Selectman William Buckley and Selectman William Kingkade have dismissed motions in Superior Court seeking to have the dissolved the law suit filed against them by Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin over the non-renewal of his contract. The motions by the town, Buckley and Kingkade are “nothing that we didn’t anticipate because it is usually case in civil cases,” said Ernest Horn, O’Loughlin’s lawyer. He added, “And, yes, I am sure they expected that we are opposing their motion.”**

**Town Seeks to Dismiss O’Loughlin’s Suit**

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Lawyers for the Town of Milford, Selectman William Buckley and Selectman William Kingkade have dismissed motions in Superior Court seeking to have the dissolved the law suit filed against them by Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin over the non-renewal of his contract. The motions by the town, Buckley and Kingkade are “nothing that we didn’t anticipate because it is usually case in civil cases,” said Ernest Horn, O’Loughlin’s lawyer. He added, “And, yes, I am sure they expected that we are opposing their motion.”

Christina Driscoll, the town’s official legal counsel, said he bad, No comment to offer at this point other than we’re waiting for the court to schedule a hearing date. That hearing is now scheduled for April 23.

Brown’s written motion to the court asks that O’Loughlin’s suit be dismissed on the grounds that the court already upheld the towns arguments when it denied a preliminary injunction requested by O’Loughlin’s to prevent the Town of Milford from convening a Police Chief Search Committee and from carrying out the process of not-renewing the chief’s contract.
Selectmen Discuss Streamlining Hiring Process

By Kevin Rudden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Following a discussion on hiring a new Information Technology (IT) Support Technician at their March 7 meeting, selectmen have asked Town Administrator Richard Villani and Human Resources Director Maureen Giffin to work with the Personnel Board to try to streamline the approval processes needed to hire a new employee.

The issue involved Villani and Giffin’s recommendation to hire Matthew Arena to replace an employee who left the town’s employ, with both recommending Arena’s experience made him deserving of a certain pay level and step carrying a rate of $24.04 per hour. However, the Personnel Board had yet to vote to increase the position to that level and step — meaning the Board of Selectmen would have to start Arena at a lower amount of pay until after the Personnel Board could increase it.

Villani and Giffin said that 135 people had applied to fill the vacancy for the position, with the list narrowed down first to 11 people and then to six. With two of them dropping out of contention, four finalists were interviewed by Assistant Fire Chief Zachary Taylor, IT Manager Andrew Diiorio and Giffin. “I don’t want to be in this position again,” said Selectman William Kingkade. “So any process that doesn’t involve that many people is a win for me.”

The Personnel Board could increase it. In terms of the finances, the Police Department is “OK financially,” O’Loughlin said. With a few adjustments since last July, the new Special Operations team is up and running and active in the field.

The way dispatch, police officers and firefighters interacted cooperatively during last month’s fire showed a relationship not often seen in many towns, O’Loughlin added this year, with plans to add another person each year.

“Felt like you were walking in and realized this was everything we had asked for,” he said about the search committee. “Kingkade said about the search committee. “We’re training hard and perform well,” Touhey said.

The way dispatch, police officers and firefighters interacted cooperatively during last month’s fire showed a relationship not often seen in many towns, O’Loughlin added. In terms of the finances, the Police Department is “OK financially,” O’Loughlin said. With a few adjustments since last July, the new Special Operations team is up and running and active in the field.

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Selectman Candidates Spar at Forums

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The two candidates for the Milford Board of Selectmen seat in the April 2 Annual Town Election – Selectman Michael Walsh and challenger Ami Clifford – exchanged viewpoints at two public forums held this month; the March 7 forum for Milford High School seniors and the March 14 forum sponsored by Citizens for Milford.

Walsh told high school seniors the biggest challenge facing his board is completing the purchase of the Milford Water Company. “We need to control those resources,” he said. For Clifford, it’s the fact that selectmen “don’t have a strategic plan for Milford that includes all of the citizens of Milford.” The current selectmen, Clifford added, show no “grace” toward and tend to “demonize” any immigrant who is considered “illegal.”

When asked about the opioid crisis, Walsh said the problem goes beyond Milford and more treatment centers are needed. Clifford termed his answer “gobbledygook” and said nothing is happening in town to combat opioid addiction.

“I believe the Board of Selectmen needs a fresh voice,” Clifford said at the Citizens for Milford forum. “It’s an imperative that we make a change.” She continued, “The town has really lost trust in our Board of Selectmen.”

Clifford said the biggest issue selectmen should be dealing with is traffic. In terms of looking at moving town elections to November – as advocated by a citizens’ petition that will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant – Walsh says more information is needed. “It seems like a great idea,” he said. “I don’t think we need to spend a lot of time putting this up for debate,” said Clifford, who is in favor of it.

Walsh said he supports the Milford Police Department working with the State Police of Selectmen. “The town has really lost trust in our Board.”

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Walsh said he supports the Milford Police Department working with the State Police and the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency to handle issues of illegal immigration. Clifford said that, as a lawyer, she supports following the law, but feels selectmen spend “way too much time” on what is a federal issue, not a local one.

The candidates running in contested races are:

- Board of Selectmen: incumbent Michael Walsh is being challenged by Ami Clifford for the three-year seat.
- School Committee: incumbent James Ligor, Justin Dulak, John Erickson, Tarik Miranda, R.J. Shedy and Michael Viacconti are running for the two available seats.
- Board of Library Trustees: Stephanie Absi, Margaret Myatt and Scott Vecchioni are running for the two available three-year seats.
- Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery: incumbents Marilyn Lovell and Scott Vecchiola are being challenged by Kristen Gardner for the two available three-year seats.

Running unopposed are:

- Board of Assessors: incumbent Joseph Arcudi,
- Board of Health: Paul Mazzuchelli,
- Milford Housing Authority: incumbent Loriann Braza,
- Park Commission: incumbent Paul Pelligrini,
- Planning Board: incumbent Joseph Calagione, and
- Sewer Commission: incumbent Richard Cenedella.

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

Between now and April 2, videotapes of two candidates’ forums (March 7 at Milford High School and March 14 at St. Mary’s Parish Center) and interviews with candidates on That Milford Show and 30 Minutes with The Town Crier are being aired on Milford TV – Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 38.

Five Races from front page

• Precincts 1 and 6 will vote at the Senior Center, 60 North Bow St.
• Precincts 2 and 3 will vote at the Italian-American Veterans Hall, 4 Hayward Field
• Precincts 4, 5, 7 and 8 will vote at the Milford Portuguese Club, 119 Prospect Heights

All three voting locations are serviced by the local MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) bus route.

To continue my public service as a member of your School Committee, I am offering:

- Professional understanding of Town Government, developed over 16 years as your former Building Commissioner
- Experience: As a member of the Milford School Committee, I committed to work collaboratively with my fellow members, resulting in many successes, including:
  - Construction of, and transition to, the New Woodland School
  - Complete upgrade of the IT infrastructure
  - 1:1 Chromebook Initiative
  - Appointment of current Superintendent and other Administrators
  - Negotiation of (2) Teacher Contracts

On Tuesday, April 2

Vote John Erickson!
Paid for by the Committee to elect John Erickson

For Tickets send check to: MDTC actblue.com/donate/milford-dtc-1
(Dr.) c/o John Crean 22 Godfrey Ln Milford, MA 01757
@MilfordMDTC

ELECTION

CANDIDATES BRUNCH
Sunday March 31st
11 AM – 2 PM
Crystal Room 49 Cedar St, Milford MA

Honoring Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin

Guest Speakers
(Partial List)
- State Senator Jamie Eldridge
- Councilor Margaret Shepard
- State Representative Brian Murray
- State Representative Jeff Roy
- Register of Deeds Kathryn Toomey

Local Candidates for
Selectman - School Committee - Other Open Seats

◆Procedures Help Support MDTC HS Scholarship Fund

Tickets $35 $25 St. Center Members

For Tickets send check to: MDTC actblue.com/donate/milford-dtc-1
(Dr.) c/o John Crean 22 Godfrey Ln Milford, MA 01757

MARCH 22, 2019
Milford Town Crier
Looking at that issue will affect everyone, he explains. Students’ sleep cycles work and help them learn more. School start times to 8:30 a.m. would benefit the way curriculum going forward, “he added. Dulak also cites Milford needs to “increase the depth and breadth of our district is not matching what others can offer, then Marketing is all well and good, but you can only put so a great impact on how we educate our kids. ” Dulak says. He notes the quality of school buildings “has look at this town and how we’re going to address that, “middle school buildings. “We do need to take a serious improvements are needed at both the high school and rebuild Milford’s schools, saying a recent study cited social and emotional issues. “educating the whole student” in terms of academics and English-language learner (ELL) and economically disadvantaged students and says, “I want to help them excel.” He views getting everyone “on the same page” about the direction Milford schools should take, now and in the future, plus making sure ELL students succeed as the challenges currently facing the school system. Pointing to his progress through Milford’s public schools, college and into the workforce, Miranda says, “I'd say kids in Milford are getting a good education.” Miranda sees no need for a Proposition 2 ½ over-ride nor debt exclusion. “I believe we are spending enough on our students,” he says. But, he adds, the money needs to be spent appropriately. In terms of improving school facilities, Miranda says a new high school would be too expensive. “We can't afford that,” he says. As someone who went to Milford High School just a few years ago, he says he finds no issues with the building. Looking at the numbers of students choosing-out of Milford into other public schools, Miranda says, “The numbers speak for themselves.” He advocates finding out why each student leaves and seeing if those reasons can be addressed. Miranda wants to focus on students who do not know what they want to do after graduating, and make sure they know they have other options than going to college. Overall, Miranda says he is looking to help the School Committee “move forward and work together.”

Tarik Miranda
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
Tarik Miranda says he is running for School Committee because his life story means he represents a large portion of the children currently attending Milford schools. As a new college graduate out in the workforce, Miranda points to the English-language learner (ELL) and economically disadvantaged students and says, “I want to help them excel.” He views getting everyone “on the same page” about the direction Milford schools should take, now and in the future, plus making sure ELL students succeed as the challenges currently facing the school system. Pointing to his progress through Milford’s public schools, college and into the workforce, Miranda says, “I’d say kids in Milford are getting a good education.” Miranda sees no need for a Proposition 2 ½ over-ride nor debt exclusion. “I believe we are spending enough on our students,” he says. But, he adds, the money needs to be spent appropriately. In terms of improving school facilities, Miranda says a new high school would be too expensive. “We can't afford that,” he says. As someone who went to Milford High School just a few years ago, he says he finds no issues with the building. Looking at the numbers of students choosing-out of Milford into other public schools, Miranda says, “The numbers speak for themselves.” He advocates finding out why each student leaves and seeing if those reasons can be addressed. Miranda wants to focus on students who do not know what they want to do after graduating, and make sure they know they have other options than going to college. Overall, Miranda says he is looking to help the School Committee “move forward and work together.”

R.J. Sheedy
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
R.J. Sheedy says he learned about the School Committee first-hand while a student in Milford High School when he volunteered to help televe its meetings on Milford TV. Because of that experience, he knows what the role of the School Committee is and what responsibilities he would have if elected, he says. Now about to graduate college, he says, “I’m invested in this town.” Sheedy wants to help shape the educational process that helped him. One of the issues he sees is doing a better job at helping English-language learner students assimilate into the Milford community. “Milford does provide a good, quality education,” Sheedy says. While he is no fan of Proposition 2 ½ over-rides or debt exclusions, he does note that Milford is spending 20 percent less than the state average of per-pupil spending. But, the town is doing well with the money it has, Sheedy says. In terms of building new school facilities, he says the town cannot afford them, but should start a conversation about what is really needed going forward. School infrastructure definitely should be looked at, he says. In terms of school choice, Sheedy feels the school system is doing a good job of getting out “good news,” but still needs to find out what programs other districts have that are attracting Milford students to go there. One of the things Sheedy would like to do is add a “late bus” in the afternoons, so that students can take part in athletics and other after-school activities to enrich their experiences in school – yet still have a way to get home. “Better Milford schools will benefit us all,” Sheedy says. “I want you, the voters, to hold me accountable.”

School Committee

Justin Dulak
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
Justin Dulak is running for School Committee to bring the skills he has from a career in education to the committee. “I bring a unique skill set to the committee in that I’ve made education my career,” he says. Dulak added, “I’m running to bat the ground running.” The biggest issue he sees is making sure that all students have a chance to succeed.

Dulak believes the town provides children with a good education. “I think they are getting a good education ad it’s getting better,” he says. Today, school is about “educating the whole student” in terms of academics and social and emotional issues. While Dulak does not favor Proposition 2 ½ over-rides or debt exclusions, he does point to the need to improve school facilities, saying a recent study cited improvements are needed at both the high school and middle school buildings. “We do need to take a serious look at this town and how we’re going to address that,” Dulak says. He notes the quality of school buildings “has a great impact on how we educate our kids.” He has strong views on the school choice issue. “Marketing is all well and good, but you can only put so much lipstick on a pig,” he notes. If the Milford school district is not matching what others can offer, then Milford needs to “increase the depth and breadth of our curriculum going forward,” he added. Dulak also cites national studies that suggest moving the middle and high school start times to 8:30 a.m. would benefit the way students’ sleep cycles work and help them learn more. Looking at that issue will affect everyone, he explains.

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Michael Visconti

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

Mike Visconti says he is running for a seat on the School Committee "to start the process of returning our schools to a level that we experienced years ago."

He says the biggest challenge facing the school system is its budget. "We need to keep our budget in check without losing any services," Visconti says. He does not believe that the Milford school system currently is providing a good education. Visconti says he bases this view on facts, rather than emotions. "Milford is in the bottom 20 percent on non-performing schools in the state," Visconti says. "We need to get into the top 20 percent of performing schools." Visconti sees no need for Proposition 2 1/2 over-rides or debt exclusions in Milford. "We are spending higher than the state average" of per-pupil costs, he says, adding the school budget has "plenty of money to get the job done." In terms of building renovations, Visconti says, "It's not so much the quality of the tool as it is the ability of the instructor." The School Department needs a long-range educational plan before it needs a long-range facilities plan, he says. School buildings need to be properly maintained, he adds. "We need a solid building maintenance program."

Students are leaving Milford for other school districts because those communities have a "better product" than Milford, Visconti says. "Turns out a better product and the students will stay and more will want to come here," he says. Visconti also would like to get students involved in the school system's decision making process. In terms of student test scores, Visconti notes, "there's students on both ends of the curve." He says a return to the core basics of education will help improve results. "We need to make sure that everyone gets a quality education, consistent with their ability," he says. Visconti feels his election would begin turning around the system toward better outcomes. "I can start the process to make that happen," he says.

James Ligor

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

Jim Ligor says he is running for re-election to the School Committee to continue the work he began during his first term on the board, including serving on budget, Information Technology and policy subcommittees. He says the challenges facing the school system are branding and marketing the successes within it and continuing to expand the curriculum so that all graduating students achieve successful careers.

Ligor believes the Milford school system does provide a good education for the town's children. He points to his 18 year-old son getting accepted at five out of five colleges he applied to as an example. But, Ligor notes, "There's always room for improvement."

He is a firm believer in continuing Milford's financial tradition of not having Proposition 2 1/2 over-rides or debt exclusions. Instead, Ligor points to the School Committee working with the Finance Committee on how to fund the school system and any future building renovations. In terms of those renovations, Ligor comments, "We have some space requirements." Milford High School does need to be remodeled, he says. "There's no question that the building is old," he says. "The building is a bunker. It's a concrete slab."

Looking at the issue of school choice -- students leaving Milford for another school district -- Ligor notes the numbers have dropped over the past three years. He credits this reduction to "branding" Milford schools and talking about "the good that's going on." Ligor notes, "It's a continuing effort to communicate what's going on."

Student test scores are an example, he says. While some point a finger at declining scores, Ligor says he would rather point to the "hundreds of success stories" for Milford's students. You cannot compare Milford's test results with those of towns like Holliston and Hopedale, because "They don't have the same kind of diversity" as Milford does, Ligor says.

John Erickson

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

John Erickson is running to return to the School Committee, where he served from 2015-2018. "I care about the town and the district and the community," he says.

Erickson sees two major issues facing the School Department. First the continuing challenge of helping English-language Learner (ELL) students assimilate into the school system. Next is "the state of our facilities," he says. At some point, whether to renovate, build an addition to or build a new high school needs to be looked at, as well as renovating the middle school and Memorial Elementary School facilities.

This latter area, Erickson says, is where his expertise as the town's former Building Commissioner and running an electrical contracting company can really be of aid to the School Committee. From his previous tenure in town government, Erickson says he learned how to communicate and cooperate and get things done. It's also important to remember that major expenses affect "not just the school system, but the entire community," he says.

"I think I can make a positive effect," Erickson says. "I believe that to get anything done in a government setting you have to work collaboratively to accomplish anything." He continues, "The essence of town government is effective collaboration."

Erickson also points out that the seven members on the School Committee bring seven different points of view to each issue before them. To accomplish anything, you have to learn to work together, he says. "Working with others, I have produced a true record of accomplishment, leading to positive changes for our school district," he says. "It will be a privilege to continue this effort."

James Ligor for School Committee

James Ligor

Background:

- Son of Tom & Barbara Carrachino Ligor
- Lifelong resident of Milford
- Graduate of Milford High School, 1988
- Graduate of Newbury College
- Global Program Manager - Dell-EMC
- Married to Jill Francis Ligor
- Two children in the district,
  - Joshua age 18, Senior
  - Jacob age 14, 8th Grade

Town Service:

- 10 yrs on Personnel Board 5 yrs as chairman
- 3 yrs on current School Committee
  - Six sub-committees include:
    - IT
    - Early Start Time
    - Marketing
    - Budget
    - Wellness
    - Policy
- Liaison for Business and Banking Program at MHS

Please vote for me on April 2nd, 2019.

“I am very passionate about Milford Schools, I believe in a strong involvement with a “roll your sleeves up” approach. We need to work together to strengthen and build off of the positive initiatives and develop more programs to reach every student.”

Staff Reporter/Columnist

By Kevin Rudden

ELECTION

MARCH 22, 2019

Milford Town Crier
Dementia Sensitivity Training for Milford Police

On March 5, members from the Milford Police Department completed an intense dementia training, led by Cornerstone at Milford’s Christine Mateer and Jenn Hozempa. The training is a two-part program and is part of the Assisted Living & Memory Support Community’s Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative. This public and professional education workshop includes The Dementia Experience, Cornerstone’s interactive sensitivity training that uses sensory modifications to give participants certain physical and mental limitations and asks them to perform activities that highlight the danger in living with dementia. The program uniquely explains and medicates error that can lead to unincorporated also providing a visceral experience of what it’s like to live with dementia.

People are living longer. We’re working to help them live BETTER!

Exceptional Short Term Rehab, Exceptional Skilled Nursing Care

Getting back to your active life is your goal and ours too. Here at the Lydia Taft House we are professionally staffed & equipped to provide you with exceptional medical & rehabilitation therapy between hospital & home.

60 Quaker Hwy (RT.146a) Uxbridge, MA
For more information, (508)278-9500
www.rehabassociates.com/lydia

Medical Identity Theft

Most people protect their cell phone and credit cards. You should have the same sense of urgency to guard your health insurance card. Medical identity fraud is a complicated, costly crime that is difficult to resolve, can negatively affect your reputation and potentially harm your health.

If someone borrows or steals your health insurance card or information they can use it to have health services performed and file for reimbursement; bill for health services that didn’t happen; file claims for health services or drugs not received, forge or alter bills and forms, and obtain multiple prescriptions.

Protect yourself by being careful when sharing medical information. Review the EOB from your insurance carrier and alert your insurer if you see anything unfamiliar. Alert your doctor or clinic immediately if you receive a reminder for an appointment you didn’t make. If anything looks odd immediately. Make sure your doctors and other health care professionals authenticate you name, date of birth and photo personal information.

Health care fraud increases to expect health care fraud, you can report it online at https://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/reportfraud/index.html or contact your health insurer right away and ask them how they can help you protect your medical identity.

Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!

Let the Good Times Roll is the theme of traditional Mardi Gras celebrations and the party held at Cornerstone at Milford on Fat Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras, on March 5. The festive parade and parties in New Orleans, and other U.S. and European cities, marks the end of the good times as the fasting and reflection of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, begins for Christians around the world. Residents at Cornerstone, including Milfordian John Vololato dressed up in Mardi Gras regale and colors while enjoying pancakes and other Fat Tuesday treats.

Cornerstone photo
Wearin’ of the Green to Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day

A full course Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage prepared by Brenda Needleman and crew was on tap for Milford Senior Citizens at the St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon on March 14. The Irish festivities at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center included raffles, door prizes and entertainment by DJ Ronnie Auguer. Helping support the event was Republic Services the town’s trash hauler. Shown, l-r, are back row-Paul Mazzuchelli Director of Public Health; Sue Clark, Senior Center Director; Needleman, and Dan Higgins of Republic Services; plus front row-Pearl Massana and Hazel O’Brien. Harry Plactow photo

Peter Bertonazzi was dressed for the part as he helped out at the St. Paddy’s Day Lunch at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center. Harry Plactow photo

There are many uncertainties after your loved one is discharged from a hospital and requires care beyond your means. Blaire House is there to provide that family touch so your loved one can keep that vibrant smile you have come to know, by knowing that they are still among family. For over 50 years we have provided 24-Hour Nursing Care, Adult Day Health, Assisted Living Residence, and Home Care Services with that special touch.

Rest assured we will care for your family as if they were our own, just as we have done for our communities’ aging loved ones for the last 50 years.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please call
TOLL FREE Central Admissions at 844.322.3648 or Fax 978.522.8329
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5-star “Highest” rating from the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.
Home Improvement

Real Estate Seminar for Buyers and Sellers

The Milford Town Crier

The Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., at the Mendon town line, will open the season with a Birds & Blooms theme on Sunday, May 19. At 11 a.m., naturalist Kathy Bartol will lead a wildlife walk through the trails at Daniels. At 1 p.m., landscape architect Stasia McPherson of McPherson Green Living will give a 90-minute presentation on Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping, in the 1830 barn.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Blackstone Cultural Council, supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Charles River Bank Awards Scholarships

Charles River Bank President & CEO Jack Hamilton is pleased to award annual scholarships from the bank to 2018 Medway High School graduates Catherine Dunne, Lillian Sears and Jessica Daly.

The recipients have demonstrated that they have successfully completed their first semester of college and are enrolled for second semester classes. Dunne is studying accounting at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is also pursuing a minor in economics. Sears is in her freshmen year at Westfield State where she is majoring in criminal justice. Daly attends Arizona State University and is majoring in biomedical sciences with the intent to pursue a graduate degree in physical therapy.

To be eligible for a scholarship, students must either participate as a student-teller in the School Bank Program at Medway High School where Charles River Bank operates a full-service educational branch, or be employed at any of Charles River Bank's three branches. Student-tellers at the Medway High School office earn school credit as tellers at the school branch. They learn about banking type (plant, animal), keyword (avian, fruit fly, cotton), or by the specific pest or disease (coconut rhinoceros beetle, brucellosis). Users can also scroll through the page, which lists the pests and diseases alphabetically and includes a corresponding image. APHIS created the webpage to make it easier for citizens to find critical information on pests and diseases of concern.

April 27 Annual Beautification Day

Milford's fifth Annual Beautification Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Milford Town Parking Lot across from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church on Main St. at 9 a.m. to receive assignments. Individuals and groups are all welcome.

According to event chair, Amie Sanborn, the annual clean-up is once again a partnership between Citizens for Milford and the Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail. Also the Milford Board of Health has worked to get trash collector Republic Services to donate trash bags, vests and gloves. The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office will use work-release inmates to collect along the main roadways on Thursday, April 25, and Friday, April 26, with the Highway Department picking up their bagged trash to help make sure more roads in town are clean.

Charles River Bank Helps Homeowners through FHLBank Boston Program

Charles River Bank has been selected to participate in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston’s Equity Builder Program, which assists local homebuyers with down-payment and closing costs as well as homebuyer counseling and rehabilitation assistance. The $3.6 million program provides grants to financial institutions to assist households at or below 80 percent of the county median income. For example, in Norfolk County, the median income limit for one person is $56,800 and $64,900 for two people. Borrowers are eligible to receive up to $15,000 in assistance on a first come first serve basis. Buyers must also complete a homebuyer counseling program. The grant does not need to be repaid if the home buyer remains in the new home for at least five years, or if they do not refinance the home within 5 years.

"Homeownership is not easily attainable for many households, so we are pleased to offer this assistance to help individuals and families purchase a home. Homeownership helps build wealth and prepare for retirement, and programs that assist low income families can be effective in adding to the vibrancy of our communities," said President & CEO of Charles River Bank Jack Hamilton.

Charles River Bank is eligible to receive up to $150,000 in 2019 through the Equity Builder Program depending on availability of funds. Since 2003, the Equity Builder Program has awarded more than $38.8 million in EBP funds assisting 3,512 income-eligible households to purchase a home.

To learn more about applying for this down-payment and closing cost assistance, please contact Mark Whitby, Assistant Vice President/Mortgage Loan Officer, at mwhitney@charlesriverbank.com or 508-321-3142.

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MARCH 22, 2019

Milford Town Crier
Clearing Space at Home

HOPEDALE—Want to declutter, then make sure to attend the Clearing Space at Home with Susan Kaplan McCarthy on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Hopedale Memorial Library, Hopedale. Massachusetts author McCarthy will provide an educational night learning about decluttering. She will show how to live a simpler life by clearing the things that aren’t important anymore and creating space for what matters most. McCarthy is a decluttering and productivity consultant with over 25 years as a teacher and a decade as a professional writer. She is a member of the National Association of Productivity & Organizing Professionals (NAPo). Her books include Decadent Decluttering, Why Can’t You Stay Organized and How to Organize Art and Craft Supplies.

The program sponsored by the Friends of Hopedale Library is free, but please stop by or call 508-634-2209 to reserve a seat. Books will also be available for purchase.

Help Needed for Thanks To Yanks Care Packages MILFORD—Thanks To Yanks, a 501(c)3, organization in conjunction with the mission of providing support and resources to U.S. troops and military members, is holding a community care packaging event. Participants are asked to prepare care packages to deployed troops stationed around the globe. Thanks To Yanks is looking for volunteers to help sort and package items; and donations of protein bars and powder; snacks that won’t crush when packed; morale boosters/games; socks; and non-aerosol personal hygiene items for men and women (e.g. shaving products, insect repellent, sun-screen lotion, chap stick, mops, deodorant, foot care products, tooth-care products, shampoo/ conditioner); beef jerky; two-ply toilet paper; instant coffee singles (not Keurig); and flavored water packets. Items are going to both hot and cold climates.

Anyone who would like to should meet at the American Vets Club, Hayward St., Milford, on Saturday, March 23. Donations can be dropped off from 8 to 9 a.m. Sorting and packing will be done from 9 a.m. to noon.

Network of Enterprising Women HOLLISTON—Network of Enterprising Women (NEW) will hold the First Monday Meeting on April 1, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Cheryl Cohen Mosaics, 300 Woodward St. 2nd floor, Holliston. Signe Nelson Ayochok will speak on How to Maximize the Power of your Home and Work Space with Feng Shui. Come with a space in mind. Light breakfast provided.

Guests welcome; free admission for first time guests and current members; $20 for all others. For more information, visit NetworkofEnterprisingWomen.com or email info@networkofenterprisingwomen.com

Easter Egg Hunt MILFORD—Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 7 in the Bell Tower Room at 11:30 a.m. Admission is free for those two and under, $6 for ages three to 12, and $8 for 13 and up.

Lunch includes salad, pasta, muffins desert and drinks. Please call the rectory at 508-634-5435. Please bring a basket and a camera to take pictures with the Easter bunny.

Knights of Columbus Foxwoods Trip MILFORD—The Knights of Columbus Valancia Council 80 is sponsoring a Foxwoods trip on Saturday, April 27. 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. Proceeds will benefit the St. John’s Food for the Poor.

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 info@milfordchamber.org, or call 508-478-4770 or stop by the offices, 218 Main Street, Suite 306, Milford.

Family Fest & Home Show on Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel, 11 Beaver St. Milford. Free admission. Featuring local businesses, the MACC and Cheese Cook Off, pie eating contest, the Easter Bunny and more.

Upton Men’s Softball Registration UPTON—Registration for the Upton Men’s Softball Sunday Morning League is Saturday, March 23 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at the Rose Garden, Rt. 140, Upton. Registration is $50. For more information, call 508-597-5437 or email rickrankins@yahoo.com

Help needed for Thanks To Yanks care packages.

Clearing Space at Home

Historic Route 20

UPTON—Ryan 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, 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 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.

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Open Every Sunday Starting April 7

For more information call 508-839-2217 or visit www.grafonflea.com

Friends of Mendon Elders Book Sale MENDON—The Friends of Mendon Elders annual book sale will be held on Friday, April 5 from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again on Sunday, April 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St. Besides a large assortment of fiction, nonfiction, science fiction, and children’s books, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, and other previous 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.

Mark Gilpin, CPA EA

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MARCH 22, 2019

HELP NEEDED FOR THANKS TO YANKS CARE PACKAGES

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Milford Town Crier

MARCH 22, 2019

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Organizing Art and Craft Supplies

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Thanks To Yanks Spring into Spring Fundraiser
MILFORD-Melifeld and the Milford Young Center (MYC) invites community members to the 9th annual St. Pat’s Fundraiser on Friday, March 29 at CraftRoots Brewing, 4 Industrial Rd. Milford. 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, Lindsay Nogutria, Bill Shaner and Chris White. Ticket, which are $50 each and come with a pint of beer, are available at the Youth Center at and at MilfordYouthCenter.org Besides being grateful to all those who attend, MYC would also appreciate any donations including prizes for the raffle. Recognition will be given to all donors. All proceeds of the event go towards the free physical fitness and educational programs of the center.

For more information about the Youth Center of the St. Pat’s Fundraiser, please call the Center at 508-473-1756.

Alzheimer’s/Dementia Friendly Worship Service
MILFORD-The First Congregational Church in Milford invites those with Alzheimer’s/dementia and their caregivers to worship at a special Sunday service on April 7 and May 19 at noon. Come sing familiar hymns, hear favorite scripture passages, and say hello to beloved moments during a 20-minute worship service. Everyone is invited to enjoy coffee, cake, and light refreshments following the service. The church located on 105 S. Main St., is wheelchair accessible. Parking is available in the church lot, the Post Office parking lot and area streets. Please call 508-473-5259 with any questions and to RSVP.

Celebrate National Poetry Month with Mary Bonina
MILFORD April is “National Poetry Month,” so come celebrate with Mary Bonina on Saturday, April 6 at the Milford Town Library. Specialty cupcakes will be served while she reads from her poetry collection, which gives a reading of her poems. The workshop will run from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, while the reading will be at 2 p.m. A native of Worcester, Bonina takes time as a child visiting relative in Milford and gave a reading here previously when her memoir, My Father’s Eyes, was published in 2013. Beginners and experienced writers are welcome.

The Garden Tourist
MILFORD-Weekend gardeners, garden tourists, landscape professionals and everyone else is invited to a presentation by Jana Milbeger, The Garden Tourist, on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Milford Town Library. Jana Milbeger will offer a visual presentation and discussion of her new book The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast. It includes photos and discussions of the best public gardens, nursery display gardens, and private gardens in the Northeast that are open to the public and ready to offer an inspiration. Learn about each garden’s highlights and ideal times to visit, while enjoying a visual tour of each amazing destination.

Milbeger is an avid gardener, designer, gardener, lecturer and writer, as well as the owner of Enchanted Gardens, a landscape design firm in Holliston. Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, this event is free and open to the public.

4th Annual Brookside’s Got Talent
MILFORD-This community-wide Performing Talent Organization (PTO) is hosting the 4th Annual Brookside’s Got Talent, a talent showcase featuring kindergarten through second grade students attending First Grade Elementary School, on Saturday, March 30, at 1 p.m. in the Stacey Middle School Auditorium. The show will be hosted again by MyFM Morning show host Molly Auger and will take on a glamorous feel with red carpet, spotlights, paparazzi and glam. Milford TV will be taping the performances done by the students as well as interviews from participating students and fans on the red carpet and back stage. Milford TV will broadcast the entire show on a date to be announced. YouTube videos of the show can be purchased by contacting show producers: Molly Auger, molly.s.auger@pjc.com; Jenny Lyons, jennylyons@outlook.com or Jessica Dutilleville, jdutillevil1@ gmail.com

Auxiliary Spring Fashion Show
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold a Spring Fashion Show 2019 on Thursday, April 4 at The Crystal Room, 49 Cedar St., Milford. Proceeds to benefit the Auxiliary’s projects at 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 suggested donation. 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.

Bruce Robert Coffin Presentation
MILFORD-Bruce Robert Coffin, a mystery/suspense author will be speaking from his page with authenticity because he has lived it will be at the Milford Town Library on Saturday, March 23 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss his work. Coffin, the bestselling author of the Detective Byron 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 for Maine’s largest city. Following 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.

Hockomock Area YMCA Food Drive
MILFORD-The Hockomock YMCA Food Drive, which will take place at all three Hockomock Area YMCA branches and at locations within the communities through April 7. The 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 service area, including those in the Milford Public Schools. The food items are designed to eliminate child hunger and alleviate household food insecurity. The largest need in the area is low-sugar and low sodium items along with those that are 100 percent natural and wholesome. Shelf-stable milk and personal care items are also welcome.

In addition, the Hockomock Area YMCA is looking for community partners to assist with this effort by collecting and weighing donations, transporting donated items to area schools, and helping spread the word about this initiative. Current items may be dropped off during regular hours at the Milford Town Library, 80 Spruce St., The Salvation Army, Cong. St., and the Way Church, 41 Pine St. Other drop off sites are being sought in Milford. For more information, contact Shannon Nibett, shannonn@ocymca.org or MaryKate Bergen, mbergent@hockymca.org.

Milford Democrats Honor O’Loughlin
MILFORD-Thanks To Yanks Spring into Spring Fundraiser, was held on Saturday, April 6 at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Crystal Room, Cedar St., Milford. Speaker will include State Senator Jamie Eldridge, D.Acton; Framingham city councilor Margaret记着，会议议程可能更新。祝你阅读愉快！
Something for Everyone in Portland Maine

By Jane Bogda
Editor

As summer draws near, it is time to start planning for some New England road trips. One of the most eclectic is Portland, Maine, a city for foodies, shoppers, bicyclists, boaters, walkers, drinkers and just about everyone else.

Located about 2 ½ hours away, Portland is easily accessible. While the I-95 offers the quickest route north, those with more time can meander their way up Rt. 1, stopping off at historic and popular Portsmouth, N.H. or Maine beaches in Wells, York, Ogunquit or the Coney Island of the North, Old Orchard. Arriving in Portland, plan to spend some time in town. Explore the Old Port area with its cobblestone streets, docks, tourist shops, restaurants, bars and views of the harbor from Commercial St. Sample a variety of foods at trendy and docks, tourist shops, restaurants, bars and views of the harbor from Commercial St. Sample a variety of foods at trendy and downtown restaurants. While lobster is a not-to-be-missed favorite, grab a load of napkins and select a picnic table with a view for a real Maine experience. Don’t forget to try some local brews, stopping by almost any bar in the area, visiting local breweries or taking a tour with the Maine Brew Bus.

Portland also offers a bit a culture including works by local artists, Winslow Homer, who moved from Massachusetts to Maine, and Andrew Wythe, who summered along the coast, at the Portland Museum of Art (PortlandMuseum.org). For those who want an overview of the city and Casco Bay, climb up the Portland Observatory (Portlandandmeas.org) on Munjoy Hill. Explore the bay itself by taking one of the many harbor cruises, whale watching trips or, for those pinchching their pennies, the Casco Bay Line’s multi-island mail boat route. The two-to-three-hour trip travels to six of the islands in Casco Bay stopping just long enough to unload passengers, mail and freight. A longer layover is sometimes included for one of the islands allowing tourists about a half hour or so to explore. The Casco Bay Line (CascoBayLines. com) offers other cruises and regular ferries to most of the larger islands with the trip to Peaks Island being one of the most popular. Peaks Island offers a small commercial district to explore and an easy, fairly flat, bike ride. Bikes can be rented on the island or brought on the ferry.

Traveling just south of town to Cape Elizabeth visit one of the most photographed lighthouses in the United States, Portland Head, located in Fort Williams (PortlandHeadLight. com). Take some time to walk around and enjoy the views before snapping that obligatory photo. To see the inside of a Maine lighthouse, visit Spring Point Ledge Lighthouse (SpringPointLighthouse.org) on Fort Rd. in South Portland.

To find out more things to do in Portland or plan a trip VisitPortland.com offers more things to do in Portland and information about lodging. For more information about traveling in Maine stop by VisitMaine.com

BVT Self Funds Roof Repair

Submitted by Elise Bogdan
Valley Tech

Following the district’s commitment to live within its budget, Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT) will self-fund the renovation of the 54-year-old building with 53% reimbursement funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) along with $360,000 realized from the sale of the Trask Land on Chestnut St., Upton. The land was sold last summer to Alfonso Builders of Milford. MSBA authorities have historically commented that for an educational system to embark and complete a project without bonding is remarkable.

“Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District’s financing plan for a needed roof repair utilizes state funds and in-house resources” said Don Comastra, a long-term District Finance Committee Member. “This arrangement would eliminate the need for member town contributions to this expensive project, and seems to provide an ideal solution to this maintenance requirement.”

The first three phases, which consisted of a self-funded restoration using a white knight system in 2006 (+/-53,000 sq. ft.) and two MSBA funded full-replacements in 2011 (+/-42,000 sq. ft.) and 2015 (+/-37,000 sq. ft.), have been successfully completed and have contributed to both energy efficiency and improved building integrity.

This fourth and final phase completes the restoration to the remaining section of the 29-year-old Carlsile [black EPDM], roofing system and eliminates the need for maintenance and repairs. Since the old black roof surface is not reflective and therefore absorbs solar heat, the occupied space below requires additional energy to maintain a comfortable temperature during warm weather. The installation of new insulation coupled with a highly reflective [white] surface will reduce the amount of heat transferred into (and out of) the building, resulting in energy efficiency and cost saving through the year.

The completion of the roof repair project ensures the safety of the students at BVT, and of the investment the district towns have made in BVT. The self-funded project will eliminate the need for member town to contribute to this undertaking.

Worcester Academy First Semester Honors Lists

Worcester Academy announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List for Semester 1 of the 2018-2019 School Year. Among the students named were the following local residents:

Mendon
Alexandra Lomas Grade 9, First Honors.
Darius Lomas Grade 10, First Honors.
Devon Lomas Grade 10, Headmaster’s List.
Meagan Miranda Grade 12, Headmaster’s List.
Zachary Stolberg Grade 12, Headmaster’s List.

Milford
Dominic Silverstii Grade 9, First Honors.

Upton
Matthew Xu Grade 7, Honor Roll.
Nathanial Sadlier Grade 11, Headmaster’s List.
Rowen Sadlier Grade 10, Headmaster’s List.
Zachary Welch Grade 12, Headmaster’s List.

The Mendon Upton Town Crier was established over 25 years ago. We are the good news newspaper. We know our readers and advertisers. Advertising with us means supporting a the community and recognizing the strength of a smalltown USA.

Journalism Scholarships

The New England Newspaper and Press Association awards up to 10 scholarships each year to aspiring journalists through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England. The foundation strives to encourage and support young people who plan to pursue a career in the educational system to embark and complete a project with a view for a real Maine experience. Don’t forget to try some local brews, stopping by almost any bar in the area, visiting local breweries or taking a tour with the Maine Brew Bus.

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College students or high school seniors who are studying and acquiring work experience that will prepare them to work in the field of journalism are eligible to apply. Qualifications include being a New England resident and either a high school senior attending college after graduation or an undergraduate college student studying journalism or a related field. Also required are GPA of 3.0 or higher, and a serious interest in a journalism career by sending a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation, plus a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication and/or a body of work prepared for a journalism class. Applications are available at NENPA.com under the subhead, Awards & Scholarships.
Empowering Parents of Special Needs Children

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

There is a group in the Milford Public Schools with a mission of giving "support and education" to parents of special needs children called the Milford SEPAC. SEPAC – or Special Education Parent Advisory Council – meets monthly to support and educate families of kids with special needs, said Chris Wilson, who is SEPAC’s Vice President, who shares information and supports families with a number of different topics relating to Special Education.

The SEPAC group has tried to increase participation since it reformed, the advisory council has found a second life and is providing families with resources on a number of different topics relating to Special Education. At presentations ranging from Special Education rights, anti-bullying, to navigating the IEP (Individualized Education Plan), the Milford SEPAC is endeavoring to empower parents with knowledge of the Special Education system and let them know that they have a support system.

"It can be daunting when you are one or two parents in a room full of educators who are well versed in Special Education and let them know that they have a support system. "It can be daunting when they have issues, “ she said. “Our goal is to provide the absolute best education and make recommendations for future new construction, renovation, and major capital repair projects. The final presentation will be held on March 25 at 7 p.m. in the Teacher Resource Room at Milford High School.

School News


Milford High School: Congratulations to Milford High School English Teacher, Eamon Cunningham who has been selected as a semi-finalist for the 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. The finalist will be selected in the coming months. Also congratulations to the MHS Academic Decathlon Team. At the state competition held on March 16, Colleen Buckley was awarded a gold medal for her interview, Rachel Wang won a bronz medal for her speech and Aayush Patel received a placement award for his interview.

Woodland Students chosen to display their artwork at the annual Youth Art Month Exhibit in Boston this month. Pictured are (back row 1 to r): Katelyn Kearnan (Gr 5), Giovanna Weiner (Gr 3), Ava Scalzi (Gr 4), and Art Teacher Adrienne Delaney; (middle row 1 to r): Carlos Basel Abbas (Gr 4), Jayl Lewis (Gr 4), Joseph Varendas (Grade 3), and Lucia Silva (Gr 5), and (front row 1 to r): Manuela Ruby (Gr 5) and Cameron Zicherman (Gr 3). Contributed photo.
New Faces Lead MHS Softball

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High girls softball program has been a powerhouse in recent years, capturing district and state championships along the way. But with 10 seniors graduating from last year, head coach Steve DiVitto said his new cast will have to find their own path.

"I think it's important for all of our girls coming in this year not to try to live up to past expectations, but to be themselves," DiVitto said. "They've got to set their goals, but they can't try to compare themselves to others. They need to be true to themselves and their teammates and just compete at the highest level!"

The Scarlet Hawks have several players returning with varsity experience. Amanda Wenckus, a junior who transferred into the program a year ago, played shortstop at the end of last season and will likely start in that spot this year.

Sophomore Carly Ferreira returns as a corner infielder and Megan Hart, a junior, could take over as the team's pitcher. "She is going to have the opportunity to seize the moment in the circle," DiVitto said.

April Swain will play in the outfield for the Hawks this spring. A junior, she could also see time in the circle, DiVitto said.

"They have experienced it at the varsity level and some of them have played an extensive role," the coach said. "Having that experience and being on the varsity team last year is important. For the girls who are coming up and do make the varsity roster, just because they have been there and experienced it."

DiVitto pointed out the difference in speed between the varsity game compared to junior varsity or summer softball and said that will be a point of adjustment for his team, but hopes the quartet returning will ease the transition. "I think those four are going to be great leaders for us," he said.

Milford began spring practice last week and the head coach said he is pleased with what he has seen so far.

"Our energy has been really good and I know the girls have been working hard with their offseason programs," DiVitto said. "We are trying to get better every day, that's what the message is going to be and what it's always been. If we can keep getting better every day, we are going to be alright."

Milford AD Steps into Boys Track Coaching Role

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

With a promising group of athletes in the Milford High program this spring, including some who could compete at the national level, Peter Boucher wanted to make sure he had the best quality coach possible. When he couldn't find anyone who fit the bill, the MHS athletic director and longtime track coach decided he would step in himself.

"The bottom line is, we were looking at a small applicant pool and we had no one close to the realm of what we were looking for," Boucher said. "So I said, 'I will do it for a year.' It's challenging because I also have to be the AD, but our numbers are up, we have about 80 guys and we want to make sure we have the best coaches out there."

Boucher said he is going to work closely with Glenn O'Connor, one of the Milford cross country coaches, with an eye towards having O'Connor take the reins of the boys' team next spring. Boucher has coached track and cross country extensively over the years, most recently in 2011 in Canton.

"They are going to get a healthy dose of how I have always done things," he said. "Our goal is to win the Hockomock League. Sharon and North Attleboro are going to have an issue with that, but we are looking to be unbeaten in the league.

On an individual level, Boucher said there are a number of athletes who should be winning league championships and compete for state titles. Athletes on both the girls and boys teams could go to the New England meet and some relay teams and individuals could make it all the way to North Carolina, Boucher said. All of which went into his decision to coach the team.

The Hockomock League is split when it comes to which athletic directors also coach. But Boucher said the coaching pool is thinner than it used to be, due to the time commitments involved. Most coaches are either teachers or own their own businesses.

Boucher said he has confidence in all of his spring coaches and he should be able to make it to home games after running track practice. Asked whether this is definitely a one-year deal, Boucher stopped just short of providing a guarantee.

"I hesitate to say 'definitely,' but I am very confident Glenn is going to learn everything he has to about running a 90 to 100-person organization," he said. "To be brutally honest, I am going to be super tired in June, but I know I'll love coaching one more year."

MHS Girls LAX Welcomes New Coach

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School girls lacrosse team will be placed in the hands of Nicole Serra, who is taking the reins and said she is hoping to bring a new energy to the program.

A native of Brewer, N.Y., the Milford job is the first varsity head coaching gig for Serra, 27. A former high school player in her home state, Serra said her passion for the sport developed when she was in middle school.

"I have always loved it and I was excited to hear Milford was looking for a new coach," Serra said. "I am looking to bring a lot of energy and I hope my excitement is rubbing off on the players."

Before the first week of practice, the MHS math teacher said students were coming up to her in the hallways, eagerly anticipating the new season.

"We want to take home some wins," the new coach said. "But I also want the girls to feel like they have someone they can look to, to really help them be better at the sport and make the team feel like a family. I want it to have a really good sense of the community and I want to be a part of that community."

Serra coached a middle school team in New York and was a defender during her playing days before attending college at the University of Rhode Island. After going back to New York and earning a master's degree, she said her fiancé and sister both having ties to Massachusetts brought her to the Bay State.

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Peter Boucher, Milford's Athletic Director, will also be coaching Boys Track this spring.
Zacchilli Was a Winner to the End

Linda Zacchilli

When someone dies after a bout with cancer, it’s sometimes said he or she “lost” the battle. In many cases, that’s not accurate. And it would be a flat-out lie when it comes to Linda Zacchilli. The legendary Milford High School coach and matron of both the boys and girls volleyball programs passed away last week at the age of 68.

“All of those words you hear apply, an icon, a role model, a mentor,” said Tammy Webber, who first met Zacchilli as a middle school athlete before playing for and coaching with the Hall of Famer.

“Volleyball had always been the link, but we were friends,” said Webber, who now coaches the MHS girls. “She was a truly strong willed person who fights for what she believes in. I was always lucky enough to be on her side.”

Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher said the loss has hit the school hard, in large part because of the vast number of students, teachers and staff who either played for Zacchilli or had her in class during her time as a teacher in the school system.

“She did things exactly the way you want things done,” Boucher said. “She taught her athletes to really strive to be successful in everything they do, those types of coaches are hard to find and we were lucky to have her.”

“You just love the woman,” Boucher added. “You can’t help but love her.”

First diagnosed with an endometrial, or uterine, cancer in 2009, she returned to coaching after surgery and was on the bench through a relapse in 2013 before retiring after the disease struck a third time in 2017.

Cancer found out what the rest of the state already knew damn well, Linda Zacchilli didn’t lose. She started the girls’ volleyball program in 1974 and created the boys’ program 11 years later. She won more than 700 games, 26 league titles, 11 district championships and earned spots in multiple halls of fame along the way.

Current Milford High coach Andrew Mainini said she doesn’t think the programs would have had anywhere near the level of success without her guidance and instance on holding her players to the highest standard. But she was at her toughest when defending her athletes.

“She went to bat for her players,” Mainini said. “She was the person backing them and representing them, she defended the people she cared about.”

The wife of longtime Milford coach and Athletic Director, Nick Zacchilli, and the mother of three boys, Michael, Chris and Peter, who share their parents’ love for sports, Linda Zacchilli was remembered for more than her strength. She was also a sensitive, caring and nurturing person, her former players said.

Brittany Hill played four years of volleyball at MHS and went on to become an oncology nurse at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She recalled seeing her coach in the waiting room.

“I remember kneeling down in front of her and holding each other’s hands and it was just like we were back in the huddle,” Hill said. “Coach taught us to fight until the last point of every game and she fought to the last breath of her life. She never quit, she never lost her spirit, her passion, her hope. That’s a winner.”

Pitching Depth, Experience for MHS Baseball in ’19

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High baseball team was a relatively inexperienced bunch in 2018, with numerous underclassmen in starting roles and a first year head coach. This year, Alex Dion is back for his second year in the dugout and the Scarlet Hawks boast a pitching staff with significant innings under its collective belt.

“The expectations are going to be to go out and compete for a league championship, that’s what they are going to be every year,” Dion said. “From last year to this year, we have done a 180. We went from no experience and a first-year head coach, to now having a lot of experience.”

Starting pitchers Dan Corsini, Colby Pires and Luke Rosa each made at least five starts in 2018 for an MHS squad that finished the year 5-15 overall. Nick Marcolini came out of the bullpen, and will likely fill that role again this spring.

“For the starters, it’s going to be a challenge to get themselves to that next level, compete, go deep into games and win games,” Dion said. “Marcolini has to expect to pitch two to three times per week out of the pen.”

The staff is also going to take on the responsibility of mentoring some of the newer members of the varsity squad, Dion said. Pires and Rosa will be featured in the lineup as well, with the former hitting in the top three and the latter somewhere in the middle, the coach added.

Matt Shaver is back as the starting shortstop and will bat at or near the top of the order. The Scarlet Hawks are counting on the experienced infielder to get on base, run the bases effectively and score runs. Shaver is a captain along with Tyler Almeida, who will start behind the plate for the third year in a row and likely hit either third or fourth. Almeida started the past two years for the Milford Legion team and was a more effective hitter than his .220 average showed last spring, Dion said.

“I have never seen a guy hit so many balls hard that were outs because we play at Fino Field,” Dion said, referencing the vast expanse that is the Fino outfield.

Milford will be competing in the Hockomock League with North Attleboro, the defending Division 2 state champion and Franklin, the winner of last year’s Super 8 tournament, both on the schedule.

“The league is really good,” Dion said. “But I have a lot of confidence in our guys, I am excited to see what we can do.”

SPORTS FLASH
By Chris Villani

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Strong Season Ends in Semis for Grafton/BVT Hockey

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Grafton/Blackstone Valley Tech ice hockey co-op earned a spot in the Division 3A district semifinals for the third season in a row and, even though the year came to an end with a 3-1 loss to Lunenburg, we are not entitled to anything, “Mainini said. “I think we have the talent, but we know how he is approaching the campaign.

“I told the guys after the game, ‘you could be the team to beat, but that is not how he is approaching the campaign.

“Miss a shot and I thought we outplayed them, “Mainini said. “We had great energy throughout all three periods, we just didn’t get that goal we needed.”

Co-captain Trevor Thomas, a Valley Tech senior, stood out in his final game.

“He was all over the ice, doing the things he does all the time,” his coach said. “He was winning races, winning battles and bringing great energy to the team.”

Fellow BVT senior Griffin D’Antonio continued to skate as well as he has in his four years with the program, Binkoski said. “He was flying,” the coach said. “He was doing all the little things right, so it was tough to see the outcome we did.”

The season featured far more positive developments for the program than negative. Grafton/BVT was able to play at Worcester’s DCU Center before the Worcester Railers, the ECHL affiliate of the New York Islanders, took the ice. The Indians also challenged themselves with games against new Division 3 opponents like Longmeadow and Westfield. “That was a step up for nearly 1,000 people watching Grafton/BVT’s most recent playoff contest. “It’s been special to be a part of those games,” said.

MHS Volleyball Brings Loaded Roster to New League

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School (MHS) boys volleyball team has set its sight on getting to the eventual district champion, Natick. The Scarlet Hawks won a pair of district championship games before Lunenburg tacked on an out shot them and I thought we outplayed the Hawks. Milford beat Medfield in the semifinal loss was, in essence, a one-goal winter, two of them by a single goal. The Hawks. Milford beat Medfield in the district tournament a year ago and Mainini said Mills and Nipmuc figure to have strong teams this spring.

Milford will be a favorite as well. Joao Boaventura returns after standing out as an outside hitter last year. Lucas Caranto and Josh Orellana return at setter.

“Joao was our go to guy last year and we expect him to be a large part of our game this year,” Mainini said. “Those setters have made a ton of progress and strides and are looking to fine tune their skills. We are excited about getting them the second year quarterbacking our offense.”

Boaventura is a captain this year along with Zach Browne, another multi positional player who can hit from anywhere on the court. Tiago Carvalho and Rande Monahan are both experienced defensive specialists who will compete for significant court time.

With quality talent returning from a successful 2018 season, Mainini said the focus this year will be on fine tuning the squad’s mental approach to the game.

“We have a lot of the fundamentals and strategy down, we need to build on our mental toughness and work on our communication,” he said. “We are fine tuning everything and we are on being the best teammates we can be.”

MHS Boys LAX Sets Playoff Goal for 2019

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After missing out on the postseason a year ago, the Milford High School boys’ lacrosse team has set its sights on getting to the tournament this spring with an experienced group of players leading the way.

“We have a lot of returners coming back this year and a great group of leaders for this season,” said head coach Jacob Scordato. “I’ve spoken about rebuilding and changing the culture for MHS boys volleyball along the I-495 corridor and forming a Tri-Valley League for boys teams in the Hockomock League to form a new league. The season featured far more positive developments for the program than negative. Grafton/BVT was able to play at Worcester’s DCU Center before the Worcester Railers, the ECHL affiliate of the New York Islanders, took the ice. The Indians also challenged themselves with games against new Division 3 opponents like Longmeadow and Westfield. “That was a step up for nearly 1,000 people watching Grafton/BVT’s most recent playoff contest. “It’s been special to be a part of those games,” said.

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By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech girls basketball team thrived in the 2018-2019 season despite having just two seniors on the roster, capping the campaign with a tournament run that ended with last week's loss to Monty Tech in the district semifinals.

The Beavers finished 16-8 this year and, with most of their key contributors coming back, including four three-pointers in the Monty Tech game. Another sophomore guard, Madison Magri, continued a strong stretch in the team's final game of the year.

"She has been taking care of the ball, driving and dishing, she is small but fierce," Kahler said. "I am really excited to see where we go next year!"

When the Beavers left Clark University after the semifinal loss, the message was "we will be back." BVT graduates Katie Housekeeper and Alyssa Clark, two players Kahler lauded as "positive and so hard working."

But many of the team's stars were only freshmen or sophomores this year.

One sophomore, Brianna Carroll, buried four three-pointers in the Monty Tech game. Another sophomore guard, Madison Magri, continued a strong stretch in the team's final game of the year.

"She has been taking care of the ball, driving and dishing, she is small but fierce," Kahler said. "The last few weeks, she has been playing phenomenal basketball."

Junior Victoria Russian led the team in scoring in the playoff game with 14 points and added a strong game on the glass and some blocks on the defensive end. Clark also stood out in her final contest in a Beaver uniform.

"She plays such great defense," Kahler said of the senior. "She was playing against a kid who is athletic and goes to the basket strong and she was such a huge presence on defense for us."

BVT trailed Monty by only six points at halftime, but the top-seeded Bulldogs relied heavily on their star, Emily St. Thomas, who finished the game with 28 points.

"Our youth really showed in the second half, we made some really silly mistakes," Kahler said. "But going into the season, we set the bar high, we set our goals high, but I don't think we thought we'd be at the semifinals at Clark playing Monty Tech."

A strong season has been made all the better by the fact that Kahler will welcome most of this group back.

"It's been one of the most fun seasons I have been a part of," she said, "I am really excited for next year."

Maspennock Rod and Gun Club
Defeats Lafayette Gun Club

Maspennock Rod and Gun Club from Milford defeated Lafayette Gun Club 1435 to 1362 in the National Air Pistol League. With the win, Maspennock Rod and Gun Club is in second place overall with a 4-1 record. Other participating clubs were Byya Salian, Logan Quinn, and John Reilly.

Lafayette Gun Club of Yorktown, Va. also has a 4-1 record and is in sixth place. Next up Maspennock Rod and Gun Club will compete against Palmyra Sportsmen's Association from Palmyra, Penn. Palmyra Sportsmen's Association currently has a 5-0 record.

The National Air Pistol League is sponsored by the Orion Scoring System for clubs throughout the United States. Over 10 weeks each team competes in eight games pairing with a competitor with a near equal win-loss record.

In each game the teams compete in a 40 shot air pistol match. This competition is nearly identical to the Air Pistol events in the Olympic games. Each athlete completes pairing with a competitor with a near equal win-loss record.

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BECAUSE I CARE!

Re-Elect Mike Walsh to the Milford Board of Selectmen on April 2, 2019

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

Why? Because I value a sense of community using fairness, integrity, compassion and honesty. This is how ANY candidate should represent our town and the concerns for the future. My involvement and dedication in all aspects of Milford have demonstrated these qualities and with your support we will make Milford exceptional for all ages on this essential journey!

- Mike Walsh

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