Plains Association Names First “Woman of the Year”

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Plains Association last month broke with tradition by naming Lena McCarthy its first “Woman of the Year.” Robert Capuzzoello, Sr. was named “Man of the Year” at the group’s 38th Annual Plains Reunion dinner, held on September 22.

“Thank you very much. I’ll do my best to uphold it,” Capuzzoello said. For decades, he ran the gasoline service station at 28 Main St. (Rt. 16). “I was very surprised and honored that I was picked,” said McCarthy, who was visiting her daughter and missed the reunion. McCarthy was a guest speaker at the 2016 reunion, reminiscing about being the daughter of John and Jenny Giacomuzzi, owners of Johnny Jack’s Café and Bar Room on East Main St. – later the site of Pyne Florists and now the site of the Mac Med Spa.

Guest speaker at the annual Plains Monument rededication was Jack Mohan, grandson of Marietta Mainini Caldera – who used to run a grocery store in her garage on East Main St. and Short St. – and brother of Dr. Olga Mohan who was the salutatorian of the Milford High School Class of 1970.

The Plains Association members celebrate their life growing up in the area of Milford below the former railroad tracks – now the Upper Charles River Trail – on the streets along Main St. and East Main St. (Rt. 16) and along Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). The area was primarily settled by Italian-Americans from the 1890s through World War I.

Association President Louis Bertonezzi said the mothers and grandmothers of these immigrant families played an important role in shaping their children’s lives. “It’s time to recognize the people who have made such a difference in our lives,” he said.

“Those of the Plains made a tremendous difference in who we are and what we are,” Mohan said. “They sacrificed and nurtured the family.” Continuing, Mohan said, “They built a community where people took care of each other.” That sense of community “is what makes Milford strong,” he said. “We’re a family. The Plains. This reunion.”

Proposed Recall Change Fails by 10 Votes

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The sole article on the October 2 Special Town Meeting warrant – seeking to change the provisions for recalling the town’s elected officials – was defeated by 79-69 vote taken after 23 minutes of discussion by Town Meeting Members.

The article, which was created by a citizens’ petition signed by 255 registered voters, sought to:

• Reduce the number of registered voters participating in a recall petition from 20 percent to 15 percent.
• Reduce the number of valid signatures required on a recall petition from 20 percent to 15 percent.

Proponent Michelangelo BonTempo opened the discussion by noting the article had nothing to do with last year’s failed attempt to recall Selectman William Kingkade.

“By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen took a firm stand on making sure all capital spending requests submitted for the October 28 Special Town Meeting warrant have been included in the town’s five-year capital spending plan by voting on September 23 to not place almost all non-compliant spending requests on that warrant.

The three exceptions to be allowed are unforeseen emergencies involving safety issues, complying with state or federal laws, or needing funds to match state or federal grants, Chairman William Buckley said. “We’ve asked that people stay within the five-year plan,” he said. “We’ve asked that people stay within the five-year plan.”

The action was prompted by spending requests adding up to $3.8 million while the town only allocated $1.5 million for capital items. Buckley continued “We can’t possibly fund it,” he said about all spending requests. And, he explained, moving one request into the list of items to be funded could mean making a department that has patiently waited its turn for years to have to wait another year.

Selectmen chops $406,000 in spending requests from the warrant:

• $50,000 for a feasibility study to renovate and or construct a Highway Department/ Parks Department facility;
• $24,461 to upgrade science labs at Milford High School;
• $10,000 to purchase trees to replace those killed off by gypsy moths; and,
• $100,000 for the revitalization of Draper Memorial Park and Calzone Park.

Items not in the five-year capital plan the board allowed on the warrant are:

• $150,000 to fix deficiencies identified in the town’s recently updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) remediation plan;
• $25,000 to replace the 20-plus-year-old telephone system at the Police Department; and,
• $50,000 to remove dead trees on public property.

Selectman William Kingkade initially had qualms about not putting some of the articles on the warrant since they were requested

Selectmen chop special TM warrant p 15

Selectmen Chop Special TM Warrant Spending Articles

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

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Selectmen chop special TM warrant p 15
A number of live musical acts are scheduled to entertain attendees during the Oct. 12 Mendon Country Fair, sponsored by the Lion’s Club. Musical acts include, The National Anthem at 10 a.m. performed by Carissa Coleman, GrandEvolution at 10:15 a.m., Kala Farnham at 11 a.m., Mike Gendron at 12 p.m., GOAT at 1 p.m., the Old Rochelle at 2 p.m. and WhaleBone Jackson at 3 p.m.

The Fair takes place behind the Blessing Barn on Rt 16 (Hastings St.), with free admission for all. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and include crafters, livestock, displays, free wagon rides and live music all day. A Kids Fair will feature magic shows, pony rides, face painting, petting zoo and pie eating contest for all ages. Plenty of favorite foods will be available at the Lions Club Food Court, including hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and peppers subs and meatball sandwiches. Also French fries, fried dough, cold drinks, and coffee.

Parking will be available for a donation to the Mendon Boy Scouts.

Mendon Country Fair Live Entertainment Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Act</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>The National Anthem</td>
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<td>The Old Rochelle</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>WhaleBone Jackson</td>
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Cub Scout Clean-up

Members of Milford’s Pack 4 Cub Scouts performed a community service project last month by cutting and clearing brush from the yard of an Emmons Street resident. The youths and their parents were able to remove several pick-up truckloads of brush during their two and one-half hours on-site. Participants were: Cubmaster Tony Mastroianni, Webelos Den Leader Brian Hayes, Wolf Scout Vincent Mastroianni, and Webelos Scouts Brayton Denetolas, Bryar Garrett, Connor Hayes, Nathan Mandrik, Raphael Mastroianni, Matthew Naves, Jeremy Redden, Jasper Shady and Brendon Williams. Cora Mandrik from Girl Scout Troop 64892 also participated. Contributed photo

Troop Fan Mail Campaign

The Sgt. John W. Powers Post American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 59, Milford, has begun its holiday letter and card writing campaign. This program is to support members of U.S. troops who will be away from their families during the upcoming holiday season. The local unit has sponsored this campaign for over 30 years, brightening the lives of many of those in the armed services. Each year, members and friends of the Auxiliary write cards and letters which are sent to the Troop Fan Mail in mid-November. Once the cards arrive, they are sorted for distribution to 500 plus military bases and posts around the world.

Troop Fan Mail is a nonprofit organization and relies on volunteers to support their mission. Last year the Auxiliary sent approximately 10,000 greetings and hopes to meet or exceed that goal again this year. Unit #59 purchases cards and supplies the postage for this project under the leadership of Jo-Ann Morgan. The community is invited to participate in this endeavor by contributing cards, donating funds to defray shipping costs or by writing holiday cards and letters. Morgan can be contacted at her Hopkinton home for more information.

Flu Clinic

The Milford Board of Health is sponsoring a flu shot clinic on Monday, October 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Milford Senior Center. The clinic is free for all Milford residents ages six months or older, with no insurance co-pays. Those attending should wear a short-sleeved shirt and bring their health insurance cards.

SHOP LOCAL

$10 AUDITIONS OCTOBER 19TH 2019
SHOW NIGHT NOVEMBER 1ST 2019
@23 PINE STREET, MILFORD MA
2 CATEGORIES ADULT AND JR.
1ST PLACE $200 2ND PLACE $100

FOR MORE INFORMATION 508.473.0786
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We make it EZ to choose a great checking account!

2.00% APY*
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*EZ Interest Checking is a variable tiered rate checking product and subject to change at any time. An Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 2.00% will be paid on the balance up to the first $9,999, and 0.10% on balances greater than $9,999. Minimum opening balance of $0.01. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is current as of 9/23/2019. Fees could reduce earnings. Additional terms and conditions may apply.

SHOP LOCAL
Meet Your Match: Pet Adoption Event

Milford Federal Bank, 246 Main Street, Milford is hosting a match-making adoption event on Saturday, October 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Pawfect Life Rescue of Uxbridge, will be on hand with loveable dogs available for adoption, and in need of fur-ever homes. Milford Federal will donate a free doggie adoption kit that includes a wire crate; a leash & martingale collar; a toy and box of treats; one food and one water dish, and a 16.5lb bag of either puppy or adult dog food to each new adopting family during the event. Nothing says welcome home like a wagging tail and a pair of warm brown eyes. Save a life and expand your family - just in time for the holidays!

Fall Programs for Adults and Children

Milford Community School Use Program, has the following Fall Adult Education courses and Children’s programs. The complete list of classes and their descriptions may be found at MilfordCommunity.com. Adult classes include DNA as a Genealogical Research Resource - Discover the Science and the Art of DNA, on Monday, October 21, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; American Red Cross CPR/AED certification class, Tuesday and Thursday, October 22 and 24, 7 to 9 p.m.; and About Boating Safety approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) as a boating safety class, Saturday, November 2, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. One Night Adult Workshops include: Declutter and Organize Your Space, The Seed of Addiction and Building a Strong Financial Future on Tuesday, October 22, 21st Century Retirement Strategies Tuesday, October 29, Pottery Glazing, Monday, November 6, Curate Your Sentimental Belongings, Tuesday November 12, and Suddenly in Command Wednesday, November 13. Programs for Children include Spanish for Kids at Woodland Elementary School, grades 3 and 4, an immersive class for beginners with games, crafts, music, stories and more on Wednesdays beginning October 23 from 2:50 to 3:40 p.m. and Biddy Basketball for grades 2 through 8 open to all boys and girls of all abilities with the in-town league playing games on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Milford public schools plus one practice a week for grades 3 through 6; register by Friday, November 1. Registrations can be completed online at MilfordCommunity.com or offline using registration forms. Forms may be printed from the website and will be accepted immediately. Please make checks payable to: Town of Milford - MCSUP. Registrations and payments can be mailed/delivered to Milford Community School Use Program, 31 West Fountain St., Milford, MA 01757. The deadline to register is the Thursday before the program begins at 9 a.m. unless the program fills sooner.

Best of Show

The Best in Show winner of the 2019 Milford Lions Car Show, held at Plains Park in Milford on September 15, was Geno Orsogna of Norfolk with his 1970 Blue Chevrolet Chevelle SS. The Milford Lions raise money every year for charities like the Mass Lions Eye Research Fund and the Milford food bank, as well as providing scholarships to local high school seniors. Photos of all the cars and other trophy winners are now available. Visit MilfordLions.org for more info. Milford Lions photo

Mount Saint Charles Academy

Attend our Open House

Sunday, October 20 • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mount Saint Charles Academy is a private, Catholic, co-ed, college preparatory school for students in grades 6-12 that is committed to developing the whole child.

Attend our Open House to learn about our rigorous academics, service learning, dedicated faculty, and a wide range of student clubs, sports, and fine and performing arts opportunities. Plus, you’ll get to meet teachers, alumni, and current students, tour our school, and visit our beautiful 20-acre campus!

Visit mountsaaintcharles.org or call 401-769-0310 to learn more.

800 Logee Street, Woonsocket, R.I.
Free Shred Day at Charles River Bank

Charles River Bank (CRB) is providing free shredding services during their Community Shred Day on Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its branch locations – 70 Main St., Medway; 2 South Maple St., Bellingham, and 1 Hastings St., Mendon.

Participants can bring sensitive documents to any of the CRB locations listed, and the Bank’s document destruction company will professionally shred them onsite. It’s a great way to clear the clutter while protecting personal information.

“Security of personal financial information is always the highest priority at Charles River Bank. Offering a Community Shred Day provides secure document destruction service to our customers and neighbors who may not have access to a high volume shredder at home,” stated Charles River Bank President & CEO Jack Hamilton.

Everyone who participates will receive a free Charles River Bank pompon hat, while supplies last. Anyone visiting a CRB office on the November 2 Shred Day can enter to win a $500 Wachusett COW Card. The contest winner can then shred the trails of Wachusett Mountain this winter with family or friends. Questions about Community Shred Day can be directed to 508-533-8661 or info@charlesriverbank.com.

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258 Main Street • Room 303
Across from Milford Post Office
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Tired of the phone run around? Experience the Bright difference for yourself!
6 Congress St, Milford MA (508) 473-0556 & Brightinsurance.com

Networking Group for 50+ Job Seekers

Funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, managed by Massachusetts Councils on Aging and supported by the AARP, this is a unique job seekers networking and training group program to assist people in the 50+ demographic looking for a new job, a new career, re-entry to the workforce, or a second act career. Meetings are held at 16 locations at various times, including at the Hopkinton Senior Center, 28 Mayhew St., the first and third Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Registration required by calling 508-497-9730.

The Milford Cultural Council

The Milford Cultural Council will be accepting applications for funding requests from September 1 to October 1. Applicants are sought who will provide a diverse range of activities and events in the community that will reach out to all residents. The required application is online at MassCulture.org/lcc_public_applicant_process.aspx#Applications. Between November 1 and December 30, the Milford Council will meet to make decisions on applications, send denial letters and handle reconsideration requests. By January 15, 2020 the Council will begin to notify applicants of their funding. Culture Council meetings, which are held every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in Milford Town Hall, 52 Main St, Room 14, are open to the public. Contact the Council by emailing CulturalCouncil@TownofMilford.com.
Thank You!

We thank all of our corporate sponsors and community members who helped us raise over $200,000 in support of Milford Regional Medical Center!

GOLD SPONSOR - $10,000

Christine’s Pallets  Oliva’s Market & Catering, Inc.
Milton CAT  Rockland Trust Bank
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Charles River Bank  Corporation /The Kozma-Littleton Family
Guerriere and Halnon, Inc.  UMass Memorial Health Care
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Over $200,000 raised for Milford Regional Medical Center

Milford Regional Healthcare Foundation
14 Prospect Street • Milford, MA 01757
508-422-2228
foundation.milfordregional.org/Golf
Thank You from the Fresh Air Fund

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Fresh Air host families and volunteers leader in Blackstone Valley. Because of their dedication and commitment, thousands of children from New York City’s low-income communities participated in our Friendly Towns volunteer host family program this summer.

I am inspired by the heartfelt stories shared by hosts who welcome our children into their homes and community, and the joy and growth it brings to everyone. For over 140 years, The Fresh Air Fund has brought people together. Children make new friends and forge relationships that can last a lifetime. We’ve learned that after staying with a host family children are more confident and more comfortable meeting new and different people. Children tell me about their excitement to return to visit with a host family and all the activities they did.

Our programs would not be possible without the generosity of our Fresh Air host families, supporters, and volunteers in Blackstone Valley. Our local volunteers, many of whom are also hosts, interview prospective host families, help recruit new families and plan special activities. I would also like to thank the individuals and local businesses who give their time and resources to ensure The Fresh Air Fund’s Friendly Towns Program in Blackstone Valley is such a success each year.

The Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer experiences to more than 1.8 million New York City children living in low-income communities since 1877. Each summer, thousands of children visit volunteer host families along the East Coast and Southern Canada.

Please contact Leslie Beaulit at 508-451-3188 or visit FreshAir.org to learn more about hosting a child through The Fresh Air Fund.

Fatima Shama,
Executive Director, The Fresh Air Fund

Clarification

The September 27 issue included a story on Page One stating that the Milford Board of Health would be limiting the sale of e-cigarette and vaping devices to just those stores in town that had a health card issued from the state's Department of Health. The feature story about the governor's ban over-riding the health department's ban in other towns last year. Although I grew up in Milford and knew of Parente as a political figure, it wasn’t until I sat down and spoke with her did I realize how influential she was in paving the way for women in local politics and how fiercely she fought to protect the rights of foster care children.

In 1972, a time when women in politics were an exception not the rule, Parente became the first female member of the Milford Board of Selectmen. For nine years she worked on the local level, attract business and industry to the town.

“I wanted to be part of helping to develop Milford,” said Parente in an interview with The Town Crier in March of 2018 of her successful run for a seat on the Board. “I was an ordinary person living in an ordinary home running an ordinary camp that think people respected that.”

Realizing that she wanted to help people on a broader level, in 1980 Parente ran, and won, a seat at a bigger male-dominated table – State Representatives. Along with being a mentor to women as more females were elected into office, Parente was also an exception not the rule, Parente became the first female Massachusetts State Representative, Marie J. Parente, died on September 20 at the age of 91.

I had the honor of interviewing Parente for a profile piece in The Milford Town Crier, a community newspaper in our local towns last year. Although I grew up in Milford and knew of Parente as a political figure, it wasn’t until I sat down and spoke with her did I realize how influential she was in paving the way for women in local politics and how fiercely she fought to protect the rights of foster care children.

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A Vintner of Distinction

Congratulations to Antonio Idornis who was the winner of the Celebrate Milford 2019 Homemade Wine Tasting Competition. He is shown standing next to a barrel of his wine holding the crystal prize which he was awarded. Contributed photo

Enjoying Fall Camping in the Woods

The members of Milford Junior Troop 30016 recently went camping at Camp Laurel Wood in Spencer. Besides learning how to make dutch oven monkey bread over a campfire, the girls also did a variety of outdoor activities including hiking. Shown after their hike are troop members, l-r: Jachia Brownlee, Kathryn Crocher, Savannah Beals, Lilyy Buchanan, Caroline Flinthet, Ella Forget, Leah Scheps, Alice Gilman, Victoria Powers, Katelyn Mackenzie and Bryanna Hamiston. Troop 30016 photo

Girl Scouts Sharpen Their Outdoor Skills

Milford Girl Scouts hosted an Outdoor Skills event on September 29, featuring a variety of skills including fire building, using jackknives, orienteering, tying knots, pitching tents, learning about hiking equipment, and cooking over the fire. Naturally, this included roasting marshmallows! Girl Scouts also experienced traditional camping activities by crafting swaps and singing campfire songs. This event was led by the 9th grade Girl Scouts in Troop 11275 and the fourth grade members of Troop 30016 who planned, setup, and oversaw the stations. Girl Scouts of all ages, including parents and siblings, rotated between stations for hands-on lessons in essential outdoor skills.

Brownie Girl Scout, Mela Cales said “I loved all the activities! My favorites were lighting matches, cooking marshmallows, and whipping soap.” Her sister Selina, a Daisy Girl Scout, added “I liked opening and closing the knives because it was tricky.”

Girl Scouts offer opportunities for girls to try new things, lead and teach others, and explore the great outdoors.

Milford Girl Scouts thank Troop Leaders Jen Schepis and Amy Croteau for organizing this fun event with their girls. For more information, check out the Milford (MA) Girl Scouts on Facebook.

Working Together

Milford Girl Scout Troop 11275 under the direction of leader, Amy Croteau, gave of their time to assist the Milford Junior Woman’s Club by scraping, sanding, and painting the Community Events sign on Medway Rd. The display was very weathered and this group of high school Girl Scouts stepped up to help by crafting swaps and singing campfire songs. This event was led by the 9th grade Girl Scouts in Troop 11275 and the fourth grade members of Troop 30016 who planned, setup, and oversaw the stations. Girl Scouts of all ages, including parents and siblings, rotated between stations for hands-on lessons in essential outdoor skills.

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Pearls

Mac Med Spa, Salon & Medical

Coolsculpting, Liposuction & The HCG Diet

Rshape your body. Mac Med offers two types of permanent fat loss: Coolsculpting Plus and Liposuction. Both methods provide actual, noticeable results. Selection of the right procedure is based on the client’s body type and fat distribution.

Coolsculpting Plus freezes unwanted fat and gives your body sexy curves with no down time. Treatment usually lasts an hour and is a pleasant experience. This procedure is excellent for treating abdomen, thighs, arms and bra fat. Results are seen between two and 12 weeks.

Liposuction is minimally invasive body contouring for larger areas, where fat cells are loosened and suctioned away. After liposuction, approximately two weeks is required for wearing a compression garment.

“I didn’t realize I still had my six-pack until I had liposuction. I’m thrilled!”

-Mrs. K., Westborough, age 58

The HCG Diet is a 30-day only plan. Every one of our clients has lost 20 to 35 pounds.

Please call Debbie at ext. 106 for customized services and pricing.

(508) 478-9888
127 East Main St., Milford
www.macmedspa.com

Get ready for the Holidays!

Our November/December publication dates are:

Upton/Mendon
November 15 • Deadline November 5
November 29 • Deadline November 19
December 13 • Deadline December 3

Milford
November 22 • Deadline November 12
December 6 • Deadline November 26
December 13 • Deadline December 3

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Liposuction is minimally invasive body contouring for larger areas, where fat cells are loosened and suctioned away. After liposuction, approximately two weeks is required for wearing a compression garment.

“I didn’t realize I still had my six-pack until I had liposuction. I’m thrilled!”

-Mrs. K., Westborough, age 58

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Upton/Mendon
November 15 • Deadline November 5
November 29 • Deadline November 19
December 13 • Deadline December 3

Milford
November 22 • Deadline November 12
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**Hopedale Cultural Council Applications**

The Hopedale Cultural Council has set an October 15 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community. Proposals in the arts, humanities, and science that support projects such as exhibits, lectures, workshops, field trips, performances, and artistic residencies may be submitted. The Hopedale Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. This year the Hopedale Cultural Council will distribute about $5400 in grants. Previously funded projects included musical, theatrical, and dance performances, lectures, and field trips. Online application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available at Mass-Culture.org.

**Mendon Cultural Council Applications**

The Mendon Cultural Council is accepting grant applications for the upcoming year beginning September 1 through midnight October 15. Funds will be distributed for events supporting the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in our community. Organizations, schools, and individuals may apply for funding. Applications are no longer accepted on paper, and must be completed online. To access the online form for submission, visit MassCulture.org.

The local grants are made available to Mendon from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency which distributes funds to the community. Massachusetts Cultural Council has one of the largest networks of local cultural councils in the nation, supporting over 329 Local Cultural Councils, serving all 350 towns in the Commonwealth. For more information or to receive up-to-date listings of activities and events, visit the Mendon Cultural Council on Facebook.

**Greater Milford Chorus Welcomes New Director**

By Michelle Sanford

Director Mark Schiappacci can now add Milford Chorus Director to his long list of "note" worthy career accomplishments. The Hopedale resident was named the new Director of the Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) when Dan Zabinski stepped down after several successful seasons. The GMCC is a not-for-profit organization which runs under the umbrella of the Milford Community School Use Program and is supported by the Milford, Bellingham, Hopedale, and Mendon Cultural Councils. The 50-member Chorus is made up of singers from the Greater Milford area who perform during concerts each holiday season and in the spring, as well. Schiappacci is currently in rehearsals for the GMCC’s very popular December concert performances, which he says consists mostly of Christmas songs but some Hanukkah songs too. "It's going really, really well," he said. "I'm having a lot of fun and looking forward to moving forward in this role." Schiappacci started working on the music over the summer to prepare for rehearsals, which began in September. "It was a little strange listening to so much holiday music in July and August," he said.

The new Chorus Director has been involved in the arts as long as he can remember. "I started singing and acting around age six or seven," he said. Schiappacci graduated with a degree in Voice Performance from the New England Conservatory and has been working steadily performing choral works, art song repertoire, opera, and musical theater. He’s also teaches classes and has music directed productions at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts and serves as a Cantor for several local parishes. When it comes to his own personal musical tastes, Schiappacci says they vary. "I like classical, Broadway theater, and I listen to pop music and jazz too." "I try to listen to a little bit of everything; not just one genre," he stated.

However, these days he’s likely listening to a great deal of holiday music for GMCC’s December performances, which will be here in a matter of a few short months. "They’re going to be great," Schiappacci said of the performances. "Something for everyone."

On Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, the GMCC will be performing with the Clafflin Hill Symphony Orchestra. The December 6 performance will take place at the Stadium Theater in Woonsocket, and the December 7 concert will take place at Milford Town Hall. The GMCC will then have their own holiday performances at Milford Town Hall on Saturday and Sunday December 14 and 15. For more information including information on tickets and pricing, view GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.org.

**Milford Senior Tax Relief Program**

Applications for the Milford Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program are available at the Milford Senior Center, 60 North Bow St., until October 15. Qualified volunteers, who are homeowners in Milford, will receive a credit of $1,000 on their real estate taxes. For more information, call 508-473-8334 or email Sue Clark sclark@townofmilford.com.

**Colonel Mario Zocchi USAF, ANG**

Lieutenant Colonel Mario Zocchi USAF, ANG was promoted to Colonel in a ceremony held on September 29 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He was sworn in by Noel Nolta, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs and Airman Readiness, who conducted the ceremony. He is the son of Robert and Mary Zocchi of Milford, who, along with all their family, assisted in the pinning of his eagle insignia. Zoichi graduated from Milford High School in 1992, and enlisted in the MA Air National Guard in 1993. He received his Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science from Bridgewater State University and was assigned as an Aerospace Propulsion Specialist. In 1999 he was commissioned and attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. He received his CCAF and Masters Degree in Military Operational Science from the Air Force and has served 25 years in a variety of roles including: F-15 Pilot, Otis Air National Guard Base, MA, L-130 (Sky Bird) Instructor Pilot and Combat Tactics Chief, Stratton Air National Guard Base, NY, Tactical Air Support Chief, Otis Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, MD, and Air National Guard Liaison to the National Science Foundation.

In his role as Department of Defense Liaison to the National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs, Alexandria, VA, Zocchi coordinates the Department of Defense support to the NSF Arctic and Antarctic programs, and also represents Defense support in their implementation of national policies in the Arctic and Antarctic. He has supported numerous contingency and domestic operations including Operation Northern Watch, Coronet Oak, Noble Eagle, Deep Freeze, Enduring Freedom, and responses to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Harvey, Irma, and Maria. He is a command Pilot with more than 2,300 hours in the 15A/B/C/D, C-130J/H and LC-130F aircraft.

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NEWLY PROMOTED COLONEL MARIO ZOCCHI, USAF, ANG

OCTOBER 11, 2019
Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Selectmen

• Held a moment of silence to honor the late Marie Parente, who served the town as a selectman and as its state representative for 26 years. Chairman William Buckley called her “a passionate advocate for her constituents.” (September 23)

• Held a moment of silence to honor the late Thomas Cullen, who served on the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Housing Authority and Geriatric Authority, and served as the School Superintendent for the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District and for Milford public schools. (September 23)

• Transferred the All-Alcoholic Beverages and Common Victualler licenses held by Great Dragon Corp. doing business as Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse at 121 Depot St. to Superb Cuisine Inc. doing business as Tokyo Japanese Steakhouse, with Juan Lin as manager. (September 23)

• Granted a Common Victualler license to Jay Siya Ram, LLC doing business as La Quinta Inn at 24 Beavert St., with Kalpesh Patel as manager. (September 23)

• Granted St. Mary of the Assumption parish a one-day Wine & Malt Beverages license. (September 23)

• Granted the Milford Permanent Firefighters Association permission to obstruct a public way by holding their annual road race prior to the Town Meeting on October 15. (September 23)

• Granted the Milford Permanent Firefighters Association and Tri-Valley Front Runners permission to obstruct a public way by holding the annual Welcome Santa Parade beginning at 4 p.m. on December 1. The parade will begin at the intersection of Medway Rd. (Route 109) and Veterans Memorial Drive and end at Draper Memorial Park. (September 23)

• Hired Kimberli Considine as part-time Client Services Coordinator for the Senior Memorial Drive and end at Draper Memorial Park. (September 23)

• Approved land plan to divide a lot at 123 Congress St. into two lots, as approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on August 15. (October 1)

• Voted to send an unfavorable recommendation to the ZBA on a variance request by Christopher Pilla to sell through a public auction for a minimum price of $25,000 a 0.133-acre parcel of land on Birch St. which the town took the property for non-payment of $10,879 in property taxes in 2004. The board also voted to add a condition that – if the land is bought by an abutter – that abutter must merge both lots into one parcel within three months. Pilla said selling the parcel via public auction was his preference “for transparency, for fairness.” (September 23)

• Voted to vacate a judgment in Land Court to take a house at 9 Westchester Dr. for unpaid property taxes once the town receives $24,396.34 gained through the sale of the house. On September 9, the board authorized Pilla and Town Counsel Charles Boddy to work with the owner to get the town paid by selling the house, with the proceeds to be used to pay back the own and any remaining funds to go to its former owner. The property is being sold, with a closing scheduled for October 10, Pilla said. (September 23)

• Town Administrator Richard Villani reported that he expects to have three finalists for the vacant position of Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer ready for the board to consider by its first meeting in October. (September 23)

• Buckley said the town needs to put repairs to the Central Street bridge over the Charles River – estimated to cost $2.5 million – into the town’s five-year capital plan. He asked Villani to let the Finance Committee know this cost will be coming next year or in 2021, and to ask the town’s state legislators if they can secure any state funding for the project. (September 23)

• Hired Kimberli Considine as part-time Client Services Coordinator for the Senior Center. Director Susan Clark said in a memo to the board that 47 people applied for the job, and four were selected to be interviewed. Three finalists were later interviewed in person and Considine was selected, she said. Selectmen agreed with Clark’s recommendation to have Considine start at $22.23 per hour with a start date as early as October 7. (September 23)

• Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Rachel Haser from the Commission on Disability. (September 23)

• Appointed Justin Dulak to fill the vacancy on the Commission on Disability. (September 23)

• Granted the Milford Permanent Firefighters Association and Tri-Valley Front Runners permission to obstruct a public way by holding their annual Welcome Santa Parade prior to the annual Welcome Santa Parade on December 1. The race will begin at 3:30 p.m. from Birch St. at Industrial Rd. and end at the Spruce St. fire station. (September 23)

• Granted the Milford Permanent Firefighters Association permission to obstruct a public way by holding the annual Welcome Santa Parade beginning at 4 p.m. on December 1. The parade will begin at the intersection of Medway Rd. (Route 109) and Veterans Memorial Drive and end at Draper Memorial Park. (September 23)

• Granted St. Mary of the Assumption parish a one-day Wine & Malt Beverages license for a fundraising event held from 5 to 11 p.m. on September 28 in the Parish Hall. (September 23)

Planning Board

• Approved a land plan to divide a lot at 123 Congress St. into two lots, as approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on August 15. (October 1)

• Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA on a variance granted by the ZBA on September 25, 2018 to divide a merged lot into two non-conforming lots at 196-198 Congress St. Town Planner Larry Dunkin said the request is unnecessary because a land record was planned following the issuance of that variance. (October 1)

• Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA on a special permit request by Wilson Valdez to retain a supplemental apartment within a house at 9 Wildwood Dr. Dunkin said a prospective buyer wants to retain the previously approved supplemental apartment. (October 1)

• Approved a land plan adding a 4,970 square-foot parcel of land on Bowdoin Drive to the town’s land plan. (September 23)

• Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on a special permit request by Christopher Pilla to sell through a public auction for a minimum price of $25,000 a 0.133-acre parcel of land on Birch St. which the town took the property for non-payment of $10,879 in property taxes in 2004. The board also voted to add a condition that – if the land is bought by an abutter – that abutter must merge both lots into one parcel within three months. Pilla said selling the parcel via public auction was his preference “for transparency, for fairness.” (September 23)

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• Voted to send an unfavorable recommendation to the ZBA on a request by William Verrelli to extend a variance granted by the ZBA on September 25, 2018 to divide a merged lot into two non-conforming lots at 196-198 Congress St. Town Planner Larry Dunkin said the request is unnecessary because a land record was planned following the issuance of that variance. (October 1)

• Voted to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA on a special permit request by Wilson Valdez to retain a supplemental apartment within a house at 9 Wildwood Dr. Dunkin said a prospective buyer wants to retain the previously approved supplemental apartment for a family member. (October 1)

• Approved a land plan adding a 4,979 square-foot parcel of land on Bowdoin Drive to the existing parcel owned by abutter Thomas Banks, who bought the land from the town in April. (October 1)

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Milford Meetings

Monday, October 14
Town Offices Closed for Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 15
Cultural Council, Room 2, 7 p.m.
Planning Board, Public Hearing, Room 3, 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 17
2020 Complete Count Committee Invitation, Upper Town Hall, 6 p.m.
Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition, Trinity Episcopal Church, 6 p.m.
War Memorial Revitalization Committee, Room 14, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22
Pre-Town Meeting Forum, Upper Town Hall, 7 p.m.
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board voted on October 1 to support three proposed Zoning By-law amendments that will be considered by Town Meeting Members at the October 28 Special Town Meeting.

The three proposed amendments are:
- A request by the Proprietors of the Pine Grove Cemetery to allow for crematories as a secondary/ accessory use to a cemetery, subject to site plan review by the Planning Board.
- A request by Siranaturals, Inc. to remove the words "not-for-profit" from the Zoning By-law section relating to medical marijuana treatment centers.
- A request by Marble Mainini questioned whether a special permit from the Planning Board should be required, but Antonellis noted the state already has "significant regulations" in place governing crematories.

Antonellis explained the two parcels abut the stone quarrying business being conducted on East Main St. and when rezoned - could provide additional access to it from the state highway as well as could improve sight lines for vehicles. Much of the surrounding acreage in that area is Business Park-zoned, he said.

Calagione said he had no issues with the rezoning request, but questioned why the town-owned parcel between the two lots in question was not being rezoned as well. “I agree,” added board member Patrick Kennelly, noting it made no sense to him to have a Rural Residential parcel surrounded by Business Park parcels.

Antonellis said he brought the same issue up with town officials when discussing this proposed zoning change, but was advised "to not include it at this time." Town Planner Larry Dunkin said that, if this rezoning passes, the board could then propose to rezone the town-owned parcel.

Antonellis said if the zoning is changed this month, he would be coming back to the Planning Board in early winter with some development options for the quarry site. Several area residents questioned the proposed rezoning, noting blasting at the quarrying operation was harming their residential neighborhood in terms of noise and dust. Saying it used to be a nice residential area, Virginia Brenna of 438 East Main St. commented, "It’s the edge of hell down there. It’s an awful place to live right now.”

Several board members explained that the quarry was operating under a federal – not town-issued – permit and the town’s Fire Department monitors the blasting. A scheduled fourth public hearing – on another requested rezoning change – was cancelled after Antonellis withdrew the proposal. Joseph Shay, trustee of SFH Realty Corporation bought the site – where a resort casino was proposed to be built several years ago – from EM Street Milford, LLC for $3,350,000 on July 24.

“I don’t plan to do that. I don’t plan to put that there,” Meehan said during a public hearing on a proposal to amend the town’s Zoning By-law by rezoning two nearby parcels of land from Rural Residential (RC) to Business Park (BP) zoning.

Meehan said he is working with attorney Joseph Antonellis – who represents abutting property owner Joseph Shay – and the Hopkinton-based Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects to develop the entire quarrying site and the so-called former Robsham property.

Several neighbors protested the proposed rezoning of the two lots, citing the change as detrimental to their residential neighborhood. Meehan said he will be offering to buy out abutting residential neighbors’ properties.

Meehan Says No “40B” Apartments on East Main St. Site

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Developer Kevin Meehan told the Planning Board on October 1 that he will not be building the so-called “Chapter 40B” affordable apartment complex known as “Brookview” and approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals to be built of East Main St. (Rt. 16). Meehan’s Route 85 Corporation bought the site – where a resort casino was proposed to be built several years ago – from EM Street Milford, LLC for $3,350,000 on July 24.

“I don’t plan to do that. I don’t plan to put that there,” Meehan said during a public hearing on a proposal to amend the town’s Zoning By-law by rezoning two nearby parcels of land from Rural Residential (RC) to Business Park (BP) zoning.

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OCTOBER 11, 2019
### Zoning, Other Articles on Special TM Warrant

**By Kevin Rudden**  
**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

Several requests to amend the town’s Zoning By-laws and Personnel By-laws are on the October 28 Special Town Meeting warrant.

The requested zoning changes are:
- Deleting the words “not for profit” in the definition of Medical Marijuana Treatment Center to mirror a change in state laws (Article 4).
- Allowing crematories as an accessory uses to cemeteries, subject to a site plan review by the Planning Board (Article 8).
- Changing the zoning for 6.64 acres at 426 East Main St. (Rt. 16) and 434 East Main St. from Residential (R) to Business (BP) zoning (Article 12).
- Changing the pay level for the Local Building Inspector position (Article 18).
- Updating a section involving “Other Compensation and Benefits” (Article 19).
- Deleting “junior” from the title of Building Custodian under Level 1 in hourly rated positions within the Wage and Salary Classification Plan (Article 36).
- Removing the Local Building Inspector from hourly rated positions (Article 40).
- Other articles on the warrant are:
  - Dedicating funds received from the Community Host Agreement with Sira Naturals, Inc. to the Stabilization Fund (Article 6).
  - Mandating that any member or alternate member of the Personnel Board who moves his or her primary residence out of town shall cease to be a member of the board as of the date they move (Article 10).
  - Transferring jurisdiction of 17 town-owned parcels of land totaling 154.52 acres to the Conservation Commission (Article 11).
  - Authorizing the Board of Selectmen to issue an invitation for bids for the sale of the former Purchase Street School at 229 Purchase St. (Article 16).
  - Transferring funds from the Sewer Department’s Stabilization Fund to pay for the design and construction of a sludge treatment facility (Article 19).
  - Changing Town By-laws requiring bonds for contracts from requiring them for “exceeding $4,000” to “exceeding $40,000” (Article 22).
  - Authorizing the town to petition the state legislature to grant an All-Alcoholic Beverages license for Taqueria La Estrella at 134 S. Main St. (Article 26).
  - Authorizing the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee to conduct a one-time trial of electronic voting equipment at the May, 2020 Annual Town Meeting (Article 29).
  - Removing the requirement for a candidate for Police Chief to pass an agility test (Article 31).

### Article Seeks to Limit New Police Chief to Search Committee’s Recommendations

**By Kevin Rudden**  
**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

Article 15 on the October 28 Special Town Meeting warrant would authorize the town to ask the state legislature to enact special legislation that would mandate the Board of Selectmen to appoint a new Police Chief only from the list of finalists provided to the board by the Police Chief Selection Committee.

Sponsor Michelangelo Bon Tempo was one of the residents signing a petition to have the article placed on the warrant and gave the following reason: “The special legislation under this article would ensure that the Board of Selectmen’s appointment of a Police Chief comes from the three to five finalists recommended by the Police Chief Selection Review Committee. The special legislation would not amend Article 32 (Police Chief Selection By-law) of the General By-laws of the town, however, it would balance the Board of Selectmen’s appointing authority granted under G.L. c. 41 97A with respect to Town Meeting’s intent with the passage of Police Chief Selection By-law at the May 18, 1998 Annual Town Meeting, as well as the custom of appointing the new Chief of Police from the pool of candidates recommended by the [search] Committee.”
Receic Eletronics, Textiles & More

A regional drive-through recycling and reuse event is returning to North Grafton, on Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 200 Westboro Rd. Items being collected include electronics, Styrofoam (white #6 only), textiles, books and more. All towns are welcome to participate. Fees (cash only) are as follows: small electronics (visit WeCan-MA.org for list of items) $10 each; monitors and televisions $20 each.

Styrofoam is being collected at no charge (only #6 white – no food containers or packaging peanuts or free of stickers and tape) and assorted clothing and textiles (clean, dry and odor-free) to benefit non-profit organizations. This includes used clothing and textiles, shoes, purses, wallets, belts, sheets, curtains, pillows, tablecloths (holes and rips okay). Funds raised from clothing and textiles will be donated to Fresh Start who will also be collecting small household and kitchen items like small counter top appliances. For the Cummings Veterinary Center at Tufts University and local animal shelters (label Animal on the bag), bring clean, old, worn towels and blankets. New or like-new craft and office supplies are being donated to The Great Exchange.

The event is hosted by WE CAN and the communities of Grafton, Northborough, Shrewsbury and Westborough, and is open to all surrounding communities. It will be held on Grafton, Northborough, Shrewsbury and Westborough, and Exchange.

Greenleaf Garden Club Presents Creative Ways to Entertain

The theme of the Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford’s October meeting will be Everyday Centerpieces and Easy Ways to Entertain with speaker Michele Schucker on Monday, October 21 at the Milford Senior Center, 60 North Bow St. It will start with refreshments at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. Schucker’s demo/lecture will discuss everyday centerpieces and the art of easy entertaining. She will show quick to construct centerpieces and tablescapes and how to make quests feel special. Wearing native plant material into her flower arrangements and creative tablescapes, she is known for expertise in garden design and indigenous plants. Founder and chief designer of Natural Selections Schucker is a certified master gardener and is passionate about the art and science of horticulture.

The Greenleaf Garden Club is a member of the National Garden clubs, Inc. and the Garden club Federation of MA, Inc. For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com.

UniBank Home Buying Seminar

UniBank is sponsoring free monthly home buying seminars throughout 2019 to provide homebuyers with information about finding and buying the home of their dreams. Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be awarded at each event.

The next seminar is Wednesday, October 16, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the branch office, 193 Boston Turnpike, Suite 3160, Lakeway Commons, Shrewsbury. Seminar speakers include: Dave Sampson, UniBank Mortgage Consultant (NMLS #689848), Kathleen McSweeney, Realtor, Collins & Demac Real Estate; Tom Wickstrom, Attorney, Wickstrom Morse, LLP; Stephen Tosches, Appraiser, US Realty Associates, Matt Warren, Warren Home Inspections. Contact UniBank’s Matt Armenti (NMLS #837886) at 508-365-1500 or matthew.armenti@ unibank.com to register.

Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. Sweepstakes to win gift card is subject to complete official rules which are available at UniBank’s Shrewsbury branch. To enter, individuals must register and attend the seminar. No purchase or account required to enter or win. Must be 18 years of age or older to enter to win.

All seminar attendees will receive a $250 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank.
The Deep Blue Sea Needs Our Help

This summer, many of us enjoyed the mesmerizing ocean waves while relaxing on a beach. The beauty of the vast blue ocean surface can mask much of the human-caused damage that lies beneath those waves. However, we have tools to restore our oceans, but we need to take action now.

The oceans are a life force for humans containing 97 percent of earth’s water. Over half of the oxygen in earth’s atmosphere comes from microscopic phytoplankton, the foundation of the marine food-web. Unfortunately, the oceans are warming at an unprecedented rate and disrupting the phytoplankton globally. The oceans have absorbed much of the anthropogenic carbon emissions, but the oceans are reaching their limit. This carbon absorption has created more acidic oceans making survival for sea creatures more difficult. Nearly half of the coral reefs have died; a biodiverse habitat for a significant amount of marine life.

Worldwide, pollution and fishing are taking their toll. Plastic in the ocean is ubiquitous and does not decompose for centuries, if ever, and kills thousands of animals in the sea annually. There are over 400 large dead zones caused mostly by industrial pollution, sewage and excess agricultural fertilizer runoff. Over 30 percent of fisheries are overfished and unsustainable. A new report on the oceans came out from The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released a new report on the oceans at IPCC.ch/srocc/home/

To help, support the above efforts, reduce fossil fuel use, use less plastic and vote for policies that promote environmental sustainability. Enjoy and explore this amazing blue resource and magical ecosystem.

Deck the Halls, a November Gala Fundraiser

Once again, the Greenleaf Garden Club (GGC) is inviting the community to its annual November Gala fundraiser—an evening of floral designs, drawings, fun and refreshments. This year’s Gala will highlight designer Maureen Christmas and will be held at the Milford Senior Center, 60 N. Bow St., Milford on Monday, November 18 beginning at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments. Tickets are $12 and may be obtained from any GGC member or from Nancy Wojick, 617-680-2477, email nancynwojick@gmail.com.

Christmas will create five to seven delightful holiday designs, one of which will be given as a door prize and there will be a drawing for the others. She is one of New England’s top designers and her creativity and novel ideas will be expressed as she designs for the Gala. Christmas is a National Garden Club Flower Show judge and has a European Master’s Certification. She has won many top awards at the New England and Newport Flower Shows.

Following the presentation, a drawing will be held for Maureen’s designs and for the 50+ themed baskets prepared by GGC members. The proceeds from the evening will be used to fund the Club’s projects including the downtown civic plantings, the Garden Therapy and Junior Garden programs and the annual awards at the New England and Newport Flower Shows.

The beach is a natural playground as well as a life force for humans. We are fortunate to live by the ocean, but there is trouble at sea. Climate change, overfishing and pollution have taken their toll, but there is much we can do help.
Planners Evaluating Proposed Basava Center

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board will continue to review plans to construct an International Basava Center building on a two-acre site at 225 West St. (Rt. 140) when it meets again this month. The board began its initial site plan review on October 1.

Attorney Susan Craighead told board members that the International Basava Center is “a non-profit organization established to promote the teachings of Basavanna and his principles. The main objective of our center is to promote a Basava way of life as the guiding path for a better and unified world through serene and peaceful living regardless of gender, belief, social status, national origin or religion.”

Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher and statesman in India, according to Wikipedia. Civil Engineer Elizabeth Mainini said a two-story, 2,000 square-foot building would be built on a site directly behind the existing medical center building at 215 West St. Updated plans were submitted to Town Engineer Mike Dean and Town Planner Larry Dunkin on the afternoon before the board’s meeting and have yet to be reviewed by the town officials, Mainini explained.

Issues board members, Dean and Dunkin asked her to consider before the next meeting with the board included connections to two existing roadway stormwater drainage systems, a traffic generation trip projection, and the requested slope in the center’s parking lot.

Board member Joseph Calagione called the requested 10 percent grade “way too steep” as he compared it to the roughly five percent slope in the Shaw’s supermarket parking lot located several blocks away. “This won’t work as it is,” Calagione noted, and also voiced the concern over the access roadway leading down to West St.

Mainini noted the adjacent medical building’s parking lot has a seven percent slope.

Sira Naturals Increases Host Agreement Payment

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen voted on September 23 to approve a second amendment to the Community Host Agreement between Sira Naturals, Inc. and the town—a pact that will boost the company’s annual contribution to the town by $25,000 to $275,000 per year.

The amendment comes as Sira Naturals plans to build a third marijuana cultivation facility at 5-7 Industrial Rd. in addition to its first facility at 13 Commercial Way and a second one under construction at 1 Industrial Rd. The agreement calling for Sira Naturals to pay the town $250,000 annually for a five-year period was first signed in March, 2018 for the Commercial Way facility and then amended in September, 2018 to add the site at 1 Industrial Rd.

Funds from Community Host Agreements are to be used to offset a community’s mitigation costs if there are issues with marijuana facilities, attorney John Fernandes explained. But, he noted, “There are no real impacts from this business at all.”

“You’ve been a great corporate neighbor. It’s like you’re not even there,” Selectman Michael Walsh.

Referring to constant problems with delivery vans going to and from the nearby Amazon.com warehouse, Chairman William Buckley noted, “If I had the opportunity to do it again, the Host Community Agreement would have been with Amazon and not this business.”

Interim Chief Suit Dismissed after Injunction Denied

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Four days after a Worcester Superior Court judge denied their request for a preliminary injunction, the 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 Falvey quit their legal fight by dismissing their own case.

Judge Daniel Wrenn denied the preliminary injunction in a five-page ruling he issued on September 26; the residents’ attorney noted that applicable state law “does not allow this court to substitute its judgment for that of the Town of Milford acting through its duly elected Board of Selectmen to appoint a town official. The types of judgments and decision-making urged by the plaintiffs in the verified complaint is not something that this court has legal authority to review.”

Regarding that point, Wrenn added a footnote to his opinion that the judge found no problem with the process used by the Board of Selectmen to appoint Pighetti. “This process undertake by the town is entirely consistent with and acceptable under G.L. c. 41 §97A, §109O, and the relevant state regulations,” Wrenn wrote.

Referring to constant problems with delivery vans going to and from the nearby Amazon.com warehouse, Chairman William Buckley noted, “If I had the opportunity to do it again, the Host Community Agreement would have been with Amazon and not this business.”
Stop & Shop Withdraws “Online Pick-up” Request

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Stop & Shop supermarket chain withdrew its request to create eight parking spaces designated for customers using its Online Pick-up e-commerce service after Planning Board members bluntly told store representatives on October 1 that there were not enough parking spaces at the Milford Crossing plaza on Medway Rd. (Rt. 109).

“There is no additional parking,” board member Patrick Kennelly said. “They don’t have ample parking as it is now.”

Following preliminary discussions with store representatives, Town Planner Larry Dunkin said he and Town Engineer Mike Dean suggested locating the eight spaces in the parking area to the right of the Stop & Shop building’s main entrance. But, when a representative of Agnoli Sign Co., Inc. of Springfield – the company that would be making and installing the signs marking the eight spaces – talked about working further with Dean and Dunkin, Kennelly bluntly told her, “I don’t care what aid. They don’t vote. We do. ”

Board members explained that R.D. Management – the company owning the plaza – sought and received a reduction in the number of required parking spaces when it was trying to redevelop the plaza. After taking out more spaces to allow outdoor restaurant patios and shopping cart corrals, the parking lot is at capacity, they said.

Kennelly said the signs on the eight requested spaces would mean eight fewer parking spaces for Stop & Shop’s in-store customers. He disagreed with a Stop & Shop’s real estate consultant who said the spaces would not be restricted to just online customers. “Baloney,” Kennelly said.

Board member Thomas Murphy said a Stop & Shop employee was supposed to park at the rear of the building, but no one does. “Put it out back,” he said about the online parking area. “No one sees them parking out back.”

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Brewer Bethel’s Rhino Conservation Passion Takes her to South Africa

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

It’s easy to hear the passion in Betsy Brewer Bethel’s voice when she speaks about rhino conservation. Brewer Bethel, one of the owners of Southwick’s Zoo and Executive Director of EARTH Ltd., has long been working to bring awareness to the endangered species and recently took her activism a step further this summer with a trip to South Africa. “They’re such magnificent animals,” said Brewer Bethel. Southwick’s Zoo currently houses two 10-year-old rhinos named Thelma and Louise. Presently, three of the five species of rhinos are listed as critically endangered, meaning they face an extremely high risk of extinction. One reason for this is habitat loss. The other reason is human greed as thousands are slaughtered by poachers for their horns. Approximately 7,000 rhinos have been killed in South Africa alone in the past decade for their horns, which are mainly made up of hair.

According to Brewer Bethel, the reasons behind the desire for the horns include symbols of status, uses in traditional medicine, as well as a belief their parts help cure cancer, which has never been substantiated. In July, Brewer Bethel and her husband Robert traveled to South Africa to participate in an undertaking that aims to keep the endangered animal from being killed—dehorning them. The thinking being with the horns removed, the poacher’s motive to kill is gone and the risk to the rhino is greatly decreased. The couple worked with a team from Project Rhino, a rhino conservation group.

The rhino is first sedated, blindfolded, and its ears muffed. From there, its horns are cut down as far as possible with a chainsaw. “They don’t feel any pain,” said Brewer Bethel, adding that after the sedation wears off, “they just get up and walk away.” Because the horns grow back, they need to be dehorned every two years.

Still, she said, regardless of the fact she understood she was helping the rhino, it was a very emotional experience. “In some of the pictures we took, I was trying to smile but I was actually crying. I wasthinking, I can’t believe we have to do this to save them,” she said.

Part of her time there was also very uplifting as she spent days working with South African children educating them on wildlife conservation. Brewer Bethel says she’d love to go back and continue her work there.

BHC 2020 Calendar Photo Contest Winners

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) has announced the winners of its 2020 Calendar Photo Contest and plans for a calendar release party and gallery show at its offices at the Linwood Mill, Whitinsville, on Thursday, November 7. Judging of the photo submissions was done by volunteers of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Photography Ambassadors. With the theme for the 2020 calendar being weather, the eight judges reviewed the photos which best met the required theme and were tasked with making the selections for the 12 months, plus the cover photo.

This year’s cover photo titled “Morning Has Broken” was taken by Linda I. Nelson of Sutton, at Old Holbrook Place on Manchaug Pond in Sutton. It will also be the photo for May.

Mary M. Silva of Northbridge, took a photo newly fallen snow during a walk at Shining Rock Golf Course. It will represent January.

Another snow scene of the Grafton Country Store taken by Carol Dandrade of Uxbridge, was picked for February. She also had photo of low lying fog gracing a small farm in Sutton selected for the October picture.

Lightly snow covered tree branches decorating the Whitton Mill and sun setting over the Mumford River at Douglas St. by Dean Ceratti of Northbridge represents March. He also captured a white rowboat with a bright green Christmas tree at Whitins Pond for December.

Debra Boucher of Woonsocket took a photo of a storm blowing in over the Blackstone River Bikeway which was selected for April.

Bob Evans of Northbridge used a drone camera to capture puffy storm clouds for the month of June. Another drone shot by Chris Bilodeau of Douglas of Wallum Lake was chosen for July.

The iconic Crook Point Bridge over the Seekonk River in Providence was the scene for MacGregor Kusielby’s photo, which captured the rich orange sky casting a shadow of the bridge on the river below it. It is used for August.

Kingshuk Bose of Lincoln snapped a photo of cloud formation reflected in the Blackstone River behind the Mannville Dam. The photo will represent September.

The winding Blackstone River at Rice City Pond was accented by a blanket of white fog in the picture taken by Leon Droby of Uxbridge for November.

The 2020 Blackstone Heritage Corridor calendar also features a timeline of historical weather events in the Blackstone Valley, along with black and white photos from the collection at the Worcester Historical Museum.

A Calendar Release Party and Gallery Show will be held at the BHC office, Linwood Mill, 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville, on Thursday, November 7, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. BHC will launch new gallery space in its office, and the show is being sponsored by Linwood Mill, LLC. The gallery will feature the 2020 calendar photos. The photos will be featured in a silent auction with proceeds to benefit BHC. Purgatory Beer Co. will be open and will release a special beer for the event. Tickets to the Calendar Release Party are $10 and include a 2020 calendar. Tickets are available in advance at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org or at the door.

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor 2020 Calendar will be available for sale starting November 7 at the office and at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org. For more information, call 508-234-4242.
Moments from the Past

Submitted by Anne Lamontagne
Milford Historical Commission

The Milford Historical Commission has two intriguing events coming soon. The first is a presentation (by PAL) Public Archaeology Lab Inc. on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Memorial Hall. The Wildcat Point Site Complex: 250 Years of Family and Work in Milford will be featured. Listen to archaeologist Kristen Hetter present an illustrated talk on the year archaeological investigation which uncovered house foundations, field systems, and abandoned roads as well as a sawmill and great mill ruins associated with the former “Wildcat” neighborhood.

Michael Tougas, bestselling author, will be featured at the next monthly meeting of the Friends of the Annual Open House on October 20, at 2 p.m. The King Philip Indian War, which he co-wrote will be discussed. Tougas gives a gripping slide presentation that puts the audience right in the middle of the story. This is truly local history as the King Philip War was fought in Mendon as well as Deerfield and Deerfield. Autographed books will be available for purchase after the event.

Both Saturday and Sunday’s presentations are offered free of charge. There is a ramp on the back side of the building and an elevator for handicap access.

The Historical Museum, located on the first floor will be open to visitors before and after the featured events. Milford has an amazing collection of memorabilia on display: Civil War items, early industry tools, sports memorabilia and military uniforms worn proudly by Milford men. The Lyn Lovell Research Room has early pictures of buildings, people, granitique, boots and shoe shops, Adin Ballard’s History of Milford, high school yearbooks and town reports. The Museum is open every Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. and meetings are held on the second floor. For more information, please call 508-473-3560 or 508-473-8571.

November Program
The Friends of the Milford Town Library will be hosting an evening of Celtic music on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 p.m. Snow is a talented multi-instrumentalist who plays the music and the stories behind the music of Scotland, Ireland and England.

Volunteers Needed for Tax Preparation
Tax-Aide, a partnership between the IRS and the AARP, provides volunteers to help low- and moderate-income persons in the community prepare their Federal and Massachusetts income taxes. Additional positions for site greeters are also available. Last year at the Milford Town Library AARP Tax Assistants helped 177 senior citizens file taxes and moderate income persons with their state and Federal tax returns. This is a very important service provided to communities.

Volunteers work 4-6 hours per week for the eleven weeks during tax preparation season from February 1 through April 15. If you are interested in helping the tax preparers we will be on Saturdays in December. Internet access and basic computer skills are necessary. For an application and/or further information, go to https://aarp.org/tx/.

ESL Classes
The full semester of free drop-in classes for adults begins Saturday, November 9 at 6 p.m. and speaking skills continue to be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the ESL Room. A new addition to the schedule is the Monday class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Grammar Calendars are available at the Circulation and Reference Desks.

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) is offering library patrons free passes to its Children’s Entertainment Series, Classical Music Series, monthly Opera Performances, the annual Snow Jam. The Center’s mission is to cultivate an inclusive and vibrant community committed to the exploration and enjoyment of the visual and performing arts.

Library patrons can pick up free passes at the Reference Desk and bring them to HCA for the Open Mic and Jazz Jam or use the code provided online for the classical or Children’s Series. For more information, call 508-473-2145, ext 2.

Library of Things
The Milford Library now has a Library of Things that may be borrowed with a valid library card. The first phase of the traditional collection of tools is to help patrons learn, play and grow. The collection includes Garmin GPS, Zircon Studsensor, a scanner, PlayStation Console, wireless speaker, metal detector, portable projector screen, and many more. Library of Things items are displayed on shelves near the Circulation Desk. Check them out today.

Citizenship Classes
Citizenship classes, offered by Catholic Charities, will commence on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Children’s Program Room. Informal instruction is provided as needed by a variety of well-seasoned and book experts.

Ongoing Programs
Food Pantry donations from the library have been greatly appreciated. Donations are delivered weekly by a small group of volunteers.

Museum Passes are available to many area museums, zoos and attractions thanks to the Friends of the Library. Membership to the Friends of the MTL continues to be only $10 a year.

Drop-In Knitting and Crocheting
The Drop-In Knitting and Crocheting Classes continue on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Children’s Program Room. Informal instruction is provided as needed by a variety of well-seasoned and book experts.

The Friends of the Milford Town Library will be holding a French wine tasting at HCA for the Halloween month. Forget about leaf peeping, or raking, and get ready for the most October is Halloween month. Forget about leaf peeping, or raking, and get ready for the most
The History of Pie

CRAFTON-On Sunday, October 13 at 2 p.m., Robert Cox, author of New England Picnic History Under a Crust will speak at the Crafton Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Rd., North Grafton. During the program sponsored by the Crafton Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c), a- not-for-profit organization, Cox will share his unique look at New England through its baked goods. This free event will include taste testing of actual pies following the presentation. Coffee and water will also be available. Cox is the head of Special Collections and University Archives at W.E.B. DuBois Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Cox’s interest is in the history of the early national period and the 19th century. For more information about this show or to make reservations please call 508-839-0000 or email craftonhistory@gmail.com.

Rummage Sale

MILFORD-The Women’s Club of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will hold a Rummage Sale on Saturday, October 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church. Besides a variety of gently used items the event will feature baked goods, raffles and a tasty lunch.

Community Harvest Scarecrow Contest, 5K and Harvest Home Festival

NOW-GRANTON-Community Harvest Project (CHP) will hold a Scarecrow Contest as part of their Harvest Home Fall Festival and 5K on Sunday, November 3. The festival takes place at 37 Wheeler Rd., North Grafton from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are $10 per person with a $30 family cap. Children under five are free.

The contest invites local organizations and groups to design and create a scarecrow and offers them a chance to get their name in front of the 1,000+ people that visit the Harvest Home Festival. It’s a creative, fun way to align with the mission of Community Harvest Project and help support hunger relief in central Massachusetts.

To enter a team, go to CommunityHarvest.org/events for more information, fill out the registration form and start designing! The festival will feature a 5K trail run, good food, local beer and wine, live music from Big Jon Short, apple ciders, pumpkin carvings, a scarecrow contest, petting zoo, kids crafts and more. The 5K race kicks off at 10:30 a.m. and the festival will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine. To register for the 5K visit CommunityHarvest.org/events. All proceeds from this event will go towards supporting CHP’s mission of hunger relief.

Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Events

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

MACC Match on Friday, October 11 at 11:45 a.m., Alumni Restaurant, 391 East Central St., Franklin.

CWL Open House, Wednesday, October 23 at 5 p.m., Campus’ n Cup, 189 South Main St., Milford.

Business After Hours, Thursday, October 24 at 5 p.m., Urban Air, 189 Mechanic St., Bellingham.

Business After Hours, Tuesday, November 12 at 5 p.m., Marshall’s Jewellers, 191 Mechanic St., Bellingham.

30th Annual Auction: Visa Las Vegas, Saturday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m., the Milford Portuguese Club, 119 Prospect Heights, Milford.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar

UPON-United Parish of Upton is planning their festive annual Holiday Bazaar for Saturday, December 7. Bigger and Better than ever with more vendors and more space to visit Santa. Vendor applications are available now at www.UnitedParishUpton.org.

Annual Owl Prowl

UXBRIDGE-Join the Annual Owl Prowl at West Hill Dam Park on Saturday, October 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. Park Ranger Viola Brantel will meet participants at West Hill Dam, 514 E. Hartford Ave., Uxbridge, at the picnic shelter at the top of the hill. Bring a flashlight, chair or blanket; dress for the weather; and be ready to walk about a quarter mile. Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult; not recommended for children eight and under. Canceled for heavy rain.

Junior Ranger-Level 2 candidates, earn credit. For more information, contact Ranger Brantel at 978-318-8417 or leave a message at 508-278-2511.

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop

HOPEDALE-The Sacred Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop offers the following specials in October: half off all women’s and children’s clothing plus Halloween items. During the first week of the month, a bag of clothing is $7. Open every Thursday, Saturday, Monday to 3 p.m. Vendors who wish to participate must register by October 31. All proceeds will go to the purchase of a new 14-passenger handicap accessible van for the residents. For more information or to register call Shelley at 508-234-7306.

St. Camillus Craft Fair

WHITINSVILLE-St. Camillus Health Center, 447 Hill St., Whitinsville. To celebrate their 2nd Annual Craft Fair in the Mansion and Chapel located adjacent to the skilled nursing building on Saturday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors who wish to participate must register by October 31. All proceeds will go to the purchase of a new 14-passenger handicap accessible van for the residents. For more information or to register call Shelley at 508- 234-7306.

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2019 Milford Pumpkin Stroll

MILFORD-The 2019 Milford Pumpkin Stroll, featuring a pumpkin-carving contest and trick-or-treating, is Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the scariest, funniest and most creative pumpkins. Children are invited to trick-or-treat from 6 to 7:30 p.m. All pumpkin entries will be illuminated and on display during this time.

Friends of Mendon Eiders Oktoberfest

MENDON-Friends of Mendon Eiders Annual Oktoberfest will be Friday, October 25, from 3 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This traditional event, which is open to the public, features a traditional white elephant table, beautiful handmade items and craft items for sale, kid’s games, entertainment and holiday decorations. Proceeds will help to support the Senior Center programs and services.
Donate Blood to Help Those Fighting Cancer

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give blood or platelets to provide hope and healing to patients fighting cancer. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women with more than 268,000 women expected to be diagnosed with it this year. As a thank-you, those who come to give blood or platelets to provide hope and healing to patients fighting cancer. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer in women with more than 268,000 women expected to be diagnosed with it this year.

Mysterious Massachusetts
HOPEDALE-The Friends of the Hopedale Library announce their next event is Mysterious Massachusetts with Geek Gal Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. Every state has its ghost stories, but no other state has the Dover Demon and the Salem Witch Trials. From seaside ghosts to UFOs over the Berkshires, Massachusetts has a rich history of paranormal legends, odd events and strange denizens. Presenters Sarah Hodges-Wetherbe (ARKA Geek Gal) will examine some of Massachusetts most famous paranormal history. A question and answer session will be held at the end of the presentation. To reserve a spot, call 508-634-2299 or stop by the library during operating hours. The program is open to everyone. The Friends always welcome new members.

Capturing the Night Sky
WHITINSVILLE-The exhibit, Our Cosmic Canvas, will open with a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 1, at the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery, Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, MA.

Exhibit ends on January 3, 2020. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekends and evenings by special appointment. The presentation in the Singh Performance Center will be presented on the night of the reception only.

For more information, visit OpenSkyCS.org/news-events Facebook/ ValleyCAST.
28th Annual International Engineering Middle School Competition

Future City Competition, now in its 28th year, announces Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow, the 2019-20 theme for its award-winning, project-based learning experience for middle schoolers. According to current estimates, two billion people worldwide – a quarter of the world’s population – currently don’t have access to clean water. And that number is expected to double by 2025, it is predicted that as many as 4 billion people will be living in water-stressed areas. During this school year, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from across the country and abroad will be asked to identify an urban water system threat and then imagine, research, design, and build a futuristic solution to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water. Working as a team with an educator and STEM mentor, students present their vision of the future through a virtual city design (using SimCity® software); a 1,500-word city essay; a scale model of their city (built with recycled materials); and in a short presentation to a panel of STEM professionals. Keeping the engineering design process and project management front and center, students are asked to address an authentic, real-world question. How can we make the world a better place?

In the US, over 40,000 students, representing 1,500 schools and 39 regions, take part in the Future City® Competition. Teams present their ideas at Regional Competitions in January. US regional winners then face off at the Future City® Finals, where they are judged by a growing roster of international teams, including those from Canada and China. The New England Regional Final will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The New England winners then face the US and the World at Future City® Finals, sponsored by Bentley Systems (provided by Finals sponsor Bentley Systems). The deadline to register for this year’s Future City® Competition is October 31. Register today or learn more at FutureCity.org. Visit Facebook for more information and updates on the Future City® Competition.

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild Scholarship Application

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that Scholarship applications are now available at local high schools, for those students who are planning to study in the field of Visual Arts, Design or Textiles. Applications may be picked up at the school guidance office or downloaded from ThimblePleasures.org. Deadline for receipt of applications is April 1, 2020.
Youth Sports Allowed to Use Turf Fields for Free

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Youth sports teams in Milford will get a little break on operational fees thanks to a policy change approved by the Milford School Committee.

The Committee approved unanimously during their September 26 Meeting to eliminate fees charged to youth sports organizations for use of the turf fields. Youth sport organizations - outside of the school sports - such as Milford Youth Football, Milford/Hopedale Soccer, and Milford Lacrosse were being charged an hourly rate to utilize the turf fields in town for practices and games. There were not, however, being charged to use the grass fields on school grounds.

“Turf is much more robust when it comes to New England weather,” said Christopher Wilson, member of the Policy Subcommittee that recommended the change. Although originally these fees were charged to offset any turf repair or replacement costs, Wilson said that they felt the community should have use of them at no charge.

“This year marks our programs tenth anniversary. We recommend this program for the amazing job they do in promoting the growth of nursing professionals through education. PracticalNursing.org, an organization established in 2009 to help men and women make the leap into career pathways in nursing. A recent graduate said, “I strongly recommend this program for the amazing job they do in preparing you for the real world of nursing.”

MCAS Data to Be Discussed This Month

The 2019 MCAS test results were released in September, and the data is traditionally presented to the School Committee in early October.

The Committee agreed that they would like to start with an overview on the first meeting before looking at each school’s scores individually.

School Committee Chairperson Jen Parson suggested that instead of Consigli presenting the daunting quantity of data, that he focus on presenting the key take-aways from last year’s exam for each school including areas of strength, struggling subgroups, and what plan do the school’s have in place to address any issues.

“When you look at the charts, they are dizzying,” said Parson. “We really need to see what the steps are that the schools are taking to move forward.”

An overview of Milford’s MCAS data will be presented at their October 10 meeting, followed by a more focused presentation by grade on October 24 for grades 3-8 and November 7 for the high school.

Valley Tech LPN Program Number 3 in Massachusetts

Blackstone Valley Tech’s (Post-Secondary) Practical Nursing program recently ranked third in the state of Massachusetts by PracticalNursing.org, an organization that promotes the growth of nursing professionals through education.

PracticalNursing.org assessed 18 nursing school programs in Massachusetts in its sixth annual Nursing School Program Rankings. Their ranking methodology focused on the National Council Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) pass rates for the previous five years were analyzed, weighted by year, and averaged together. Blackstone Valley Tech Practical Nursing program received an overall score of 94.10 percent to secure #3 rank.

“Turf is much more robust when it comes to New England weather,” said Christopher Wilson, member of the Policy Subcommittee that recommended the change. Although originally these fees were charged to offset any turf repair or replacement costs, Wilson said that they felt the community should have use of them at no charge.

“This year marks our programs tenth anniversary. We are proud of our graduates and the continued success of our program in maintaining high standards in practical nursing education and meeting the needs of the health care industry and our community,” said Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA.

““This is a tribute to the dedication and hard work from the faculty, staff, and our students,” The Blackstone Valley Tech Practical Nursing program proudly serves in District, out of District, and out of state learners. For more information, ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing.
Deadline Approaching for MHS Hall of Fame Banquet Tix

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The deadline is fast approaching for supporters of Milford High School athletics and other community members to purchase tickets to the biannual Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony.

The event is slated for Sunday, November 24 at 1:30 p.m. at the Portuguese Club, Prospect Heights, in Milford and tickets can be purchased until November 1. Tickets will not be sold at the door, according to event organizers.

"Each of the past programs has been a very special and memorable event," said Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Nick Zacchilli in a statement accompanying the ticket announcement, "and this year's ceremony will provide another great moment in Milford High School athletic history."

This year's class differed from some past classes by focusing primarily on athletes who achieved success in so-called "individual sports." From 1993 pole vaulting champion Brenner Abbott to wrestling stars like David Claro from the class of 1998 and Greg Doyle from 1978, to swimming sisters Sarah (Kearns) Slapak and Jill (Kearns) Brewer, the class is filled with athletes who were able to dominate in their sports.

There are a number of athletes who were stars in team sports as well. For example, there will be a number of athletes who were able to run track and field in elementary school in what was then a tradition: the annual field day meet between Woodland and Brookside Elementary Schools.

"I am always participating in what might be considered an official track meet, I ran the 200 and lost to a classmate," Penn said. "I was completely sold after that. I knew when I got to high school I was going to run track."

Penn said John Brucato and the late Dennis Breen were particularly influential in her track and field career in high school. After a standout high school career, she attended Hampton University in Virginia on an academic scholarship. After initially planning to compete in track and field at the Division I level, she decided to focus solely on academics and being a college student.

Hall of Fame Spotlight: Cotrane Penn

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The 1982 rock anthem "Eye of the Tiger" by the band Survivor was made iconic by Rocky III, but Cotrone Penn hears that song and harkens back to a track and field career that ultimately landed her in the Milford High School Hall of Fame.

"We had a tradition of playing that song when we would get close to the school where we were competing in an away meet," Penn said. "We would play "Eye of the Tiger" on the boom box and whenever I hear the song, I think of those bus rides to Wachusett or whenever we were going to run that day."

Penn had the "eye of the tiger" when she was a part of numerous record breaking teams and finished second in the state and second in the New England meet in the 300-meter hurdles during her senior year.

"Any time we broke a record, it was a highlight," she said. "I would say that, even though the areas where I excelled the most were the 300 hurdles and the triple jump, relays were always my favorite."

Penn, a 1996 graduate, was a part of some powerhouse 4x100 and 4x100 relay teams during her time at Milford High. She said her love for track and field started in elementary school in what was then a tradition: the annual field day meet between Woodland and Brookside Elementary Schools.

"In my first year participating in what might be considered an official track meet, I ran the 200 and lost to a classmate," Penn said. "It was completely sold after that. I knew when I got to high school I was going to run track."

Penn said John Brucato and the late Dennis Breen were particularly influential in her track and field career in high school. After a standout high school career, she attended Hampton University in Virginia on an academic scholarship. After initially planning to compete in track and field at the Division I level, she decided to focus solely on academics and being a college student.

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Milford Boys’ XC Reloading with New Cast

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After graduating six of his top seven runners from a season ago, Milford boys’ cross country head coach John Vanderkeyl thought 2019 might end up being a rebuilding year for his program. But the young squad responded by training hard in the offseason and the Scarlet Hawks lost just once during the dual meet campaign and could earn another top-five finish at the Hockomock League meet.

“They want to win,” Vanderkeyl said. “They have been winning and they enjoy it know that, in order to keep winning, they have to keep working hard.”

Max Manor has been the top runner this fall, something Vanderkeyl said he expected from the veteran distance athlete. But even Manor has exceeded his coach’s most optimistic expectations. “He is better than I thought he would be, he trained his butt off during the offseason,” Vanderkeyl said.

Manor figures to qualify for the state meet. Vanderkeyl said only an injury would keep him from earning a spot in that meet.

As a team, Milford finished third in the league meet a year ago. Another top-three performance would be a challenge, Vanderkeyl said. “It’s very deep and traditional.

The rest of Milford’s top contributors this fall have been younger athletes. Sophomore James Comisky has regularly been in the top-five among MHS finishers. Freshman Mark Butters has also outpaced preseason expectations and Sam Vilt and Gabe Pardocota round out a talented group that will be returning for next season.

“That has really been the best part,” Vanderkeyl said. “In what we thought might be a rebuilding year we should still go 4-1 in the dual meets and do really well in the post season. We have a lot of guys stepping up and it makes me feel really good about the future.”

Milford Golf Battles Tough League Competition

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High School golf team has weathered a challenging Hockomock League schedule this fall and, even though the victories have not come in bunches, head coach Jason Potty is pleased with the way his team has played.

“That has really been the best part, ” Potty said. “I thought he would be, he trained his butt off during the offseason.”

Manor figures to qualify for the state meet. Vanderkeyl said only an injury would keep him from earning a spot in that meet.

As a team, Milford finished third in the league meet a year ago. Another top-three performance would be a challenge, Vanderkeyl said. “It’s very deep and difficult.”

Out of a dozen teams in the league, as many as nine could qualify for the sectional tournament, meaning Milford is facing playoff-caliber competition every time it tees off.

“We are playing well, we have been keeping our heads up,” Potty said. “We have a goal number in mind of what we want to shoot and we have been approaching that number more often than not.”

Three seniors have led the way for the Hawks this fall. Ed Madden and Tyler Wetherbee are both averaging around 43 for a nine-hole round. “Those two have stepped up and led the way for us,” Potty said. “They go out there and put up good scores.”

Fellow senior Nick Wimette has also emerged after a slow start to the season, the coach added.

Those three will be representing Milford at the league meet on the championship course at Blue Hill Country Club in Canton and Potty is hoping all three can shoot in the 80s. “That would be fantastic,” he said.

All three golfers will need to be replaced next fall, along with fellow seniors Tiger Nichols and Luchini. Potty said Milford may have as many as five incoming freshmen who have been working with the developmental team at Pinecrest Golf Club in Holliston and the group may be able to contribute right away.

Juniors David Pacella and Wesley Murdock and sophomores Tom Donato and Ronan Fleming will also be stepping into bigger roles next year.

“They will have to carry the load,” Potty said. “And those freshmen should be ready to go, ready to step right in and play.”

BVT Field Hockey Tops CAL at Midway Point

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Halfway through the 2019 season, the Blackstone Valley Tech field hockey team is atop the league standings and looking poised to claim the Colonial Athletic League crown if it can take care of business in the second half of the schedule. “I would love to be able to clinch the CAL title this year because last year, toward the end of the season, we lost in it someone else’s hands,” said head coach Laurie Borek. “We won’t want that to happen again.”

Entering the week, the Beavers had posted a 3-0-1 record in the league, with the lone tie coming against Monty Tech. BVT is slated to host Monty on Monday and a win would put the Beavers in the driver’s seat for the league. Borek credited the team’s strong start to the play of her three senior captains, each of whom has helped solidify a different part of the field. Forward Chloe Pigeon has been a consistent scoring threat for Valley Tech.

“She is a very determined player,” Borek said. “She was on the varsity last year and she has a good view of the entire game as we play.”

Fellow senior Abigail Clark, a midfielder, is a similarly smart player who “sees the whole field” and has “terrific drives,” her coach said. Mary Martoccio, the third captain, has been a stalwart at center defense. “She is holding the whole defense together,” Borek said. “Including our goalie, we have five strong defensive players and two great backups. So I feel our defense has terrific depth. We are halfway through the season and it is clicking as a unit. Borek had high praise for sophomore Ashley Hamelin, the Beavers’ goalie, who has pitched five shutouts with the help of the deep defensive unit. BVT and Monty Tech played to a scoreless tie last time out, but with a total of 10 players who have scored goals, Borek is confident in her team being able to break through when they play on Monday. She is hoping a strong second half sets the stage for the tournament. “We want to get to the playoffs and go further than we have in the past,” she said. “Our league has varied skill levels, but our non-league games are really tough, which they should be to prepare us for postseason play.”

Alexandra Humiston Memorial Game

Everyone is invited to the Memorial Scholarship Field Hockey Game at the Milford High School on Monday, October 21, at 5 p.m. in memory of Alexandra Humiston. The Milford Scarlet Hawks will be playing against the North Attleboro Red Rocketeers. There will be a bake sale and raffles, come enjoy the game and have some fun while supporting the Alexandra Humiston Scholarship Fund. Donations for the Alexandra Humiston Scholarship Fund can be mailed to: Alexandra Humiston Scholarship Fund, C/O Caitlyn Small, 7 Blanchard Rd., Milford, MA 01757.
The Milford High School Football team achieved a historic win last weekend by beating the North Attleboro team. This was the first victory for the Scarlet Hawks over the Rocketeers in seven years, since Milford joined the Hockomock League. MHS photo

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford High football team had never beaten North Attleboro since joining the Hockomock League seven years ago, a streak that came to an end in decisive fashion with a 45-19 rout last weekend. The victory, the third in a row for the Scarlet Hawks, sets up a first-place showdown Friday with unbeaten Canton.

“They are good, they are big, athletic, physical; they do a lot of things well and don’t make many mistakes,” Milford head coach Anthony Vizakis said of the opposing team. “It’s next game so it’s the biggest game,” Vizakis said. “I think the kids have to stay focused. It’s a big game but we are not going to look at it this any differently than we have looked at the last four.” The win over North Attleboro helped Milford improve to 3-1 on the season and 2-0 in the Hockomock League’s Davenport Division. Canton is also 2-0 in the division and will come into Friday night’s game 4-0 overall with kickoff set for 7 p.m. from Canton.

Vizakis will be looking for a similar complete effort from his team as the one it was able to put together against North Attleboro. Quarterback Colby Pires threw for more than 300 yards and three touchdowns. Max Martin reeled in a pair of touchdown passes and Carter Scudo added a strong game on offense. On defense, Vizakis had high praise for C.J. Cerrella. “He was lights out,” the coach said. “He was all over the field making big hits, big tackles, he forced a fumble. Overall our defense just ran to the football and gang tackled. It was awesome to see.” Milford was strong on special teams as well, Vizakis said, and it was stark contrast to last season in terms of the playoff picture. The Hawks lost their first four games in 2018, but are in a much better position to qualify for the postseason this fall. Right now, Vizakis said the postseason is the furthest thing from his mind.

“I haven’t thought that far ahead, that we are taking it one week at a time,” he said. “Last year at this time, we had a lot of soul searching to do. But this is a new year and we are really excited about the team we have.” Milford will try to build off the early success by cleaning up some of the small mistakes, including penalties and turnovers. “We just have to keep working hard and having good weeks of practice,” Vizakis said. “You build off a big win by going with what’s working.”

Milford Boys Soccer Earns Signature Win Over OA

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford boys’ soccer team does not mention the “P” word, as in playoffs or postseason, until it has enough points to qualify. Even after running through the first half of the season without a single loss, head coach Brian Edwards is cautious.

“We don’t say that word until it happens,” Edwards said.

That said, the Scarlet Hawks are in great shape to make a tournament appearance and have shown the ability to win big games following a 3-2 triumph over previously unbeaten Oliver Ames. It was high drama,” Edwards said. “It was like a playoff game, they are a really, really good team.”

Milford jumped out to a 2-0 lead on Oliver Ames on goals by senior forward Pedro Araujo and fellow senior Dan Santos before the Tigers came back and tied it up. A late second half goal by Joao Pedro Da Silva put the game away for the Hawks and handed Oliver Ames its first loss on the season.

“Hopefully a game like that can teach us some lessons,” Edwards said. “If we make the playoffs, that is the kind of team we are going to see. They have been in the state finals within the past few years, so that’s the type of team you want to measure yourself against and assure to be like. I hope we learned some things.”

The players who lifted Milford to the signature win have been instrumental in the team’s success. Santos, Edwards said, has been playing well at the center back position, while Da Silva has been “tremendous” in the midfield, his coach added.

The Scarlet Hawks will need to turn the page quickly after the Oliver Ames win with three games scheduled for this past week, including a road contest Friday night at Attleboro. Even at 7-0-1, Edwards said he is not entirely satisfied with the way his team is playing. “We have to improve on everything,” he said. “There are many parts of our game where we are just getting by. The record can be a little misleading, we have many things we need to improve upon and all aspects of our game could use some work.” The win over Oliver Ames is a good sign that things are moving in the right direction.