Luchini Installed as 59th Prospect Heights “Mayor”

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Jamie Luchini officially was installed as the 59th Mayor of Prospect Heights on July 21, as part of the annual Portuguese Picnic festivities. Luchini represents the Italian delegation of Staff Reporter/Columnist
By Kevin Rudden
Following a July 8 presentation by Town Engineer Mike Dean on the status of getting a dedicated left turn arrow from Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) onto Beaver St. to make it easier for drivers to get into the Milford Crossing shopping plaza, the Board of Selectmen urged him to try to get the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to “fast track” the signal upgrade.

“People have a right to be able to go to those businesses and do it safely,” Chairman William Buckley said. “We want to escalate, fast track.”

Dean said R.D. Management, owner of the shopping plaza, paid for the engineering designs to upgrade the intersection. “There has been a complete design of the intersection to accommodate the new advanced green light. This new design requires reprogramming existing traffic signal controller, one new traffic signal pole and base, new signal lights, new conduit (under the pavement and in the intersection) and other accessories associated with the new system,” Dean wrote in a memo to the board.

Until that work can be done, the Milford Police Department is checking with a consultant who does general work on the traffic lights throughout the town to see if changing the current traffic light’s phasing to a nine- or 10-second long advanced green light will ease the situation, Dean said.

“For me, it’s a question of when,” Buckley said. Dean said it could take the state two to three years to rebuild the intersection’s signal lights, but R.D. Management can have its portion done by winter. “I don’t want to be a victim of hope,” Buckley noted.

Selectman William Kingkade said he just wants to know the exact schedule of when the work will be completed. “This has to happen so much sooner than later,” Selectman Michael Walsh added. “This is a serious situation that needs to be addressed ASAP before someone gets hurt down there.”

Until the situation changes, Buckley recommended that people going to Milford Crossing use East Main St. (Rt. 16) and turn right at Hickey’s Liquors onto Beaver St. to get into the shopping plaza more safely and easily.

Dean met with the board again on July 22 and said R.D. Management has put its part of the project out to bid and – once a contractor is selected – they can provide him with a timetable for when various roadway improvements will occur. “They’re aware of the fact that the [advance] green light is paramount,” Dean said.

Final Arguments in Water Company Purchase Filed with DPU

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Outgoing Prospect Heights Mayor John Laronga tips his hat to fellow Prospect Heights mayors as his installation ceremonies concluded. He later marched in the annual Portuguese Parade held on the Sunday afternoon of the annual Portuguese Picnic. This year’s parade route was shortened to beginning on Water St. and ending at Prospect Heights.

New Mayor Jamie Luchini tips his hat to follow Prospect Heights mayors as his installation ceremonies concluded. He later marched in the annual Portuguese Parade held on the Sunday afternoon of the annual Portuguese Picnic. This year’s parade route was shortened to beginning on Water St. and ending at Prospect Heights.

In its 67-page legal argument, the Milford Water Company argues the fair value of the city’s utility is worth $40 million. The two sides used different appraisal and accounting methodologies to arrive at their respective conclusions.

According to the Board of Selectmen, the DPU is expected to make a determination on the price by the end of the 2019 calendar year.
Imagination Blast Off: Stories That Take You Places! was presented at the Milford Town Library on July 30 by Rona Leventhal. The interactive program invited youngsters to read a variety of stories and then use their imaginations to blast off with their own interests. Shown in the photo on the left are Sue-Ellen Szymanski, Library Youth Services Supervisor and Leventhal, right, with a group of youngsters at the program. Youngsters also took part in the annual Chalk Drawing in the library parking lot on August 6. Shown in the photo on the right are Cali Geoffroy, left, and Kamilla Carvalho. Both programs are part of the library’s Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories. Imagination Blast Off is part of the library’s Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories.

Harry Platcow, Town Crier photos

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Milaof Town Crier AUGUST 9, 2019
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Amherst-based attorney Thomas Reidy met with the Planning Board on July 16 to see if its members would support a zoning by-law change needed to build a Cumberland Farms gas station and 4,300-square-foot convenience store complex at the corner of Birch St. and Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). His answer was a very clear “No.”

“This is probably the worst place in town to put a gas station,” Town Planner Larry Dunkin said. “I worry about what it’s going to do to the traffic,” board member Joseph Calagione said.

Reidy said he met with Dunkin in April to discuss the idea, but wanted to get the board’s reaction to the idea of tearing down the current Richard’s Road House restaurant and then seeking to rezone a vacant lot behind it on Birch St. that currently is zoned for residential use. The convenience store — smaller than the one recently built in Hopedale — would be located on that vacant lot, the lawyer said.

Dunkin said that — even if the gas station/convenience store’s entrance were located on Birch St. — it would still be too close to the busy intersection at Medway Rd. Calagione expressed concern about people trying to make a left turn off Medway Rd. into the gas station.

“The current restaurant is a better use for the site because it draws traffic at hours different from peak traffic flows, Dunkin explained.

“We have so many traffic problems in that area now,” board Chair Marble Mainini said. Over the past few years, town officials have been dealing with traffic back-ups near the Milford Crossing shopping plaza a short distance down Medway Rd., traffic generated by the Amazon.com warehouse on Industrial Way off Birch St. and the expected traffic once the 162-unit “Birch Street Place” apartment complex is built behind the Fire Department Headquarters building on Birch St.

“The writing’s on the wall,” Reidy said about not getting the board’s support for the zoning change.

The Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA 6). CHNA 6 is one of 27 Community Health Network Areas (CHNAs) across Massachusetts. It serves 13 communities: Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge. CHNA 6 is a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Milford Regional Medical Center, local service agencies, schools, businesses, Boards of Health, community health centers and other health organizations, as well as concerned citizens who are working together to build healthier communities. The group meets bimonthly and offers various networking opportunities and presentations to its attendees. It oversees two grant cycles annually, with funding to help support local programs and initiatives. Recent grants helped fund the Milford Bus Transportation Loop and the almost completed Dance Room at the Milford Youth Center. For more information about CHNA 6, visit CHNA6.org.

Members of the public are invited to attend any or all of the upcoming meetings which are all held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, 60 North Bow St., Milford. Meetings are Friday, September 13, November 15, January 17, March 13 and May 15. To join the mailing list, please email coordinator@chna6.org.

Cumberland Farms got a thumbs-down from the Planning Board about building a gas station/convenience store where Richard’s Road House restaurant (Lot 51, at right corner of Birch St.) and a vacant lot behind it (Lot 52) are now located.

CHNA 6 Update

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Milford Regional Cited for Excellence in Lactation Care

Milford Regional Medical Center has received global recognition for its lactation program and the highly-trained team of maternity nurses that help protect, promote and support breastfeeding. It received the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® Care Award from the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners ("IBLCE") and the International Lactation Consultant Association® (ICLA®).

The award recognizes Milford Regional for its commitment to providing professional lactation support as an integral part of the hospital’s maternal-child services and its commitment to improving maternal and child health by making breastfeeding a priority. Milford Regional promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding by helping new moms attain their breastfeed goals. Experienced consultants are available in the hospital and when moms return home through the warm-line. Milford Regional also offers breastfeeding classes and support groups.

For more information, visit MilfordRegional.org/medical-services/maternity/breastfeeding.

Justine M. DeNorscia Executive Vice President at UniBank

Christopher D. Foley, President of UniBank, recently announced that Justine M. DeNorscia, has been promoted to Executive Vice President (EVP). DeNorscia continues in her role as Director of Government Banking. Her responsibilities include all management functions related to Deposit Operations, Cash Management, UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, Inc. (UFASI), UniPay, and Government Banking.

DeNorscia has been with UniBank for 15 years. She is a 2013 graduate of the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking, and a recipient of the Certificate for Executive Leadership from The Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies from Assumption College.

DeNorscia is a member of the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association, Massachusetts Municipal Association, Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials. She is also involved with various County Municipal Associations, volunteers at the Community Harvest Project, and serves as a member of the Hanover Theatre's Ambassadors Circle.

Whitcomb House Plant Operations Director Earns Award

Capital Senior Living, one of the nation’s largest operators of senior living communities, announced recently that Ron Gassett, plant operations director at The Whitcomb House in Milford, earned the Facilities/Maintenance Service Award from The Massachusetts Assisted Living Association (Mass-ALA). Mass-ALA, a non-profit association dedicated to professionally operated assisted living residences in Massachusetts that provide housing and services for individuals with varied needs and income levels, annually presents Excellence Awards to honor individuals who demonstrated their desire to make a positive difference in the lives of residents and who, in the view of their peers, stand out as role models within the industry.

The Facilities/Maintenance Service Award specifically recognizes industry professionals for their excellence in maintaining the community ensuring the safety of residents and associates in a clean, functional environment.

Gassett, who is from Bellingham and has worked at The Whitcomb House for 11 years, is not only known for his dedication to his position but also his engagement with residents. In the past year, Gassett transitioned from facility manager to plant operations director, taking over a role with increasing responsibility and bringing the same standard of excellence to it that he did had while working in the maintenance department. In 2018, Gassett also oversaw the complete transformation of the community during its extensive renovation.

Celebrating Milford’s Portuguese Heritage

One of the musical groups that took part in the Annual Portuguese Picnic and Parade in Milford make their way to the Portuguese Club on Sunday, July 21. The annual two-day picnic celebrates the Portuguese heritage of Milford.

To view more photos of the 2019 Milford Portuguese Picnic by Town Crier photographer Harry Platcow, visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.

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Celebrating Milford’s Portuguese Heritage
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., 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 Trotsa Clark is the director.

Friday, August 9
12:30 p.m. 19th Annual Luncheon Plus Jazz Music Directed by Al Testa, Cost is $7

Thursday, August 15
12:30 p.m. Healthy Living Luncheon, Topic is Brain Healthy Cooking for One, Sponsored by Cornerstone of Milford, $5 Refundable

Tuesday, August 20
10 a.m. Book Club, Elle Minnie Piu Written by Mark Dunn, 10 a.m. Free Workshop on License Renewal and Real ID, Given by Registry of Motor Vehicles

Wednesday, August 21
10:30 a.m. Trip to Northshore Theater to See Jersey Boys Sunday

Monday 8 a.m. Walking Clans 8 a.m. Fitness Equipment & Internet 8:30 a.m. Express Muscle & Mat, $3 for Seniors, $7 Under 60 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. Gift Shop 10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold 11:15 p.m. Safe Exercise Tuesday 8 a.m. Walking Clans 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. White 11:45 a.m. Pound® for Seniors, $7 Under 60 12:30 p.m. Turkey Foot Dominos 1 p.m. Mah Jongg

Milford Cultural Council

Six new members have been appointed to the Milford Cultural Council by Selectmen, in-creasing membership to 14. Current members are Molly Auger, Jim Buckley, Marco Car-neiro, Bryan Cole, Geri Eddins, Vinnie Kiejzo, Michael Lalime, Jenny Lyons, Marcia Macri, Meghan Olivera, Nicole Romiglio, Patty Salomon, Mike Visconti and Christopher Vendetti. The newly appointed officers are Geri Eddins as Chairperson, Bryan Cole as Vice President and Nicole Romiglio as Secretary.

According to the council’s web page, the Milford Cultural Council seeks to promote excellence, inclusion, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences to foster a rich cultural life for all Milford residents, contributing to the vitality of the community and economy.

The application period to request funds opens on September 1, 2019 with a deadline on November 1 and December 30, the Milford Council will meet to make decisions on applications, send denial letters and handle reconsideration requests. By January 5, 2020 the Council will begin to notify applicants of their funding.

“The Milford Cultural Council is proud to allocate funding for a diverse range of activities and events in our community every year. We are actively seeking feedback from residents regarding what types of projects and events they would like to see offered. Residents may submit suggestions by email, by speaking with a member of the Council, or by attending one of our meetings,” said Eddins.

Culture Council meetings, which are held every third Tuesday monthly at 7 p.m. in Milford Town Hall, 52 Main St., Room 14, are open to the public. The contact Council by emailing CulturalCouncil@TownofMilford.com.

Two new members have been appointed to the Milford Cultural Council by Selectmen, increasing the membership to 14. Current members are Molly Auger, Jim Buckley, Marco Carneiro, Bryan Cole, Geri Eddins, Vinnie Kiejzo, Michael Lalime, Jenny Lyons, Marcia Macri, Meghan Olivera, Nicole Romiglio, Patty Salomon, Mike Visconti and Christopher Vendetti.

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RUMINATIONS

By Kevin Biddun

I recently was in a small Town in Franklin County, northwest of Lancaster, visiting family members who have lived there their entire lives. They are the kind of people who know everyone, and who are comfortable to talk to each other about anything. Their conversations are filled with stories and jokes, and they have a deep sense of community. I was struck by how different our lives are compared to theirs.

“People more here for their privacy,” the chairman told me. “But is privacy a lost concept?”

Among the many powers contained within The Patriot Act, for example, is the right for certain law enforcement agencies to conduct warrantless searches and seizures. The act also allows the government to retain personal information for an indefinite period of time.

“I f’google a product, it tends to show up on every subsequent web page I look at for several weeks, so somebody, somewhere knows what I’m thinking of buying. Amazon.com takes that even further, sending me e-mails recommending something similar to something I’ve already bought from the e-tailer. (Just my contribution to the Industrial Rd./Bird St. delivery van traffic!)”

My bank - by way of my debit card - knows where I buy my groceries and where I stop for gas. It even calls me when I’m paying to check a bag at the airport, questioning whether it’s really me since I

My bank - by way of my debit card - knows where I buy my groceries and where I stop for gas. It even calls me when I’m paying to check a bag at the airport, questioning whether it’s really me since I

“Seems like an invasion of privacy to me. I’m just a consumer, doing a little shopping. What do they want with my identity?”

Exactly. We all need some shred of privacy left to us. But, excuse me. I’m going to look at Facebook to find out what everyone’s doing.

Advertisers Club Introduces

HealthSource of Milford

By Michelle Sanford

Staff Reporter/Columnist

Today, more and more people are experiencing the benefits of chiropractic care like never before. Recent studies have shown that more than 33 million Americans are seeking out the specialty to relieve various types of pain. And while HealthSource of Milford is commonly seen to restore the health through their chiropractic services, the doctors on staff proudly take their care a step further.

Chiropractics uses hands-on spinal adjustments to gently align the body’s musculoskeletal structure, ultimately helping to relieve back, neck, and other joint pain. “We go beyond those services; we take a whole-body approach,” said chiropractor Dr. Kristin Lewis. The purpose, she explained, is to make certain once the pain goes away—it stays away.

HealthSource of Milford opened its door in January and its highly qualified and friendly staff consists of Dr. Lewis, who received her bachelor’s degree in exercise science before graduating from New York Chiropractic College. In addition, co-owners (and sisters) Dr. Alpa Daga, a physician from India who at one time ran a diagnostic center in her home country, and Arpita Shah, who takes care of the business aspect of the practice.

What sets HealthSource apart from other chiropractic offices is its exclusive rehab program. New patients will complete a comprehensive assessment that might include x-rays taken conveniently on the premises. From there, an individualized treatment plan is put in motion. Adjustments to the spine and neck are likely an initial treatment toward feeling better, but HealthSource of Milford then takes it a step further if necessary, by utilizing noninvasive laser therapies for such things as swelling, spasms, and muscle tears.

In addition, stretching techniques are taught and nutritional counseling is offered as well. Prior to working at HealthSource, Dr. Lewis “shadowed” at a number of other chiropractic offices but affirms, “The resources we have here are the best in the area, bar none.”

One of the biggest benefits of chiropractic care is it helps to stop chronic pain without the use of medication. Although medications can mask various types of pain, it won’t necessarily tackle the cause and therefore will likely return. Chiropractic treatments target the source of the pain and helps patients experience relief almost immediately with taking medication. The Milford practice has treated everyone from veterans and athletes to expectant moms, seniors, and children.

HealthSource of Milford is located at 138 Main St. To set up an appointment, call 508-282-5249 or view healthsourcechoirofmilford.com for more information. Most insurances are accepted. Beginning in July through September, new patients will receive an x-ray and exam for $27, or donate a gently used or new backpack during that time and receive those services for free.
Morin, Kingkade Featured on 30 Minutes

Finance Committee Chair Christopher Morin, and livestock farmer, video Kingkade are the guests on recent episodes of 30 Minutes with The Town Crier. The show airs at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings on YouTube. The half-hour show is produced by Town Crier Publications, Inc. — publishers of The Milford Town Crier and The Upton & Mendon Town Crier newspapers — and focuses on Milford’s government, culture and history, news, businesses and charitable organizations. The show is co-hosted by Town Crier Publisher Al Holman and Town Crier columnist Kevin Rudden.

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INDEX
Calendar . . 16
Obituaries . . 16
School News . . . . . 15-14
Sports . . . . . . 15-20

SPECIAL SECTIONS
Home Improvement . . . . 8-9
Back to School . . . . 10-11

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INDEX
Calendar . . 16
Obituaries . . 16
School News . . . . . 15-14
Sports . . . . . . 15-20

SPECIAL SECTIONS
Home Improvement . . . . 8-9
Back to School . . . . 10-11

Back to School . . . . 10-11
Lawsuit against Pighetti’s Appointment Resumes Next Week

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

A lawsuit filed last month in Worcester Superior Court by 23 Milford residents seeking to overturn the Board of Selectmen’s appointment of retired Sergeant Michael Pighetti as the town’s Interim Police Chief and replace him with Deputy Chief James Faley is scheduled to resume next Tuesday.

The suit was filed on July 15 by Richard Heller, Evelyn Bon Tempo, Michael Rossetti, David Denlinger, Lisa Sherman, Donato Niro, Christine Crean, John Erickson, Antonio Cristino, Charles Abrahamsson, Melanie Solomon, Alan Solomon, Noel Bon Tempo, Terence Thomas, Bartholomew Lawless, Tamara Nevens, Charles Calcagni, Theresa Calcagni, Carlo Bon Tempo, Meredith Bon Tempo, Albert DeGeorge, Paul Sanchioni and James Sanchioni. Heller and Niro are both appointed members of the Police Chief Selection Committee looking for finalist candidates to fill the Police Chief’s position. Erickson is an elected member of the School Committee.

The suit claims that Pighetti’s appointment violates Massachusetts General Laws because, as a retired police officer, he no longer has the right to exercise police powers. In addition, they claim that approval by the town’s Personnel Board and Town Meeting are required for an appointment to exercise police powers. In addition, they claim that approval by the town’s Personnel Board and Town Meeting were not obtained in order for selectmen to create the position of “administrative police chief.”

In their court filing, the plaintiffs asked Judge Daniel Wrenn to consider the case a “short order of notice” to the court to issue a “temporary restraining order” to prevent the chief from exercising police powers. The suit claims that Pighetti’s appointment violates Massachusetts General Laws because, as a retired police officer, he no longer has the right to exercise police powers.

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MPTC: Administrative Police Chief is a Recognized Position

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Information from the state’s Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) - an agency that oversees the training of law enforcement officers - that was subpoenaed by the 23 Milford residents seeking to overturn the appointment of retired Sergeant Michael Pighetti as the town’s Interim Police Chief shows that the MPTC recognizes the role of an administrative police chief.

In its “Certification Requirements for Chiefs of Police,” the MPTC states: “When deciding to hire a chief of police, one qualification needing to be addressed is whether the community wants the chief of police to be a sworn officer capable of exercising police powers of arrest. If so, then the following is a guide to requirements, considerations and process for achieving that goal.” Therese criteria derive from Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) c. §116, G.L. c. §118, G.L. c. 419:96B, and the Code of Massachusetts Regulations 550 CMR 3.0 (Massachusetts Police Officer Training Requirements). However, nothing contained herein nor within the MGLs prohibits a community from hiring an administrative chief of police who will not be exercising police powers. If the chief of police will be an administrative chief of police and will not be exercising police powers, these training requirements are not applicable.

The MPTC advised Pighetti that - due to his not exercising police powers while he was retired - he must go through its training programs to regain those powers.

The subpoenaed information also shows that former Chief Thomas O’Loughlin opposed Pighetti’s appointment until he passed such training in a May 7 letter to the MPTC that stated: “Having served as police chief in the Town of Milford for 17 years and as a police chief in the Commonwealth for 33 years, I can attest that my daily duties and responsibilities required my involvement in exercising my police powers and authority directly and in assisting other officers and investigators. The notion that this position is or can be strictly one of administrative responsibilities is absolutely without merit.”

MPTC Executive Director Daniel Zivkovich responded to O’Loughlin by noting, “From an MPTC perspective, if a chief of police… is simply engaged in administrative duties (managing and supervising), the chief does not need to comply with the MPTC’s training standards. Further, there is nothing to preclude the chief from wearing a uniform or being armed (with a LTC), as long as they are not exercising police powers. Those decisions are left to the appointing authority.”

Zivkovich also responded to a five-page letter from Milford resident Michael Johnson, advising him that the town could appoint Pighetti as an administrative police chief without the training to exercise police powers.

Town Employee Cleared in Ethics Complaint

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Selectmen Chairman William Buckley inadvertently revealed some confidential correspondence at his board’s July 8 meeting by holding up and referencing a letter from the State Ethics Commission that stated a town employee committed no state Conflict of Interest violations last year. Although selectmen received a copy of the letter, the original was sent to the employee, who did not want the matter aired publicly.

The issue being investigated was what the employee - who is an officer of the Hoboken Citizens Club - committed an ethics violation by recording use of the club’s hall on Central St. to a group of residents taking up a petition drive to recall Selectman William Kingkade from office. The town employee in question is appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Special Investigator Scott Cole wrote in his June 26 letter that an allegation had been made that the employee used his town position to interfere with the petition drive. “Based upon our interview with you, and on any necessary additional investigation, we are satisfied that this matter does not require further action on our part,” Cole’s letter concluded.

Under state law, having a board member introduce the letter at a public meeting means the document is considered to be “public.” The Town Crier requested and received a copy of it at the conclusion of the board’s July 8 meeting, and is respecting the employee’s wish not to be named.

After mentioning the letter’s findings, Buckley voiced criticisms of people who “want to throw things against the wall and see what sticks” while needlessly damaging people’s reputations.

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After mentioning the letter’s findings, Buckley voiced criticisms of people who “want to throw things against the wall and see what sticks” while needlessly damaging people’s reputations.
The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford, is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, September 14, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon in the church parking lot. The church ensures that 99 percent of dropped off items will be reused and recycled. All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV’s can be recycled. Recycling fees range from $5 to $35 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost. A drive through process will allow those donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available. Cash payments only, please.

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

MLB HOME BUYING SEMINAR IN DOUGLAS

UniBank will be sponsoring a free home buying seminar at its Douglas branch, 4 Mechanic St., Douglas on Wednesday, August 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. Seminar speakers include: Pam MacDougall, UniBank Mortgage Consultant (NMLS #485225); Karen Mercure, Realtor, The Mercure Group at Keller Williams; Mark Wickstrom, Attorney, Wickstrom Morse, LLP; Paul Baker, Appraiser, Baker Appraisals; Kerri Pomfret, Insurance Agent at Ripple Effect Insurance; Sue Reider, Home Inspector, Keystone Home Inspections. Contact UniBank’s Karen Yacino (NMLS# 688961) at 508-476-2624 or karen.yacino@unibank.com to register.

Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. To enter, individuals must be 18 years or older, register and attend the seminar. No purchase or account required to enter or win.

All seminar attendees will receive a $250 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank. For up-to-date details, visit UniBank.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 508-476-2624 OR 508-904-4471
AUGUST 9, 2019

Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Health
- Discussed concerns regarding the failure of the customer call system used E.L. Harvey & Sons, Inc. of Westborough as it took over the town’s trash pick-up on July 1. “We want to get off on the right foot,” board member Paul Marracelli said, noting there is a transition period “Where you’re going to have a hiccup or two.” (July 15)
- Voted to send a letter to the Planning Board stating that a proposed transportation terminal on Platinum Way would have no effect on the town’s sewer system because the site has no connection to it. (July 16)
- Voted to continue until September a special permit request by Luis Inocentes Sgammato of 3 Casey Drive to build an in-law apartment in the basement of their home. (July 18)
- Granted the owners of the Dairy Queen at 190 West St. (Route 140) a one-year extension on the special permit issued last year to allow them to install solar energy systems. (July 18)

Board of Sewer Commissioners
- Awarded its annual bids for chemicals used at the wastewater treatment plant as follows. Madigan Lime Corporation ($240 per ton for hydrated lime); Holland Company ($1.75/gallon for polymerized aluminum coagulant [PAC]), and SNF Polydyne ($0.56/wet pound of liquid polymer). Holland Company was not the lowest bidder for PAC, but its product complied with specifications. (July 16)
- Voted to send a letter to the Planning Board stating that a proposed sales office at 42-46 Main St. would have no effect on the town’s sewer system. (July 16)
- Voted to send a letter to the Planning Board stating that a proposed transport terminal on Platinum Way would have no effect on the town’s sewer system because the site has no connection to it. (July 16)
- Approved a sewer connection for a new house at 359 Purchase St. and voted to send a letter to the Planning Board regarding the approval. (July 16)
- Voted to send the Planning Board a letter that a proposed site plan change at 1 Industrial Way would have no effect on the town’s sewer system. (July 16)
- John Mainini, the Sewer Department’s Director of Operations, proposed raising sewer connection fees for apartment complexes from the current $2,000 per building. Board member discussed various options, such as a higher cost per building or charging by the number of units. No final action was taken. (July 16)
- Mainini reported that a sanitary sewer overflow at 12-14 Colonial Rd. on June 16 due to a clogged sewer pipe met the threshold for being reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection. (July 16)
- Project Manager James Hoyt of Tata & Howard, the Sewer Department’s Marlborough-based engineering consultants, reported that the multi-million dollar sludge dewatering addition is nearing completion and should be used in test production mode in mid-August. (July 16)
- Hoyt reported data from recent flow studies in sewer mains will be analyzed shortly to determine where “inflow and infiltration” of groundwater needs to be removed. (July 16)

Planning Board
- Continued until August 13 a request to amend the site plan for the Sira Naturals marijuana growing facility at 1 Industrial Rd. In the interim, board members want Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafiulli to decide whether the water mains for the site should come off Birch St. or Industrial Rd. (July 16)
- Granted the owners of the Dairy Queen at 190 West St. (Rt. 140) a one-year extension until October 23, 2020 on the special permit issued last year to allow them to install solar energy systems. Attorney John Fernandes said the delay is due to negotiations to interconnect the solar system with National Grids electricity network. (July 16)
- Approved a site plan waiver for Maria Caguana to convert a dental office at 42-46 Main St. to an Herbal products store, provided that a sign be erected directing customers to park in a rear lot. The actual store access would be on North Bow St. (July 16)
- Agreed to support a future Town Meeting article seeking to transfer 17 parcels of town-owned land within the headwaters of the Charles River to the Conservation Commission’s jurisdiction, provided that the commission sponsors the article. Town Planner Larry Dunkin said the land encompasses 154.52 acres. (July 16)
- Voted to send an unfavorable recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on a variance request by the Milford Senior Center to erect a 16-foot by 16-foot wood frame gazebo six feet from a side property line in an area where 20 feet is required. Board members said they would consider making a favorable recommendation if the gazebo were moved further back from the property line. “Just because you’re the town, you don’t get a pass,” board member Joseph Calagione said. “They should at least make an effort” to moving the gazebo, he added. (July 16)
- Voted to send an unfavorable recommendation to the ZBA on a variance request by Camila Rosa to maintain a 16-foot by 16-foot shed placed within the 25-foot rear yard setback at 182 Purchase St. Dunkin noted the application form was incomplete, an accurate survey locating the shed was not provided and there appeared to be no hardship relating to the land in question. (July 16)
- Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA on a special permit request by Thomas Sgammato to build a supplemental-in-law apartment within his existing home at 3 Casey Drive. (July 16)
- Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA on a special permit request by Luis Inocentes to replace a structurally deficient house at 4 East Charles St. with a new single-family home that will meet all required setbacks on the non-conforming 10,890 square-foot lot. (July 16)

Zoning Board of Appeals
- Continued until September a special permit request by Frederick and Susan Elliott of 5 Elm St. to return their single-family home back to a two-family residence. (July 18)
- Granted a variance to West Street Auto Body, Inc. of 69 West St. to erect a 28 square-foot sign, provided that it located 12.5 feet off the edge of the roadway pavement and not be illuminated. (July 18)
- Granted a variance to the Milford Senior Center to build a 16-foot by 16-foot wood frame gazebo six feet from a side property line in an area where 20 feet is required. (July 18)
- Denied a variance request by Camila Rosa of 182 Purchase St. to build a 16-foot by 16-foot shed being constructed 14 feet – instead of the required 25 feet – from a rear yard setback. (July 18)
- Granted a special permit to Thomas and Michelle Sgammato of 3 Casey Drive to build an in-law apartment in the basement of their home. (July 18)
- Granted a special permit to Luis Inocentes to replace a structurally deficient house at 4 East Charles St. with a new single-family home that will meet all required setbacks on the non-conforming 10,890 square-foot lot. (July 18)
- Granted the owners of the Dairy Queen at 190 West St. (Route 140) a one-year extension on the special permit issued last year to allow them to install solar energy systems. (July 18)
Back to School

**New School Year, New Bus Routes for Valley Tech**

Blackstone Valley Tech announces the preliminary bus routes for the start of the 2019-2020 school year are available now on the school’s website: ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/busroutes. All bus routes are subject to change. Please continue to visit the school website often throughout the fall for the most up-to-date schedule and check carefully as bus number and bus stop may have changed from the previous year. Also, note that bus routes are subject to alterations due to changes in enrollment, student population, roadwork conditions, and ridership times.

**Valley Tech National Lunch and Breakfast Program**

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School has announced its policy for free and reduced lunch and breakfast for those students unable to pay the full price for meals and snacks under the National School Lunch & Breakfast program. Income eligibility guidelines must be met and an application must be completed. Families who have received a letter stating that their child is eligible for the program via direct certification do not have to complete an application. Applications and all information regarding the program may be found by visiting ValleyTech.SchoolLunchApp.com, by stopping by the school office or accessing the school website, ValleyTech.k12.ma.us and clicking under “Parents & Students” “Food & Nutrition.”

**Valley Tech to Comply with Records Regulations**

In accordance with state and federal Regulations, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School keeps student transcripts, a record of student grades, for 60 years after graduation. Student temporary records, including Special Education files, are destroyed seven years after a student's graduation date. Blackstone Valley Tech is notifying members of the Class of 2012 that all temporary student records, any information not contained in the transcript, shall be destroyed on August 29, 2019. If a Valley Tech Class of 2012 alumnum wishes to receive these records, they should send a written request indicating the year of graduation and name while in school to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Student Services/Record Retention at 65 Pleasant St., Upton, MA 01568. Please send all record requests before August 29, 2019.

For more information, please contact Student Services/Record Retention, Blackstone Valley Tech by calling 508-529-7758, x3013.

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$1,300 bonus if you have a valid 7D License

$1,000 bonus if you do not have a 7D license

- Regular full license required
- 7D drivers from school interested in the cash benefits you can receive all the way you walk your route
- Must be a 7D licensed for at least three years
- Hours are flexible
- Great if you are retired!
- 20-39 hours

**Contact Information**

Call Mark’s Transportation at 508-473-3600. Our office is located at 51 East Main St. (Route 16) from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
GRADS

Deborah Negus Dorrell, M.D.
Deborah Negus Dorrell, daughter of Brenda and Robert Negus of Milford, has graduated from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, N.C., where she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society. She also won the Charles M. Howell Memorial Excellence in Dermatology award. Dorrell is a 2011 graduate of Worcester Academy and a 2005 summa cum laude graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa. She has begun her preliminary medicine internship at Cone Health, Greensboro, N.C., to be followed by a dermatology residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Kaley Pratt
More than 1,250 Eastern Connecticut State University students received their diplomas in the 2018-19 academic year with commencement ceremony held on May 21 for the Wilimantic Conn. school. Among the graduates was Kaley Pratt of Milford, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences.

Meghan Roy
Among the 897 members of the Class of 2019, who were awarded a Bryant University degree at the 156th Commencement ceremony on May 18 in Smithfield, R.I. was Meghan Roy of Milford, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.

Signe Tarmey
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y. conferred some 4,200 degrees this academic year at all its campuses—including in Croatia, Dubai, Kosovo and China. The 134th annual commencement celebration was in May. Signe Tarmey of Milford received an AAS in laboratory science technology.

Roger Williams University Graduates
The following Milford residents were among the students who received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2019 from Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I. Abigail Kline graduated magna cum laude with a degree in B.S. in Finance. Tyler Kruk graduated with a degree in B.S. in Marketing.

UMass Amherst
Approximately 5,500 students received their bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Undergraduate Commencement on May 10 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium. Among the graduates were the following Milford students. Kaidyn Laura AllegraPera, Haley Ashton Avila, Samantha Isabel Bobby, Armando Carvalho Jr, Jingying Chen, Robert Thomas Cote, Ryan Kenneth Dahlgren, Joseph Bryant Donato, Miroslav Georgiev Georgiev, Cassandra Jekanoski, Lisa Serra Johnson, Yanni Lan, Grace Elizabeth Landry, Nicholas Michael Monica, Austen William Shulduko, Shakirah Soebyala and Alessia Orta Varney.

University of Rhode Island
The University of Rhode Island in Kingston held its 133rd Commencement on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19, awarding degrees to about 3,400 undergraduate and 740 graduate students including the following Milford residents. Justin D Brilliant received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Finance. Mike Steven Villani received a Bachelor of Arts Political Science.

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

Champlain College, Burlington, Vt.: Joshua Lanham
Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville, Iowa: Marc Plumb.
Pomfret School, Pomfret Conn.: Kyle Tomas0, Class of 2020, High Honors, for a GPA of 3.670 or higher.
Stonchill College, Easton: Madison Bonvino and Christopher Castriotta, both members of the Class of 2022.
Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.: Juliet Ross, Class of 2020, majoring in Leadership in Medicine
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester: Aleye Okhypo, class of 2020 majoring in aerospace engineering, Megan Pinette, class of 2020 majoring in biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering, Christopher Watson, class of 2021 majoring in chemical engineer ing;Gabriela Chong, class of 2022 majoring in chemical engineering, and Peyton Grant, class of 2022 majoring in electrical and computer engineering, and computer science.

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AUGUST 9, 2019
Milford Town Crier
First Results in for Best Voting Community 2019/2020

With the results of the 2019 local elections now complete, the competition for the 2019/2020

Senator Louis Bertonazzi Foundation Citizenship Award has officially begun. The 19 competing towns will be vying for the title “Best Voting Community for 2019/2020”. The current title holder for 2017-2018 is Douglas.

Five elections will determine the best voting community. The race began with 2019

elections. The other four elections will be the 2020 local elections, Presidential
Primary, September State Primary and November National Election. The town that has the highest percentage of registered voters who actually came out to vote in the five contests will be presented a $1,000 check, a plaque for the Town Hall and a huge banner proclaiming it “Best Voting Community”.

Bertonazzi has represented the 19 competing towns. They are Auburn, Bellingham, Blackstone, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Northbridge, Oxford, Southbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Webster and Westminster.

Following the 2019 local elections, Millville is in the lead with a voter turnout of 34.72 percent, Upton is in fourth with 15.17 percent, Milford is eighth with 12.85 percent, Mendon is 11th with 9.96 percent and Hopedale is 15th with 6.15 percent.

More Amazon.com Traffic Proposed

The proposed transportation terminal on East Main St. for Amazon.com is not going to replace the Internet giant’s parking spaces at the nearby Quarry Square shopping plaza, but add to them, according to a civil engineer working on the proposal. Dale MacKinnon, a senior project engineer with Guerriere & Haloon, told the Planning Board on July 16 that – if approved – the site would generate 1,680 vehicle trips each day.

During Amazon’s 7:30 to 10 a.m. morning
shift, 50 vehicles would be leaving the site every half hour, drive to the Amazon warehouse on Industrial Way to pick up packages, and then return to East Main St. nine hours later, according to traffic engineer Elizabeth Oltman of Andover-based The Engineering Corporation. She later said 100 vehicles would enter and exit the site during the 7.9 a.m. and 4:6 p.m. peak hours. A second shift begins from 11.30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. she added.

Hearing those numbers, Planning Board member Patrick Kennelly commented, “I think it will be exceeding 50.” He added, “You’re opening up Pandora’s box here.”

Oltman said the van’s typical route from the Earl Main St. site would be to take a left onto Beaver St., a right onto Medway Rd. (Rt. 109), and then a left onto Birch St. and a right onto Industrial Way. Generally, she said, the intersections involved are operating at good levels of service, but three would need to have their traffic signals improved: Beaver and East Main, Medway and Birch, and the intersection of Medway and East Main. “We’re willing to work with

the town and make the timing changes” to mitigate traffic issues, she said. “Traffic can be accommodated on the roadway system with some minor modifications to the signal system.”

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History of the Platinum Park Property

• January 12, 1970: Forge Realty Trust

• January 24, 2000: Platinum Realty Trust

• September 22, 1972: Forte sells the land to the Forte Investment Fund on March 11, 1974.

• March 15, 1984: Forte sells the land to White Incinerator Trust (Thomas White, trustee) for $70,000. White returns ownership of the land to the Forte Investment Fund on March 11, 1974.

• December 22, 1989: Buscone and Fafard sell the land to Platinum Realty Trust (Joseph Buscone and Madlyn Fafard, trustees) for $1.

• August 2, 2000: Platinum Realty Trust of Ashland (Richard Terrill, trustee) sells the land to Fafard Real Estate and Development Corp. of Ashland for $462,500.

• January 1, 2002: Fafard Real Estate and Development Corp. sells the land to Milford Route 495 Realty, LLC for less than $100.

• August 16, 2011: Milford Planning Board approves Platinum Park subdivision.

• October 24, 2016: Milford Route 495 Realty, LLC (Howard Fafard, manager) of 120 Quarry Dr., Milford sells the land to Paulini Loam, LLC (Richard Terrill and Howard Fafard, managers) of 120 Quarry Dr., Milford for $3,100,00.

• June 24, 2019: Paulini Loam, LLC sells the land to Lyman Realty Trust (Richard Terrill and Madlyn Fafard, trustees) of 120 Quarry Dr., Milford for $4,178,748.
In the final stage of the SkillsUSA competition series, Blackstone Valley Tech students proved their talent, dedication, and education are among the best in the nation earning two gold medals as well as several top-tier placements at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky June 24-29.

This year's championships marked the third time a Valley Tech student successfully ran for national office - Anika Koopman of Northbridge was elected by the House of Delegates to serve a one-year term as Massachusetts Region 1 Vice President, SkillsUSA National Officer. As a National Officer, Anika will represent SkillsUSA through personal appearances and will participate in numerous professional development programs. Additionally, seven National Voting Delegates from BVT represented the school at the conference.

The following students from Blackstone Valley Tech were among the nation's top competitors at the 2019 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference Championships:

Gold, 1st Place
John Doron of Douglas, Dental Assisting
Samuel Houle of Milville, Major Appliance Technology

4th Place
Melissa Vieira of Milford, Nurse Assisting
Mya Ackerman of Douglas, Restaurant Service

5th Place
Connor Andrews of Sutton and Zachary Riversnider of Mendon, Mobile Robotics
Joseph Cardin of Sutton, Welding

6th Place
Emma Kane of Blackstone, Kierra Kurtyna of Uxbridge, Renata Santiago of Milford, and Carissa Penta of Blackstone, Entrepreneurship
Vella Ross of Northbridge, Medical Terminology

7th Place
Demari Almeida of Milford, Telecommunications Cabling

Students placed outside of the Top 10:
Christopher Aurelio of Mendon, Photography
Max Brueggemann of Whitinsville, Technical Drafting
Olivea Cheschi of Milford, Alyssa Davis of Blackstone, and Sarah Duncan of Bellingham, Promotional Bulletin Board
Jake Garille of Uxbridge, Electrical Construction Wiring
Logan Keele of Milford and Mason Weagle of Milbury, Digital Cinema Production
Jacob Martin of Upton, Automotive Service Technology
Caitlyn Meiners of Bellingham, Health Occupations Portfolio
Kevin Queally of Sutton, Advertising Design

Special Recognition: National Officer
Adam Cavanaugh of Milford, SkillsUSA Career Essentials Credential
SKillsUSA Massachusetts awards one of the very first SkillsUSA Career Essentials Credential certifications National Officer, Adam Cavanaugh of Milford.

National Officer Elect
Anika Koopman of Northbridge, Massachusetts Region 1 Vice President

National Voting Delegates:
Jessica Brown of Douglas
Skylar Chase of Northbridge
Katie Housekeeper of Upton
Abby Kelly of Hopedale
Tanya Geha of Northbridge
Jennifer Moore of Hopedale
Samantha Stephens of Mendon

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A Good Year for the Milford School District and its Superintendent

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

The Milford School Committee commended Superintendent Dr. Kevin McIntyre during his annual end-of-year evaluation, praising him for his work ethic and community engagement.

The 2018/2019 school year evaluation was presented at the July 18 School Committee Meeting. McIntyre received an overall “Proficient” rating. “A ‘Proficient’ educator is the kind of educator you want to see in front of your children; the kind of leader you want for your schools,” said School Committee Chairperson Jen Parson, who presented the annual evaluation. “This rating speaks so highly of the work Dr. McIntyre has done for our students and schools.”

A Superintendent is rated on his or her goals and on four different standards, receiving a rating of unsatisfactory, needs improvement, proficient, and exemplary. Parson presented the highlights of the ratings for each of the standards, the result of compiling each School Committee Member’s evaluations.

In the standard of Instructional Leadership, Parson said the main thing that stood out to committee members was the interventions the Superintendent supported throughout the district such as programs for academically at risk students, promoting a deeper understanding of assessments with his staff, and his development of partnerships with local colleges giving students exposure to higher education while still in high school.

In the Management and Operations standard, the Committee gave McIntyre kudos for collaborating with the local Police and Fire Departments, hiring of the new SEL Director which allows new social emotional programs to be put into place throughout the district, and effectively recruiting candidates for open positions.

“I don’t know of another place that has a recruitment and interview process like we have here,” said Parson. “What a great welcome for the candidates and what a sense of security for us as a school committee.”

Under the Family and Community Engagement standard, Parson cited the district’s “admirable” social media presence and the number of community events it has hosted this year. The community is certainly welcome in our schools,” she said.

Regarding the Professional Culture standard, Parson said giving students exposure to pathways to college has been a “source of pride” for the district.

While much of the evaluation was positive, the Committee Members did ask McIntyre to focus on increasing the district’s accountability classification for MCAS Scores. “We are currently ‘partially meeting’ our target,” said Committee Member Christopher Wilson. “We want to improve that.”

Overall, the Committee agreed that the fourth year under McIntyre’s Leadership has been a successful one for the Milford Public Schools.

“We are most fortunate in Milford to have a reflective leader who is very willing to listen and consider different perspectives,” said Parson. “The measures that he has gone through to bring high quality to people Milford is admirable.”

Parson also commented on some of McIntyre’s other accomplishments including increasing counseling services for 140 families in Milford, working on the long-range facilities education plan, and technology implementation. “It’s has been a great year and we are very fortunate to have you,” she said.

McIntyre thanked the School Committee and gave credit to his administrators and staff for the work that was done this year. “They all work incredibly hard and do an amazing job,” he said. “I want to say thank you to them [because without their hard work, I think a lot of the positive stuff that was said [in the evaluation] wouldn’t be possible.”

Two New Administrators for Milford Schools

The Milford School Committee welcomed two new administrators to the district during their July 18 School Committee Meeting.

Lee Waingortin has been hired as the new Director of Nursing / Shining Star Early Childhood Center School Nurse for the Milford Public Schools.

Waingortin comes to Milford from the Hudson Public Schools, where she was a school nurse for the past 14 years. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Nursing and in 2018, received her Masters of Science in Nursing with a Nursing Education track.

The new head of Nursing for the Milford Public Schools told the Committee that she was ready for a change when the position in Milford became available. “I liked that it was a dual role,” said Waingortin. “I get to be an actual school-based nurse and a director helping to drive the nursing department forward.”

In a follow up interview with the Town Crier, Waingortin said that although she had decided it was time to make a change after 14 years in Hudson, she knew it had to be the “right change.”

“I knew Judy Dagnese [the former Director of Nursing who retired this summer] on a professional level and had such a high regard for her,” she said. “We spoke about the position and it sounded ideal.”

Waingortin said she has been working with Dagnese over the past few weeks transitioning to her new position, and already has set goals for herself to get to know the parents, students, and staff at Shining Star, meet the district nurses and find out what their concerns are, and to ensure that the district is keeping up with evidence-based best practices.

So far, Waingortin said that she is amazed by the warm welcome that she has received by the staff at the Milford Public Schools. “It reinforces the decision that this was the right move for me,” she said.

The Milford has also welcomed a new Principal at Stacy Middle School, Tahon Ross. Ross came to Milford from Washington D.C. where he was an Assistant Principal for a public school district. Prior to that, he has worked as a Dean, English Teacher, and English Department Head in New York City, Atlanta, and D.C. school districts. A Springfield, MA native, Ross earned both a Bachelor’s Degree in English Literature and a Master’s Degree focused on Educational Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ross started with Milford Public Schools in July, and has already “hit the ground running,” according to Superintendent Dr. Kevin McIntyre, who told the School Committee, “We are very excited to have him here.”

Ross told the School Committee that the transition to Milford has been “very smooth” and that he has also been very impressed with the welcome he has received.

Several Committee Members echoed the community’s messages of welcome to the two new staff members. “We are excited to have both your energy and expertise,” said School Committee Member Meghan Hornberger.

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The Milford MA Foundation for Education (MMFFE) is seeking adult community volunteers to serve as mentors to high school students beginning in this fall. This second recruitment notice is seeking volunteers who are available to ideally meet with students during the school day, particularly on Monday and Wednesday, during regularly scheduled Flex Block periods.

Connections was launched in September 2018 through the collaboration of MMFFE and Milford High School as a pilot mentoring program supporting students as they prepare for success after high school. “The primary focus is college readiness and college completion. Connections specifically targets promising students who are first generation and from lower income families. 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,” said Waingortin.

Connections currently has a small group of talented, motivated students, both male and female, to participate in this program. Participating students meet with a trained volunteer mentor, called a Connector, approximately two to three times a month for a one-hour session, usually at the high school during school hours. 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 – college visits, job-shadowing, and other enrichment activities. Community volunteer mentors are matched with a student in grade 9 and 10 and informally 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 have retired from such a profession
• are willing to participate in an informal training program prior to serving as a mentor
• in the 2018/19 pilot program, four mentors worked with seven students in the Class of 2022. MMFFE is looking to recruit four to eight new mentors to work with a group of eight to 16 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 scheduled at Milford High School.

For more information about the Connections and upcoming information sessions, contact Tony Chinappi, 508-735-7272 or tonychinappi@yahoo.com. Information is also available from MMFFE Principal, Joshua Olin, 508-678-1110 or jotlin@milfordma.com

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**Calendar**

**Mendon Town Hall Yard Sale**
MENDON - The Mendon Historical Society will hold the 14th annual The Taste of the Towns at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, at the Crystal Room, Cedar St., Mendon. A Classic Buffet, at 4:30 p.m. at the Miss Blackstone Jr’s Diner, Mendon Street Kitchen, METS at MRMC Atrium 40th annual Hopedale Day in the Park, Wednesday, August 25. The Park will feature games, music, food vendors, arts and crafts, and a pancake breakfast. More information on registering will be available soon. milfordchamber.org for space reservations. The annual event was a success with over 30 locations throughout the town. The Car Show will feature all types of vehicles including Hot Rods, Antiques, Station Wagon, Old Cars, and Custom Cars. The format for the top 50 vehicles able to win trophies allowing participants the ability to show up in a “Cruise Type” environment and park vehicles next to their friend’s vehicles. “Arrive Together - Park Together”. Special trophies awarded for the “New Classics”. The format for the top 50 vehicles able to win trophies allowing participants the ability to show up in a “Cruise Type” environment and park vehicles next to their friend’s vehicles. “Arrive Together - Park Together”. Special trophies awarded for the “New Classics”. MENDON-Beauitc, Ronnie Moore, Judy Ollison, also be recognized. The 50th Annual Birthday Party will be held at the Clifton Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Funeral Home. In September, Monday, August 26. The event will showcase local artists, artisans, and crafters from Hopedale, Mendon, and surrounding communities. The fair will feature art exhibits, handcrafted items, and live demonstrations. The fair will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clifton Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Funeral Home. Vendors Wanted for St. Gabriel’s Fair UPTON-Applications are being accepted for St. Gabriel’s 8th annual Harvest Fair to be held Sunday, September 8. The fair will begin following Mass and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds 151 Mendon St., Upton. Ten foot spaces are available at $25. Tables and tents are also available for rent. Please contact Brian Gagliardi at gaggliardi@milford.spring, or 508-529-6001 for more information or an application. The Car Show will feature all types of vehicles including Hot Rods, Antiques, Station Wagon, Old Cars, and Custom Cars. The format for the top 50 vehicles able to win trophies allowing participants the ability to show up in a “Cruise Type” environment and park vehicles next to their friend’s vehicles. “Arrive Together - Park Together”. Special trophies awarded for the “New Classics”. The format for the top 50 vehicles able to win trophies allowing participants the ability to show up in a “Cruise Type” environment and park vehicles next to their friend’s vehicles. “Arrive Together - Park Together”. Special trophies awarded for the “New Classics”. The format for the top 50 vehicles able to win trophies allowing participants the ability to show up in a “Cruise Type” environment and park vehicles next to their friend’s vehicles. “Arrive Together - Park Together”. Special trophies awarded for the “New Classics”. **Wild About Wine**
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**Milford Lions Car Show**
MILFORD-The Lions Club of Milford is holding its 32nd annual Car Show on Sunday, September 15 at Plains Park, Cedar St. (Rt. 85), Milford, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The rain date is Saturday.

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**Joan’s Jewelry Fundraiser**
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold the 14th annual The Taste of the Towns at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 25, at the Crystal Room, Cedar St., Milford. The event will showcase local artists, artisans, and crafters from Hopedale, Mendon, and surrounding communities. The fair will feature art exhibits, handcrafted items, and live demonstrations. The fair will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clifton Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Funeral Home. The 50th Annual Birthday Party will be held at the Clifton Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Funeral Home.

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**In the Bag Sale**
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold an in the Bag Sale in the Atrium Cafeteria at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28. The sale features a large selection of brand name and designer handbags, luggage, briefcases, wallets, mini-bags and small leather goods. There is always a huge selection to choose from in the newest styles and colors. The prices are discounted between 30 and 60 percent. Cash, credit cards and debit cards are accepted. The Milford Regional Medical Center is located at 14 Prospect St., Milford.

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Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

- Granted Massachusetts Electric Company and Verizon New England, Inc. permission to erect a new riser pole and two pull boxes for conduit at the intersection of Godfrey Lane and West Fountain St. A Mass Electric representative said the work was to prevent power outages in the Laurelwood at Milford condominiums. (July 8)
- Transferred the Common Victualler and two Automatic Amusement licenses held by Papa Gino’s at 42 Cape Rd. (Rt. 140) to New England Authentic Eats LLC of Dedham doing business as Papa Gino’s/D’Angelo. (July 8)
- Town Administrator Richard Villa thanked the Milford Lions Club for providing the entertainment at Plains Park for the annual Fourth of July fireworks. (July 8)
- Villani reported Fire Chief John Touhey and Janice Coogan, assistant to Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli, had successfully submitted federal reimbursement forms which will get the town about $134,382 – roughly 75 percent of the town’s snow removal costs for a March 13-14, 2018 storm that dumped 26.6 inches of snow in Milford. (July 8)
- Villani thanked Crisafulli, Tree Warden Chuck Reneau and Town Counsel Charles Boddy for representing the town at a June ceremony where Milford was recognized as a “Tree City USA” community. (July 8)
- Villani reported Crisafulli and Town Engineer Mike Dean received a grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to pay for 75 percent of the design and engineering costs for replacing a section of the Godfrey Brook culvert between West St. and Water St. Selectmen Chairman William Buckley asked Villani to make sure the Finance Committee knows that a request for the remaining 25 percent of funds will be made in the future. (July 8)
- Accepted $2,751 in donations from Milford residents and businesses to help pay for the annual Fourth of July parade. (July 8)
- Voted to uphold Villani’s recommendations – in his capacity as Dog Hearings Officer – that a male golden retriever, “Caesar”, owned by John and Melissa Seaver, 7 Debbie Lane, is a dangerous dog and shall be confined indoors or outdoors in a securely enclosed fenced-in area. If off the premises, Caesar must wear a Halit head collar and training collar. If outside, Caesar must be on a leash. (July 8)
- Accepted $1,120 from National Grid’s 2018 United Way Employee Campaign, with $260 dedicated to the Milford Youth Center and $860 for the Town of Milford. (July 8)
- Followed Tax Collector Theresa Davis’s recommendation and appointed Jennifer Brown – previously an Administrarive Specialist – as Deputy Tax Collector, starting on July 9 at a $28.59 hourly wage. (July 8)
- Accepted $1,455 in donations from Milford businesses to support the annual Fourth of July parade. (July 8)
- Accepted a $1,000 donation from Celebrate Milford. (July 22)
- Accepted $1,050 in donations from Milford businesses to support the annual Fourth of July parade. (July 22)
- Accepted gift of $250 each to the Fire and Police Departments from Iglesia Cristiana Juan 3:16, Central St. (July 8)
- Amended the Common Victualler license held by The Garden Restaurant, 159 West St., to a new location at 138-140 South Main St beginning the first week in September. (July 22)
- Granted a Common Victualler license to the Sweet Mango restaurant at 206 East Main St, open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Although $76.55 in personal property taxes is owed by Mango Tree – the previous license-holder at the same location – board members said the Sweet Mango is not responsible for paying them. Chairman William Buckley said – due to concerns by the Sewer Department – selectmen should start requiring proof that restaurants are cleaning their grease traps when issuing licenses to them. (July 22)
- Granted one-day All-Alcoholic Beverages and Entertainment licenses for The Tradesman, 284 West St. to hold its annual Labor Day weekend music concert from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on September 1. Owner Rob DeDominick said this year’s beneficiary will be the Milford Youth Center’s music room. “This is an event people in Milford have come to look forward to,” Selectman William Kinglade said.
- Met jointly with the Board of Library Trustees and unanimously chose Al Spittler to fill a vacancy on the library board. (July 22)
- Villani reported that Algonquin Gas Transmission Company is in the process of surveying its pipelines and will be doing several excavations and assessments throughout the town over a three-week period. (July 22)
- Villani said State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford, told him the new Fiscal Year 2020 state budget includes a 2.7 percent increase in local aid to Milford, a 9.5 percent increase in school funding, $50,000 for the Regional Substance Navigation Program and an additional $70,000 for downtown economic development. (July 22)
- Accepted $1,050 in donations from Milford businesses to support the annual Fourth of July parade. (July 22)
- Accepted a $1,000 donation from Celebrate Milford. (July 22)
- Accepted $4,660 donated by Milford residents and businesses for scholarships to the Milford Youth Center’s summer camp. (July 22)
- Granted Caffe Sorrento of 143 Central St. a one-day All-Alcoholic Beverages license to hold the Annual Mayor’s Breakfast at The Tradesman, West St. (Rt. 140) from 9 a.m. to noon on July 21. (July 8)
- Accepted, with regret, Erika Robertson’s resignation as Assistant Zoning Officer effective July 12. (July 8)
- Accepted gift of $250 each to the Fire and Police Departments from Iglesia Cristiana Juan 3:16, Central St. (July 8)
- Transferred the Common Victualler and two Automatic Amusement licenses held by Papa Gino’s of 142 Cape Rd. (Rt. 140) to New England Authentic Eats LLC of Dedham doing business as Papa Gino’s/D’Angelo. (July 8)
- Accepted $1,455 in donations for the Regional Substance Navigation Program Gift Fund account. (July 8)
- Waived the building and electrical permit fees for building the Dance/Movie Room in the Milford Y outh Center. (July 8)
- Met jointly with the Board of Library Trustees and unanimously chose Al Spittler to fill a vacancy on the library board. (July 22)
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- Granted Caffe Sorrento of 143 Central St. a one-day All-Alcoholic Beverages license to hold its annual outdoor clam bake fundraiser for the Marine Building Fund from 1 to 6 p.m. on September 8. (July 22)
ZBA Gets Update on 40B Complex, Water Supply

By Kevin Ruddin
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) decided on July 18 that changes to proposed clubhouse location does not merit a significant enough change to require a public hearing for the “The Residences at Stone Ridge” affordable apartment complex to be built off Cedar St. (Rt. 85) near Rt. 1-495. At that meeting, David Condrey, manager of the Milford Water Company, said the utility’s Godfrey Brook well field should be back on line by the end of the next year and able to supply water to the apartment buildings.

Separately, EM Street Millford, LLC — which received ZBA approval to build its “Brookview” affordable apartment complex off East Main St. on the Route 85 property — sold the site on July 24 to Kevin Meehan’s Rt. 85 Realty Corp. of Mendon for $3,350,000.

Israel Lopez of The Gutierrez Company of Burlington told ZBA members the changes at “The Residences at Stone Ridge” involve moving a planned clubhouse out of one building and locating it — and a separate leasing office — near the complex’s main entrance. Most of the board’s discussion, however, concerned whether water would be available for the complex.

According to Condrey, when the so-called Chapter 40B complexes were first proposed, the Milford Water Company believed it could supply them if they helped fund repairs to the utility’s Dilla Street wells. Rejuvenating the company’s Godfrey Brook wells — also off-line — was then thought to take a much longer time, he explained. However, testing a new treatment method for the Godfrey Brook wells is now completed, and design and building a new treatment facility there and reviving those well could be complete by next year, Condrey said. “The timing of Godfrey Brook is going to coincide with them [Gutierrez] going online,” he said.

Having the Godfrey Brook well back in service will mean 790,000 gallons of water per day will be available — more than enough water for the proposed 40B complexes and other developments in town, Condrey said. “We’re in a better place than we were two years ago.”

Condrey noted the closure of the former Ardaugh Group glass bottle manufacturing plant has lowered water use by 1.5 million to 2 million gallons each month — enough to prevent the company from declaring water use restrictions this summer.

Visconti Questions How Selectmen Handle Correspondence

By Kevin Ruddin
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Town Meeting Member Mike Visconti used the “Invitation to Speak” portion of the Boards of Selectmen’s July 22 meeting to ask what criteria selectmen use to decide what correspondence to read at their public meetings. “It’s at the discretion of each of the individuals,” Chairman William Buckley replied.

Selectmen frequently get phone calls, e-mails, and written letters at both the Town Hall and at their respective homes, Buckley explained. The volume is usually too great to discuss all of them, but board members are free to bring any of them up if the topic is interesting or appropriate given what’s on the board’s agenda, he continued.

Visconti noted he wrote 17 letters to selectmen over the past two years and only received a response to one of them. By contrast, all of his correspondence with Town Administrator Richard Villani is answered on a timely basis, Visconti added.

Buckley then asked Visconti if he had any particular issue he wanted to discuss with the board, with Visconti replying that he did not.

The following day, Visconti sent the Board of Selectmen, Villani and the Town Crier an e-mail stating: “Thank you for allowing me to speak at your meeting last night. Following up on my position, I believe that if a resident takes the time and makes the effort to send correspondence to the Board of Selectmen, acknowledgement of receipt and review of that correspondence should not be at the discretion of a single board member. Rather, as a course of conducting business and at the very least, all correspondence to the Board should be acknowledged and responded to appropriately. Residents should feel confident knowing that their correspondence will not end up in the rotary file.”
Post 59 Bows Out in State's Final Four

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

AUGUST 9, 2019

After 24 wins, a regular season Zone 4 championship and a pair of state tournament thrillers, Milford's legion season came to an end with a 6-5 loss to Sandwich.

The loss on the penultimate day of the state tournament at Fino Field left Milford as one of the final four teams in Massachusetts. "It was a great season," said Milford Manager Steve DiVitto. "The guys fought hard, they have absolutely nothing to hang their heads about, it was a helluva year. Obviously, we came up short of where we ultimately wanted to be, but it was a great year!"

Milford took a 5-4 lead into the top of the fifth inning when Post 188 plated two runs to take a lead they would not relinquish. Milford posted a 2-2 record in the states, including a walk-off win over Quincy and a victory over Shrewsbury that moved Post 59 into the last four.

DiVitto said his team ran out of gas at the end of the tournament and the 31-game campaign. "This is a grueling tournament, this is as tough a tournament as you're going to get," he said. "These guys are tired, but they never made any excuses. They continued to battle and I couldn't be prouder to be their coach."

Hopkinton High graduate Ben McKenzie had three hits and drove in a pair of runs in his team's final game. Hopkinton's Brendan Kelly, Hopkinton's Chris Brunt and Milford's Matt Shaver also drove in runs for Post 59.

McKenzie led the team in hitting this summer with a .481 batting average, while Stephens Simoes, another Hopkinton graduate, hit .439.

On the mound, Hopedale's Jonathan Rice posted a 5-1 record with a 1.83 ERA and 43 strikeouts on the season. Alex Gonfrade, who attended Mount St. Charles, was a perfect 6-0 with a 2.55 ERA. Both starters earned wins for Milford in the state tournament.

Two-thirds of Post 59's roster is ineligible to return next season, including several key cogs in this season's run. "It's tough to see them go," DiVitto said. "We appreciate all they have done. When you form relationships with these guys, it's difficult to know they won't be on the roster next year. But we thank them for all they contributed to this program, they are part of a long, storied tradition here in Milford Legion baseball."

Number One in Summer Basketball

The Milford High School team finished first in the Mendon Summer Basketball League. Team members, shown left to right, are Front row-Molly Hartman, Carly Haley, Brooke Ferreira and Julia Gonzalez. Back row-Bridget Alves, Jordan Douglas, Kyannsim Simas, Ava Marshall and Emily Croteau. Missing was Serena Burgess. The team was coached by Chris Alves.

Hall of Fame Spotlight: Jill Kearns Brewer

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Jill Brewer remembers her parents putting a pool in the family backyard and, soon after, starting swim lessons. The rest, as the cliché goes, is history. Brewer (née Kearns) will join other Scarlet Hawk greats, including her older sister, as an inductee into the Milford High School Hall of Fame.

The coaching of Chaplin and Mike Guerra and the support from parents Tom and Cindi were also instrumental to Brewer's success, she said. Her teammates became lifelong friends and her friends that did not swim accepted "I can't I have swim practice," when Brewer couldn't join them.

"With my two older sisters starting off in the swimming world before me, it all started with me just watching them at meets," Brewer said of Sarah and her older sister Molly. "Once I finally got into it, we all swam the same events, the distance ones. I'd say having them to follow and guide me throughout my swimming career was invaluable."

The younger sibling also took cues from her older sister when it came to going through the recruiting process.

The younger Brewer had less to do with winning, and more to do with ice cream, when head coach Dave Chaplin would end practice with Dilly Bars from Dairy Queen. "Those days were the best!" Brewer said. "We'd frequently ask for them, but only get one, or two if we were lucky, per season."

"It's like having someone do something right before you do," Brewer said, "so you constantly get to learn from their process."

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"We appreciate all they have done. When you form relationships with these guys, it's difficult to know they won't be on the roster next year. But we thank them for all they contributed to this program, they are part of a long, storied tradition here in Milford Legion baseball."

Send your sports stories to Jane Bigda, our editor, at TownCrierEditor@gmail.com

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Scholarships for Shooting

Two members of the Milford Masnepnock Rod and Gun Club shooting team were recently awarded $1,000 scholarships by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Brendan Setz, the son of Melissa and Ken Setz of Milford, shown on the left, will be attending the University of Akron in the fall. Lagan Quinn, the son of Laura and Richard Quinn of Upton, will be attending Ohio State University. Shown in the middle is Masnepnock coach, Matthew Snyderman. Setz signed a letter of intent for the Akron Zips Rifle Team. Quinn signed a letter of intent for the Buckeyes Pistol Team. Masnepnock photo

Milford to Start Thanksgiving Football Series with Taunton

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After going through several different Thanksgiving Day opponents since ending a long running series with Shrewsbury, the Milford High football program finally hopes to have landed a long term holiday opponent in Taunton, the two schools recently announced.

The two teams will play for the first time in November of 2020 after Milford visits Maynard this fall to close out a two-year pact with the former Mid-Wach League rivals. Maynard is the fourth Turkey Day foe, following KIPP Academy of Lynn, Randolph and Holy Name, since Milford and Shrewsbury ended a series of more than three decades.

With the marriage of Milford and Taunton, every team in the Hockomock League will play another team from the league on Thanksgiving.

“Milford has struggled to find a consistent Thanksgiving opponent since leaving the Mid-Wach League and joining the Hockomock League over eight years ago while Taunton was recently informed by Coyle-Cassidy that their long-time Thanksgiving rivalry would be coming to a conclusion due to low numbers in the Coyle-Cassidy football program,” the two school statements read.

Milford and Taunton described their new series as a “permanent Thanksgiving Day Football match-up.”

“Encouraged by the Hockomock League, the timing was therefore perfect for Milford and Taunton to merge to form a permanent agreement starting on Thanksgiving of 2020 and remaining 5-Day opponents as long as Thanksgiving football remains viable and meaningful in Massachusetts,” the schools said.

As Milford closes out its two-year series with Maynard, Taunton will have a year off from Thanksgiving football. It remains to be seen who will host the first Taunton vs. Milford football game, the schools said.

Last year against Maynard, Milford rolled to a 3-0 win in a game moved to Thanksgiving Eve due to brutally cold forecasts for the holiday morning. Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher and head football coach Anthony Vizakis have both said the program is committed to playing a Thanksgiving game.

“They tell us it we do it the best,” Gulino said. “They are happy with us.”

The success of this year’s event left both Gulino and Paster open to the idea of another trip to Milford for the final eight sometime in the near future.

“Not everyone gets to the next level after this,” Vizakis told the Crier last December. “So we are going to take advantage and make the most of the opportunity to play one more game.”

Micros Season Ends in Title Series

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford advanced to the championship series of the Central Mass. Senior Babe Ruth league before falling to Marlboro in back-to-back contests, bringing a successful season to a close with a 14-7 record.

“We ran out of gas,” said Micros’ head coach Jason Barney. “Defensively we were good, but one mistake helped Marlboro win game one and game two was all Marlboro from start to finish.”

Milford struggled offensively in the series, falling in a 2-0 shutout in game one and by an 8-1 final in the second a decisive contest. Still, Barney was pleased with what his team was able to bring this summer.

“I’m very proud of the effort, we battled adversity all season long,” he said. “Whether it was injuries before or during the season, or dealing with a couple kids who left the team, the kids that stuck it out, bought in and worked their butts off.”

Milford will lose two of its top players next season. Dan Corsini, a Milford High graduate, ages out of the program after leading the team with a .403 batting average and a 6-3 record.

The Micros topped Franklin in three games, winning two straight after losing the opener, to advance to the title tilt against Marlboro.

A strong group of players are eligible to come back to the team and Barney said he could have up to 10 players returning. Nick Winnette, Jason Luchini, Colin Bradford and Carter Scudo are among the players who could lead the way for the Micros in 2020.

That group will look to continue the success of the past few years, which has seen Milford win more than 30 games and advance to a championship series.

“I think the program is moving in the right direction,” Barney said. “When I took over the program, I set goals of being one of the best teams in the league and competing for championships. My first year as head coach was a bit of a disappointment, not making the playoffs, but the last two years have been very successful.”

Hall of Fame Spotlight: Nicholas DiAntonio

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Nicholas DiAntonio

During Nicholas DiAntonio’s sophomore year at Milford High, the Scarlet Hawks’ football team was shutout in the Super Bowl by a tough South Hadley squad. DiAntonio was pictured in a Western Massachusetts paper after being knocked to the ground with the headline reading that he and his team had been “Bowed Over.”

A bowling ball is cut out and hung on the wall in his bedroom that winter and in his locker the following fall, which ended with Milford beating South Hadley in a rematch and, led by DiAntonio, pitching a shutout. It’s the kind of determination that landed the MHS graduate in the Hall of Fame on his very first ballot.

“It’s definitely humbling, because there are so many good athletes who have come out of Milford,” he said. “To be included in that group means a lot.”

In addition to the Super Bowl win, DiAntonio’s high school career featured a state championship in wrestling. He also placed two times at the New England meet, wrestling in an exceptionally deep 171-pound division.

“The talent pool in that weight class was insane that year,” DiAntonio said. “But I was mad that I took fourth, I wanted to win it.”

DiAntonio’s “never quit” attitude continued to serve him well at Assumption College, where he was a member of the football team for four years. After fighting for playing time during each of his first three seasons, DiAntonio started at middle linebacker as a senior and finished second in the Northeast 10 in tackles.

He was named defensive player of the week for all of Division II after a 21-tackle performance against Southern Connecticut that season. DiAntonio was also named an all-region selection and played in the Division II All-Star game, along other honors.

But the accomplishment that meant the most to him was being the school’s valedictorian. He was able to meet Notre Dame football coach Brian Kelly, that year’s graduation speaker, and ended up going to see an underclassman Irish team beat Stanford in overtime after telling the coach he would love to see a game in South Bend.

Sports continues to be part of DiAntonio’s life. He teaches math at Natick High School and is the Girls’ hockey team’s defensive coordinator. He coaches wrestling at the middle school level and is the head coach of the unified track and field team as well Milford’s Special Olympics powerlifting team.

DiAntonio lives in Franklin with his wife, Nicole, herself a Hall of Fame inductee in Dedham for soccer and lacrosse, and their 13-month old son Tyler.
Sunshine and Smiles at the 40th Pan-Mass Challenge

The 40th edition of the Pan-Mass Challenge rolled across the Commonwealth last weekend under sunny skies and with the promise of raising more than $60 million to benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event was a success by any measure, but also a reminder that this fight is marked by both triumphs and setbacks.

This was probably my easiest PMC in memory. The legs were fresh, the lungs in good shape and the saddle discomfort… minimal. Thousands of riders crossed the finish line with plenty of strength left in their pedal strokes. When one cyclist crashed near the Provincetown line, her teammates and many other stopped, even with the finish only a few miles away. We pick each other up, and no one gets left behind.

The same can be said for our bigger battle against cancer. Not every ride is smooth. My team, the Stem Cell Cyclists, was founded by a veteran PMC rider from Hopkinton who had lost her sister to cancer in 2001 after receiving a stem cell transplant. The Stem Cell Cyclists “Pedal Partner,” Declan Rourke, took on a rare form of brain cancer and came out on top. After the ride Sunday, a man approached my teammate and I when he saw our Stem Cell Cyclist jerseys. He said he was crossing that finish line. Our friends, loved ones, and teammates. Because we know, though the road may be rough, nothing feels better than crossing that finish line.

To donate to Chris’ ride, please visit PMC.org/CY0042

Shaver Carries Milford Torch for Post 59

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

All of the uniforms said “Milford” on the front, but Post 59 had its smallest ever contingent of Milford residents on this summer’s opener, with only Milford High graduate Matt Shaver representing the team’s primary feeder school.

Shaver downplayed the lack of fellow Milfordians after a successful campaign that saw Post 59 finish 24-7 and advance to the final four in the state tournament.

“Even though I was the only Milford resident, I felt like once the season started, everyone was from Milford,” Shaver said. “It was a little more pressure, just because I was the only Milford kid, but I didn’t think much of it other than that and it wasn’t a big deal, really.”

Shaver started every game at third base this summer for Milford. He finished third on the team in runs scored and sixth on the legions in runs batted in. “I definitely think I improved from last year,” he said.

“It was good competing with some of the new Hopkinton guys.”

This summer marks Shaver’s second and final summer with Post 59. Shaver said that, even though the team fell short of its ultimate goal of winning a state title, the season was a success.

“It’s been great, I wish I could come back,” Shaver said. “The coaching staff and the players made it feel like home over the past two years.”

Shaver will be attending Framingham State University this fall and plans to play baseball at the Division III level. He said he may have the opportunity to be the team’s starting shortstop next year as a freshman. “That would be huge,” he said, “a great opportunity.”

Shaver said he fell in love with Framingham State when he visited the school and spoke with the coaching staff. The quality of the program and the fact that it’s local were two things that sold him on his college choice. He’s also had the benefit of playing legion baseball with and against players who have college experience.

“It’s definitely helped a lot, legion is a big step up from high school,” Shaver said. “Playing with college kids and picking their brain, seeing how the competition is in college and how things work. They tell me to keep an open mind and, if things aren’t going my way, to clear my head and work on it the next day!”

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