Milford celebrated the 243rd birthday of the United States both during the evening of July 3 and during the day on July 4. Clear, warm summer weather on July 3 was the perfect setting for the town’s annual fireworks display while hot sunny skies on the next day greeted marchers, who made their way up Main St. for 2nd Annual Milford Fourth of July Parade. The parade included youngsters on bikes, historical figures, local musicians and more. The parade also honored this year’s Milfordian of the Year, Police Chief Tom O’Leighlin. Town Crier Harry Platcow snapped photos of both events.

The Glorious 4th in Milford

Dr. Jacquelyn Murphy Appointed Director of Public Health

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Dr. Jacquelyn Murphy is the town’s new Director of Public Health, appointed by the Board of Health on July 1 to fill the vacancy created when Paul Mazzuchelli retired in late March. “She has the ability to take public health to the next level,” said Mazzuchelli, who is now a board member. Dr. Murphy earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Women’s Studies from the University of Colorado before receiving her Master of Public Health, Social and Behavioral Science from Boston University School of Public Health and her Doctor of Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Colorado School of Public Health. She currently is a Public Health and Community Outreach Consultant for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In addition, Dr. Murphy served as a project manager for two years at the Multi-Regional Trials Center of Harvard and for four years as a project coordinator at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. She has spoken on panel discussions at five state and national public health conferences between 2015 and 2018. The position has a salary range of between $62,000 and $88,200 per year. Board members will negotiate a salary with Dr. Murphy, who will be relocating in late August or early September, Mazzuchelli and board member Kenneth Evans said. Board members interviewed Dr. Murphy individually by telephone, they said. Since Mazzuchelli retired, the Health Department’s various inspectors have been carrying out the department mandated responsibilities, with Mazzuchelli volunteering some time each day to assist them. Mazzuchelli said he will help orient Dr. Murphy to her new position.

Sira Naturals Plans Third Marijuana Cultivation Site

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Sira Naturals is planning its third – and largest – marijuana cultivation facility in Milford. The company took the first step in getting its planned 80,000-90,000 square foot facility licensed by the state by holding the required “community outreach meeting” on July 2. Dubbed “M3” by Michael Dundas, Sira’s president and chief executive officer, the new building would be constructed at 5-7 Industrial Rd. and have a growing “canopy” area of 65,000 square feet. The company’s other sites are the initial 30,000-square-foot “M1” facility at 13 Commercial Way and the 26,000-square-foot “M2” building currently being built at 1 Industrial Rd.

Among the hundreds of residents who line the Milford Fourth of July parade route to cheer on the marchers were Eden, Lindsay and Joseph Chang.

To see more photos of the 2019 Milford Fourth of July Parade by Town Crier photographer Harry Platcow visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.
Celebrate Milford

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year’s Celebrate Milford a tremendous success!

We could not have done it without our volunteers, vendors, suppliers, sponsors and the Town of Milford!

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Since its inception 4 years ago, Celebrate Milford has awarded nearly $55,000 to Milford public charities and youth organizations. Celebrate Milford awarded $23,500 in 2019 alone!

Other Major Sponsorship and Support Provided By:

- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Milford Chamber of Commerce
- Milford Federal Savings Bank
- MetroWest Visitors Bureau
- Milford High Baseball
- Milford High Baseball

Save the Date - Next Year’s Event Tentatively Scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2020

www.CelebrateMilford.com

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“Brigit and Emily are amazing young girls who have so much to offer and do so much good for the community. They both have a give-back mentality and a sense of duty to do more. I have been extremely impressed with their work ethic and dedication to their goals.”

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Brigit Thomas

Emily Haley

Milford Girl Scouts Earn Highest Honors

Brigit Thomas and Emily Haley received the Girl Scout Gold Award at the Annual Awards Ceremony of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts on June 20. Less than 6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts achieve this milestone, which has been awarded continuously for the past 103 years. To achieve this award, girls must complete prerequisite badges and then partner with the community for a service project totaling more than 80 hours. The Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, recognizing girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable projects that solve a community problem in a lasting way.

Brigit partnered with St. Mary’s of the Assumption Parish to build a sustainable garden with the vegetables and herbs used in the parish weekly meal service. She identified a need to supplement food donations without increasing costs, investigated meal offerings for weekly soup lunches, created and presented a plan to church and Girl Scout leadership, and worked with others to build raised garden beds. Brigit then educated and inspired others to maintain the garden through parish volunteers, so it continues to thrive for years to come. Her sister, Theresa Thomas, described Brigit as “caring, hardworking, kind, and a great person to talk to for advice.” Brigit’s advice to others, “No matter what background you come from, everyone deserves the same opportunities.” Brigit has just completed her freshman year at UMass Lowell studying Biology.

Emily partnered with the Milford Music Program to create “Banded Together” to encourage middle school and high school students to continue pursuing music by providing a creative outlet for students to partner in music lessons, as well as develop supportive friendships. She also created a website featuring musical scales she recorded as a resource for students’ practice. Carly Haley introduced her older sister at the local ceremony, describing Emily’s community commitment while being a National Honor Society member, involved in music, and playing three sports. Carly said, “As busy as Emily was, she continued with Girl Scouts with two goals in mind; to earn her Gold Award and to bridge into adult. Tonight, as we celebrate both of these goals being met, I know I will follow her lead and earn the prestigious Gold Award also.” Emily’s advises others, “When you feel like giving up, just remember how and why you got here in the first place.” Emily recently graduated from Milford High and will attend UMass Amherst to study Political Science.
And the Winner Is

Charlie Abrahamson is the winner of a new Weber Genesis II E-410 gas grill and $100 gift certificate to Gene's Variety. With Charlie are his wife, Sue, and grandson, Giovanni Stefanini-Spera. The raffle was offered by the Friends of the Milford Town Library. The proceeds will be used for the renovation of the Leonard Alan Hill Memorial Park and Middle Garden, adjacent to the Milford Town Library.

Partying on the Patio

Milford senior citizens welcomed the official start of summer with A Party on the Patio on June 26. The free barbeque featured summertime foods and was sponsored by Blaine House at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center. Harry Platcow photo

Dean’s List

The following Milford residents were named to the Dean’s List at their respective schools:

**Bryant University**, Smithfield, R.I.: Jordan Silverman, class of 2022, President’s List for a 4.0 GPA; Garrett Kaplan, class of 2019; and Meghan Roy, class of 2019.

**Fairfield University**, Fairfield, Conn.: Nadia Hamid and Jake Tamagni.

**Rochester Institute of Technology**, Rochester, N.Y.: Signe Tarmey, majoring in laboratory science technology.


**University of Hartford**, West Hartford, Conn.: Ryan Tomaso and Shalyn Tracy.


**Thanks To Yanks 9/11 Tribute Dinner Registration**

The 13th Annual Thanks To Yanks Tribute 9/11 Dinner is now open for registration. This free dinner on Wednesday, September 11, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Milford, from 6 to 8:15 p.m., is only open to military members, veterans, first responders, and families. This non-political event is simply to say “Thank You” for the sacrifices they make to ensure our freedoms and safety while remembering the heroes and victims of 9/11. The first tribute dinner hosted 120 guests and has continued to grow each year with over 450 guests in 2018. This special free tribute dinner recognizes all military members, veterans, first responders and their families, including Blue and Gold Star families. Registration is required for the event as seating will be limited and can be done at ThanksToYanks.org.

The dinner will also include speakers, a Flag Tower, Missing Man Table Ceremony, Medal of Liberty Presentation and other ceremonies. Thanks To Yanks, is a non-political 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to support military members, veterans and their families. Founded in 2006 as a one-time event, this dinner recognizes the sacrifices military families endure in response to the attacks. Now, as an all-volunteer organization, Thanks To Yanks provides resources, connects the community with programs and identifies gaps in service to maximize support of our military and veterans. For more information or to donate, please visit ThanksToYanks.org, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.
Lilly and Izzy Named Milford’s “Top Dogs”

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Lilly Andreotti is Milford’s “Top Dog” and Izzy Sammarco is the runner-up in the Milford Town Clerk’s office’s first Top Dog contest. The winners were chosen on July 1 by the town’s Animal Control staff.

The Town’s Clerk’s office started the contest this year as part of its annual dog licensing program. The requirements involved licensing your dog between April 1 and June 30 and providing a photo of the dog. All photos were displayed outside the Town Clerk’s office in Town Hall.

Lilly’s family received free dog licensing in 2020, as well as a few “treats” for Lilly. Izzy’s family received a doggy gift bag.

The Animal Planet cable television channel has its annual Puppy Bowl, but Milford now has its first “Top Dog.”

Putting One Foot in Front of the Other

Brenna Ashby, a UConn student from Hopedale, summited Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa and helped raise over $65,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Contributed photo

In September of 2018, I texted my mom in the middle of the afternoon telling her I had just paid a $300 registration fee to be part of a Choose-A-Challenge fundraiser to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. At our first meeting, and I found out we would each be fundraising a minimum of $6,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Make-A-Wish is especially meaningful to me because my family was able to experience their magic firsthand when my brother was diagnosed with leukemia.

Due to the generous support from friends, family, classmates, and businesses, my fellow UConn students and I were able to raise over $65,000 for Make-A-Wish, a charity that helped my family when we needed it most. And thanks to this support I and 10 other students were able to summit Kilimanjaro, one of the world’s tallest mountains on May 29.

Climbing Kilimanjaro was one of the most mentally and physically challenging experiences of my life. I had hiked many New England mountains and thought I was prepared. The overestimation of my abilities hit on day one. What I thought would be a relatively gradual ascent over four days turned into a grueling trek through jungle, alpine desert, and rain. Looking up at the summit at 2 a.m. of the fifth day, running on an hour of sleep after hiking for eight hours the day before with another 17 hours of hiking to go before we reached camp, I definitely questioned my training.

I questioned it when we were halfway to the summit and drinking water left me breathless, when my water froze and I was nauseous from altitude sickness, and when the doctor turned the other two girls in the group back due to lack of oxygen. But I kept putting one foot in front of the other until both of them were planted at 19,341 feet. I have never felt more accomplished than when I was looking out at the sun rise above the glaciers on the peak, finally getting to see that simple wooden sign scrawled with graffiti and paint chips after four days of non-stop hiking, surrounded by a group of students I had met just days earlier yet now had become my mountain family. My friends and family from home had gotten me to the mountain, but my new family helped me get to the top.

Thanks to the donors who helped me raise over $6,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation: Marie Atkinson, Kim and Roy Ayers, Amy Broderick, Lisa Buss, Maria Farragher, Casey and Steve Hogan, Cameron O’Connor, Talitha Olvert, Carol Suffredini, Main St. Pediatrics, PR Running and Dell Technologies, plus the Clement, Correa, Crepeau, Cote, Day Family, Dykhoff, Elfland, Espanet, Huet, Romano, Seaver, Stiffring, Smith, Wasing, Wood and Wysipanski families.

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O’Loughlin Thanked Town as it Thanked Him

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

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).

Business Name ............................................................ Ad on Page
Affordable Junk Removal ............................................. 11
American Climbers .................................................... next
Anna Glass ................................................................. 17
Barry Marcus Watch Makers ..................................... 2
Bright Insurance ......................................................... 17
Boston Eye and Laser Group ........................................ 3
Cavasso & Cap .......................................................... next
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CPR Inc. .................................................................... 14
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A Thank You to Fr. Mac

Tessa Scrimgeour presents award to Reverend William MacDonald Murray “Fr. Mac” of Trinity Church in gratitude of his support towards Milford Girl Scouts.

Police Chief Search Committee Issues RFP

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Police Chief Selection Committee issued a request for proposals (RFP) earlier this month, seeking to hire a professional executive search firm to recruit Milford’s next police chief.

The deadline for submitting proposals is August 1, and the committee plans to meet again on August 13 to interview the firms submitting proposals.

According to the RFP, the firm chosen will assist the committee by:

• Providing marketing and recruitment services on a local, regional and national basis;
• Determining the knowledge, abilities, experience, credentials, training, and personal and professional attributes necessary and desirable in a successful candidate for the position of Milford Police Chief, through identifying information about the job duties, responsibilities, necessary skills, and work environment, garner input from stakeholders (police officers and police chief selectmen, department heads, community representatives);
• Reviewing relevant department documents including: the Police Chief job description; state and local job requirements; training prerequisites, department policies, procedures, rules and regulations, police statistics, department and staffing arrangements, budget, local community demographics, community and department needs and priorities;
• Developing a position profile and job application;
• Advertising the opening;
• Performing initial candidate screening;
There they drive the narrow “S” curve on Beaver St., hurrying down country roads more meant for ox-carts than delivery vans. Welcome to the world of e-commerce. Whole stores used to be “bricks and mortar,” they are re “clicks and mortar.” Or, in this case, mouse clicks and a large, metal warehouse tucked away from the greater populace – but closed enough to reach major highways and interstates.

On my way to last month’s Firefighters’ Memorial Sunday at 8 a.m. on a Sunday morning, I was amazed by the volume and speed at which these vans sped by me on the route to deliveries in Milford, Hopkinton, Mendon and Bellingham.

Would it be any better, I wondered, if the vans were replaced by Amazon’s plans for deliveries by drones? That would still be a swarm of vans, but this time they’d be buzzing overhead versus speeding along byways.

Again, this is the price we pay for desiring overnight or second-day delivery. Speaking of Beaver St., I discovered using it as a traffic “hack” to get to the Milford Crossing plaza in a far safer way than risking life and limb by trying to turn left off Rt.109 onto Beaver St. and then into the plaza’s parking lot. Simply go up Birch St., turn left onto the one-way section of Beaver St., go down to the traffic light at Rt. 109. When the light is green, you have a straight shot across 109 toward the plaza’s parking lot entrance.

It may be a longer way, but it takes about the same time to get there – given how long it can take to make that infamous left turn. We’ve all heard for over a year that Mass Highway is working to give that left turn off 109 its own dedicated light cycle. Hearing about it, however, is not the same thing as doing something about it. We’ve all done for all of us call the Mass Highway District 3 office in Worcester at 508-929-3800 while we’re stuck in that traffic queue waiting to turn left and ask them why it’s taking so long? Maybe – after a few hundred calls each week – they’ll get the message.

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State’s SAVE Program Established for Suicidal Veterans

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

In an article in USA Today, veteran Danny O’Neill admitted he tried to kill himself. O’Neill, who served in Iraq, said the violence he witnessed, including the deaths of his fellow brothers from his same deployment, made civilian life unbearable. He attempted to kill himself. Luckily, he said, he failed and avoided becoming one of the 20 veteran and active duty suicides who kill themselves daily.

Sadly, O’Neill is not unique when it comes to experiencing mental health struggles among veterans and active duty service members. Yet, many of these men and women struggle to discuss issues such as isolation, depression, and anxiety because there can be a stigma attached to seeking out therapy.

However, according to Anthony Preston, Director of Legislative and Media Relations for the Department of Veterans Services in Massachusetts, a ground-breaking program in Massachusetts, staffed by trained veterans, is there to help.

Led by the Department of Veterans Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Statewide Advocacy for Veteran’s Empowerment (SAVE) is an interactive, peer to peer program built specifically to help veterans in Massachusetts.

“It’s primary mission is to prevent suicide and mental health distress by proactively identifying issues facing veterans when they return from service and provide them with access to benefits and services which results in positive transitions back to civilian life,” said Catherine.

Preston notes that Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates in the nation for suicide deaths and by firefighters is lower than the national average, due partly to the state’s stricter gun laws. However, the issue of suicide among veterans and non-veterans is still a critical problem that must be addressed.

Other Suicide Prevention Resources

Outside of the Department of Veterans Services, there are other resources available for suicide prevention. Call or text the Samaritans Statewide Helpline at 1-877-870-HOPE or call save@massmail.state.ma.us.

Preston has noted that one of the lowest rates in the nation for suicide deaths and suicide by firearms is lower than the national average, due partly to the state's stricter gun laws. However, the issue of suicide among veterans and non-veterans is still a critical problem that must be addressed.

Catherine believes her son was likely suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. “I would have to say yes, he was. It’s a term that’s thrown around like water these days,” she said. “It’s a very complicated issue and I think there’s a lot that needs to be done for these men and women.”

Even after two years, Catherine says she’s still having a difficult time wrapping her head around her son’s suicide but says therapy has helped. “I kept everything private for a long time because there’s still such a stigma attached to it. When I started talking about it, it was like coming into the light,” said Catherine.

And that’s what Catherine hopes soldiers, veterans, and their families do—talk openly and frankly about mental health issues and seek help. “We equip these men and women with weapons to protect their bodies. We need to help them equip their minds too and let them know it’s okay to reach out. They need to know, if they reach out, it brings resilience,” she said.

For more information and resources available for active military members and veterans, see adjacent story.

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Walking into Catherine Villani’s living room in Milford, one is immediately struck by a large, framed photo of a handsome soldier in his dress blues. He looks strong and stoic in the picture, just as a soldier should, and yet one can sense a kindness in his face as well. The photo is of Catherine’s son, Staff Sergeant Joshua Nunnally, a highly decorated soldier who served his country for nearly 20 years and who tragically took his own life in 2017.

Up until now, Catherine wasn’t ready to speak about her son’s suicide. It was too difficult. However, hearing more and more of the suicide rates among veterans and active military soldiers, she felt it was the time to speak about Joshua in the hopes it may help someone.

Growing up in Milford, Catherine said Joshua was a very obedient child. “If he was punished for some reason, he never did it again. He was always helpful and protective of his brother and sister,” she said.

He also had a very patriotic side to him and enlisted as an infantryman in the Army National Guard at the age of 19. “He just loved the United States and felt this was a way of making a living but also serving his country,” said Catherine.

Within a year of enlisting, he entered active duty service and was stationed in Germany and then reassigned to Fort Campbell, Ky. After he was honorably discharged, he moved on to civilian life and began taking college classes and working by developing E-Commerce web platforms.

After a move to New Orleans to pursue a career in industrial construction, Joshua was forced to relocate to Arlington, Texas in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and then entered active duty service once again as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. He was deployed to Iraq during the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission followed quickly by a second and third deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

“I think he saw a lot of atrocities, all the soldiers do,” said Catherine. “They see such bad, bad things that are devastating and dispuctive. I think he was in a lot of pain after all that but I had no idea how much pain. I wish I could have helped him.”

Upon his return from Afghanistan, he was assigned to the 204th Military Intelligence Battalion in Fort Worth Texas. Sadly, on November 15, 2017, Joshua took his own life by hanging himself. A neighbor found him. “His blood alcohol level was three times the legal limit,” said Catherine.

Catherine believes her son was likely suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. “I would have to say yes, he was. It’s a term that’s thrown around like water these days,” she said. “It’s a very complicated issue and I think there’s a lot that needs to be done for these men and women.”

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Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park July Programming

The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park will sponsor the following events this month. All programs take place at River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or registration call 508-278-7604.

Nature Story Hour-Friday July 5, 19 and 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Rain or shine, enjoy a nature themed story time, followed by a short nature walk and a craft activity. Appropriate for ages 3-6, siblings are welcome.

Woodlands and Watersways-Saturday July 6 and 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. Enjoy a two-mile walk along the banks of the Blackstone Canal and through areas of field and woodland. Learn about how the canal and agriculture shaped the landscape. Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes; bring water and insect repellant.

Hike to Lookout Rock, Saturday July 13, noon to 3 p.m. Meet at 366 East Hartford Ave, Uxbridge, Rice City Pond Parking Lot for a moderate, three-mile hike along King Philips Trail to a scenic lookout on a forest trail.

Canal Walk-Sunday July 14, 21 and July 28 from 1 to 2 p.m. A two mile guided walk along the Blackstone Canal to learn about the canal’s historical and cultural significance and its role in the farm to factory transformation of the Blackstone Valley. All walks end at start location. On July 14 meet at the Blackstone Gorge, Blackstone, on July 21 meet at the Blackstone River Greenway, 93 Canal St., Blackstone, and on July 28 meet at the Millville Lot of the Blackstone River Greenway, 44 Hope St., Millville.

Brown Bag Along the Blackstone-Thursday July 18, from 12 to 1 p.m. Pack a lunch to celebrate Preservation Month, by watching an episode of Along the Blackstone, an award-winning series of videos by the National Park Service featuring the impact of the civil war in the Blackstone Valley.

Boots Along the Blackstone-Thursday July 18 from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Join an interpreter in a two-mile leisurely walk along the towpath while discussing the stories and history uncovered in the episode of Along the Blackstone watched during Brown Bag along the Blackstone!

Night Sky-Friday July 19, 8 to 10 p.m. Explore the stars and the magic views the night sky has to offer through a telescope. Join Volunteers and staff from Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, Skyviewers Club, and Civil Air Patrol as they share their knowledge and love of astronomy in the field next to the River Bend Farm parking lot.

Program will take place rain or shine.

Reading New England’s Forests-Saturday July 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. Learn about the historic stone walls and man-made features that make up local forests on a 2.5-mile hike along the Blackstone Canal to Goat Hill Lock on an uneven path.

Learn to Fish-Sunday, July 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. Bring your own fishing equipment or borrow one of the limited number available. Bait is provided during this family friendly event.

Learn to Fish-Sunday July 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. Bring your own fishing equipment or borrow one of the limited number available. Bait is provided during this family friendly event.

The Circus Comes to Mendon

On Monday, July 15, the Zerbini Family Circus will present two shows under the Big Top at 5 and 7:30 p.m. for the enjoyment of all in Mendon in the Fino Lot, at corner of North Ave. and Rt. 16. The show is a one ring presentation under the Big Top tent featuring performing camels, a liberty horse act, and amazing trained dogs. The program is rounded out with clown, acrobats, aerialists, and jugglers.

Advanced discount tickets of $10 each will be sold at Charles River Bank (Mendon Branch), Dean Bank, and Willowbrook Restaurant, Mendon. Tickets on the day of the show are $15 with youngsters age three and under free. The Circus is sponsored by the Mendon Lions Club. Free parking will be available at Clough School and the town field off of North Ave.

Family Night at the Bandstand

Jerry Secco & the Milford Jazz Machine kicked off the Family Night at the Bandstand series of free concerts on Thursday, June 27. The concerts are held at Milford Musicians’ Pavilion in the Milford Town, the corner of Congress and Walnut Streets, every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. now through August 21. Rain dates are the following Thursday. The concerts are sponsored by the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra and MyFM.

The concert schedule is:

July 16: Beatles Night with HELP!, sponsored by Homefield Credit Union
July 23: The Claffin Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Edwards Memorial Funeral Home & Al Cass Fast Valve Oil
August 6: Swing Night with The Fantasy Big Band, sponsored by Milford Nissan and Waters Corporation
August 13: Zach Innis and the Honey Bees A Tom Petty Tribute, sponsored by Milford Federal Bank
August 21: The Claffin Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigl Ruggerio Funeral Home

Mike Crowley, a member of Jerry Secco & the Milford Jazz Machine, plays the sax at the first Family Night at the Bandstand Concert on June 27. Harry PlaTow Town Crier photo

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The Rumors, sponsored by UniBank
August 6: Swing Night" with The Fantasy Big Band, sponsored by Milford Nissan and Waters Corporation
August 13: Zach Innis and the Honey Bees A Tom Petty Tribute, sponsored by Milford Federal Bank
August 21: The Claffin Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigl Ruggerio Funeral Home
Pighetti Takes the Helm as Interim Police Chief

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Retired Milford Police Sergeant Michael Pighetti became the town's Interim Police Chief at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, appointed to that position – his second time filling that role – until the Board of Selectmen appoints a successor to departing Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin.

Pighetti started his new tenure under criticism from O'Loughlin's supporters, who've both voiced concerns that Pighetti lacks the full powers of a police chief and brought up a 1995 restraining order taken out by a former girlfriend, saying it shows he lacks the character to take on the interim position. Pighetti sat down with the Town Crier a few days before he became interim chief to discuss both issues. Other town officials were interviewed, as well. Separate stories are included on each issue.

Town finance officials said Pighetti has withdrawn from the retirement system and will be working full-time as interim police chief. Pighetti said he planned to begin his role on July 1 with no preconceived plans to change anything in the Police Department. “I just want to go in and do what they hired me to do,” he stated. He will act on any issue brought before him, he added.

The interim chief said he has three main priorities: First is the safety of the officers working under him. Second is the safety of the townspeople of Milford. The third is efficiently managing the Police Department's multi-million dollar budget.

What “Powers” Does Pighetti Have?

However, MPTC Executive Director Daniel Zivkovich stated: “This discussion was held during an open meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee. Further, the request was not to exempt Mr. Pighetti from training requirements; instead, the request was for an alternative training requirement pursuant to 550 CMR 3.04 (3)”. That state regulation states that if a police officer’s career is interrupted by five or more years, the MPTC requires “Completion of a police academy for full-time police officers, or a reserve/internment training program for reserve/internment police officers, subject to employment and compliance with admission requirements, or, in the discretion of the Committee, completion of alternative training requirements set forth by the Committee.”

“With that background, the committee did not approve the request for an alternative training requirement and instead voted to require Mr. Pighetti to attend a full-time police academy prior to exercising police powers. However, he would not be required to participate in the physical fitness training component of the academy: This is common practice when an officer returns to service after a gap in service of five or more years after having decades of previous police experience.” Pighetti’s contract with the town sets forth his administrative duties: “The chief shall develop policies and procedures for the governance and operation of the police department. The chief will determine the method, means and personnel by which police operations are to be conducted and he may take whatever action may be necessary to carry out the work of the police department, particularly in situations of emergency. Subject to applicable law, the chief will have complete authority to administer the internal workings and day-to-day business and operations of the police department, to include, but not be limited to, the appointment, promotion, assignment, reassignment, supervision, direction and discipline of personnel in the employ of the police department; the administration of the police department budget and finances; the specification, management and direction of police department uniforms, vehicles and resources; supervision and control of training programs and the assignment of personnel thereto; and those other responsibilities as established by law or within the job description for the position of chief for the town.”

What Happened 24 Years Ago?

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

After a Town Meeting Member sent information to the Town Crier and the Milford Daily News about a restraining order taken out against Interim Police Chief Michael Pighetti in November, 1995, Pighetti gave the Town Crier copies of court documents about the incident and explained what happened.

While on his way to work on November 25, 1995, Pighetti said a former girlfriend accosted him in his driveway and started arguing with him. Saying he needed to go to work and she needed to leave, he told her he would call the Bellingham Police Department to have her removed. Pighetti added.

While he then went to work, she went to the Bellingham Police Department and took out a restraining order against him because he owned handguns and she was afraid he might harm her. Pighetti said that halfway though his shift that night he was suspended from duty and remained suspended until February 28, 1996, when the woman recanted her story and withdrew her restraining order. He also withdrew a restraining order against her that he took out after she got hers, he added.

Acting Police Chief Al Bacchinoci would not let him return to duty, however, until he successfully passed a psychiatric exam, Pighetti said. The Bellingham and Milford police departments followed all proper procedures since he was a police officer accused of threatening someone with his weapon, Pighetti explained.

Pighetti said he not only went on to serve without incident under Police Chiefs Vincent Liberto, Interim, Chief Earl Wagner, Police Chief John Walsh and Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin, but he also helped start the Milford Police Department’s domestic violence advocacy unit during Walsh’s tenure. He questioned whether he would have been allowed to do that if he had any history of violence or abuse toward women.

“This is being brought up about a quarter century later and for the purpose of nothing more than character assassination,” Pighetti said.

It is common practice for newspapers across the United States not to name anyone who claims to be a victim of domestic violence. The Town Crier has contact information for the woman involved with this story, but did not contact her because the alleged incident took place more than two decades ago.
Fino Pool Replacement Cost Pegged at $3.4 Million

By Kevin Ruddin
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc. (BH+A), the Boston architectural firm studying how to replace the aging Fino Field Memorial Pool, is projecting a $3.4 million cost to build a new pool complex. The Finance Committee and Parks Department have an August 13 meeting scheduled to look at BH+A's recommendations.

BH+A's 66-page report details the infrastructure problems with the current pool complex – it does not meet current environmental, building code and health code regulations and accessibility standards. In addition, the report stated, ground water is seeping into the pool through its joints.

The firm recommends replacing the current hexagonal pool and associated facilities by:
- Constructing a new pool – options include a 4,200 square-foot pool with a 1,300 square-foot “splash deck,” a 4,750 square-foot pool with the spray deck or the larger pool without the spray deck;
- Constructing a new, above-ground filter building;
- Enlarging the existing bathhouse building to include more toilets, an improved concession area and a shower area, and;
- Adding more fencing and gates.

Town Meeting Members approved spending up to $60,000 on the feasibility study to repair or replace the pool at the October, 2018 Special Town Meeting.

Previous cost estimates obtained by the Parks Department to fix the pool were:
- December, 2016: install a 60-mil thick membrane liner – $201,550
- January, 2017: install a 60-mil thick membrane liner and install new filtration/pumps system – $500,000
- January, 2017: replace the pool – $2.5 million

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BH+A report shows the environmental limitations of the current Fino Field Memorial Pool site.

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Billy's Town Crier

JULY 12, 2019

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 5 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 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.

Tuesday, July 16
10 a.m. Book Club, “I’ll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman’s Obsessive Quest to Find the Golden State Killer,” by Michelle McNamara. Call the Milford Library’s Information Desk to Reserve a Copy at 508-473-2145

Thursday, July 18
12:30 p.m. Healthy Living Luncheon, Sponsored by Liberty Adult Day Healthcare. Topic is Adult Health Day vs. Social Day. Cost $5 Refundable.

Friday, July 26
12:30 Free Movie Friday, Momma Mia! Here We Go Again, Bring Your Own Lunch, Free Popcorn

Monday
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
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

Tuesday
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. Whist
11:45 a.m. Pounp* $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
12:30 p.m. Turkey Foot Dominoes
1 p.m. Mah Jong

Wednesday
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
8 a.m. Walking Club
8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet
8:30 a.m. SHINE by Appointment
9 a.m. Knitting and Sewing 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
8 a.m. Walking Club
8:15 a.m. Advanced Tap Dance (Alternative Fridays)
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. Tap 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
11:45 a.m. Pounp* $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60
Daniels Farmstead Farmers Markets and Tours

Submitted by Jane Hennessy
Each Sunday, through September 29, the Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, will be open for a Farmers Market and for tours offered by knowledgeable guides from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The farmstead, which was owned by ten generations of the Daniels family through 1998, teaches visitors about farming life from the 18th Century to the present. The site has been a farm since 1685, with the oldest existing part of the farmstead dating back to 1776, while the majority of the Greek Revival structure was built between 1798 and 1820. Not only can people tour the house and grounds, they can also shop for fresh produce, freshly-baked goodies from Doris’ Kitchen and an array of local vendors with products and crafts. Visitors can plan to stay for the afternoon with a picnic lunch from the grill and cold soft drinks while enjoying music by local performers. All of these activities are free of charge. For more information, visit DanielsFarmstead.org or call 508-726-2042.

Top Photo: Teddi Weber displays the Award received by the GGC for their NGC Design Specialty Flower Show, Went Round and Round. Her design also received the Natalie W. Wolf Award for the most original interpretation of the class title.

JULY 12, 2019

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JULY 12, 2019

Milford Town Crier

11
Sira Naturals will be applying for certain state licenses for the “M3” building: adult use marijuana cultivator and adult use marijuana product manufacturer. As with the other two facilities in Milford, there will be no retail sales on the premises, Dundas explained, with all three facilities producing only pre-packaged products.

With only one Milford resident, a Milford TV cameraman and a reporter attending the outreach meeting, it lasted just 14 minutes, but Dundas answered everyone’s questions. To date, there have been no police calls to any of Sira Naturals’ facilities in Milford, a carbon air filtration system has reduced or eliminated the “skunky” odor produced during marijuana cultivation, and Sira Naturals continues to make donations to several organizations in town, he said.

Construction on the “M2” building should be finished by the end of this year, after which the first four-month grow cycle will begin next year. The “M3” building is now being designed, and Sira Naturals should start the local permitting process later this year, and complete construction by the end of next year, Dundas said.

While the “M1” building was permitted for medicinal marijuana, the two newer buildings will produce products for both medicinal and retail use, he said. The company’s Needham clinic is restricted to medicinal products only, and the company is applying for retail licenses to establish retail outlets at Cambridge and Somerville medicinal clinics, Dundas said.

In terms of financing, Dundas said the initial investors in Sira Naturals have been paid back through the company’s profits and the company now self-finance its growth.

* Siera Naturals from front page

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Remembering a Giant Leap for Mankind at the Milford Town Library

One of the two displays celebrating the 50th anniversary of the landing of the Apollo 11 on the moon at the Milford Town Library. The memorabilia for the displays were loaned by NASA Enthusiast and Woodland Elementary School Teacher Kurt Shady.

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

The Milford Town Library is honoring the 50th anniversary of man landing on the moon with a special display celebrating the “giant leap for mankind.”

Thanks to NASA enthusiast and Woodland Elementary School Teacher Kurt Shady, the display cases in the library have been filled with memorabilia of that one small step for man on the moon in July of 1969. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) pennants, magazines, newspapers, trading cards, and pictures of astronauts are just some of the many items that Shady has collected over the years and shared with the library for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11. “I started collecting memorabilia when I first moved to Florida and say my first space launch in person in 1989,” said Shady. “It’s such a rush to see a shuttle launching into space.” Since then, Shady has seen over 40 space shuttle launches, met approximately 10 astronauts during different engagements, and collected hundreds of items having to do with space exploration.

Shady has collection includes copies of newspapers with headlines of the moon landing: Life, Time, and Newsweek Magazines with cover stories about the men who walked on the moon for the first time; and even matchbox cars and trucks with NASA logos. Shady’s most prized piece in his collection due to its significance as a remembrance to his grandmother who passed away, is a replica of the plaque left on the moon “Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon July 1969, A.D. We came in peace for all mankind.” Although the exhibit is just a fraction of the memorabilia from the Apollo 11 trip, the Milford Town Library patrons have been fascinated with the displays that are located in cases in the main area and children’s rooms. “Older people have stopped to look at the case and have reminisced about where they were when that happened,” said Milford Town Library’s Reference & Outreach Librarian Anne Berard. “So many people are in awe that that happened 50 years ago…how exciting and how dramatic it was,” he said. “I wanted people to tap into some of the emotion that was going on at it so closely,” she laughed. Getting people to learn more about this monumental event and to reflect on how far man has come was a goal of Shady when he volunteered to share his collection with the public.

The kids love the display [of NASA-themed toys in the Children’s room]. You can always see nose prints on the glass they are looking at it so closely,” she laughed. Getting people to learn more about this monumental event and to reflect on how far man has come was a goal of Shady when he volunteered to share his collection with the public.

But if he received the phone call today to take a seat on the next space shuttle? “If they called tonight, I would go up tonight!” he said.
SUPERINTENDENT-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick has released the following commendation list for the third trimester of the 2018-2019 academic school year at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. Students are listed alphabetically by last name and are grouped according to grade and hometown.

**GRADUATES**

- **Emmanuel College**
  - Emmanuel College in Boston celebrated its 97th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 11. Local students who graduated include: Meghan Halloran, who received a Bachelor of Arts in a double major of Liberal Studies and Elementary Education; Thomas Haskell, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art, Gianna Krovoscheck, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a concentration in Developmental Psychology; and Maria Soto-Santa, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Management.
  - Devin Marie Driscoll, M.D.
    - Devin Marie Driscoll, M. D. of Milford has graduated from the Miller School of Medicine at The University of Miami, Miami. Driscoll is a 2010 graduate of Milford High School and a 2013 graduate of Northeastern University. She has begun her residency in internal medicine at the Boston Medical Center.

- **Greenleaf Garden Club Scholarship**
  - Meghan Cahill received a $1000 scholarship from the Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford (GGC). Presenting the check is Maryrose Campbell, GGC Scholarship Chair. ‘The Club annually presents a scholarship to a Milford graduating resident who is entering a field relating to horticulture, the environment or agriculture. Cahill, a 2019 graduate from Milford High School will be attending Westfield State for Environmental Science. After attending Orientation and learning about her journey for the next four years, she is very excited and “can’t wait to make a difference in the world through nature.”

**SOPHOMORES**

- **Mendon**
  - Taylor Burroughs, Construction Technology; Zachary Rivasdriz, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Madison Tinio, Construction Technology.
  - Alex Goldberg, Engineering & Robotics; Taber Grose, Engineering & Robotics; Thino Leong, Information Technology; Joshua Palomo, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Cameron Pelletier, Engineering & Robotics; Pamela Pereira, Multimedia Communications; Alex Pinette, Multimedia Communications; Hannah Ramuta, Health Services.
  - Kate Brooks, Construction Technology; Ryan Conrad, Health Services; Olivia Harris, Business & Entrepreneurship; Pendego Hebert, Painting & Design Technology; Macelli Lynmouth, Multimedia Communications; Patrick O_SER, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Madison Wolski, Electrical.
  - Adel Brochu, Construction Technology; Ryan Conrad, Health Services; Olivia Harris, Business & Entrepreneurship; Pendego Hebert, Painting & Design Technology; Macelli Lynmouth, Multimedia Communications; Patrick O_SER, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Madison Wolski, Electrical.

- **Upton**
  - Adele Brochu, Construction Technology; Ryan Conrad, Health Services; Olivia Harris, Business & Entrepreneurship; Pendego Hebert, Painting & Design Technology; Macelli Lynmouth, Multimedia Communications; Patrick O_SER, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Madison Wolski, Electrical.
  - Alex Goldberg, Engineering & Robotics; Taber Grose, Engineering & Robotics; Thino Leong, Information Technology; Joshua Palomo, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Cameron Pelletier, Engineering & Robotics; Pamela Pereira, Multimedia Communications; Alex Pinette, Multimedia Communications; Hannah Ramuta, Health Services.

**JUNIORS**

- **Hopedale**
  - Anna Dwyer, Drafting & Design Technology; Anthony Faeth, Drafting & Design Technology; Logan King, Painting & Design Technology; Carolyn Krekel, Drafting & Design Technology; Elora Loughlin, Health Services; Anna Martin, Multimedia Communications; Kyle Nolling, Culinary Arts; Cameron Schermehorn, Electronics & Engineering Technology.
  - Emma Balland, Health Services; Evan Charron, HVAC/R; Rachel May, Engineering & Robotics; Jeffrey Powers, Construction Technology; Amber Struponi, Information Technology.

- **Juniors**
  - Lillian Balonce, Health Services; Edward Ribeiro, Information Technology; Anastasia Siryk, Engineering & Robotics.

- **Milford**
  - Alaina Gobbi, Dental Assisting; Jacob Moran, Engineering & Robotics; Christopher Mason, Engineering & Robotics; Connor Murphy, Drafting & Design Technology; Ryan Shaw, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Joseph Tuttle, Culinary Arts.
  - Grace Bernero, Cosmetology; Lauren Flynn, Multimedia Communications; John Lemieux, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

**FRESHMEN**

- **Hopedale**
  - Annie Dwyer, Drafting & Design Technology; Anthony Faeth, Drafting & Design Technology; Logan King, Painting & Design Technology; Carolyn Krekel, Drafting & Design Technology; Elora Loughlin, Health Services; Anna Martin, Multimedia Communications; Kyle Nolling, Culinary Arts; Cameron Schermehorn, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

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**FRESHMEN**

- **Hopedale**
  - Annie Dwyer, Drafting & Design Technology; Anthony Faeth, Drafting & Design Technology; Logan King, Painting & Design Technology; Carolyn Krekel, Drafting & Design Technology; Elora Loughlin, Health Services; Anna Martin, Multimedia Communications; Kyle Nolling, Culinary Arts; Cameron Schermehorn, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

- **Upton**
  - Emma Balland, Health Services; Evan Charron, HVAC/R; Rachel May, Engineering & Robotics; Jeffrey Powers, Construction Technology; Amber Struponi, Information Technology.

- **Juniors**
  - Lillian Balonce, Health Services; Edward Ribeiro, Information Technology; Anastasia Siryk, Engineering & Robotics.

- **Milford**
  - Alaina Gobbi, Dental Assisting; Jacob Moran, Engineering & Robotics; Christopher Mason, Engineering & Robotics; Connor Murphy, Drafting & Design Technology; Ryan Shaw, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Joseph Tuttle, Culinary Arts.

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Green Light for Valley Tech FY20 Annual Budget

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the 6th annual statewide high school video contest, Safe Streets Smart Trips. The contest is to help promote and educate the public about safe walking, bicycling, and driving behaviors. The contest began five years ago to encourage high school students to showcase their understanding of roadway safety across all travel modes to try to decrease pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities.

“We are pleased to once again be able to give students the opportunity to create educational videos which underscore messages in the ‘Scan the Streets for Wheels and Feet’ initiative,” said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. “The video contest has resulted in very creative ideas during the last few years and we look forward to seeing what teenagers will produce during this year’s contest to make the public more aware of safe behaviors while traveling.”

The video contest, open to all Massachusetts high school students, features a freshman/sophomore category and junior/senior category. Per contest guidelines, students are asked to write and produce a one-minute commercial video that focuses on one or several of the crash statistics from the campaign and the slogan, “Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet.”

Complete contest guidelines are being sent to high schools and are also found at Mass.gov/roadway-safety-video. Grand prize and runner-up videos in each category will be chosen by a MassDOT panel during October 2019. Winning videos will be screened at MassDOT’s annual active transportation conference, Moving Together, where the creators will receive prizes. Top videos may also be used in future safety campaigns on MBTA digital boards.

To learn more about the Safe Streets Smart Trips high school video contest, visit Mass.gov/roadway-safety-video, or call 857-383-3807. Contest deadline is October 4.

For more information about the 2019 Moving Together healthy transportation conference, visit MovingTogetherma.org. For more information about the “Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet” campaign, please visit Mass.gov/transportation/mbta-highway-massdot-scan-the-street-for-wheels-and-feet-bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety-campaign/

Milford Community School Use Summer Programs for Children

The Milford Community School Use Program is now accepting registrations for its Summer Day Camps & Specialty Camps, which run through August 2. Day camp is for students who have completed grades K-7. Camps are open to both residents and non-residents and participants have a choice of weeks. Summer camp includes many indoor/outdoor activities matched to grade level, indoor swimming, field trips and special activities. There is a Counselor in Training for teens who have completed 8th and 9th grade. Participants, who have a choice of weeks, will be working with experienced counselors and under the supervision of the CIT Coordinator.

Various specialty programs are also available such as Tennis, Spanish, Creative Legos, Girls Lacrosse, Space Wars Robotics, Prep Art Party and Track Exploration. Online registrations as well as paper registration, accompanied by a payment made payable to Town of Milford. More information are available at MilfordCommunity.com.

MassDOT High School Safe Streets Smart Trips Contest

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Pelliccia Joins Charles River Bank as a Mortgage Consultant

Charles River Bank (CRB) announces the addition of Mortgage Consultant Kim Pelliccia, who will guide homeowners and homebuyers through the mortgage financing process, provide loan pre-qualifications for those looking to purchase, offer expert advice on home equity options, and coordinate educational programs for Realtors’ and potential customers. Pelliccia brings a combined 20 years of customer service, sales, administrative and real estate experience. Holding a high honors Business degree from Fisher College, she has held support roles in the retail, manufacturing, and construction industries, and was a real estate paralegal. Pelliccia will share her personal experience and knowledge of the industry. She can assist with first time homebuyer programs, fixed and adjustable rate loans with terms from 10 to 30 years, jumbo loans, purchase with rehab programs, Mass Housing loans, construction loans, home equity loans, and potential eligibility of her customers for down payment and closing cost grants through the Federal Home Loan Bank’s Equity Builder Program. Pelliccia is based out of Charles River Bank’s Bellingham office, on Rt. 140 at the Bellingham/ Franklin town line and can be reached at Kim.Pelliccia@charlesriverbank.com or 508-321-3160.

Milford Regional Medical Center was awarded an ‘A’ from the spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade. The designation recognizes Milford Regional’s efforts in protecting patients from harm and providing safer health care. The Leapfrog Group is a nonprofit national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an ‘A,’ ‘B,’ ‘C,’ ‘D’ or ‘F’ grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care. “Patient safety is a high priority at Milford Regional,” says Edward J. Kelly, president and CEO of Milford Regional. “Attaining an ‘A’ Hospital Safety Grade by Leapfrog is a testament to the diligence of our staff at every level to ensure the quality and safety standards are continually checked and met in the care of our patients. While this recognition by Leapfrog affirms these efforts, Milford Regional is committed to providing the resources necessary to support our staff in maintaining the high standard of patient safety and quality care noted in this recent award.” To be recognized nationally as an ‘A’ Hospital is an accomplishment for the whole community should take pride in,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “Hospitals that earn an ‘A’ grade are making it a priority to prevent patients from preventable medical harm and error. We congratulate hospital leaders, board members, staff, volunteers and clinicians who work so hard to protect patients. Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,500 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public. To see Milford Regional’s full grade details, and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

We are pleased to recognize Milford Regional for their commitment to stroke care,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., professor of Neurology and Neurological Surgery and director of the cerebrovascular center at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates. According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the fifth cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 750,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

New CEO and President for UniBank

UniBank announced recently that Michael W. Welch has been named chief executive officer and president of UniBank, and has also announced that Christopher D. Foley, currently the interim president, has been appointed president of UniBank’s Small Business Banking. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Welch brings 20 years of experience working at leading regional banks in New England. “With Michael Welch’s track record of leadership and deep roots in the community, we are thrilled to bring him to the leadership team at UniBank. With Foley’s broad experience in banking, we have a combination that will preserve our values, continue our mission and take us to a new level of growth.” This is a brilliant decision, to combine the talents of two of the area’s most respected individuals to a well-regarded financial institution,” said Denise H. Brookhouse, CFO of Koopman Lumber. Welch comes to the job with a long history of running educational institutions and strong ties to Central Massachusetts. A Worcester native, he graduated from St. John’s High School in Shrewsbury and later returned to serve 15 years as the school’s headmaster. In that role he oversaw a successful capital campaign, boosted financial aid and scholarships and dramatically upgraded facilities. He is a graduate of Marquette University and holds two graduate degrees from Boston College. Welch also worked as a teacher and fundraiser for the Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, S.D., one of America’s poorest communities. Most recently he served as special assistant to the school’s president. “I am excited to come home to the community where I grew up,” said Welch. “This is a unique opportunity for me to work with some of the most experienced and dedicated banking professionals in the region. I plan to help strengthen the connections with our customers and build new relationships as we continue to grow.” Foley, who has 33 years of banking experience and has been at UniBank since 2000, will continue to run the day-to-day business of the bank - his area of exceptional expertise. “This bank is small enough to have personal connections with our customers and big enough to give them all the modern banking tools they need,” said Foley. “I look forward to working with Michelle and Chris and our talented team of professionals at UniBank.” Foley has been a resident of the Blackstone Valley for 20 years. He is active in the community and serves on a number of non-profit boards, including Milford Hospital Healthcare Foundation and the Blackstone Valley Educational Foundation. He has a bachelor’s degree from Bentley University and holds two graduate degrees from Boston College. UniBank, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary next year, serves Central Massachusetts, Metro West, the Blackstone Valley and beyond. The bank provides a range of services to businesses and consumers.

Hospital Receives Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

“We are pleased to recognize Milford Regional for their commitment to stroke care,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national chair of the American Heart Association’s Stroke Council and executive vice chair of neurology, director of acute stroke services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.” According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the fifth cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and nearly 750,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Superior 5-Star Ranking for Milford Federal Bank

Milford Federal Bank has achieved another Superior 5-Star Rating from BauerFinancial, the Nation’s Premier Bank Rating Firm. In the 30-plus years that Bauer has been analyzing banks, there has been a rise of increasingly complicated investments as well as burgeoning regulation. Each has added another hurdle when it comes to earning a 5-Star Rating from Bauer, yet none have been a problem for Milford Federal Bank. Not only has the bank maintained safe capital levels, well in excess of what regulators require, Milford Federal Bank has helped its customers along with its local businesses grow their community with prudent lending and innovative solutions – all without compromising its own financial health in the process. “This is the beauty of community banking,” notes Karen Dorway, president of BauerFinancial. “The success of a community bank directly correlates to the success of the community it serves. Community banks don’t need exotic investment instruments to make money for their shareholders. They much prefer to invest in local businesses and reap the benefits along with their neighbors. This approach has served Milford Federal Bank very well as Milford Federal Bank has earned and maintained Bauer’s top 5-Star rating for 37 consecutive quarters. Now, after 132 years, Milford Federal Bank operates through four offices in Milford, Whitinsville and Woonsocket and can also be found online at MilfordFederal.com.

JULY 12, 2019
Milford Town Crier

Kim Pelliccia

Unibank’s new leadership team, Christopher D. Foley, President (left) and Michael W. Welch, Chief Executive Officer. Business Wire photo
United Parish Holiday Bazaar
United Parish is running their festive annual Holiday Bazaar for Saturday, December 7. Bigger and Better than ever with more vendors and more space to visit! Vendor applications are available now at www.UnitedParishUpton.com

Knights of Columbus Foxwoods Trip
MILFORD-The Knights of Columbus Valencia Council 80 is sponsoring a Foxwoods trip on Friday, August 9. The bus will leave the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church, Milford, at 4 p.m. and leave Foxwoods at 11 p.m. The cost is $20 per person and includes transportation, a $10 food voucher or free buffet and 10 free slot plays. Anyone interested in attending must reserve a spot by Friday, August 2, by calling James Burke at 508-478-9811.

United Parish Town-Wide Yard Sale
UPPON-SAVE THE DATE: United Parish is planning a town-wide yard sale in conjunction with Upton’s Heritage Day to be held September 8. Sun, Sat. hours resume on September 7.

MILFORD TOWN LIBRARY
80 Spruce St., Milford, 508-473-2145
Main thru Thurs 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat & Sun 9-5
www.milfordpubliclibrary.org

Submitted by Mary Frances Best
Milford Town Library

Library Hours
The Milford Town Library is closed on Saturdays for the summer. Summer hours resume on September 7.

Indigenous Posters on Display
Labor and political activist Stephen Lewis will exhibit some of his enormous collection of posters in the Children’s Program room downstairs. This will be Lewis’s fifth poster exhibit at the Milford Town Library and focuses on indigenous peoples. His collection of over 8,800 posters has been gathered by Lewis from all over the world during the past 20 years.

Stop by the library’s Children’s Program Room during July and August to view the posters, as well as the political statements made by these posters featuring Native Americans and other indigenous groups.

Historical Milo—Photographs
During July, vintage historical Milo photographs on loan from the Milo Historical Commission will be exhibited behind the Reference Desk. Longtime Milo residents may recognize this particular series of images because they once were part of the decor at the defunct Bergin’s Restaurant. When the restaurant closed, the photographs went to the commission.

Stop by on your next visit to the library. And a visit to the Milo Historical Commission’s Milwaukee Park is a must. The green is huge for middle schoolers on up. It’s open every Thursday afternoon from 1-4pm.

50 Landon Exhibit
NASA-enthusiast Kurt Shady delivers yet another great display in honor of the 50th Anniversary Moon Landing in both the adult and children’s rooms. The exhibit features an array of magazines that celebrated the Apollo 11 landing on the moon. Life, Collier’s, Look, Newsweek, Time, and National Geographic plus front pages from the Boston Evening Globe, the Atlantic, Star, The Richmond-Times Dispatch and the Record American. There’s a lot more: banners, patches, TV Guides, a video with Walter Cronkite. However, a painting of Astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins is a highlight and underscores the revenge with which these brave moon walkers and Apollo 11 landing crew are held. Don’t miss it!

Chess Tournament
On Wednesday, July 17 the “Chess Village” at the Milford Town Library will be running a four round chess tournament. Anyone can register to participate and entrants in the tournament will be playing with the United States-Chess Federation rules. All players need to bring their own chess set. Players may also bring snacks as long as they do not contain peanuts.

Events for Youth
Saturday, July 13, First Apollo Moon Landing On July 13, from 4 to 5 p.m. there will be a live Webcast! 50th Anniversary of the first Apollo Moon Landing in 1969! Join us in the Granite/Quarry rooms for this special occasion.

Universe of Songs and Stories with Dave Bates-On Tuesday, July 16 at 10 a.m. in the Granite/Quarry rooms join Dave Bates for an engaging and story program. This program is fully funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and will be followed by a free YMCA lunch at 11:30 a.m. for all kids up to age 18.

Storytime with Rockland Trust & Out of this World Galaxy Slime- Join us on Thursday, July 18, Rockland Trust employees will visit the library at 10 am to explain how their Reading Makes Cents Programs works. Participants will make Out of This World Galaxy Slime. Recommended for ages 4 & up.

Milford Canopy
The library subscribes to Canopy, an on-demand-streaming platform where patrons can use their library cards to access over 30,000 films, documentaries, and educational resources (like the Great Courses). Milford’s specific Canopy web address is milfordtown.canopy.com. Each patron is given 50 minutes to watch each title and gets a maximum of 10 ‘play credits’ each month. One play credit essentially equals one movie rental for a period of 72 hours. Canopy can be accessed through web browsers, and pretty much any streaming device. This service is for Milford library card holders only.

Summer Fun
Summer’s here. We’re having some fun with a raffle and with the Summer Scares program. A lovely beach tote filled with books has been set up with beach reads and assorted prizes which we are raffling off. To enter, send a comment on our Facebook page (or email it to milford@cwmarls.org) and tell us about the worst book you’ve ever read. Because life is too short, we want to help you find the great books, and also alert you to some potential clunkers—as identified by your fellow readers. If you like scary stuff, we may recommend our Summer Scares program? We debuted it in this column a few weeks ago, here is more information on the three adult titles on the list. The first title was Soul to keep you warm. The second one is Vice, the title is currently in development as a feature film.

The second is Moonglow by Steven G. Jones is “the werewolf one,” and it’s a brilliant, complicated, heart-wrenching, story of a boy who’s never quite belonged, and his longing to mend his family and finally be one of the pack. Last but not least is Earthworm Girl, a novel about a group of people who’ve survived the greatest flooding of the earth and its subsequent colonization by horrific lifeforms (both animal and...plantlife?), including the eponymous worms. This is quite literally about the end of the world, and it’s not a nice ending.

Not finished with That Book?
If you haven’t quite finished with the book you are reading – don’t worry. Your library materials will automatically renew. Starting July 2018, library items that are eligible for renewal will be automatically renewed. A renewal status email will be sent to you on the due date. This new feature is being brought to patrons by our CW/MARLS network.

Online Book Group
The Online Book Group and the next book on the Milford Town Library’s Facebook page under “Groups.”

Center Book Group
The Center Book Group meets on Thursday, July 18, at 10 a.m. at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center when members will discuss Laid on the Water, a novel about closets and “a story of family, friendship and love.” Anyone interested in joining or being placed on a reserve list is asked to email mfbest@cwmars.org in order to avoid duplication.

Contemporary Book Group
The Contemporary Book Group meets in the Curran History Room on Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Pulpitzer Prize finalist Laila Lalami’s book, The Other Americans, a new novel about the suspicious death of a Moroccan immigrant. It is at once a murder mystery, and a love story. For more information about the Contemporary Book Group, including the eponymous worms. This is quite literally about the end of the world, and it’s not a nice ending.

Cabinet Classes
Cabinet Classes, offered by Catholic Charities, will continue on Thursday, from 6 to 8 p.m. Enrollment is open and rolling. Classes are free, but the text costs $30.

WISDOM TEETH REMOVAL
A wisdom tooth or third molar can become impacted inside the gums and become infected or damage the other teeth. We have performed thousands of wisdom tooth extractions. It takes less than an hour and can be done right in our office. Before removing a wisdom tooth, we will evaluate them and decide what should be done.

DENTAL IMPLANTOLOGY
Dental implants are the most realistic and durable way to replace missing teeth. They can be used to substitute tooth roots to support a dental crown or bridge. With implants, you can eat and laugh like you did with your natural teeth. In subsequent colonization by horrific lifeforms (both animal and...plantlife?), including the eponymous worms. This is quite literally...
Milford Legion in Striking Distance of Zone Title

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Legion baseball team began the final week of the regular season just two games back of first place in Zone 4 and within striking distance of a regular season title.

With five of its final six games at home, Post 59 was 13-3 at the start of the week, having won 13 of its last 14 games after an 0-2 start. “Our guys are playing well,” said Milford manager Steve DiVitto. “We have been playing some really good defense over the past couple of games, our pitching has been great and we have had some timely hitting.”

Summing up his team’s roll, DiVitto added, “we have been firing on all cylinders.”

Milford pounded out 12 hits in a win last week over Shrewsbury, one of the other two teams along with Leominster that can challenge Post 59 for the regular season Zone 4 crown. Hopkinton High School products Ben McKenzie and Stephen Simoes, along with Mount St. Charles graduate Danny Johnson and Sam Parker and Chris Brunt of Hopedale all put together multi-hit games.

McKenzie and Simoes have done well to spark the top of the Milford lineup, DiVitto said, while Brunt, Simoes and Milford High graduate Matt Shaver have provided steady infield defense. Simoes added four hits as Milford won a lopsided contest on July 4 against Framingham, 14-4.

The Hopkinton duo of McKenzie and Simoes lead the way for Milford with batting averages north of .500 and a combined 21 runs batted in, despite missing the first several games of the season after leading the Hillers to the state title game.

On the mound, Coppin State’s Jonathan Rice, another Hopedale product, is 3-1 on the season with a 3.57 ERA. Bellingham’s Alex Gerfrade, Nipmuc’s Dominic DeCarlo and Jack Tempesta and Blackstone Valley Tech’s Justin Metcalf and Nick Kazarian have all thrown double-digit innings.

“We are deep,” DiVitto said of his squad’s pitching. “Recently, there have been some guys who haven’t seen a ton of time, but we know they are going to have the ability to get their innings down the stretch and they have to be ready.”

Milford figures to be one of the top teams in the standings and will advance to the Zone 4 playoffs as one of the best eight teams. Those teams will be divided into two, double-elimination brackets and the winners will play a best of three series for the Zone title.

The Zone tournament champion advances to the state tournament, but Post 59 will play in the states either way as the tournament host. But DiVitto said there are no plans to relay on the host spot to earn a bid.

“We are not thinking about hosting,” DiVitto said. “We are thinking about winning the Zone.”

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JULY 12, 2019
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17
Milford High Unveils Latest Class of Hall of Fame

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Sarah Slapak (née Kearns) took the Milford High School swimming program to new heights when she became the first female state champion in MHS history and continued to dominate at the college level, achievements that landed her a spot in Milford’s Hall of Fame. One of three new Hall of Famers tied to the swim program, Slapak is joined in this year’s class by longtime coach Dave Chaplin and her younger sister, Jill Kearns Brewer.

“I am excited to be nominated and especially excited that my sister and I will be inducted at the same time,” Slapak said. “It’ll be nice to see everyone again. My mom and I have been going through my old sports paraphernalia in the attic and it’s been nice going back to the old glory days.”

Slapak’s Milford career included multiple all-star honors, a team MVP award and a state championship in the 200-yard freestyle. It was always a goal of mine to win a state title, so winning that for the high school and giving Chaplin his first state title as a coach was great,” she said. “I also loved our school spirit and that sisterhood, being in a sport together.”

Slapak recalled decorating teammates’ lockers, traveling on the bus to away meets and singing songs together and spending her fall afternoons in the MHS pool. Certain memories especially stood out, including setting a record in the individual medley at the relay carnival and all of the different athletes, it’s developed a culture of good kids understanding it’s still going on. “We’ve taught them that it’s not just the stars that make the team. The wins kept coming when Slapak moved on to the University of Connecticut. She placed third in the Big East in the mile as a freshman and earned conference rookie of the year honors. Slapak became a two-time team captain, saying that the honor came from her teammates made it even more special. She had records in the mile and 500-meter freestyle and still has some of the top 10 times in program history.

Her accomplishments earned Slapak a spot in UConn’s swimming Hall of Fame. A 2004 MHS graduate and 2008 UConn grad, Slapak is back living in Milford with her four-year-old daughter, Paige. “I’ve come full circle,” she said.

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Our Services Cover:
- Domestic Violence
- Femicide Bereavement
- Children Who Witness Violence
- Violence
- Rape Crisis

We Offer:
- Crisis intervention, safety planning
- Individual and family counseling
- Support groups
- Trauma informed Yoga (call to arrange availability)
- Legal and medical advocacy
- Community outreach and education

Our Services Offer:
- STRONG by Zumba combines body weight, muscle conditioning, cardio and plyometric training starting Tuesday, July 30 for six weeks from 7 to 8 p.m. at Memorial Hall and golf programs at Maplegate Country Club. More information can be found at MilfordCommunity.com under Adult Summer Sports.

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Three decades of stewarding the Milford High School boys and girls swimming and diving programs have helped land David Chaplin a spot in the MHS Hall of Fame. The class of 2019.

“It’s very flattering, very humbling,” Chaplin said. “You look at the coaches that are in there and to be put in that category, it makes me proud and at the same time reflective of the great people that have been part of this. It’s been a great run, and it’s still going on.”

Chaplin coached swimming at MHS for the first time in 1981, before statewide budget cuts temporarily put the program on hold. After coaching other sports, including football, in Florida, Chaplin returned to his alma mater and took over the boys’ swim team in 1991. He has remained a coach for one or both of the Scarlet Hawks’ swim teams ever since.

Chaplin said the culture the program has developed is what stands out to him as he looks back over his lengthy tenure. “We’ve taught them that it’s not just the stars that make a successful swimming program,” he said. “The respect that happens between the kids and all of the different athletes, it’s developed a culture of good kids understanding swimming and buying into what it takes to reach their potential.”

A 1972 graduate of Milford High, Chaplin was a standout athlete before making his mark as a swimming coach. He set a program record in the pool vault as a member of the track and field team and was a member of an undefeated MHS football team in the fall of 1971.

As the swimming head coach, Chaplin has had the benefit of the 600-seat MHS pool, which he called one of the best facilities in the state. Milford has hosted charity and memorial swim meets and also took a leadership role in organizing some of the events at the 2001 Long Island Invitational, held shortly after the events of 9/11. Along the way, Chaplin’s swimming program has had its share of individual success, sending numerous athletes to compete at the college level at places like Notre Dame, UConn, Northeastern and others. The names of Milford High Swimming athletes adorn the walls of various facilities around the state where they have set meet or venue records.

“The legacy of the kids and what they have done is the best part for me,” Chaplin said. “Not only the great college swimmers, but kids who have gone onto be aerospace engineers, pediatric surgeons. We have great kids I am so proud of, they left their mark on their high school and the athletic program.”

Hall of Fame Spotlight: Sarah Slapak

Hall of Fame Spotlight: David Chaplin

Our Services Offer:
- STRONG by Zumba combines body weight, muscle conditioning, cardiovascular and plyometric training starting Tuesday, July 30 for six weeks from 7 to 8 p.m. at Memorial Hall and golf programs at Maplegate Country Club. More information can be found at MilfordCommunity.com under Adult Summer Sports.
Mendon Pitch League

The Mendon Pitch League is looking for new blood to complement its new management team. The league has withered over the past few years and additional players, both teams and individuals are needed. Games are played at the Mendon Senior Center, Providence St., on most Thursday evenings, starting the first Thursday in September at 7:15 p.m. with play ending about 9:30 p.m. Players are all ages and abilities. The league is a social league, with teams of three players each, playing five games of 15 points. Five dollars per person, per night is collected to cover the cost of rental for the senior center, meals and prizes.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to call the Mendon Senior Center, 508-478-6175 or Wally Matthews, 508-400-7408. Leave your name and phone number and someone will return the call with all the information.

20th Annual Statewide Against the Tide Event

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) is holding its 20th annual statewide Against the Tide multi-sport event on Saturday, August 17 at Nickerson State Park on Cape Cod from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. Participants can enjoy Hix Pond’s pristine beaches and water locales for the half mile paddle board, competitive one-mile swim, half-mile and one-mile recreational swims, and two-mile kayak events. The USATF certified 5K and 10K and three-mile fitness walk route boast a paved tree-lined rolling course through Nickerson State Park. All ages and abilities are welcome to choose from up to four of these exciting activities. The event also offers an Aquathon “Splash and Dash” component, where participants “splash” in the competitive one-mile swim and immediately “dash” in either the 5K or 10K run, chosen by the participant.

Register as an individual or as part of a team. Registration is $45 per adult per event activity, $25 per student per event activity and children under 10 are free of charge. Participants are encouraged to fundraise beyond the registration fees, as all proceeds will support MBCC’s unique goal of breast cancer prevention. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest swim, run, and Aquathon athletes, top age-group finishers, and top fundraisers. MBCC will be honoring firefighters at all of their 2019 athletic fundraisers. MBCC invites firefighters and their families to walk as guests at the Against the Tide event by emailing info@mbcc.org or calling 1-800-649-6222.

Visit MBCC.org/swim or call 617-376-6222 for more information and to register.

Aching the 16th Hole

While participating in the Milford Lions Club Annual Golf Tournament at Pleasant Valley Country Club, Sutton. Phil Carusilico, president of the Milford Regional Physicians group as well as a member of the Milford Finance Committee, on the left, aced the 180 yard,16th hole with a 3 wood. His first hole-in-one rewarded him with a $1,000 prize. He is shown with Brian McCarthy, Lions Club member and co-chair of the Golf Tournament committee, on the right. The golf tournament is the Milford Lions largest fundraiser of the year raising money for the various charities including Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund and the Milford food bank, as well as providing scholarships to local high school seniors. Milford Lions photo
40th Pan-Mass Challenge Ready to Roll

In less than one month, the 40th Pan-Mass Challenge will roll through dozens of towns across Massachusetts, with thousands of cyclists raising millions of dollars to benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

I’ll be out on the road once again, participating in my ninth PMC.

Training started a little slow this year due to the chilly, wet spring. But the temperatures have risen and the skies have cleared in recent weeks and the PMC riders are out on the road in full force. The community is thousands strong.

Recently, at the Charleston, S.C. airport, I met a man who is about to set out on his 19th PMC. The father of a close friend of mine will be riding this summer for the first time. Others have been at it through all 40 years of the event’s existence.

While the temperature, the number of riders, the number of PMC events and the dollars raised — more than $600 million coming into this year — are all increasing, so too are the number of people we keep in our thoughts as we train and ask for donations.

This year, the local athletic community lost two icons to this dreaded disease, cycling can be tough. Riding more than 100 miles and, in some cases, nearly 200 miles in a single weekend is both a physical and mental test. But remembering the inspiration from these two great motivators and so many others who have battled cancer without cancer.

There are many great organizations doing tremendous work out there. But if you have the motivation and a few dollars to spare, please consider a donation to the PMC. Your efforts will be inspirations today. It is fitting that people like Leaver and Zacchilli, who spent their lives motivating people to achieve and showing athletes what could be accomplished by working together, continue to be inspirations today.

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