A Celebration of Diversity

Woodland Elementary School students Ana Julia De Almeida Pereira (left) and Julissa Torres with Grace Torres (front) display their presentations at the annual International Night on March 26. Over 80 students shared the customs, cultures, and cuisines of 35 different countries in a celebration of diversity. Contributed photo.

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

Woodland Elementary School students gave the community a little taste of the culture, customs, and cuisine of over 35 different countries during their annual International Night on March 26. For the past nine years, International Night has been a way for students to share what they have learned about their country of choice including population size, currency, political climate, and even main religions that are practiced there. Students are encouraged to wear clothing and prepare food samples that are native to the country they chose to represent so people get a true flavor for the country they have spent months researching.

This year the different countries were represented by over 80 Woodland students, one of the largest participations the school has had.

"Students can work in teams or individually and choose to study a country that they are from, that their parents or grandparents are from, or one that they are just interested in learning more about," said Woodland teacher Kurt Shady, who has coordinated the event for the past seven years, this year with the assistance of EL Teacher Astrid Barrios.

Addy Kudrikow and Kayleigh Tourtetol chose Arabia for their project because it was a country that hadn’t been represented at International Night before and had a lot of interesting landmarks the girls found interesting such as the famous Divi Divi Tree. But researching and planning the project was more than just a learning experience for the fifth-graders.

"We wanted to spend time together and work on something fun together, so we decided to take part in this," said Kayleigh. "It was so much fun."

Sabrina Alleman, Katelyn Bicallo, and Nicole Sweet also chose to stay from the traditional and well-known countries and chose Tuvalu, a Polynesian island country in the Pacific Ocean. "It’s a very uncommon country and we want people to know about it," said Katelyn. For Kamylle Carvalho and Iris Luz, choosing the country that they would represent on International Night was about learning more about their roots in Brazil. "It’s a part of our culture and we wanted to learn more about the country we are from," said Iris. The girls, with the help of their families, shared Cocunha, a popular food in Brazil consisting of chopped or shredded chicken meat, covered in dough, molded into a shape resembling a chicken leg, and Birigado, a traditional Brazilian dessert made of condensed milk, cacao powder, butter, and chocolate sprinkles.

But whether the students chose to represent the little-known places or the U.S., the evening was all about embracing and celebrating differences.

"Diversity is such a big part of the Milford community," said Shady. "There is a lot of culture to be celebrated here."

Pre-Town Meeting Forum Being Held on May 15

The Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee is sponsoring a Pre-Town Meeting Forum at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15 in Upper Town Hall to provide an opportunity for Town Meeting Members and the public to ask questions about the articles on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Sponsors of articles will be available to make brief presentations and answer questions about them. The meeting is intended to provide knowledge about the various articles, not to advocate for or against a particular article.

The committee that Town Meeting members and the public indicate what articles they would like to be addressed at the forum by Wednesday, April 17. Articles with the highest number of requests will be addressed.

Referring to Selectman William Buckley’s question on March 7 about what problem would the increased membership would solve, Soares noted he is not fixing a problem. "I think five is better," he said, calling the increased board “a better approach.” When a challenger faces off against an existing selectman, he has to "take him down," Soares explained. "I think it is a five-member board) makes our elections a little more civil, he said. Instead of attacking each other, more candidates running for more seats would focus more on issues, Soares said. The School Committee, he said, has seven seats and candidates for that board tend to focus on issues. A second reason Soares gave for increasing the number of selectmen was diversity. “I believe it leads to a more diverse and representative board,” he said noting towns with more than three selectmen tend to include women. A third reason he gave was eliminating conflicts of interest and the potential to violate open meeting laws. "It makes for a more efficient Board of Selectmen," he said. For example, if one board member has a conflict of interest there could be a deadlock vote of the remaining two members. Or, if one member is absent from a meeting at which a critical issue is being discussed, the topic often is delayed until the full board is sitting, Soares explained. A larger board reduces the likelihood of not being able to discuss or vote on a topic, he added.

In terms of open meeting laws, two members now can have private conversations about an issue, because that would constitute a majority of the board and be a violation. With five members, any two could meet privately to hash out an issue, Soares noted. Finally, Soares pointed out, Town Meeting Members will not make the final decision. A “yes” vote at the Annual Town Meeting would send the issue before all of Milford’s voters at the next Annual Town Election in April, 2020. "In general citizens’ petitions should have their day at Town Meeting," Buckley said. He recommended that Soares be ready to give Town Meeting Members specific examples that back up his reasoning. "I want to hear the dialogue at Town Meeting," he said. If the board does increase to five members, "It probably means longer meetings," Buckley added. Selectman William Kingkade said. “It’s a citizens’ petition. I think it should be debated at Town Meeting and a decision made.”

Soares Explains Petition to Increase Number of Selectmen

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford resident Michael Soares used the Board of Selectmen’s “Invitation to Speak” on March 20 to do just that – speak to the board about why he used a citizens’ petition to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant that seeks to increase the number of selectmen from its current three to five members.

Right now, 148 communities in Massachusetts have three board members, 145 have five members and one has seven members, Soares said. Milford is the largest town in Massachusetts having only three selectmen, he added.

Referring to Selectman William Buckley’s question on March 7 about what problem would the increased membership would solve, Soares noted he is not fixing a problem. "I think five is better," he said, calling the increased board “a better approach.” When a challenger faces off against an existing selectman, he has to "take him down," Soares explained. "I think it is a five-member board) makes our elections a little more civil, he said. Instead of attacking each other, more candidates running for more seats would focus more on issues, Soares said. The School Committee, he said, has seven seats and candidates for that board tend to focus on issues. A second reason Soares gave for increasing the number of selectmen was diversity. “I believe it leads to a more diverse and representative board,” he said noting towns with more than three selectmen tend to include women. A third reason he gave was eliminating conflicts of interest and the potential to violate open meeting laws. "It makes for a more efficient Board of Selectmen," he said. For example, if one board member has a conflict of interest there could be a deadlock vote of the remaining two members. Or, if one member is absent from a meeting at which a critical issue is being discussed, the topic often is delayed until the full board is sitting, Soares explained. A larger board reduces the likelihood of not being able to discuss or vote on a topic, he added.

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Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Health
• Met with Maureen Griffin, Human Resources director, to review the job description for the Director of Public Health. The position opened when Paul Mazzuchelli retired at the end of March. Board members agreed to post advertisements for the position beginning on March 26, including websites run by the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association and the Massachusetts Health Officers Association. “There are not too many people in our field,” Mazzuchelli said. “It’s such a specialized field,” added board Member Leonard Izzo. (March 25)
• Reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget with Christopher Morin, chair of the Finance Committee. The only portion of the budget that will exceed the guidelines given to limit increases is rubbish removal and disposal. Mazzuchelli explained. The trash pick-up contract with Republic Services is up for renewal, which should mean increased costs and – due to the lack of a market for recycled papers and plastics – the town will have to pay for their disposal. Mazzuchelli added. (March 25)
• Mazzuchelli reported the new leaf dump off Fiske Mill Rd. will re-open in April and will be accepting brush as well. (March 25)
• Board members Kenneth Evans and Izzo, plus Mazzuchelli, presented retiring board member Gerald Hennessy with a plaque honoring him for 47 years of service – from April, 1972 to this year – on the Board of Health. (March 25)

Board of Sewer Commissioners
• Approved sewer connection permits for 5,7,8,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19 and 20 Kate Lane, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 9 Megan Way and 2,4,6,8 and 10 Popia Dr. – all within the “Whitewood Preserve” subdivision off Whitewood and Reservoir Roads – subject to inspection fees being paid and the plans for homeowners to manage their own sewage pumping station to be given to the Sewer Department. (March 26)
• Approved a sewer connection permit for an existing house at 347 Purchase St., pending receipt of final engineering plans. (March 26)
• Voted to send a letter to the Planning Board that a proposed amended site plan for Imperial Hyundai at 154-158 East Main St. (Rt. 16) would have no effect on the town’s sewer system. (March 26)
• Steven Howard, vice president of Tata & Howard, the Sewer Department’s Marlborough-based engineering consultants, reported that meters to test for groundwater inflow and infiltration (“I and I”) into the sewer system were placed at various locations throughout town during the week of March 18. After about 10 weeks, data from the monitoring will be analyzed to see what areas in town need to be targeted for I and I removal. (March 26)
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There's a special academic community located in Rhode Island that not only offers its students a vibrant environment to excel at both academically and socially, but also helps them lay the foundation for a successful path toward college and beyond.

Located in Woonsocket, Mount Saint Charles Academy (MSC) is a private, co-ed catholic school for students in the 6th through 12th grades that has a long-standing tradition of academic excellence and outstanding athletic, arts, and social programs that encourages students to spread their wings.

“We take a holistic approach to learning,” explained President Alan Tenreiro. “We feel it’s the student’s total experience here that gives them the tools to succeed.” And succeed they do. The school boosts a 99 percent graduation rate with a considerable number of seniors going on to some of the most prestigious colleges in the country.

The committed faculty at MSC recognizes that each student is an individual with different interests. “Every student here is known, valued, and treasured; that’s our motto,” said Tenreiro, a 1992 “Mountie” graduate himself.

Students are encouraged to explore the multiple opportunities the school provides. All the traditional academics including English, mathematics, science, religion, and social studies are part of the curriculum, but nontraditional courses such as computer science, engineering, and robotics are also offered as is an AP Capstone Diploma program.

There are more than 50 athletic teams at the school where students practice and play in first-rate facilities. Students have the opportunity to take part in everything from basketball, ice hockey, baseball and football, to lacrosse, tennis, swimming, track, and more. Two other standout athletic programs include the schools Sur La Glace figure skating and training and a varsity equestrian riding team.

And, beginning in the fall of 2019, new partnerships in hockey and gymnastics will be offered for an additional tuition to those high-level athletes, providing top level, convenient training. “This allows parents to save on transportation time and students more time to pursue other extracurricular activities such as art and theater,” said Tenreiro. Approximately 55 percent of the students attending reside in Rhode Island while the remaining come from Massachusetts; many from the Blackstone area including Upton, Milford, Blackstone, Hopedale, Mendon, and Bellingham. Recently, the school began free busing to and from locations in certain communities.

For busy working parents, an after-school program for no extra cost allows students to stay on campus until 6 p.m. and take part in activities, study at the library, or enjoy a beverage or something to eat with friends at a new café onsite.

For parents who seek a private education for their child but feel they cannot afford it, MSC is considered among the more affordable schools, running approximately $9,100 yearly for middle schoolers and $14,400 for high school students. Online registration is available for the entrance exam which is scheduled to take place May 4.

To see if Mount Saint Charles Academy is right for your student, schedule a tour by calling 401-769-0310 or view www.mountaincharles.org.
O’Loughlin Lauded by Democratic Town Committee

State Representative Brian Murnay (left) and Selectmen Chair Michael Walsh presented Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin with an award from the Milford Democratic Town Committee for his service to the town. “You treated me like gold,” O’Loughlin said. “I just hope I treated you the same.”

days before Milford’s Annual Town Election. Former State Senator Louis Bertonazzi; State Representative Brian Murnay; D. Milford; and Selectmen Chairman Michael Walsh joined in giving the chief an engraved crystal plaque.

“The people of our community are rightfully very proud of our Police Department,” Bertonazzi said, noting O’Loughlin provides it with “uncommon leadership.” He added, “You’ve really helped our community be a better place in which to live.”

Murray recalled when the town was interviewing O’Loughlin as a finalist for the chief’s position and thought he had caught the chief in a lie. “O’Loughlin’s resume said he had passed the bar exam before even finishing law school – something that was ‘unheard of,’” Murray said. But, he added, it was true and O’Loughlin was a sworn-in attorney at his law school graduation.

“It was probably one of the best, if not the best, vote I took in my 16 years on the Board of Selectmen,” Murray said. “The best thing that happened to Milford was hiring Tom O’Loughlin,” Walsh said. O’Loughlin grew up in the Brighton “projects” and never forgot where he came from. Walsh added, saying from that experience came O’Loughlin’s concept of “community policing. That’s what we have in this community under the direction of Tom O’Loughlin. I’m 100 percent in his corner. If I had my way, I’d make him Interim Chief, you have a great police chief. You don’t have a good Police Department; you have a great Police Department. And, you have a great Police Department because you have a great chief,” said District Attorney Joseph Early. Former State Senator Richard Moore called O’Loughlin, “the greatest police chief in Massachusetts,” “I started on this path 42 years ago,” O’Loughlin said in accepting his award. The last 33 years have been spent as a chief, mostly in Milford, he added. “I love the town. “We answer 30,000 calls a year, and if I get three complaints a year, that’s high,” O’Loughlin said, looking at the many Police Department members in the audience. “I’m proud of the people I work with. They’re awesome people.” “Leadership is not about being in charge, it’s about helping people in your charge,” he said. O’Loughlin noted that when he became chief, Milford residents opened their arms and their hearts to him. “You treated me like gold. I just hope I treated you the same,” he said.

Senior Nursing Facilities at “Crisis Stage”

Nursing facilities across the state are at “a crisis stage,” with 20 closing last year and an estimated 39 more to close this year, according to Frank Romano, president of Essex Group Management Corp., which owns Blaire House of Milford and several other senior care facilities throughout Massachusetts. The main reason for this is that Medicaid reimbursements are smaller than the actual costs of providing care, he said. “After 40 years in this business, I’ve never seen it as bad as it is today,” Romano said at Blaire House’s tenth annual legislative event, held on March 25 in Milford. “The Current State of Senior Care in Massachusetts and the Nation” forum also featured remarks by State Senator Ryan Fattman, R. Sutton, State Representative Danielle Gregoire, D. Marlborough, and State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford. Salaries and benefits typically account for 75 percent of every dollar spent at a senior nursing facility, Romano explained. Romano noted that Blaire House’s nursing facility manages through a $300,000 deficit because, as a campus, it offers other services that can offset that loss. He noted that to be competitive in wages, it has to start people off at $15 per hour while being reimbursed only $12 per hour. And, Romano stated, the job of a trained certified nursing assistant (CNA) is far different than a worker at a Dunkin Donuts franchise or a Walmart store. The state’s Medicaid reimbursement has not changed since 2007, Fattman said, outlining several pieces of pending legislation that could help the situation. There are 401 nursing homes in Massachusetts with operating deficits, the senator said – with those expenses as high as $1 million each year. “There’s no business that can operate like that for the long haul,” Fattman said. In addition to pending legislation, Fattman said, people need to take personal responsibility by paying for long-term care insurance. “You, as an industry, have our attention,” stated Gregoire. Last year, she chaired the House Committee on Elder Affairs and is now chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Oversight. “This issue is something facing every person in Massachusetts.”

“There is no question that this industry is in crisis,” Murray said. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he gets to hear first-hand from top officials in Governor Charles Baker’s administration, he said. But, there is a discrepancy between what the nursing home industry says and what the Executive Office of Health and Human Services says about the problem, Murray noted. “Advocacy is key,” he stated. “We need to get correct information.” Because of the reimbursement model of nursing facilities’ operating budgets, bankers are now compounding the problem by refusing to lend to or refinance existing facilities, Romano said. It took him months to get federal government permission, but Romano said he now has permission to recruit up to 150 people from Puerto Rico to be CNAs at his facilities, Romano stated.

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Milford Town Crier
APRIL 12, 2019
**Hennessy Retires after 47 Years on Health Board**

Gerald Hennessy (second from left) retired this month after serving 47 years on the Board of Health. First elected in 1972, Hennessy was presented a plaque of appreciation by fellow board members Leonard Izzo (left) and Kenneth Evans (right) and Health Officer Paul Mazzucchelli (second from right) at his last board meeting on March 25. Kevin Rudden photo

**A Taste of Home Sent to Local Active Military Members**

Recently Thanks To Yanks a local charity that supports the U.S. military, held a community event to package and ship care-packages to deployed service men and women, sending a taste of home and letting them know, they are not forgotten. For additional information visit ThanksToYanks.org or like them on Facebook. Contributed photo

**The Advertiser’s Club Directory**

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

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Sue@sodellconsult.com

5 APRIL 12, 2019 Milford Town Crier
A Clean Start for Spring

By Anne Mazar

Help get spring off to a clean start by participating in one of the many clean-up days. The mounds of trash a group can collectively scoop-up off the streets, open spaces and waterways is impressive. This is not a solution to the problem of our over-consumptive habits and all too frequent use of non-biodegradable, one-use items. But the garbage is littering our public spaces. It looks trashy and we need to pick it up. Birds, mammals and aquatic life can die from getting tangled in or eating our garbage.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, in 1950 people produced about 4 billion pounds of plastic a year worldwide and today 660 billion pounds is produced annually with 20 billion pounds ending up in the oceans. Plastic does not decompose. A six-pack ring dropped in the Blackstone River could drift down the river and into the ocean and end up around a sea turtle’s neck. Plastic can be a versatile and useful material, but we have gotten lazy with all the “convenient” throw away plastic utensils, Styrofoam beverage and food containers, that are in our hands once for a matter of minutes, but could linger in the environment for centuries. Recycling is helpful, but will not solve the problem, especially now that China does not want our garbage. And they shouldn’t. We need to reduce our waste. Easy steps include, using reusable water bottles and coffee mugs, shopping bags and sip, instead of using a plastic straw. Be mindful of consumption.

The clean-up events below are open to everyone, volunteers will receive clean-up supplies at each event and there are no rain dates. Children are welcome with supervising adults.

• MENDON-Community Clean-up Day: Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. to noon, at Henry P. Cough School, 10 North Ave. Food and drinks will be provided after the event by the Mendon Lions Club. All volunteers ages 3-12 will receive one free admission ticket to Southwick's Zoo as a thank you. Register at Mendon@clean-up or at the event.

• MILFORD-Beautification Day: Thursday, April 25, between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church, East Main St. For more information, visit CitizensofMendon.com.

• UPTON-Community Clean-up: Saturday, April 27, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 10 a.m. registration or at TinyURL.com/UptonC DN, Upton VFW parking lot at 15 Milford St. Also, Upton State Forest Park Serve Day: 9 a.m. to noon, 8:30 a.m. registration or at news@friendsuptonstateforest.org, at 205 Westminster Rd. at the CCC camp parade ground. The Friends of Upton State Forest will provide light refreshments in the morning and a picnic after the event.

BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED Clean-up: Sunday, April 13, 9 a.m. to noon at Blackstone Heritage Corridor, 670 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville. Register at CleanupRBW.org. Eventbrite.com For more information contact bcombs@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org.

There is an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant seeking to change the timing for Milford’s Annual Town Election from early April to November. After looking at the voter turnout in last week’s election, it might be worth trying in order to boost voter turnout.

The argument for the change is that more people vote in fall elections – at least every two years, when there is either a state or a presidential election. (Plus, you’d save money not by having a separate town election.) Look at the following numbers, and you be the judge.

Here are the voter turnout percentages from recent annual town elections:

- 2019: 13 percent
- 2018: 19 percent
- 2017: 17 percent
- 2016: 21 percent
- 2015: 14 percent
- 2014: 24 percent
- 2013: 16 percent
- 2012: 18 percent
- 2011: 13 percent
- 2010: 22 percent

And, here are the turnout percentages when those elections were held:

- November, 2018 state election: 57 percent
- November, 2016 presidential election: 76 percent
- September, 2017 town marijuana vote: 30 percent
- September, 2016 state primary: 73 percent
- March, 2016 presidential primary: 40 percent
- November, 2014 state elections: 50 percent
- September, 2014 state primary: 12 percent
- November, 2013 town casino vote: 57 percent
- April, 2013 special state election: 16 percent
- April, 2013: special state primary: 16 percent
- November, 2012 state election: 73 percent
- March, 2012 presidential primary: 23 percent
- November, 2010 state election: 54 percent
- September, 2010 state primary: percent not listed in town records
- January, 2010 special state election: 55 percent

While the various primary elections definitely had low voter turnout, the “main” November elections did have significantly larger voter turnout.

Social media was abuzz last week with the topic of how to get more people to vote in the annual town election. As someone who fought loudly and proudly in my youth to get the voting age lowered to 18 – in the face of being drafted to go to Vietnam without having a say in it – I cannot understand why don’t vote. It’s a fundamental responsibility of being a citizen.

Yes, moving from April to November will break centuries of tradition. But, that’s not a reason to not give it a serious look.

Pre-Town Meeting Discussed on 30 Minutes

Learn more about the May 15 Pre-Town Meeting by watching the latest episode 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.

Rumination

By Kevin Rudden

Typical roadside trash including plastic and Styrofoam that do not decompose and could remain in the environment for centuries. Area towns are holding clean-up days. Check out the dates and join in with your kids, families and friends.

Monthly Community Meals

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

Second Tuesday 6-7 p.m. Dinner, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by Friends with Food. 508-473-2000

Last Wednesday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8446 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org 5:30 p.m. Community Pasta Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt.135), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Corporation. 508-435-4356 or 50Paul@hopkinton.org.

Every Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Luncheon, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by the St. Vincent DePaul Society. 508-473-2000

Third Thursday 5:30 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation, three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192.

Last Thursday 4:30-6 p.m. Supper, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, sponsored by First Methodist Church of Milford. 508-473-8446 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

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

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

Every Sunday 4:30-6 p.m. Supper, Unitarian Universalist Church, 23 Pine St., Milford. 508-473-3893, or fauminford@verizon.net.
Ruth Anne Bleakney
Senior Center

The Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, located at 60 North Bow St., is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Contact the center by calling 508-473-8334 or emailing sclark@milfordma.com. Sue Trotta Clark is the director.

Monday, April 15
Senior Center Closed for Patriot’s Day

Tuesday, April 16
10 a.m. Book Club, Small Fry, by Lisa Jobs-Brennan

Wednesday, April 17
1 p.m. Powerful Tools for Caregivers Program

Thursday, April 18
12:30 p.m. Healthy Living Luncheon, Topic: Infection Prevention and Importance of Immunizations Presented by Milford Regional Medical Center, $5, Refundable

Monday, April 22
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. Outreach Services
8:30 a.m. Express Muscle & Mat, $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
9:30 a.m. Cribbage
9:30 a.m. Barre Above®, $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold
1:15 p.m. Safe Exercise (Alternative Fridays)

Tuesday, April 23
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by Appointment
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold
11 a.m. Wii Fit
11:45 a.m. pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
12:30 p.m. Turkey Foot Dominoes
1 p.m. Mah Jong

Wednesday, April 24
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by appointment
8:30 a.m. Outreach Services
9 a.m. Zumba Gold Toning
9 a.m. Wellness Nurse
10 a.m. Watercolor Class
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:15 a.m. Fall Prevention Exercise Class
1 p.m. Bingo
1 p.m. Chess

Thursday, April 25
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by Appointment
9 a.m. Knitting and Sewed Class
9 a.m. Wellness Nurse
9 a.m. Yoga
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Line Dancing
1 p.m. Cribbage
1:15 p.m. Safe Exercise

Friday, April 26
8 a.m. Walking Club
8:15 a.m. Advanced Tap Dance (Alternative Friday)
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by Appointment
8:30 a.m. Outreach Services
8:15 a.m. Beginner Tap Dance (Alternative Fridays)
9:15 a.m. Step Dance
9 a.m. Hairdresser/Barber (by Appointment)
10 a.m. Gift Shop
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold
11:45 a.m. Strength and Stretch
12:30 a.m. pound® $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60

**Rate reduced to 3.74% with an automatic payment from a Milford Federal account. Offer valid from April 1 to May 31, 2019. Minimum loan amount is $10,000. 120 payments of $102.12 per $1,000. Interest may be tax deductible, consult your tax advisor. Loans are subject to credit approval. Available for owner occupied 1 to 4 family primary residences. Loans up to 20 years available at highest interest rate. 7.02% APR/10.60% Annual Percentage Rate. Rate effective as of the publication date. Fee for any amount to refuse a deposit or to return all or any part thereof. Offers subject to change without notice.

Treasurer Review Town’s Long-term Debt

By Kevin Radden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The town currently has $48 million in long-term debt borrowed for 26 different projects, with the majority of it to be paid off by Fiscal Year 2040, Town Treasurer Christopher Pilla told the Finance Committee on March 21.

While the town now makes about $5.2 million in annual principal and interest payments on the debt, that annual payment number will decline to $1.1 million by then — roughly the same level of annual long-term debt service the town had before building the new Woodland Elementary School, Pilla explained.

In terms of the possibility of refinancing or paying off some of that debt, Pilla said the town recently refinanced as much debt as it could to take advantage of lower interest rates. And, he added, it makes no sense to take money from the town's long-term savings account — its Stabilization Fund — to pay off any of the debt since the fund currently earns more interest than the town would save by paying down some long-term debt.

Pilla reminded the Finance Committee the town should take each year's savings on long-term debt payments and put it into the Stabilization Fund to build that account up to handle future projects such as renovating or building a new high school. "I think that's a great idea," Chairman Christopher Morin said.

For example, Pilla said, long-term debt payments will decline by $202,552 in Fiscal Year 2021 to roughly $5 million. That $202,552 would then be added to the Stabilization Fund. According to the spreadsheet provided Finance Committee members, his recommendation would mean an addition $1.2 million going into the Stabilization Fund through Fiscal Year 2025.

Municipal fiscal years run from July 1 through June 30 of the following calendar year.

"If we need to borrow in the future, we have that ability," Morin said. Committee member Jerry Hatt said the decline in long-term debt puts the town in great shape to take on debt associated with purchasing the Milford Water Company. That cost is now being determined by the state Department of Public Utilities.

"There is more coming," added committee member Jeffrey Niro, mentioning completing work on the Godfrey Brook retaining walls. "If we need to borrow in the future, we have that ability," Morin said. Committee member Jerry Hatt said the decline in long-term debt puts the town in great shape to take on debt associated with purchasing the Milford Water Company. That cost is now being determined by the state Department of Public Utilities.

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Members of Milford Girl Scout Cadette Troop 30570 were warmly welcomed one wintry Saturday afternoon, by a delicious aroma wafting through from the Pizza Chef on Main St., where owner Alex Voyiatzis awaited them with a friendly smile. The 7th-graders were on a mission to learn about running a business while earning a marketing badge in the process – and they had come to the right place. Voyiatzis said the restaurant is a family owned and run business, which means he and wife Maria, who have worked together since they were 18 put in long hours, working up to 12 hours a day. He said word of mouth is how he markets his business along with working hard to please regular customers by using quality ingredients and making his dough fresh each day. Demonstrating how both the dough mixer and pizza oven operate, Voyiatzis asked each Cadette which ingredients they would like on their custom-built pizzas, while swiftly layering a range of toppings on a freshly made dough. As the girls ate their delicious custom-made pizzas, Voyiatzis advised, "The most successful thing you can do in life – go to school. It gives you options. The more schooling, the more options and you won’t feel stuck and you will be happier in life.”

"..."
The club’s next meeting, May 8, will be in the Grants Room and will highlight items created from Mafat in India. Copies of Mafat in India are available at the Reference Desk for anyone who wishes to take one home and pick a recipe to bring to the May 8 meeting. For more information, call or email Mary Frances 508-473-2415 ext. 219 or mfibs@cemass.org.

Adaptations Book Group
The Adaptations Book Group has successfully adapted. It is now the Online Book Group. To join, visit the MTL’s Facebook page, click on Groups, and request to join. The book currently under discussion is Blindspotting, Red Wolf by Marlon James. Get a copy and chime in—this is the sort of book that gets snapped up by some network and turned into an epic show with a butterfly-season run. Join us at your convenience and share your thoughts.

The Round Table: Poetry for National Poetry Month
April is National Poetry Month, and in celebration, the round table near the Circulation Desk will feature books and a few CDs of poetry and about poets. We have a wonderful collection of poetry here.

On April 18, the Children’s Room will host a Poetry in Your Pocket Day. Stop by and find a poem to carry in your pocket that day or any day.

Spring ESL Classes
Free ESL Stop-in classes continue for adults 16 years and older, no pre-registration. Childcare is not provided and children may not be left unattended in the library. April ESL calendars are at the Circulation and Information Desks.

Beginners: Mondays 6 to 7 p.m., Intermediate I: Tuesdays 7 to 8 p.m., Intermediate II: Tuesdays 8 to 9 p.m.

Reading: Wednesdays 6 to 7 p.m., Grammar: Wednesdays 7 to 8 p.m.

Citizenship Classes
CITIZENSHIP CLASSES, offered by Catholic Charities, will continue on Thursdays, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Enrollment is open and rolling. Classes are free, but the test costs $30.

**SWING into Spring with Kartik Kids & Nina Fit
REGISTER NOW**

Session #4 Classes Begin April 15
Registration is NOW OPEN for Summer 2019!

Classes for ages 18 months to 14 years

Now Booking Birthday Parties

Stop By, Call or Check Out Our Website

• 22 South Street, Ste #205, Hopkinton
• 88C Elm Street, Hopkinton
(508) 435-2400

www.kidsgymnastics.com

Milford Regional Hosts Free Concussion Seminar

Milford Regional Medical Center is offering a free seminar on concussion treatment. The Team Approach: Multidisciplinary Treatment for Concussion will be held Wednesday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. in Room C, located on the ground floor of the main hospital building.

Concussion is a traumatic brain injury that occurs when the brain is shaken, jolted, or jolted to the head and is a common injury in contact sports. Milford Regional’s Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine has implemented a team of sports therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists to address the various symptoms of concussion.

The team will learn and team up to help children return to work, daily activities, recreational activities and sports safely and quickly. The event is free and open to children. To register, go to the “Spotlight” listing on the Classes and Events page at milfordregional.org, or call 508-422-2206.

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70 Main Street • Medway
2 South Maple Street • Bellingham
1 Hammond Street • Mendon
Greenleaf Garden Club Member (GGC), Teddi Weber, interpreted the title “Warm Breezes” with her airy design at the Boston Flower and Garden Show. Judges commented that it was an “innovative and creative interpretation” of the theme. Composed of all foliage and all fresh plant material, several new techniques for manipulating leaves were used to create other forms and looks for her presentation. The all foliage design used largely green leaves—aspidistra, lily grass and foxtail ferns. Weber introduced color with Ti leaves, leucodendron and dusty miller. She created a captivating, breezy impression with much rhythm and contrast in texture and received an Honorable Mention. The Greenleaf Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For information about the club, email greenleafgardencode@gmail.com.

**Touch A Vernal Pool**

UXBRIDGE—Enjoy Big Night on Saturday, April 13 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at West Hill Dam. Park Rangers will lead an exploration, up close and personal, of a typical Massachusetts vernal pool. Learn what do salamanders and wood frogs look like crossing fields and roads as they migrate to vernal pools for spring mating. Learn about the sounds of the wood frogs mating and more. Meet at the West Hill Dam office, 518 East Hartford Ave, Uxbridge. Dress for the weather, rain or shine this program will take place and bring a flashlight. Nets are not permitted.

Youth under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants will view a brief slide show of vernal pool characteristics and indicator species. A one-mile hike will discover several vernal pools to observe wood frogs.

For more information, contact Ranger Viola Bramel at 978-318-8417. Junior Rangers Level 2, earn wildlife credit.

**Electronics Recycling Day**

The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The church will ensure that 99 percent of dropped off items will be recycled and reused.

All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories as well as any office equipment, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and any audio/video devices or electronics including televisions can be recycled; fees range from $5 to $35 per item. Cash payments only.

The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them.

A drive-through process will allow those donating to quickly drop off these items where help will be available. The First Congregational Church Electronics Recycling event is held twice a year during May and September.

For more information, contact Martha at 508-904-4471

**Transplanting and Dividing Perennials**

The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford will host Suzanne Mahler, avid gardener, photographer and lecturer at the April 22, meeting at the Ruth Ann Blakesley Senior Center, 60 N. Bow St., Milford. The meeting will start with refreshments and displays at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation will start at 7 p.m. Entitled, Dividing and Transplanting Perennials, her presentation will give information and advice for division of perennials in the garden including the best time to divide and plant. Mahler will demonstrate “tools of the trade” and methods of division.

Mahler has been developing her own acre garden for 40 years with extensive collections of woody plants and perennials. Among Mahler’s favorites are daylilies and she is one of the Club’s most frequent and enthusiastic perennial offerings. Mahler will demonstrate her techniques with plants displayed to the audience. Participants will be given opportunities to practice their newly learned skills.

**Dividing and Planting Perennials**

March 22, meeting at the Ruth Ann Bleakney Senior Center, 60 N. Bow St., Milford. The meeting will start with refreshments and displays at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation will start at 7 p.m. Entitled, Dividing and Transplanting Perennials, her presentation will give information and advice for division of perennials in the garden including the best time to divide and plant. Mahler will demonstrate “tools of the trade” and methods of division.

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**Springs has sprung!**

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- Pool & Spa Heating
- Insect Control

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117 Wood Street, Hopkinton
Selectmen Adjust Downtown Façade Requirements

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Selectmen unanimously agreed at their March 20 meeting to keep the enforcement of zoning requirements for signs at downtown businesses at the same level it’s been for the past several decades: No enforcement at all.

The vote came after a lengthy discussion with members of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, who said some downtown building owners are balking at participating in the grant-funded façade upgrade program because of a town requirement that they have to bring their buildings into full zoning compliance. “Basically, every building downtown is in violation,” Chairman Ronald Pagnini said. Coming up to code would mean removing every sign in their store windows – even those listing whether they are open or their hours of operation, he explained. “That’s not practical and it’s not reasonable,” Pagnini added.

“The façade program is currently constrained by unreasonable sign requirements,” Peter Moynihan, a member of the revitalization committee, said.

The committee has a June 30 deadline to spend $150,000 in state grant funding, and the zoning requirement is preventing the façade program from helping eight to 10 building owners, he explained. While the long-term goal is “to get rid of clutter in the windows,” Pagnini said the town should not impose that burden on just those participating in the program. That would be “a deterrent to some property owners” wanting to participate, he said.

Pagnini asked, “If some common sense could be brought into this.”

He termed it a “tough task” to correct 30 years of zoning violations. “This is going to take time,” Pagnini said, advocating an ongoing campaign to address the issue and doing it “in a positive way.”

Town Administrator Richard Villani urged selectmen to “tread lightly,” noting they do not have the power to suspend enforcement. Both he and Selectmen Chairman Michael Walz wanted to consult with Town Counsel Charles Boddy before taking any action on the Downtown Revitalization Committee’s request.

Selectman William Kingkade said the goal is to make the facade improvement program successful, and questioned why zoning should be enforced now when it has not been for decades. Starting enforcement now is “working against us” and the town could lose the grant funding, he said.

Boddy inserted the requirement into the agreement with building owners to gain zoning compliance, Selectman William Buckley said. But now, based on feedback from the Downtown Revitalization Committee, the easiest solution is to remove the requirement so participants are not singled out for selective enforcement, he noted. Buckley continued then all building owners would receive the same level of enforcement – none. “I don’t think we’re selectively enforcing at that point,” he said. And, he noted, “The Building Inspector’s department doesn’t have the bandwidth to go down there and enforce that issue. Kingkade said that brings up the issue of properly staffing that department. “One and a half people can’t do the amount of inspections work that this community needs,” he said. Buckley stressed that health and safety issues are still being addressed by the inspectors. The board’s final decision was to consult Boddy about removing the language in the contracts with building owners and to maintain the same level of signage enforcement for all downtown businesses – none.
Search Committee Requesting $50,000 Budget

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Police Chief Search Committee will request $50,000 at the Annual Town Meeting to fund job advertisements, consultants and travel to candidates’ work communities as it searches for Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin’s replacement. The chief’s contract expires on June 30.

As the committee met on March 26 for its second meeting, it had to take a second vote to name Selectman Dino DeBartolomeis as its chairman. Town Administrator Richard Villani told committee members that Town Counsel Charles Boddy felt the committee’s March 12 vote selecting DeBartolomeis — taken by secret ballot at committee member Donato “Dan” Niro’s request — should have been made to open session. Once re-named chairman, DeBartolomeis made sure all committee members had been sworn in and received relevant Conflict of Interest law information.

Making sure the new chief has the right budget expertise is going to be important because, “Besides the School Department, it’s one of the biggest budgets, DeBartolomeis said. The current Police Department budget is $6.7 million, O’Loughlin said, noting, “If you don’t manage the budget, you can’t manage the people.”

O’Loughlin distributed information about the Police Department to the committee: a departmental organization chart, its budget process, its promotion process and his current job description as updated by the Personnel Board in 2015. “I think you can draw a strong candidate pool and we should expect the best,” he said.

The 2015 job description should be updated, and other communities’ job descriptions should be looked at for comparison, committee members said. DeBartolomeis noted committee member Jodie Nosiglia, a Human Resources professional, is working with Maureen Giffin, the town’s Human Resources director, to obtain them.

Scott Harrison, Personnel Board chair, asked O’Loughlin what has changed about his job since the 2015 job description was written. O’Loughlin listed the opioid epidemic and having Naran in police cruisers, grant-writing, labor relations about having Naran and juvenile issues. Committee member Richard Heller said his brother was on the last search committee and provided information about hiring a consultant and having a six-month hiring timeline. “I just think it’s something we ought to do,” Heller said about hiring a consultant. Niro agreed, adding the committee needs a list of publications in which to place advertisements. O’Loughlin provided that list.

Both DeBartolomeis and Niro said they separately came up with a budget of $50,000 for hiring a consultant, advertising and travel. Heller had noted the last committee had a $20,000 budget nearly 20 years ago. The committee’s goal will be to have an updated job description and job advertisements written so that the Police’s Chief’s position can be advertised as soon as possible after the May 20 Annual Town Meeting.

The search committee’s next meeting will be April 9 at 7 p.m., preceded by a 6 p.m. tour of the Police Department on Main St.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Finalized

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Town Meeting Members will be voting on 25 warrant articles at the May 20 Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen approved the final version of the warrant at its March 20 meeting.

In addition to the articles that are voted upon annually, other articles on the warrant are:

- Article 9: Raise and appropriate up to $60,000 to purchase and equip a new Fire Department staff car.
- Article 10: Raise and appropriate up to $43,000 to purchase a new truck for the Parks Department.
- Article 11: Increase the membership of the Board of Selectmen from three to five, subject to a ballot vote.
- Article 12: Accept a state law that authorizes the town to contribute the same percentage toward a surviving spouse’s health insurance as was paid to toward an employee or retiree’s health insurance.
- Article 13: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, additional funding for the legal, engineering or other expert consulting services necessary to effectuate the final acquisition, and transfer, of the Milford Water Company and its assets to the town.
- Article 14: Authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to amend the state law creating the Milford Geriatric Authority by eliminating the requirement for the authority to make payments to the town in lieu of taxes.
- Article 15: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, funds to pay an interim Police Chief.
- Article 16: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, funding for the Police Chief Search Committee’s general expenses.
- Article 17: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, money to pay for contractual increases in the collective bargaining agreement between the town and cemetery employees.
- Article 18: Authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to move the Annual Town Election date to November.
- Article 19: Authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek special legislation to obtain an addition Wine & Malt Beverages license for Canvas n Cup, LLC at 189 Main St.
- Article 20: Rescind the 1990 acceptance of a law allowing the non-criminal penalties and disposition of abandoned motor vehicles.
- Article 21: Amend the Zoning By-law to allow “projecting” signs.
- Article 22: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, money to pay for contractual increases in the collective bargaining agreement between the town and the Milford Police Association.
- Article 23: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, money to pay off the snow and ice removal deficit in the current budget.

In addition to the articles that are voted upon annually, other articles on the warrant are:

Warrant articles.

- Article 23: Raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, funds to pay for contractual increases in the collective bargaining agreement between the town and the Milford Police Association.

A Pre-Town Meeting Forum, sponsored by the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee, will be held at 7 p.m. on May 15 in the Town Hall to provide an opportunity to answer questions about warrant articles.
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board on March 19 approved an amended site plan for Imperial Hyundai at 154-148 East Main St. – over Chairman Joseph Calagione’s objections. At issue was the removal of landscaping along the parking lot bordering one-way Hamilton Avenue. John Nenart, a civil engineer with The Meehan Group, explained that Imperial Hyundai had received a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to remove the landscaping, provide the auto dealer erect signs on both sides of Hamilton Ave. to prevent people from driving the wrong way toward East Main St. (Rt. 16) In addition, he said, the ZBA required a painted line along the Hamilton Ave. edge of the parking lot so drivers would know where the road ended.

“There’s no safety issue here,” Nenart said. “It’s been like that for 40 years.” Retorted Calagione, “And we’ve been trying to fix it for 40 years.” Calagione explained the Planning Board has worked hard over the past decade to close up large curb-cut areas at businesses around town as they come before the board for approvals. When the car dealer’s building was being rented out for use by a gym, he added, the requirement was imposed for a landscaped buffer area along Hamilton Ave. The chairman and Town Planner Larry Dunkin also said the ZBA’s decision may have allowed removing the landscape buffer, but it did not specifically cite two sections of the town’s Zoning By-law regarding limiting curb cuts and backing out onto public ways. Calagione wanted Imperial Hyundai to go back to the ZBA for relief from those two sections of the by-law. “I absolutely think the board is being so picky here,” Nenart said. He described the area in question as a “vehicle display” area, “not a parking lot.” He added “curb cuts” are clearly defined as being associated with driveway openings.

“We believed we had the curb cut corrected when there was a landscaped buffer,” board member Patrick Kennelly said. “You’re not wrong,” he told Calagione, but added the ZBA granted the approval to remove the buffer. Kennelly also said, “I’m not going to cry over spilled milk.” Kennelly requested Imperial Hyundai put “hash parks” and the words “Display Cars Only” along Hamilton Ave. Nenart agreed. Dunkin asked for a “mountable curb” along Hamilton Ave.

By a 4-1 vote, the board approved the amended site plan with the condition that Nenart erect the signs on the building and put stenciled signs on each parking space.

Walsh Re-elected Selectman

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Writer/Columnist

Milford’s voters put Michael Walsh back on the Board of Selectmen for another three years in the April 2 Annual Town Election. James Ligor and John Erickson were elected to the School Committee. Overall, 2,266 voters – 13 percent of registered voters – went to the polls.

“You try to do the right thing,” is how Walsh described the reason for his victory. He pointed to his election message that he was running “because I care.” Walsh easily outdistanced his challenger, Armi Clifford, with 1,745 votes to her 449.

In the six-way contest for two available seats on the School Committee, Ligor was the top vote-getter, winning re-election with 982 votes. Erickson – who previously served on the school board – received 808 votes, earning him another term. The other candidates’ vote totals were: R.J. Sherry: 703; Michael Visconti: 513; Tarik Miranda: 495; and, Justin Dulak: 370.

In the other contested races, Margaret Myatt (1,186 votes) and Stephanie Abisla (998) won the two available seats on the Board of Library Trustees. Scott Vecchiolla trailed them with 928 voters. All five incumbent constables were re-elected: Joseph Arcudi (1,373 votes), Mark Calzolaio (1,260), Raymond Pagucci (1,243), Nadine Ladeau (1,243), and, Justin Dulak: 370.

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Passover Services
Chabad House Jewish Community Center
34 Cedar St., Milford, 508-473-1299
The community is invited to join one, or both of the Community Seders on April 19, 7 p.m.
First Night’s Seder:
A 90-minute Seder on Cedar
The Seder on the first evening is reserved for anyone (kids included) who want to “do the Seder” in record time. Complete Seder and four course dinner (brisket, and more) with family fun activities to keep the children and adults stimulated. The children get to ask (and sing) the Mah Nishtana Limited space.
First-come-first-serve.
April 20, 9:15 p.m.
Second Night’s Seder:
The Traditional, Kivman style
The Seder begins later, and incorporates all the traditional customs, explanations and songs. Complete four-course meal.
For reservations or more information about the traditional customs, explanations and songs. Complete four-course meal.
Sign-up for anyone (kids included) who want to “do the Seder” in record time.
Complete four-course meal.
NOW HIRING 10+ DRIVERS
Transportation Drivers AND 7D School Van Drivers and Monitors needed (Milford, MA area)
WE HAVE 10 POSITIONS AVAILABLE
OPENINGS BETWEEN 20 – 39 HOURS
SIGN-ON BONUS
(New applicant sign on bonuses. Restrictions apply, Inquire at office.)
$1,300 bonus if you have a valid 7D License
$1,000 bonus if you do not have a 7D license
WANTED:
• Regular transportation drivers – no special licenses required.
• 7D drivers wanted to transport students to and from school in company vehicles. If you are interested but do not have a 7D License we have all the paperwork to get your license and walk you through the process. It’s very easy.
• Must be 21 years old and have a valid driver license for at least three years.
• Hours are early morning and mid afternoon.
• This is a part-time job.
• Great if you are retired! Shifts available from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

St. Mary of the Assumption Church
18 Winter St.
508-473-2000
Rev. Peter Joyce
Mass, English, Upper Church, 7:30 a.m.
Mass, Portuguese, Upper Church, 9 a.m.
Mass, English, Upper Church, 10:30 a.m.
Mass, Spanish, Upper Church, 12 p.m.
Mass, English, Upper Church, 6 p.m.
Monday, April 15
Mass, Lower Church, 9 a.m.
Tuesday, April 16
Mass, Lower Church, 9 a.m.
Confessions, Lower Church 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17
Mass, Lower Church, 9 a.m.
Confessions, Upper Church, 11 a.m. to Noon and 4 to 5 p.m.
Holy Thursday, Sacred Triduum, April 18
Good Friday, Sacred Triduum, April 19
Holy Saturday, April 20
Palm Sunday Services, 10 a.m.
Easter Sunday, April 21
Holy Week Masses—Good Friday, April 19
Mass, English, Upper Church, 9 a.m.
Mass, Portuguese, Upper Church, 12 p.m.
Mass, Spanish, Upper Church, 6 p.m.
Holy Week, April 21
Palm Sunday Mass, 10 a.m.
Easter Sunday, April 21
Memorial Mass for the late Rev. Dr. Jane Wilson
Easter Services, 10 a.m.

Milford Easter Services
Salvation Army
29 Congress St.
508-473-0786
Easter Sunday, April 21
Sunday School and Breakfast, 10 a.m.
Worship Service at 11 a.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church
17 Congress St.
508-473-0063
Rev. William MacDonald
Palm Sunday, April 14
Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m.
Community Blessing of the Palms at Draper Park, 9:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 17
Holy Eucharist in the Lane Chapel, 9 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 18
Dinner, Foot Washing, Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, Start of the Vigil, 6:30 p.m.
The Watch, All Night Vigil in the Church, 9 p.m.
Good Friday, April 19
A Community Service with Seven Clergy from the greater Milford area offering meditation.
The Last Seven Words of Christ from the Cross, 12 to 3 p.m.
Clergy Participant from the Congregation of St. John</p>
A Tribute to Robin Williams with Roger Kabler

MENDON-Noted impersonator Roger Kabler visits Mendon at 7 p.m on Thursday, April 25 for a night of laughs in a tribute to Robin Williams. The program for mature audiences, sponsored by the Taft Public Library, will be held at the Mendon Town Hall. Kabler has been performing as a comedian for over 30 years. His tribute show will be the subject of an upcoming motion picture entitled Being Robin. Since launched, the site has been registered by legalese and other legal resources. For more information or to donate, visit ThanksToYanks.org, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

The Italian Immigrant in Milford: Your Story and Mine

MILFORD-Dr. Anna Marenghi, author of the acclaimed Milford-based memoir Glad Farm, will deliver a timely presentation on the Italian immigrant story, and a discussion on why it is so relevant today on Monday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall, 30 School St. Marenghi, whose 2016 launch of her popular memoir at Milford Town Library drew a standing-room-only crowd, is currently working on a prequel to her memoir, based in part on her grandparent’s voyage from the province of Parma, Italy, to Milford in the late 1890s, "The Italian Immigrant in Milford: Your Story and Mine." Marenghi said, "I welcome the greater Milford community to a brief presentation on the story of Italian immigrants in Milford, part of the first great Italian diaspora. I also encourage everyone to bring their own family immigration stories to share with others. I will review all immigrants to America, from every nation, how much they have in common. All they make the heartbreaking decision to leave their homeland, and they have every overwhelming desire to live the American dream, work hard, and build a better life for their families."

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

Fundraiser for Family Immigration Stories

MILFORD-The Friends of the Milford Town Library will be holding their semiannual book sale on Thursday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members of the Friends may also participate in the sale on Friday, April 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. Membership is $10 per year and may be paid at the door. 2000 books are available, from bestsellers to nonfiction, children's books, audio books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles and board games. Prices are 50¢ for mass-market (small pocket-size) paperbacks and $1 for hardcovers and trade (large-sized) paperbacks in the adult section. All children's books are $2 for two and have a great chance to gather books for beach reading, entertaining visiting grandchildren, or to lower the cost of required school reading, all while helping the Friends fund programs, museum passes and materials for the Library. To donate items, please bring them to the Milford Town Library before the sale. Textbooks that are more than five years old or Readers Digest condensed books are not accepted.
BVT Students Earn 95 Medals at SkillsUSA District Conference

In the first stage of the SkillsUSA competition series, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) students showcased their technical mastery and brought 33 gold, 31 silver, and 31 bronze medals home from the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Conference.

BVT students are honored to compete among the Commonwealth’s most talented vocational technical students in the annual SkillsUSA competitions. These events operate as showcases for vocational technical education. Students compete with their peers in hands-on technical exams designed and judged by industry leaders and experts. Lauren Flynn, a sophomore from Upton in Multimedia Communications (Web Design) said, “At Districts I learned a lot and advanced my skills in my trade. I had a lot of fun talking to other people in my competition and I met a lot of new people in my trade.”

The 2019 series kicked off for Valley Tech students on March 13, when Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School hosted the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference. Competing against more than 900 vocational technical students from 46 schools, 95 Valley Tech students won medals and four students earned perfect scores on their trade testing.

Following their strong district-level performance, there are 68 district competitors moving on as well as two State Officer Candidates. Twenty-two BVT students will compete in leadership events at the Massachusetts State Leadership and Skills Conference on April 26. Additionally, 25 students will serve as delegates for Valley Tech officer candidates.

Blackstone Valley Tech will once again host the state championships in which students compete for the honor of representing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the SkillsUSA championships in which students compete for the honor of being named the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State Officer Candidate. Twenty-two BVT students will compete in leadership events at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference.

By Melissa Orff

Hopedale
State Office Candidate: Madeleine Poitras
Gold: Eli Moore, Culinary Arts; Victor Stabili, HVAC/R
Silver: Lily Allen, Commercial Baking; Gabriel Chavez-Silva, HVAC/R
Bronze: Meghan Leporati, Technical Computer Applications; Chloe Pigozzi, Dental Assisting

Mendon
Gold: Selah Harper, Nursing Assisting; Zachary Riverlander, Mobile Robotics
Silver: Christopher Aurelio, Photography; Jacqueline DiCecco, Culinary Arts
Bronze: Stephen Morelli, Automotive Service Technology

Milford
Gold: Demitri Almeida, Telecommunications Cabling; Erin Bethel, Health Knowledge Bowl; Christopher Calvas, Urban Search & Rescue
Silver: Logan Keefe, Digital Cinema Production; Josiah Ramirez, Collision Repair Technology; Michael Viera, Nurse Assisting; Jeffrey Wing, Major Appliance Technology
Bronze: Michael Boone, Collision Repair Technology; Willow Harvey, Customer Service; Christopher Mason, Urban Search & Rescue; Cameron Polleritt, Mechatronics; Pamela Pereira, Web Design; Joseph Tutela, Commercial Baking

Upton
Gold: Ryan Conrad, Health Knowledge Bowl; Mackenzie LeClaire, Photography; Patrick Ober, Robotics & Automation Tech
Silver: Adam Dickey, Mechatronics; Aidan Luetkemeyer, Diesel Equipment Technology; Jacob Martin, Automotive Service Technology; Noah Stallcup, Robotics & Automation Tech
Bronze: Mark Driver, Web Design; Chloe Fallon, Urban Search & Rescue

APRIL 12, 2019

Milford Town Crier

School News

Blackstone Valley Legislators Advocate for BVT Funding

A group of Blackstone Valley legislators are encouraging the Baker administration to release $4 million in funding to support the expansion of Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT). The funding was authorized as part of a bond bill passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor last year.

The funding would enable BVT to maximize capacity in existing career technical programs by adding academic classrooms needed to complement available space in vocational technical shops. In addition to addressing waitlist issues, the building expansion would also allow for the addition of two new vocational programs.

“The economy in the Heart of the Commonwealth continues to grow, the influx of new employers and job opportunities to our region means we must be prepared to support a strong, skilled workforce that meets the needs of the labor market,” said State Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Milbury).

“Blackstone Regional Vocational Technical High School District, with its documented return on investment, annually earns unanimous support from its thirteen member communities for its operational budget,” said BVT Superintendent-Director Michael Fitzpatrick. “However, limited resources of its municipalities do not allow or provide capital funding. The school district aggressively pursues competitive grants and donations and even self- funds roof repair projects; and Valley Tech has been recognized by the Massachusetts School Building Authority for its cost-effective approaches.

“The commitment of these funds to Blackstone Valley Tech and our district will help create opportunities for students and the future of Worcester County,” said State Senator Ryan C. Fattman (R-Sutton).

Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School receives between 800 to 1,000 in-district applications for the 300 available seats in the freshman class. The school district is widely known to have the longest waitlist for enrollment out of any of the secondary school vocational technical programs in the Commonwealth. Currently, there are more than 500 candidates on the freshmen waitlist for the next school year.

BVT is one of the leading vocational training schools in Massachusetts. The school was recognized this year by the American Association of School Administrators as one of the top twenty-five state vocational technical schools in the United States. Recently, BVT was also named as the only school in New England to earn distinguished system designation by the Project Lead the Way professional organization.

MHS Bans Cells Phones and Smart Watches During School

By Melissa Orff

Staff Reporter

Students at Milford High School (MHS) have to power down their cellphones and smartwatches during the school day after a new cell phone policy was implemented on April 1.

Milford High School Principal Joshua Otlin presented his new cell phone policy during the March 28 School Committee Meeting. He got unanimous approval from the members.

“When I arrived at MHS [in 2017], the position I established with my colleagues was nuanced,” said Otlin, who explained for the most part, he left the rules and discipline up to the teachers to establish and how it was used in the classrooms. “It became clear that this approach was not the right fit for my school as we saw the ‘out of control’ use of cell phones in the classrooms. “It was becoming clear that this approach was no longer the case in the classroom. Our teachers and students want to use their devices to enhance the learning experience in the classroom. " I think this is a great idea, “ said Chairperson Joseph Callery. " I work in the private sector and we have a cell phone policy...it hinders what employees can do. This policy is more about getting focused on learning and getting the job done."

While phones are useful in many areas of life, this is no longer the case in the classroom. Our community has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in Chromebooks to ensure that all students have access to essential technological tools for learning,” said Otlin. “Today, cellphones are simply interfering with the important work at hand.”

Before the vote, several School Committee Members voiced their approval for the new policy.

“My colleagues and I all recognize that this will be a challenging adjustment for our school community,” Otlin wrote in an email to students and their parents on March 28, explaining the new policy.

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“We think this is a great idea,” said Chairperson Joseph Callery. “I work in the private sector and we have a cell phone policy...it hinders what employees can do. This policy is more about getting focused on learning and getting the job done.”

While agreeing with the policy, School Committee Member Jen Parson said it is also incumbent on parents to discuss the matter with their children. “I don’t think it will be about students not wanting to be complaint, but these habits are so much a part of their routine, she said, adding “This isn’t just a teacher issue. This is a community issue, it’s a family issue.”

Since the policy went into effect, Otlin said only a small percent of students have not complied, adding it has been a “positive” first week. In a email to The Town Crier Otlin noted, “Given that, we’ve had 94 percent of our students fully cooperating and that’s a testament to our students’ maturity and character.”
Hands on Learning Experience for BVT Students

Having a well-trained workforce is an essential part of any construction project. The unique fusion of academic and career technical learning at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) gives its students a competitive advantage when they enter the workforce. Led by Tom Lemon, an instructor with the New England Laborers’ Training Academy in Hopkinton, 17 juniors in the BVT Construction Technology program participated in an intensive week long pre-apprenticeship training program.

This training is currently available to schools across the Commonwealth through the New England Laborers Training Trust Fund with a contract awarded through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. This is the largest pre-apprenticeship program in Massachusetts for the highway construction field.

“The average age of most workers in the construction industry is in the mid 50’s, as those workers retire, we need to address the aging workforce and the need for skilled laborers. We are trying to create a pipeline of tradesmen and women that are interested in establishing careers on MassDOT highway construction projects through this program,” explains Lemon.

“As a female in Construction Technologies, I have learned a variety of very helpful skills and have explored many career paths in the industry ranging from labor work to management and design,” said Annabelle O’Reilly of Hopedale. “With my classmates and instructors at Valley Tech supporting me and helping me grow as a craftswoman, I feel capable of so much, and I am grateful to have this hands-on learning experience. I was not given less opportunity or less labor work due to my gender; Mr. Lemon saw I was a carpentry student interested in gaining as much information and skill as possible. This allowed me to get a better sense of my interests in Construction. This equality is a core component of BVT, where nontraditional students are not out of the ordinary.

During the pre-apprenticeship training program BVT students learned industry specific skills through various training modules such as work zone safety, how to line and grade paved surfaces, CPR/first aid and AED certification, and construction math which were part of this unique weeklong experience.

“Having the chance to learn first-hand from some of the leading construction laborers in the Commonwealth is a great opportunity,” said Justin Braza of Milford. “I was able to gain real work experience which I enjoyed, apprenticeship hours, and CPR renewal & recertification all while still here in high school, which will help me in the long-run.”

The program concluded last week with Hands on Concrete, a module, where our students under the direction of Lemon constructed a form for a single concrete panel using one standard 2 x 4 x 8 piece of lumber, nails and a hammer. Nathan Curran of Millbury said, “It was a great time learning concrete work. I had an amazing experience and learned lots of new things.” He and several of his classmates said that having this opportunity to see and experience the work done by the laborers in person gave them valuable insight about the possibility of pursuing this industry as a career path themselves.

Instructor Thomas Lemon directs Annabelle O’Reilly of Hopedale to screed the concrete using a piece of 2 x 4. BVT photo

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More Sleep Time for Milford Students Could Be Coming

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

Milford Public Schools students may be able to get extra shut-eye starting as early as the 2021 school year as the district contemplates changing school start times.

Over the past year, a subcommittee has been looking into the potential of having later start times, especially at the middle and high schools, allowing adolescents more much-needed sleep. The subcommittee of teachers, administrators, community members and students spent their time researching data on teens and sleep, surveying other area schools to determine their start and end times, and surveying teachers, parents, and students in the district on the issue.

“The results were mixed,” said Craig Consigli, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, who presented the findings of the School Start Time Subcommittee at the March 28 School Committee Meeting. Although the survey received over 2,900 responses, Consigli said initial review of the data revealed although the survey received over 2,900 responses, Consigli said initial review of the data revealed

Although the survey received over 2,900 responses, Consigli said initial review of the data revealed that a later start time for high school students would mean a later end time that is a much more complex issue then at first glance, “he said. “There could be implications for parents work schedules.”

“We acknowledge there are barriers to overcome [with both options],” said Consigli.

He noted the barriers are significant since they include athletic schedules, after school jobs for high school students, and teacher’s contracts.

“We realize that household management would change, traffic in town is going to change, before and after school care is going to change,” he said. “There could be implications for parents work schedules.”

But having these discussions so early in the process will allow families to talk about and consider the start time change that could still be a few years out.

“I see this as something that over the next 10 years is going to become the norm; that all districts will move in this direction based on research,” said Consigli. “It will take some brave districts to move forward with it first in order for it to take hold.”

School Committee Member Jen Levine majoring in Liberall Studies/Education.

Consigli agreed that there are still many things to consider and that the district would not want to make the shift at the expense of families. “This is a much more complex issue then at first glance,” he said.

The topic will be introduced again during a May meeting for further discussion.

MHS Connections Seeking Volunteers

The Milford MA Foundation for Education (MMFFE) is seeking community volunteers to serve as mentors to high school students beginning in the fall of 2019. MMFFE will hold four information sessions for prospective mentors in May of 2019.

Earlier this year, MMFFE and Milford High School collaborated to launch Connections, a pilot mentoring program that supports students as they prepare for success after high school. The primary focus of Connections is “college readiness” and “college completion.” Connections specifically targets college-bound, first generation, lower income families. Decades of research illustrate that these students have noticeably low college-completion rates. By helping students develop clear goals and plans for post-secondary education and career exploration, these mentoring programs can increase the odds of successful college-completion.

The high school invites a group of students to participate in this program. The participating student meets with a trained volunteer mentor, called a Connector, approximately two-three times per month for a one-hour session. These meetings typically take place at the high school, during school hours, but arrangements can be made to conduct sessions during after school hours. In addition to guest speakers and special-topic presentations, mentors and students also participate in off-site excursions, such as college visits, job-shadowing, and other relevant enrichment activities.

Community volunteer mentors are matched with a student in Grade 9 and commit to mentor that student for all four years of high school. The Foundation seeks prospective mentors who completed college and/or supported children in completing college, currently serve in professions requiring a college-degree or are retired from such a profession, are willing to participate in a mentor training program and are able to fulfill this long-term commitment. To learn more about the program, four mentors - Lisa White, Christine Scafidi, Christine Daddario and Eric Rodrigues – worked with seven students in the Class of 2022. The program was launched under the direction of MHS principal Joshua Otlin and Tony Chinappi, a retired Milford educator.

Four to eight new mentors are needed to work with students in the Class of 2023. New mentors will participate in training sessions in August and September and start serving in October. Information sessions for prospective mentors will be held on Tuesday, May 2, at 3 p.m. and Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the Milford High School Media Center. For more information about the Connections and upcoming information sessions, please contact Chinappi, 508-735-7272 or tonychinappi@yahoo.com; or Otlin at 508-478-1110.

Dean’s List

The following Milford students were named to the Dean’s List at their respective colleges or universities.

Endicott College. Beverly-Hannah Currie majoring in Hotel Management; Megan Larouco majoring in Nursing; and Jennifer Levine majoring in Liberal Arts Studies/Education.

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Milford Girls LAX
Challenging Top Teams

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School girls lacrosse team is led by a new coach and a senior group this season and the combination has the Scarlet Hawks in position to challenge some of the stronger teams in the Hockomock League. MHS started the season 1-2, earning an 11-3 win over Assabet Valley Tech in the first week of the year. ‘It was good for them to see they could do it and they could pull it off,’ said head coach Nicole Serra. ‘Even against the teams they feel might be stronger than ours, we scared them a little bit. We put up a good fight and to have the girls see what they are capable of was good to see.”

Milford has battled through some early season injuries and illnesses but Serra praised her group as one that “really loves the sport” and that has a genuine excitement for the game. “We have a strong group of seniors this year, which is exciting,” the first-year head coach said. “I wish I got to work with them more in the past.”

In the Assabet win, the Hawks started strong and only got stronger as the game went on. Serra said she pressured the team to continue to work on winning races to loose balls. Brana Maeieta picked up a sock trip — lacrosse lingo for scoring six goals in a single game. “She was awesome, a powerhouse,” Serra said. “She just kept going to the goal.” In addition to Maeieta, Serra has been impressed with a number of her players so far, including another senior, Emily Haley. “She is so fast and is a very good player too, with phenomenal skill,” the coach said. “She has been playing for a long time and should continue playing the future.”

SeniorSophiaBucalhasbeenanotherforceonthetacland"Serra said. "She has worked really hard and she is someone who entered the season competition for the top four athletes from each team. The Scarlet Hawks totaled 14 runs, 19 hits and only six strikeouts through their first two games. “The hitting is usually so far behind the pitching at this point, but we have come out and swung the bats well over the first two games,” said head coach Alex Dion.

Milford shut out Sharon 8-0 in the season opener before falling 5-4 against Franklin in the second game of the year. First baseman Nick Wimmete totaled four hits though the first two games. Senior shortstop Matt Shaver added three hits, including a double and four runs batted in. Another captain, Dan Corsini, added three hits with a pair of RBIs and two runs scored. Several other players had two hits through the first couple of games, Dion said. “Everyone for the most part has put together some quality at bats,” Dion said. “I feel like out lineup is a lot deeper than it was last year, we don’t have to rely on one or two guys.”

Corsini also turned in an impressive pitching performance for MHS, pitching six innings of one-hit baseball and struck out six in the win over Sharon. Marco Lee had the advantage of each of Milford’s first two games and Wimmete has also taken the mound. “We have gotten to see four different guys throw,” Dion said. “We have had some guys get their feet wet early and get their first taste of varsity experience.”

Summing up the season so far, Dion said, “I am OK with where we are at right now.”

Milford returns eight players from last year’s team and, with Dion also back for his second year leading the program, has been able to pick up the system and meet expectations more quickly. “We talked a lot last year about the culture I wanted to build and what my expectations are, bringing guys back has made the transition easier,” Dion said. “They know what we do and what I expect, they know we want them to expect in terms of effort and accountability. We have a good group that has returned and they can help the process so get the new guys on board with it more quickly”

“Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it.” — George Halas

George Stanley Halas Sr., nicknamed “Papa Bear” and “Mr. Everything,” was a player, coach, and owner involved with professional American football. He was the founder, owner, and head coach of the National Football League’s Chicago Bears.

MHS Softball Trusting in the Process

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

On a team with so many newcomers this spring, the Milford High Softball team is seemingly borrowing a mantra from the Philadelphia 76ers of the NBA, “trust the process.”

“The process is going to win,” said head coach Alex Dion. “We have gotten to see four different guys throw," Dion said. “We have had some guys get their feet wet early and get their first taste of varsity experience.”

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Maspension Rod and Gun Club
Wins Air Pistol Competition

Maspension Rod and Gun Club of Milford defeated Denmer Center Air Pistol Spartans of Lansing, Mich. 1430 to 1404 in the National Air Pistol League. With the win, Maspension Rod and Gun Club is in second place overall with a 5-2 record. Maspension Rod and Gun Club was led by, Rya Salan who shot a 368. Other participating members were Logan Quinn, Manuel Snyderman, and Zuzu Demetrius, all coached by Snyderman.

Denner Center Air Pistol Spartans is in 4th place with a 4-2 record. They were led by Judy Tant who shot a 358.

The two teams competed in the National Air Pistol League, sponsored by the Orion Scoring System. Eight games are held during a 10-week period, which each team paired with another team with a near equal win-loss record. In each game, teams compete to shoot air pistol matches. This competition is nearly identical to the Air Pisto events in the Olympic games. Each athlete shoots 40 shots, with each shot worth a maximum of 10 points. The sum of points scored in the 40 shots is the athlete’s total. The team score is comprised of the best four athletes from each team.

For more information on the league, visit OrionScoringSystem.com/AirPistolLeague.

MHS Boys Tennis
Doubles Roster for 2019

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School boys’ tennis team enters the new season with nearly twice as many athletes on the team as last season and a renewed focus on success both on and off the court. The Scarlet Hawks did not have any seniors on last year’s roster and added some first-year players from other classes, as well as several freshmen, to bring the total roster to 17. The top two singles players, Brendan O’Sullivan and Brennan Doherty, return and are set to lead the MHS lineup.

“It is still early but they always grow throughout the season,” said head coach Lisa Caruso. “They are strong and they will be seeing some good talent in the league. We are going to be a team that tries to win in other ways besides just talent, with grit and perseverance.”

Caruso said the added depth has the potential to create more friendly competition for varsity playing time. Senior Riley Lynch, new to the program this year, will compete with Zach Austin for the third singles spot.

“I am excited to see some of the challenge matches,” Caruso said, referring to the practice matches that can determine playing time. “There will be more of them and some of those positions could flip around a bit.”

Austin, a junior, will also be part of the mix at doubles with along with Thago Viera. Ben Johnson and Kevin Callahan will also see time a second doubles, Caruso said, adding doubles strategy is going to be a focus for the team this spring.

A number of sophomores will also compete for doubles spots, including Eric Douchette, Evan Sullivan and Dylan Wang.

Some of Caruso’s other goals extend well past this season. “We want to build players who have a love for the game so they can continue to play, since it really is a sport for a lifetime,” said Caruso, a lifelong player herself. “The strategy and the social aspect is important as well, meeting new players from other towns.”

Caruso also wants her team to continue to focus on learning the rules and etiquette associated with the game and keep a positive mindset throughout the season. The team will also host a tennis camp during April vacation through the Milford Community Use program as a means to raise funds for the program. Caruso said it’s part of a broader emphasis on service-oriented projects, something she wants her team to participate in this spring.

Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford Town Crier

APRIL 12, 2019

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**Sports Flash**

By Chris Villani

**Leading Milford Girls Tennis**

With 31 athletes and a new head coach, the Milford High girls tennis team is focused on improving this season after winning just one match a year ago. "We want to improve the best we can, we have a lot of room to go up," said head coach Rosemary Talbot, who joined the team after taking Hopkinton to a state final. "Even if it's just improving the girls individual scores, we will try to get more points in matches." Talbot has been playing tennis since she was four years old and competing in high school for Hopkinton. Now that she is with the Scarlet Hawks, she wants to make the program more competitive."The girls look strong," said head coach Derek Rose. "We are a young team, but we have a lot of freshmen and sophomores who will be helping out on relays and open events, the future looks good."

One freshman, Sarah Flanagan, earned a win in the 100-meter dash in the Hockomock League's freshman-sophomore preseason meet. A sophomore, Kerry O'Connor, captured a win in the 200 meter and is coming into the spring season after a standout winter campaign.

Rose said O'Connor is posting the team's top times in the 100, 200 and 400 and is also the Hawks' best long jumper. "She is pretty special," Rose said.

Freshman Sarah Brogioli has also showed a great deal of versatility. She is only one inch away from the outdoor program record in the high jump. Rose said, she's the top hurdler on the team and is throwing the discus close to 90 feet.

Emma Lawrence joins the track program this spring after playing basketball over the winter. She ran a personal best in the 200 recently and is running the leadoff leg in the 4x400 relay. Catherine Madden has been neck-and-neck with Brogioli for the best hurdlng times and developed, in Rose's words, a "friendly little rivalry."

Juniors Lexi Marcollini and Sarah Connors have established themselves as two of the squad's strongest distance runners and Sophomore Emma Kincad, who participates in cheerleading during the fall and winter, has been improving by leaps and bounds, pun intended, in the long and triple jump events. "Every jump is almost a foot better in the triple jump," Rose said. "So she is really coming along and she is going to be a good hurdler."

Rose said he has been pleased with the early results from his team, including a solid scrimmage against Algonquin Regional. "We did well there, we played around with the lineup and it was good to get some of the younger kids some experience and have them find out what they are good at," Rose said. "Throwing kids into events, sometimes you discover things by accident. We are deeper than we have been, and then we thought we would be."

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**Sports Report**

**Track Stars Shine**

By Chris Villani

Sports Reporter/Columnist

The early part of the spring track season has been an opportunity for the younger athletes on the Milford High girls' team to compete and excel. "The girls look strong," said head coach Derek Rose. "We are a young team, but we have a lot of freshmen and sophomores who will be helping out on relays and open events, the future looks good."

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**SPORTS FLASH**

By Chris Villani

Sports Reporter/Columnist

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