Ghosts, Goblins and Witches – Oh, My!

Halloween is just around the corner and Milford has a lot planned for the season of trick or treating. Houses like the one shown in the photo above taken by Town Crier photographer, Jim Calarese are decorated for some haunting. Revelers of all ages can take part in the annual Pumpkin Stroll, featuring a pumpkin-carving contest and trick-or-treating, on Saturday, October 26, at the DCH Toyota of Milford, 300 Fortune Blvd. Pumpkin carvers are asked to drop off entries between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to those who are present at 6:45 p.m. for the fastest, funnest and most creative pumpkins. Children are invited to trick-o-treat from 6 to 7:30 p.m. All pumpkin entries will be illuminated and on display during this time. All events are free, but donations of non-perishable food items for the Daily Bread Food Pantry are welcome.

The Milford Town Library will hold a Halloween Parade in the Children’s Department on Tuesday, October 29, at 10 a.m. All children and their caregivers are invited to come in costume, parade through the library and enjoy snacks and a story.

Milford’s older residents can enjoy a Halloween Party on Thursday, October 31 at 12:30 p.m. at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center. DJ Mike will provide the entertainment. There will be door prizes, raffles and lunch. Youngsters from the Creativity Community Child Care of Milford will be on hand for a Horribles Parade. Tickets for lunch are $5 each and can be obtained by making a reservation at the Senior Center.

And last but not least, the Milford Youth Center, Pearl St., will be holding its Halloween Party and Haunted Maze Friday, November 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. Participants can enjoy music, snacks, pumpkin & face painting, a jumpy and a haunted maze. The Milford Fire Department will host an appearance by Sparky and have their new ladder truck on display across the street. Admission is $3 per person or $10 per family, however it is free if an item is donated to KIND: Kids in Need of Defense. For more information on items to be donated and the organization, visit MilfordYouthCenter.org.

While everyone is getting into the spooky spirit of Halloween, the Milford Police Department reminds drivers to slow down and drive very cautiously on the night of Thursday, October 31, when little ghosts, goblins and witches will be haunting the town’s streets.

$1-Million Grant Awarded for Opioid Programs

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The federal Department of Justice this month awarded the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office and the Milford-based Regional Substance Navigation Program a $1,092,869 grant to expand opioid abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services. The Regional Substance Navigation Program currently includes Milford, Bellingham, Hopedale, Medway and Upton.

Programs to be funded by the grant – awarded after a national competition for the funding – will “make it easier for the people of greater Milford to access the services they need,” District Attorney Joseph Early said. “This is a program that we hope can be and will be replicated through the rest of Worcester County.”

The partnership between the District Attorney’s Office and the Regional Substance Navigation Program includes plans to establish a new, free-standing resource recovery center in Milford.

“This is an exciting program and the DA’s office is happy join our partners within the greater Milford area,” Early said. “This collaboration of police departments and mental health providers will help people dealing with addiction to access services.”

Amy Leno, head of Community Impact Inc., said the grant application for the resource center originally was written for a state grant and was converted – with Early’s office – into a federal grant application. She described herself as “shocked” when learning the

While MCAS Results Improve, Milford Schools Still Struggling

Chronic Absenteeism a Significant Concern

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Public Schools made some “great improvements” across the district in their MCAS scores according to school officials, who cautioned that the standardized test is not the only way to measure the quality of a school.

“If you focus too extensively on high stakes testing, it narrows the curriculum,” said Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Craig Consigli while presenting the 2019 MCAS results during the October 10 School Committee Meeting. “If you focus on ELA and Math only... you lose sight of everything that gives our students the robust education that they have.”

Consigli presented the highlights for the district’s MCAS results for Woodland Elementary, Stacy Middle, and Milford High Schools.

“Generally, we made some great improvements across the district and across each of the schools,” said Consigli.

Last spring’s testing was the second year of the latest MCAS exams with a new accountability system, moving from ranking schools based solely on MCAS test scores, to ranking schools based on test scores and growth in student performance plus graduation and dropout rates, progress made by English language learners, chronic absenteeism and the percentage of 11th- and 12th-grade students completing advanced coursework. The new
We are excited to announce that the Shining Rock Bar and Grill is finally opening for the winter season! We are featuring a brand-new winter menu with new mouth-watering dishes you will not want to miss. Starting November 1st we will be open Thursday-Saturday 4pm-9pm and on Sundays 11am-7pm.

Make sure to join us this winter for an unforgettable dining experience.

Interfaith Speaker Series

The St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church’s Peace & Social Justice Ministry is presenting an interfaith speaker series. The goal of the series is to help build understanding of other faiths through these evenings with special guests speaking on and answering questions about other religions:

- Monday, November 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m.: “Judaism” with Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz from Congregation Sinai Shalom in Westborough
- Wednesday, February 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.: “Buddhism” with Paul Galvin, Priest and Senior Dharma Teacher, Boundless Way Zen Temple, Worcester
- Wednesday, March 18, 7 to 8:30 p.m.: “Islam” with a speaker to be confirmed.

Each interactive presentation will provide an overview of the religious’s basic tenants and origin, leave plenty of time for questions, and include time for small group discussion and reflection. Light refreshments will be served. This speaker series is open to all members of local community.

Milford Temporary Emergency Shelter

The new Milford Temporary Emergency Shelter is open from November through March for clients who may need a place to stay when the temperatures dip low or heavy snow is in the forecast. The shelter will be open at 7 p.m. any evening when the outside temperature “feels below 18 degrees” or there will be three or more feet of snow. Clients will include individuals and families. Registration will be taken from 7 to 9 p.m. with lights out at 10 p.m. Clients will leave by 7 a.m. the next morning. Volunteers are needed to help with the registration, setting up cots and helping clients prepare for sleep, monitoring conditions within the shelter and then cleaning up the next morning.

Anyone who would like to volunteer, make a donation or needs more information should call 617-699-4045 or email SteveJubin@msn.com.

GMCC Holiday Concerts, December 14 & 15

The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) announces their two upcoming holiday concert performances on Saturday evening, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m., both at the Grand Ballroom, Milford Town Hall. The building is handicap accessible and parking is free.

Under the musical direction of Mark Schiappucci, GMCC has been rehearsing a variety of Christmas and holiday songs for the upcoming winter concerts. This year’s program is entitled Cool Yule and will include beloved traditional holiday songs along with select poetic and classic pieces.

GMCC members reside in Milford, as well as many of the surrounding towns. The GMCC is a nonprofit organization sponsored by the Milford Community Use Program and the Milford, Bellingham, Hopedale, Uxbridge, and Mendon Cultural Councils, thru the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information, please visit GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.com. Tickets are now on sale at Music & Arts (formerly The Music Nook), 164 Main St., Milford, or from any chorus member for $10; tickets will be sold at the door for $12. Children under 8 are free.

Ya’ Gotta Love a Nurse

These nurses tended to the needs of the residents at the award winning and now defunct Goughdale Gardens Nursing Home, from the 1970s until 2010 when the facility closed. They reminisced and had a lot of laughs, especially for those who worked the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift, during a reunion at the Mendon home of Linda Lamotte. The nurses are, l-r: Seated: Martha Flemming and Barbara Svitila. Standing: Pat Hanlon, June Henneberry, Patricia Plattow, Linda Lamotte and Maryann Sannicandro. Harry Plattow photo

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Fall Activities for Milford Girl Scouts

Milford Brownie Troop 64892 recently planned a town-wide Girl Scout hike at the Blue Hills Reservation. The activity, which was attended by Milford Girl Scouts from Daisies to Seniors, was part of Troop 64892's work on their hiker badge.

Milford Girl Scouts in Brownie Troop 64720 and Daisy Troop 65017 at West End Creamery's fall festival on Sunday, October 6. This fun event was attended by 18 of the 24 troop members, and a great way to kick-off another year of exploring outdoors.

Milford’s Scouting for Food Continues to Make Huge Difference

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

To help other people at all times. That is the scout oath, and scouts throughout Milford will be taking those words to heart when they take part in the annual Scouting for Food drive over two weekends in November.

During the weekend of November 2 and November 3, Milford scouts will be hanging door reminders throughout town aimed to help residents remember to leave bags or boxes of much needed food items and other donations for families and individuals who utilize the Daily Bread Food Pantry.

The following Saturday, November 9, scouts will be traveling to those same neighborhoods to pick up the donations left outside by residents. Any donations should be left in a visible place before 9 a.m., earlier if possible.

Scouting for Food Coordinator Barbie Carr of Pack 67 said if by chance, a home does not receive a door reminder due to an oversight, residents are asked to keep the November 9 date in mind and please consider making a donation.

Some suggested nonperishable foods needed are peanut butter, cereal, pancake or muffin mix, crackers or cookies, instant soups, rice or beans, pasta, powdered juice or milk, dried fruits, snack bars, adult or infant diapers or single serve unfrozen dinners.

It is asked that donations not include frozen foods, glass, and open containers and the expiration dates should be looked at prior to donating.

Once donations are picked up, they are brought to the Food Pantry to be sorted and stocked. Milford boy scouts, girl scouts, and parent volunteers participate to make the annual event the success that it is.

Since 1991, the Daily Bread Food Pantry has been serving individuals from Milford, Hopedale, and Upton and according to its Web site, has helped more than 9,300 people over that time.

The Scouting for Food event, “is the Food Pantry's biggest food drive of the year,” said Carr. For those who wish to contribute to the Food Pantry but are unable to take part in this year’s Scouting for Food event, donations may be dropped off Monday evenings between 5 to 7 p.m. The Daily Bread Food Pantry is located at 21 Exchange St.

Halloween Party

and Haunted Maze

The Milford Youth Center (MYC) is bringing back its Halloween Party and Haunted Maze on Friday, November 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Center, 24 Pearl St. The community will be able to enjoy music, snacks, pumpkin & face painting, a jumpy and a haunted maze. The Milford Fire Department will be joining the Youth Center with an appearance by Sparky and a display of their new ladder truck across the street from the MYC.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Haunted Maze and assist MYC Youth Council members with running activity tables. Anyone interested in volunteering, should please contact MYC Program Coordinator, Kathleen Irwin at 508-473-1756 or kirwin@townofmilford.com

The event is $3 per person or $10 per family to attend. Entry is free if an item is donated to the collection for KIND: Kids in Need of Defense. For more information on items to be donated and the organization, visit MilfordYouthCenter.org.

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Veterans Day Ceremony Planned at Draper Memorial Park

The Milford Medal of Liberty Committee and Citizens for Milford invite all area veterans and residents to attend the Third Veterans Day Ceremony, on Monday, November, 11 in Draper Memorial Park, weather permitting, immediately following the conclusion of the Veterans Day Parade at approximately 11 a.m.

The Veterans Day Ceremony will begin with a prayer from Father Peter Joyce of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, followed by the sharing of war-time stories by area veterans and their families. Peter Scandone, Medal of Liberty chair, will preside over the ceremony. Music will be performed by the Milford High School Marching Band and a Milford High School quartet. The Field of Flags, a tribute acknowledging the service and sacrifice of veterans and active military personnel, will be installed in Draper Memorial Park the Wednesday before Veterans Day. Parade and ceremony attendees are invited to walk among the flags and monuments in Draper Memorial Park and read the names of the veterans and active military who are memorialized and honored there.

“Generations of Milford men and women have served our community and country honorably and heroically. We encourage all residents to join us for the Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony to show our support and gratitude,” Scandone said.

If the weather is excessively cold or rainy, the committee will hold the ceremony inside at the Italian American Veterans Hall, Hayward Field, following the parade. Notification about this change of venue will be posted on the Citizens for Milford Facebook page and website on Sunday, November 10. If the parade is cancelled due to rain, the Veterans Day Ceremony will be held in the spring following the Memorial Day Parade.

The Milford Medal of Liberty Committee and Citizens for Milford thank the Milford Veterans Services Department and the Milford Parks Commission for supporting both the Veterans Day Ceremony and the Draper Memorial Park Field of Flags project. They also thank the leadership and students in the Milford High School Music Department for performing at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Draper Memorial Park, which features monuments listing veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, occupies a triangle of land in the downtown Milford area, located at the intersection of Congress St. and Main St. The Milford Medal of Liberty Committee is dedicated to honoring the families of all of Milford’s fallen heroes who are qualified to receive the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty. Committee members also work to promote this honor to families in surrounding communities.

Citizens for Milford is a volunteer, nonpartisan, grassroots organization, which includes a diverse group of citizens who care about our community. Participation in its projects and events is open to everyone in Milford. More information is available on the group’s website, CitizensForMilford.com.
Finance Committee Reviews Special TM Warrant

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Finance Committee reviewed next Monday’s Special Town Meeting articles during meetings on October 9 and 10, giving “favorable” recommendation to all but one spending request. The committee said it lacked the time to evaluate the $25,000 request by Police Chief Michael Pighetti to replace his department’s decades-old phone system, but would be willing to fund it on an emergency basis once it gains a better understanding of the need.

However, plans were being made for Pighetti to meet with the Finance Committee before the October 28 Special Town Meeting so that he personally could explain the reasons for the request – Article 32 on the warrant – and answer Finance Committee members’ questions. Similarly, a meeting was scheduled for October 21 so that Highway Department and Parks Department officials could discuss their expenditures with the Finance Committee to discuss the Highway Department’s request for $180,000 to purchase a boom flail mower. After Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli could not answer Finance Committee members’ questions on October 9 about how the machine could be shared with the Parks Department, Crisafulli suggested “passing over” the article – Article 17 – at the Special Town Meeting – meaning no action would be taken on it.

The 42-article warrant will be taken up by Town Meeting Members beginning at 7 p.m. on Monday in the Upper Town Hall. The majority of the articles are financial requests. The Finance Committee voted on October 9 and 10 to recommend “favorable” action on the following articles:

- Article 1: $400,000 to comply with the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit for discharging stormwater. This is the second year of funding a five-year, $1.5-million effort.
- Article 2: $31,000 for the Fire Department to purchase 24 Scott self-contained breathing apparatus oxygen bottles. The bottles cost $1,200 each and typically are replaced every 15 years. Article 3: $250,000 to replenish the town’s Compensated Absence fund, from which the retirement benefits of unused sick time and unused vacation time are paid.
- Article 5: $75,000 for engineering studies to evaluate, design, repair and re-construct portions of Godfrey Brook between West St. and Water St. The town applied for, but did not receive, a grant for this work.
- Article 6: Dedicating any funds received from the Community Host Agreement with Sira Naturals to be placed in either the Stabilization Account or Long-Term Capital Planning Account.
- Article 9: $40,000 to upgrade the audio/visual system in Upper Town Hall, including a projection screen.
- Article 11: Place 17 town-owned parcels, totaling 154.5 acres, under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission.
- Article 12: A request to re-zone two lots on East Main St. (Rt. 16) totaling 6.6 acres, from Rural Residential to Business Park zoning.
- Article 13: $230,000 to replenish the town’s Special Injury Leave Indemnity Fund for police officers and firefighters who are injured on duty.
- Article 14: $25,000 to replace the carpet in the Children’s Room at Milford Town Library.
- Article 16: Authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the former Purchase Street School building. The committee said that – by selling the building, which the town now rents out – the town will collect property taxes without the current liability of building maintenance costs.
- Article 20: $700,000 for the Fire Department to purchase and equip a new Engine 5.
- Article 21: Changing Personnel By-laws to bring the town into conformance with new state laws.
- Article 22: Amending town by-laws regarding bonds needed when contracting for services.
- Article 22: $250,000 for the Highway Department to purchase a new loader for snow plowing, snow removal, loading materials and stockpiling materials.
- Article 24: $10,000 to purchase archival storage for the Paul Curran Historical Collections Room at Milford Town Library.
- Article 25: $92,000 for the School Department to upgrade HVAC equipment and software at the Stacy Middle School (Article 23).
- Article 27: $315,000 to fund Phase I of the town’s Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) compliance plan.
- Article 29: $138,000 to evaluate, repair and maintain the Milford Pond dam.
- Article 29: Allowing the Town Meeting Study and Improvement Committee to use $3,000 of money previously allocated to it for running an experiment of using electronic voting devices at next May’s Annual Town Meeting.
- Article 30: Amending the Personnel By-laws regarding vacation time.
- Article 33: $171,927 to replace funds removed from the Police Department’s personnel services budget at last May’s Annual Town Meeting.
- Article 34: $110,000 for engineering and design work and installing an HVAC system in the basement of the Milford Youth Center.
- Article 35: $410,000 to repave all the pathways and roads in the Vernon Grove Cemetery.
- Article 36: Removing the word “junior” in the job title for Building Custodian under Level 1 for hourly rated positions.
- Article 37: $50,000 for the Tree Warden to remove dead or dying trees for public safety reasons.
- Article 38: $100,000 to rewire the Town Hall information technology systems.
- Article 39: $50,000 to replace a floor at the Senior Center.
- Article 41: Transferring $2.9 million into the Stabilization Account and Long-Term Capital Planning Account.
- Article 42: Transferring $3.73 million to reduce the Fiscal Year 2020 tax rate.

Shred Your Docs. Then Shred the Trails.

Have a pile of confidential papers that need shredding? Come to Charles River Bank and we will shred it at no charge! It’s a great way to clear the clutter while protecting your personal information.

Saturday, November 2nd
10 am to 1pm
All Charles River Bank locations

Once you’ve gotten rid of your pile of papers, you can win a chance to have some fun in a pile of snow!

Stop by during our Shred Day event and enter to win a $500 Wachusett ODW card, as well as other great prizes. Plus, everyone who visits will receive a free Charles River Bank Pom Pom Hat (while supplies last).

Charles River Bank
Personal Connections. Powerful Solutions.

70 Main Street • Medway • 508.533.8661
2 South Maple Street • Bellingham • 508.966.2857
1 Hastings Street • Mendon • 508.422.9792
508.422.9792

*No purchase necessary. You do not need to be a customer of Charles River Bank to win, but you do need to be 18 years of age or older. Subject to change without notice.
More than a decade ago, the late Artie Morin told me there was one person in the Milford community who I had to meet. Check out Amy Leone and the Juvenile Advocacy Group, he said; in the time I’ve been around, she’s been a member of JAG because of his position as director of the Milford Youth Center.

To me, JAG was a TV show about navy attorneys.

Then, I attended some of its meetings and met the human dynamo named Amy in person.

I can truly say that the number of lives she has impacted and the love and care she extends to people is counted. She’s been involved with area schools, police departments, the hospital, local and state legislators, and drug treatment and recovery centers to help educate and counsel people suffering from any kind of substance abuse.

That’s why it’s so gratifying to see her be part of landing a $1 million federal grant – federal Department of Justice money competed by organizations all across the country – to help people in the greater Milford area and – in the future – throughout Worcester County.

The Regional Substance Abuse Program operating locally never sought – or received – the kind of TV news or big-city newspaper coverage that other opioid abuse programs in other parts of the state received.

It started in Milford, supported by town officials with funding and an attitude of treatment versus incarceration that permeated through the Milford Police Department under former Chief Tom O’Loughlin. Interim Chief Mike Pighetti is carrying that attitude forward.

The program became regional – including Hopedale, Bellingham, Medway and Upton. The state legislature earmarked funds for it.

In Mendon take a leisurely stroll up North Ave. to view hills of Hopedale and beyond to Boston. The more adventurous can hike through the Mendon Town Forest on Tower Road near the Mendon Town line. Or walk the trails through the Meadow Brook Woods Conservation Area & Inman Pond, via the southern entrance off Chapin St. Uxbridge, Inman Hill Wildlife Conservation Area, was named Inman Hill Road, or the Quissett Wildlife Management Area, access via Quissett Rd. Trail maps for each site are available online at Mendonma.org/parks/recreation/pages/trails-and-passive-recreation.

Upton is blessed with many open spaces and forests for exploring. Two are the Stevens Farm, a 116-acre property with access from Mechanic St. near the power lines, and the Upton State Forest, which encompasses over 2,700 acres and can be accessed from Westboro Rd. Heritage Park, off Elm St, offers 7.5 acres with walking trails and a magnificent ancient stone chimney. Upton Conservation Areas, many of which are interlinked by trails off North St. or from the Upton State Forest, include the Whitney Conservation Area, part of a historic once owned by the Eli Whitney family; the warren Brook watershed, plus the Richard and Naomi Howarth and the Eleanor T. Howarth Glen Conservation Areas.

The Peppercomb Hill Conservation Area with streams, wetlands, scenic vistas and trails on 283 acres and the Snow Family Conservation Area can be accessed via Crockett St. or Dall St. Map of Upton’s trails are available at UptonMA.gov/land-stewardship-committee/pages/upton-conservation-land-and-trail-maps.

Uxbridge has a number of natural areas. The first is Cornish Woods, 217 Chapin St. Uxbridge. Administered by the Trustees of the Reservation, which offers a preserved 18th century buildings and three miles of easy to moderate trails. West Hill Dam offers wonderful views and a variety of hiking experiences or off-road biking. Access is off of Hartford Ave East, Uxbridge. The Blackstone Canal Towpath follows the canal for about four miles from Plummer’s Landing in Northbridge to the Stanton Woolen Mill, Rt. 16, Uxbridge. Parking is available at Plummer’s Landing. Hartford Ave. East, River Bend Farm on Oak St. and Cross St. The trail along the river is for hiking. A side trail leads to Lookout Point with spectacular views of the valley. Parking for Lookout Point is off Quaker St. Visit Mass.gov/locations/Blackstone-River-and-Canal-Heritage-State-Park to download the trail map.

Further afield, visit Sutton to enjoy the moderate one-mile round trip trek to Purgatory Chasm. Parking off of Purgatory Rd. Or enjoy the views from the Uxbridge to Blackstone portion of the Blackstone River Bikeway. The 3.5-mile segment of the much larger trail from Worcester to Cumberland, R.I. has parking at 1 Adams St., Uxbridge, at 44 Hope St. Millville and 93 Canal St., Blackstone. Visit BlackstonetonglennatureCorridor.org/exploring-the-blackstone-river-valley-maps-tours-guides/blackstone-river-bikeway/ for a map.
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 pumpkin hat, while supplies last. Anyone visiting a CRB office on the November 2 Shred Day can enter to win a $500 Vachsenet COW Card. The contest winner can then shred the trails of Vachsenet Mountain this winter with family or friends. Questions about Community Shred Day can be directed to 508-533-8661 or info@charlesriverbank.com.

Bringing Joy to Local Children this Holiday Season

Every year, Charles River Bank participates in the Adopt-A-Family Program offered through the Salvation Army of Milford. The bank pledges to adopt between 30 and 40 children each holiday season. Bank employees, as well as generous customers and community members, are matched up with various children of local families in need.

Sponsors are then given a wish list that a child has created and purchase items specifically requested by that child. Wish list tags will be available in Charles River Bank’s Medway, Bellingham and Mendon offices listing a child’s first name, their age, their clothing size and some toy and gift requests. Visit one of Charles River Bank’s branches to pick up a child’s wish list or contact to have a wish list sent. All gifts must be returned to Charles River Bank’s Medway office by the beginning of December. Gifts must be new, unwrapped and in a large bag with the wish list tag attached to the outside.

Troop Fan Mail Campaign

The Sgt. John W. Powers Post American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 59, Milford, has begun its holiday letter and card 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 Troop Fan Mail at 590 Main St., Milford. 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.

Assisted Living Communities Collaborate on Mosaic for Assisted Living Week

In celebration of National Assisted Living Week, residents, staff and family members from all five Whitney Place Assisted Living and Memory Care communities contributed a unique piece of art to a collaborative project. Each year since 1995, the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) has run a themed National Assisted Living Week (NALW) to provide a unique opportunity for residents, their loved ones, staff, volunteers and communities to recognize the role of assisted living in caring for America’s seniors and individuals with disabilities. This year’s theme for the week, September 8-14, was A Spark of Creativity, aimed at encouraging residents to connect with their creative sides and inspire assisted living staff to continue providing creative ways to enhance community life and care to residents. Staff and families from all five of SALMON Health and Retirement's Whitney Place assisted living communities “sparked their creativity” by contributing to a mosaic image of SALMON Health and Retirement's logo on an 8’x8” banner hanging in Whitney Place at Westborough.

The colored part of the image comprises the art of residents and staff members who were asked “to paint their personality” by decorating a 4’x4’ square in a way that represents them. The white area surrounding the image contains statements from family and friends about what makes their loved one creative. Ed and Mary Clasby, who live at Whitney Place at Westborough, were among the many who decorated a square. Ed said his square, which depicts a ship on the water represents “a vessel of life – life’s travels and experiences can be very happy if you are blessed with a beautiful wife and a faith-filled family.”

Mary said her square decorated with a shamrock represents “good fortune and the strength needed to pursue life with both its strengths and difficulties.”

The family and friend squares included statements such as: 

• “Lola is an amazing stained glass artist,”

• “Barbara has a radio show and a podcast!”

The final mural represents the unity of all of SALMON’s Whitney Place communities and the importance of individualism within each of those communities. To learn more about SALMON’s continuum of care with services on multiple campuses, visit www.SALMONhealth.com or call 508-366-3662.

Charles River Bank Annual Holiday Food Drive

A long-standing holiday tradition at Charles River Bank is the annual Food Drive. Every year during November and December, Charles River Bank branch offices set up donation tables in their lobbies for customers, community members, and bank staff to make food donations to the Medway, Bellingham and Mendon Food Pantries. The donations are brought to the food pantries just before the New Year to help restock after the holidays. Items most needed by the Food Pantries include: canned meats, soups, stews, dry foods such as cereal and pasta, other non-perishable food items, paper goods, diapers and personal hygiene items. Bring donations to the local Charles River Bank branch November 1 through December 27. Branch locations can be found at CharlesRiverBank.com.
Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards

By Kevin Rudden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Health
• Discussed the possibility of granting seasonal food permits – as opposed to the current single-event permits – for food trucks and other vendors serving “pop-up”-type events. (October 7)
• Discussed the status of Gardner Charlie Baker’s temporary ban on the sale of vaping products in Massachusetts. (October 7)
• Discussed housing inspections for the three homeless shelters that are planned to be open this coming winter at St Mary of the Assumption Church at 17 Winter St., Trinity Episcopal Church at 17 Congress St., and The Way Church at 41 Pine St. (October 7)

Planning Board
• Accepted the withdrawal of site plan approval request submitted by to build a 2,000 square-foot International Basava Center building on a two-acre site at 225 West St. (Rt. 140). (October 15)
• Continued until November 14 the hearing on the special permit request by Frederick and Susan Elliott of 5 Elm St. to return their single-family home back to a two-family residence. (October 10)
• Allowed a request by Hobboken, LLC, to withdraw its variance and/or special permit request to reconstruct a duplex residential structure on 0.14-acre of land at 81-82 Prospect Heights. Current zoning requires 100 feet of frontage and 16,000 square feet of lot area, with the lot providing 74.2 feet of frontage and 6,998 square feet of area. (October 10)
• Approved a special permit request by Wilson Valdez to continue the use of a supplemental apartment in the basement of a home he purchased at 9 Wildwood Dr. The special permit originally was approved by the board in December 1999. Conditions imposed were: The new special permit must be renewed every three years; a second kitchenette in the basement must be removed, and, the Building Commissioner has the right, upon 24 hours’ notice, to inspect the property. (October 10)
• Granted William Verelli of 194 Congress St. a one-year extension of the variance he received from the board on September 25, 2018 to reconfigure the lot lines for two lots. Attorney Eli Leino explained that – without the extension – the variance would lapse and the people purchasing each lot would then each have to apply for new variances. (October 10)

Two More Self-Service Gas Stations Approved

By Kevin Rudden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

There soon will be two more self-service gasoline stations in Milford, as the Exxon-Mobil station at 111 Cedar St. (Rt. 85) and the Exxon-Mobil station at 140 Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). Both received special permits from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on October 10, allowing them to move away from the traditional full-service stations mandated in Milford up until a year ago. The two votes came after ZBA member David Pyne insisted – and got – a firm figure of two percent on how much lower self-service gas would cost per gallon than gas at full-service pumps. Milford’s zoning requirements call for self-service gas stations to still provide full-service from at least one pump with two hoses attached.

Pyne strongly stated that the reason why Town Meeting Members changed the town’s Zoning By-law in October, 2018 to allow self-service gas stations was the promise of Baker’s temporary ban on the sale of vaping products in Massachusetts. (October 7)

Robbins of the Rt. 85 station originally would not give a specific amount, nor would attorney Peter Barbieri of Framingham, who was representing Global Companies, LLC of Waltham – a company from which both gas stations purchase their gas. However, Assad Nauman, owner of the Rt. 109 station, would give a number: Four cents per gallon. “You’re going to see a decrease in price when we do this,” he said. Technically, the ZBA held two separate hearings – one for each gas station. Robbins’ was originally continued to a future date to allow him to get numbers for Pyne, as well as information about self-service pump signage. Nauman’s request was approved after he provided that info to the board. Robbins’ hearing was then re-opened and his request approved. Before ZBA members voted on Nauman’s request, he, Barbieri and Robbins caucused to discuss Pyne’s request and all came back with a firm answer: a minimum two percent less cost for self-service gas versus full-service gas. This means that – if full service gas cost $2.60 per gallon, then self-service gas would cost no more than $2.55 per gallon. Robbins also adopted Nauman’s promise to attach three-foot by for-foot signs to the concrete half-circle bollards next to pumps to identify which offered full-service and which offered self-service. Pyne commented, “I’m fine with that,” after hearing the two percent cost difference. One of his board colleagues, Mark Calzolaio, cared less about the price difference. “I don’t care if you don’t change the price,” he said. If the price is too high, “Don’t go there. Go down the street,” he said.

Under the ZBA’s two decisions, Robbins will keep the pumps labeled “3” and “4” as full-service pumps at his Rt. 85 station. Nauman will keep the pumps labeled “7” and “8” as full-service pumps at his Rt. 109 station. In addition to any staff managing the convenience store, each station also must have at least one more attendant on duty at all times to pump gas at those full-service pumps.

Both stations will have their fire suppression systems upgraded to meet state fire codes for self-service stations, Barbieri said.

Prior to these ZBA decisions, the only gas station in town providing self-service was the Volta Oil gas station at 111 Cedar St. (Rt. 85).  

OCTOBER 25, 2019
Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Voted to support articles on the October 28 Special Town Meeting warrant submitted by the Board of Selectmen (Articles 3, 6, 9, 13, 16, 27, 31, 33, 39 and 41); by the Personnel Board (Articles 7, 18, 21, 30, 36 and 40); by the Town Engineer and Highway Surveyor (Articles 1, 5 and 28); Police Chief (Article 32); Fire Chief (Articles 2 and 20); Town Treasurer (Article 19); Town Counsel (Article 22); and, IT Department (Article 38). (October 7)

Town Administrator Richard Villani reported that Governor Charlie Baker had signed bills granting an additional liquor license to the Water Street Meat Market and modifying how Town Meeting Members run for re-election. Villani talked about a March 3, 2018 storm. He praised Fire Department and Highway Department officials for compiling the costs data needed to apply for the reimbursement. (October 7)

Villani lauded the efforts of the boys in Cub Scout Pack 4, who – with their parents – helped an elderly resident by cleaning up overgrown brush from his property. (October 7)

Selectman William Kingkade noted that Building Commissioner Matt Marcotte recently passed all necessary exams to become a certified building commissioner. (October 7)

Selectman and Selectman Michael Walsh thanked Villani for getting the owner of the former Gibbs service station to clean up the property at the corner of Cedar St. (Rt. 85) and East Main St. (Rt. 16). (October 7)

Chairman William Buckley thanked Villani for his ongoing work in accomplishing the board’s objectives. (October 7)

Appointed Christopher Williams as the town’s new Assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer, with a tentative start date of October 21 at a salary of $22,23 per hour. Villani said 182 people applied for the position, seven were interviewed, and four received final interviews from himself, Marcotte and Human Resources Director Maureen Griffin. (October 7)

Approved a one-day Wine & Malt Beverages license for St. Mary of the Assumption parish to hold a fundraising event from 3 p.m. to midnight on October 12 in the Parish Hall. (October 7)

Approved a one-day Wine & Malt Beverages license for St. Mary of the Assumption parish to hold a fundraising event from 8 a.m. to noon on October 19 in the Parish Hall. (October 7)

Approved a Permit to Obstruct a Public Way for St. Mary of the Assumption parish to hold a religious procession in honor of Our Lady as Patroness of Brazil on October 12. (October 7)

Granted the town’s Scouting organizations permission to use the municipal parking lot next to the Milford Food Pantry as a staging area for the annual “Scouting for Food” drive, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on November 9. (October 7)

Approved Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli’s recommendation to install a “stop” sign and paint a “stop bar” at the intersection of Birch St. and Industrial Rd. Police Chief Michael Pighetti supported the request. (October 7)

Kingkade asked Villani to compile a list of any “pocket” liquor licenses – those issued but not in use – that might be available for the Kasseris family – owners of Hudson’s Rail Trail Flatbread Company restaurant -- to obtain for the restaurant they are planning to build in the former Home National Bank of Milford/Rockland Trust building on Main St. (Rt. 16). Villani said he and Town Counsel Charles Boddy already were working on ways to secure an additional liquor license. (October 7)

Senators’ Meetings

State Senator Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) will host an office hour on Tuesday, November 5 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Bancroft Memorial Library, 50 Hopedale St, Hopedale.

Constituents are encouraged to stop by at any point during the hour or may reserve a specific time if they wish by emailing Bill Fredericks at William.Fredericks@masenate.gov. Those who cannot make the office hour may call 617-722-1420 to have issues addressed by the Senator.

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Milford Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, the activities take place at the Town Hall. Official meeting notices are posted on Town Clerk’s Bulletin Board. For additional information, contact the appropriate Board or official.

Monday, October 28
Special Town Meeting, Upper Town Hall Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30
Department of Public Utilities, Notice of Filing, Public Hearing and Procedural Conference
Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, 2 p.m.

Monday, November 11
Town Offices Closed for Veteran’s Day

The special $25 offer includes Exam and Report of Findings and does not apply to federal insurance beneficiaries and Optum participants. X-Rays will be taken if clinically necessary.
The Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail have a few events coming up in October and November.

The Friends will be at the Milford Pumpkin Stroll on Saturday, October 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the DCH Toyota of Milford, 300 Fortune Blvd. Everyone is invited to meet the Friends, get some candy and learn more about the local bike trail.

The Annual Fall Trail Cleanup is Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m to 12 noon. Meet at a new location, in the Main St. parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church in Milford. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help clean up the trail after a busy summer season.

Trash bags and gloves will be provided.

The Friends next meeting is Wednesday, November 6, 7 p.m. in the Milford Senior Center, 60 North Bow St., Milford.

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 scholarship offered to a high school senior residing in Milford.

Gala chairperson, Sandra Tosches describes the event as “such a nice evening with nice people, good food and beautiful flowers” and encourages the community to attend.

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.

A regional drive-through recycling and reuse event will be held Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 200 Westboro Rd., Grafton. 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 and 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 Park Start who will also be collecting small household and kitchen items. 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. For more information and map, visit wecan-ma.org or contact Irene Congdon at 413-348-9533.
What is a “Recovery Center?”

Since being awarded a federal grant that includes creation of a “recovery center,” Community Impact’s Amy Leone has been asked by many about what that facility will entail. She posted a lengthy explanation on Facebook.

“What it is NOT is a safe injection site or a 24/7 Methadone Clinic, as some of the rumors have already stated.

Our Recovery Center is going to a place that is an extension of our current office, Community Impact, and our work with the Milford Police Department. This separate, newly established and free standing location will provide recovery-oriented care and recovery support to help individuals, children and families with mental and substance use disorders in an effort to improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

“Our Recovery Center will provide recovery support services addressing:
  • Health – overcoming or managing one’s disease(s) or symptoms and making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional well-being.
  • Purpose – conducting meaningful daily activities and having the independence, income, and resources to participate in society.
  • Community – having relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

“Hope, the belief that these challenges and conditions can be overcome, is the foundation of recovery. Through my experience, the process of recovery is highly personal and occurs via many pathways. Recovery is characterized by continual growth and improvement in one’s health and wellness that may involve setbacks. Because setbacks are a natural part of life, resilience becomes a key component of recovery.

“At our Recovery Center, the process of recovery will be supported through relationships and social networks. This will involve family members who become the champions of their loved one’s recovery. The families of people in recovery sometimes experience adversities that lead to increased family stress, guilt, shame, anger, fear, anxiety, loss, grief, and isolation. The concept of resilience in recovery is also vital for family members and we will provide access to intentional supports that promote their health and well-being. The support of peers and friends is also crucial in engaging and supporting individuals in recovery.

“At our Recovery Center, our recovery services and supports will be flexible. What may work for some may be very different for youth or other adults. At our center, supporting recovery requires that our services will be responsive and respectful to the health beliefs, practices, and cultural and linguistic needs of diverse people and groups. We will actively address diversity in the delivery of services and seek to reduce health disparities in access and outcomes.

“We will establish this Recovery Center to promote partnering with people in recovery from mental and substance use disorders and their family members to guide the behavioral health system and promote individual, program, and system-level approaches that foster health and resilience; reduce barriers to employment, education, and other life goals; and secure necessary social supports in their chosen community.”
Science News

Accountability system moved from ranking schools from Level 1 to Level 5 and instead classifies them as Meeting Targets, Partially Meeting Targets, or Not Meeting Targets. Districts were previously classified as a whole based on their lowest classification level school. Now schools are individually classified. Schools and districts are also categorized as those needing assistance or intervention, and those not needing assistance or intervention.

Additionally, districts receive other accountability metrics including a value from 1 to 99 that measures student’s performance as compared to all similar schools across the state, and a percentage value that measures a school’s and the districts progress toward meeting all of its target, where a score of 75 means a school/district is meeting all of its targets.

The accountability indicators that schools are measured on are achievement in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math and Science, student growth, English Language proficiency and chronic absenteeism (students absent more than 10 school days for any reason). For the high school, schools are rated based on those indicators plus students taking part in advanced coursework. Each indicator is weighed at a different percentage with achievement weighted most heavily for districts.

After explaining the state’s new accountability system, Consigli delved into the district’s 2019 MCAS results.

For the district as a whole, highlights included an increase of the number of targets met on the MCAS exam from 39 percent last year to 56 percent this year, seven out of eight targets were met or exceeded for Kindergarten through eighth grade in ELA, six out of eight targets were met for high school math, and in every single category including subgroups there was 40 to 59 percent in the growth category. “That is a marked improvement from last year,” said Consigli.

At Woodland, all students met their targets in ELA introduced and improved in Math and overall met 71 percent of their targets. Consigli added English Learners (ELs) and Former English Learners (FELs) exceeded their targets for ELA and Math.

Stacy doubled the number of targets met from 31 percent last year to 68 percent this year. All students also exceeded targets in ELA and improved targets in Math with subgroups making huge improvements. “They really knocked it out of the park this year,” said Consigli.

At Milford High School, the accountability percentage increased to 32 percent. “Over three years that number has nearly doubled,” said Consigli. “They are making great progress as a school.”

The high school met or exceeded targets in six out of eight areas in math, with the lowest performing students achieving a 10 percent increase.

At Woodland 6.8 percent of students are considered chronically absent, 12.7 percent at Stacy and 21.9 percent at Milford High.

Although the district saw improvement in many areas, Consigli said there are still areas of concern especially chronic absenteeism. At Woodland 6.8 percent of students are considered chronically absent, 12.7 percent at Stacy and 21.9 percent at Milford High.

Clearly this is an area we need to work on, and we definitely need help from families,” said Consigli.

Another concern regards ELs and FELs, who while doing better, are still not making progress towards English Language proficiency at some grade levels. Also concerning are the Math MCAS results with a drop in scores at Woodland and only a small increase at Stacy and MHS. “We put a lot of resources into what we are doing with math. We are certainly not willing to settle for the scores we are getting in math,” said Consigli. “There has been some improvement, but there is not the same improvement as we are seeing in ELA.”

Consigli said the district hired a Math Curriculum Supervisor who will be working with teachers to develop professional development and with instructional coaches to excite kids about math. “We want to get students talking about math,” he said.

After the MCAS presentation, the Committee Members spoke about the public’s perception of the MCAS. “MCAS is not designed so that you can compare your school to another school, it’s for you to compare your school to itself and to compare growth year over year,” said Consigli. “It’s a very shallow measure of the worth of our schools.”

2019 Milford MCAS Results

Accountability Categorization

The following table show the Accountability Categorization for the Milford Public School District based on the new Massachusetts School Accountability System (in its second year) for the 2019 MCAS exam taken by students last school year. Source: doe.mass.edu/mcas

Achievement Results

The following tables show the Achievement Results for each grade level in the Milford Public Schools taking the 2019 MCAS exam, which was given last spring, as compared to the state average. Source: doe.mass.edu/mcas/MarchAchievementResults, Grades 3-8 Spring 2019

Science Achievement Results, Grades 5 and 8

Science Achievement Results Grade 10

ELA Achievement Results, Grades 3-8 Spring 2019

Math Achievement Results, Grades 3-8 Spring 2019

OCTOBER 25, 2019

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* Individual and family counseling
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* Trauma informed Yoga (childcare available)
* Local school medical advocacy
* Community outreach and education

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Celebrating Diversity at Brookside

By Melissa Orff  
Staff Reporter

Thirteen flags from 13 different countries hang proudly in the cafeteria at Brookside Elementary School as a celebration of the diversity in the school and a reminder to have pride to students to have pride in their heritage. Last year, the flags were hung in the Brookside cafeteria to represent the birth nations of all of the current staff members and students. Surrounding the flag of the United States of America are the flags from Haiti, Brazil, Cape Verde, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russia, and Venezuela. On October 16, the Brookside community was welcomed to an evening event to celebrate and view the new Hall of Flags. “This is a celebration of the completion of the project,” said Kate Manos, one of the three coordinators of the celebration. “We wanted families to be able to come together and mingle and get to know one another.” The two-hour event included listening to children’s music from around the world and tasting desserts from the Padaria Brasil Bakery in Milford and coffee donated by the 7-Eleven in Milford. Close to 100 people came to the open house, with the students joyfully playing under the flags while the adults chatted and enjoyed speaking with people of different cultures. “They were very excited to see their flags, even the kindergartners,” said Mary Robinson, another coordinator of the Hall of Flags celebration. Brookside Elementary houses students from Kindergarten through second grades but the event welcomed current students and their families. Twelve-year-old Jennifer Guasco and her sister Brithany, seven-years-old, were very happy to see the flag of Ecuador – the country of their birth – hanging on the wall. “I like looking at all of the colors – the red, yellow, and blue,” said Jennifer. Principal Eric Elmore said that having events like the Hall of Flag event is it is a great way to celebrate diversity in the school. “We want to make sure that everyone feels welcome,” he said. Elmore also commended Brookside teachers Robinson, Manos, and Sylvia Fitzgerald for coordinating the Hall of Flags celebration. “They really went the extra mile,” he said. And although the flags already fill an entire wall of the cafeteria, school officials know it is only a matter of time before another flag will need to be raised to hang proudly next to the others. “This display will continue to grow as more and more students with diverse backgrounds come to Brookside,” said Elmore.

BVT Raising Breast Cancer Awareness & Funds

During the freshman exploratory program at Blackstone Valley Tech, Chloe Persiani and Kasey Reeves, both of Milbury, had used their design skills in Painting & Design Technology to apply a pink patch decal to the window of an Upton Police Department’s cruiser. “We’re always proud to see our students work on display and in this case driven through our community. It was an honor to assist our town’s police department with the pink-patch decal and bring awareness to their Pink Patch Project Campaign,” said Tom Lamont, Painting & Design instructor. The Pink Patch Project is an innovative public awareness campaign designed to bring attention to the fight against breast cancer and to support cancer research organizations in combating this devastating disease through the sales of collectible uniform patches. Public safety agencies world-wide are helping to bring an end to breast cancer. This is just one of the efforts by BVT students. For 11 years, the Volleyball Teams have been helping to raise money for Breast Cancer Research through their Dig Pink fundraiser. The Dig Pink Freshmen games were held on Tuesday, October 22 and Varsity/JV games are on Wednesday, October 23. To learn more about how BVT students are giving back or to make a donation, please visit ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/givingback. Thank you for supporting the BVT teams, the community, and these important causes.
Valley Educational Collaborative Promising Practices Exemplar in Curriculum education. Teachers nominated for this award are honored at a breakfast at the historic Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury. Manos’ unit consists of a number of mini lessons that allow for scaffolds and extension based on student need and readiness. The unit was designed to support early English learners in their writing, to push intermediate English learners to write complete ideas using expanded sentences, and to challenge advanced English learners and native English speakers to use multiple complex sentences to explain their ideas. Each lesson includes direct instruction and guided practice.

A number of Brookside classrooms will be exploring the question, “How Much Food Do We Waste?” over the course of the STEM Week Challenge during the week of October 21 through 25. Discussions will include keeping food fresh, an apple’s life cycle, and how to repurpose food to avoid waste.

Memorial: Memorial second-grade students will be participating in the Massachusetts STEM Week during the week of October 20. Students will be completing Project Lead the Way module: Zero Waste. Food Waste. Second-grade students will be participating in lessons and activities over a two to three-week period. Families are encouraged to use resources and activities at home to support their child’s learning. For example, track food waste at home by weight and try to reduce that waste as a family over time or identify alternative uses for food products; i.e. using an overripe banana to make banana bread.

The second-grade teachers will be taking eight students from Memorial to Boston on October 25 to showcase their final project to industry leaders.

Woodland: Woodland students will be participating in a STEM Week challenge aimed at solving the Waste problems. On October 25, a group of students will be showcasing their Zero Waste project and get feedback from real scientists. During STEM Week challenge, every fourth-grade classroom will have the opportunity to Skype with scientists and engineers to ask questions related to their project. Third and fifth-grade students who participate in Extended Day programming will have the opportunity to participate in the STEM Week challenge too.

Woodland Elementary teachers are taking their students to Mars. All fifth-grade classes will be visiting the Christa McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University during STEM Week. They will complete a simulated space mission, explore leadership, decision-making, teamwork, and get to have a look at a college campus. Thank you to all of the supporters for the McAuliffe Center for providing this opportunity to the students. Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium (bus), CASIS (mission/planetarium) and Boston Scientific (mission/planetarium).

Woodland fourth-grade teacher Coree Daniels is implementing Classroom Book a Day this year. It has a very basic concept – read a different picture book every day of the school year in order for students to have 180 additional exposures to different types of books, themes, and concepts. Daniels is also hoping that parents, staff, and community members will be guest readers in their classroom.

The Trunk or Treat celebration will be on October 27 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Stacy Middle School: Students and staff are excited for STEAM Week Challenge activities to uphold the theme of Zero Waste. STEAM teachers are working with classes to facilitate solutions to micro plastics pollution in our oceans. Eight grade science teachers are designing a unit to excite and empower students to create a factory design that would minimize waste; supporting engineering and manufacturing standards and implementing innovation in curriculum design.

On October 25, a group of students will head to the TD Garden in Boston to present their solutions for the problem of micro plastics polluting the oceans.

Milford High: On October 10, Alycia Brudrin’s Health Classes welcomed a representative from New Hope into their classrooms to talk about Healthy Relationships and Teen Dating Violence. Students have been learning about and discussing viewpoints on flirting versus sexual harassment, the role of the media in domestic violence, consent, types of abuse, red flags that could lead to abuse, Massachusetts Sexting Laws, and Sex Trafficking Warning Signs and Awareness.

Milford High School students will be organizing an Electronic Device Recycling drive as part of the STEM Week Challenge. The projected date for the recycling drive will be November 15. Students will be sending out information and running the event.

Milford High students Brenda De Oliveira, Anne Flanagan, Emily Rose Maddock, Thiago Viera competed on behalf of their school in the WPI Math Meet on October 15.

Milford High School has a long-standing tradition of offering an After-Prom event for seniors. A group of parents, guardians and family members come together annually to ensure students celebrate in a safe, fun, and healthy environment. The After-Prom Committee began planning months ago and is holding a fundraiser on Sunday, November 3 at Craft Roots Brewing in Milford. The beer tasting event will be $20 per person. For more information, contact braza@verizon.net.
Reenactment Brings American Revolution to Life

The American Revolution came to life with a boom, as cannon and musket smoke hung over the field at the Battle for Daniels Farm Reenactment, co-hosted by Blackstone Valley Tech through a competitive grant provided by The New England School Development Council (NESDEC), on October 5 and 6.

While spectators watched intently from the sidelines, British and Colonial troops in revolutionary-era uniforms, advanced on each other from opposite sides of the field. Amid mock musket and cannon fire, shouting commands and waving their flags, reenactors battled for ownership of the historic cider mill located on the property.

This living history event was 18 months in the making with a close collaboration between BVT, Daniels Farmstead and reenactors from the 83ème Régiment de Saintonge. Edward Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator along with teachers and instructors at BVT built a curriculum around the reenactment, using the event as an opportunity to integrate the American Revolution into seemingly unrelated subjects.

BVT hosted teacher in-service workshops, where reenactors worked directly with teachers as they developed their curriculum. The curriculum ranged from Revolution-themed Math problems and blackout poetry in English to gesture drawings in Art classes and battlefield first-aid techniques in Health Services.

A platoon of 13 BVT students volunteered to join Evans, otherwise known as “Corporal Evans” as reenactors in the weekend event. Participating as the 1st BVT, under the direct command of Dana Rock and Jess Reardon of the 83ème Régiment de Saintonge, those students set up camp, participated in drills, and learned how much work went into every aspect of daily camp life before marching out for battle.

“It was so much easier getting on the uniform in a warm gym. Securing all of those buttons on a cold field was a battle,” said Lauren Flynn of Upton, a junior in Multimedia Communications. “A lot of work went into getting dressed. I really appreciate a zipper!”

Tyler Morn of Bellingham, a freshman in exploratory said, “I really enjoy acting and I saw the reenactment as great opportunity to take on a new role, learn more about history and make some new friends at BVT.”

BVT’s Art School Prep students took a field trip to Daniels Farm the Friday prior to the weekend event, for a mini reenactment and took in the sights and sounds of the era. Chloe Fallon of Upton, a senior art student in Drafting & Design Technology said, “It was a very insightful and fun way to learn and sounds of the era. Chloe Fallon of Upton, a senior art student in Drafting & Design Technology said, “It was a very insightful and fun way to learn and sounds of the era.”

“The reenactment was pretty cool. I liked speaking with the reenactors who demonstrated how the cannon works and how to load it. Having an opportunity to handle the swords and bayonets was neat as I find the history of things like that really interesting.”

To find out more, visit ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/aliveinghistoryevent.

National Defense University Visits BVT

Blackstone Valley Tech students and staff welcomed veterans and active-duty military officials from 55 countries and the United States, on Friday, September 20, when the International Fellows Class of 2020 from the National Defense University visited the school.

The National Defense University (NDU), based in Washington, D.C., provides graduate learning opportunities for international military leaders and their U.S. counterparts from all Military Services and the Interagency. The International Fellows are involved in a one-year intensive program focused on educating, inspiring, and developing national security leaders. As part of their studies, the group of 63 International Fellows visited Massachusetts to learn about education in the United States. “Our visit to BVT is one of the highest-rated visits and continues to be a cornerstone of our Boston practicum,” said an NDU staff representative.

The group received a first-hand look at BVT’s best practices in vocational and academic education during the visit. Student representatives were on hand to demonstrate and discuss their school projects with them. The International Fellows participated in a question and answer session with students and administrators. The group was interested in the technical skills students were developing in their vocational classrooms. Students spoke about their experiences with career enrichment, co-op, and the importance of exploring career pathways.

National Defense University Health and Fitness Director, Anthony Spinosa, said, “I was very impressed with the BVT Health Services students CPR demonstrations and the hands-on learning that occurs at BVT.”

The International Fellows viewed a variety of vocational programs and school resources such as the school-based health center and the school’s transition room. The Nurse’s Suite and the concept of providing medical attention on-site to alleviate time out of school was a point of interest to this group. The comprehensive tour showcased the opportunities, challenges, and successes that students who choose to pursue a vocational-technical education and schools in the United States face.

The fellows were particularly interested in learning the ways students decide which vocational program to study during their high school years and their plans to continue pursuing their chosen fields. The fellows were amazed to see the numerous opportunities and amortizations that students have available to them. Several commented that they were impressed by the technical skills BVT students had learned now in high school, would allow them to work anywhere in the world.

It also allowed students to expand their horizons. “Speaking with the fellows from the National Defense University was a unique experience. They were an interesting and diverse group. I heard many accents that I hadn’t heard before,” said Leah Cook of Blackstone, a sophomore in Engineering & Robotics.

The recent visit marked the fourth consecutive year the National Defense University has toured Blackstone Valley Tech to showcase different styles of education in the United States.

Mendon Lions Youth Speech Competition

On Wednesday, November 13, local students in grades 9-12 have an opportunity to compete with their best five to eight-minute speech on “What is heroism?” The contest begins with dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Mendon Senior Center, Providence St.

To compete:
• Visit LionsDist33a.org. Click on Youth Speech Committee
• Read the rules. Print them out if desired.
• Write a speech!
• Submit through the school guidance office. (BVT, Nipmuc, Bethany, WCS)
• Participate in a question and answer session with students and administrators.

Contestants will be judged in a number of areas including the quality delivery of their message.

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.

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Winter Special

Program Includes:
• Free Life Skills Class – first of its kind
• Lowest Cost Driving School in the Area
• Lessons in RAV4 SUV, 50% Safer than a Sedan
• Schedule Driving Lessons Anytime, Anywhere, from any Device

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Blackstone Valley Garden Club Meeting
WHITINSVILLE–The Blackstone Valley Garden Club is sponsoring a presentation for hard-of-hearing people interested in issues affecting them and their loved ones. Uh Oh, I think I need a new Hearing Aid is being presented by Beth Wilson at the Northborough Library located at 34 Main St. in Northborough. Beth Wilson just completed a transition to a new hearing aid and tried to capture all the steps and decisions she went through along the way. Dr. Wilson has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering with research in speech processing so she actually understands how things work.

Please come and bring your questions and thoughts. CART (Computer Aided Real Time Captioning) will be provided. Light refreshments will also be provided. There is ample free parking in the back of the Northborough Library. Please email info@hearlosscentraloma.org for more information on HLAA Central Massachusetts and notification of future events.

New York City Trip
MILFORD–Sponsored by the Sacred Heart of Jesus Milford is sponsoring a trip to New York City on Saturday, November 16. Cost is $69 per person. A bus will be leaving the parking lot across the street from the church at 6:30 a.m. for a fun day-on-your-own in New York City. Please contact the rectory, 508-634-5455, for more information. Seats are limited and payment is due at time of reservation.

Friends of Mendon Elders Oktoberfest
MENDON–Friends of Mendon Elders Annual Oktoberfest will be Friday, October 25 from 5 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 hand knit items and crafts, jewelry, and holiday decorations. Proceeds will help to support the Senior Center programs and services.

Marine Toys for Tots 2019
AREA–The 2019 Marine Toys for Tots program is now going on through Christmas. U.S. Marines and volunteers will be conducting 812 local toy collection and distribution campaigns in all 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands.

There are an estimated 35 million children living in poverty in the U.S. The mission of Marine Toys for Tots is to bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children with the goal of delivering a message of hope that will inspire youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens. The objectives include having a positive impact on the development of children, creating or restoring self-esteem, and bringing all elements of communities together in a common cause for three months each year.

Non-profit agencies and organizations along with drop-off sites for taking donations from the public are now being sought. To register visit Worcester-MA.toydrive.org.

Annual Turkey Supper
MELROSE–The Melrose Historical Society will hold its Annual Turkey Supper on Saturday, November 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at One Church St. The menu includes turkey with all the fixings plus the famous and endless offering of a variety of pies for dessert. Tickets, which can be purchased at the church after Sunday services or by calling 508-529-1192, are $12 for adults and $6 for those age 11 and under.

Evening of Creativity
HOPEDALE–Enjoy an evening of creativity with artist Mary Sonlin and Gordon Harrison, who will focus on “Moments Water Liaries.” No experience or artistic talent is needed. Register by calling Carol Cote at 508-473-0832 or emailing tchambers@hopedalecommunityhouse.org. Sponsored by the Hopedale Cultural Council.

Greenleaf Garden Club Holiday Gala
MILFORD–The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford presents, Floral Creations for the Holidays, featuring designer Maureen Christmas at the Ruth Anne Blakeney Senior Center, 60 North St. Milford on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. The holiday fundraiser will start with refreshments and conclude with a drawing for 50+ theme baskets following the design program. Tickets are $12 and can be obtained from any garden club member or from Nancynwojick@gmail.com or 617-680-2477.

Hoboken Citizens Club Auxiliary Holiday Fair
MILFORD–Almost time for the holidays and Hoboken Citizens Club Auxiliary is planning its Annual Holiday Fair at the Hoboken Citizens Club Auxiliary’s annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the club, 252 Central St. Milford. Besides the cappellleti’s, homemade pies, cookies, cakes, pizzas, sauces, breads and more will be available for purchase. The fair features arts, crafts and specialty product exhibitors and a raffle for beautiful gift baskets. Plus members of the Greater Milford Community Chorus will lead all in Christmas Carols to get everyone into the holiday spirit.

United Parish Holiday Bazaar
UNION – The United Parish of Union 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.UnitedParishofUpton.org.

Museum Veteran’s Day Opening
MILFORD – The Milford Historical Commission will welcome visitors to browse through the Museum on Veteran’s Day before and after the parade on Monday, November 11. The Museum is located in Memorial Hall, 30 School St. and hosts military uniforms and artifacts on display along with other memorabilia. For information please call 508-473-3360 or 508-473-8371.

St. Camillus Craft Fair
WHITINSVILLE–St. Camillus Health Center, 447 Hill St., Whitinsville, will be holding its 2nd annual Craft Fair featuring the Mansion and Chapel located adjacent to the skilled nurshing 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 purchase a one of a kind handicap accessible van for the residents. For more information or to register call Shelley at 508-334-7306.

Celebrate Milford Committee Meeting
MILFORD–The Celebrate Milford Committee will hold a meeting open to the public on Tuesday, November 12 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the lower level of the Milford Town Library. Celebrate Milford day has turned into an annual tradition. Volunteers are needed to continue to make this event a success for all. Celebrate Milford is inviting everyone to help with the planning and/or to help the day of the event. Everyone is invited to attend the committee meeting. For more information, email Joe Souers, jsouers@brightinsurannce.com

Mendon Halloween Festival
MENDON – The Mendon Historical Society will host its first Halloween Festival at Memorial Ball Field on Saturday October 26 from 2 to 5 p.m. Along with the Village Trail, there will be games and activities ranging from the pavilion including corn hole, skilled booth games and for those seeking a bit more extreme: mini-maze launch. The activities occurring in the pavilion and refreshments will be available for purchase.

The costume parade will begin at 4 p.m. and the carved pumpkin display and awared ceremony will follow. Ribbons will be presented for costumes and superior carving skills. Details for the contest will be available on MendonHistoricalSociety.org and on Facebook: Mendon Historical Society @ Mendon History. The Rain date is Sunday October 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. This fundraiser supports the Mendon Historical Society. For more information, contact the Historical Society by email mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or by phone 508-488-9620.

Lyn Dillies and Your Voting is Magic
GRAFTON–Marking the Centennial of the 19th Amendment allowing women voting rights, the Milbury Women’s Club is hosting Lyn Dillies and her public service campaign. Your Voting is Magic. It will be held on Sunday, November 3 at Apple Tree Arts, Grafton at 2:30 p.m. This annual fundraiser has a simple vision - to enlighten and educate people about the power of their vote and participating in the electoral process. The day will include politics, illusion and lecture, offers an empowering, educational and entertaining show that provides a powerful, visual statement about voting. To learn more about her and this magical show, visit MagicofLyn.com.

Tickets for the local show are $35 each and include light refreshments and raffle prizes. Purchase by calling Nancie Prior at 508-865-4181. Please leave a message if no phone number is there if no phone number is there.
Discounted Donations
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will be conducting a Discounted Donations Sale on Friday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the atrium Café on the first floor of the MRMC.

This sale will include costume jewelry, Pier1 and Avon products, summer items and some surprises. All items will be sold at a discounted price.

Recital and Coffee House
MILFORD - A Recital and Coffee House featuring performances by students and instructors from Music and Art at Milford will be held in the First Congregational Church-Milford, 4 Congress St. on Saturday, October 26. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free to friends and family, and tea as well as dessert will be offered at a nominal fee.

Homespun Holiday Fair
WHITINSVILLE - The Kathy M Huston Mission Circle of the Whitinsville Presbyterian Church, 51 Cottage St., will hold its annual fair on Saturday, November 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will feature unique crafts, a bake sale with the famous Cookie Walk, silent auction, themed baskets, attic treasures, a kid’s corner and luncheon served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds from the fair will be donated to the New England Humane Society.

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Friends of Milford Town Library Book Sale
MILFORD - The Friends of the Milford Town Library will be holding their semiannual book sale on Saturday, October 26, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members of the Friends may also participate in the sale on Friday, October 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. Memberships are $10 per year and may be paid at the door. Thousands of books are available: best-sellers, mysteries, classics, books on history, investing, hobbies and crafts, and children's books. Audio books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles are also available. In the adult section, prices are 50¢ for mass-market (smallocket-size) paperbacks and $1 for hardcovers (large-sized) paperbacks. All children's books are $2.50. This is a great chance to gather books with friends and families while entertaining visiting grandchildren, or to lower the cost of required school assignments. Find recreational and reference materials for both adults and children, textbooks for home schooling, possibly a favorite out-of-print title you've been searching for or a copy of the classic storyline that was lost in a move; all while helping the Friends fund programs, museum passes and materials for the Library.

3rd Annual Auction items please bring them to the Milford Town Library before the sale.

Textbooks more than five years old and Readers Digest condensed books are not accepted.

Heartland Community Harvest Scarecrow Contest, 5K and Harvest Home Festival
NORTH GRAFTON - 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 5 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, create and assemble a scarecrow and offers them a chance to get their name in front of the 1,500+ 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 Community-Harvest.org/events for more information, fill out the registration form and form a team.

The festival will feature a 5K trail run, good food, local beer and live music from Big Jon Short, apple cannons, pumpkin catapults, 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 11am to 3pm (rain or shine). To register for the 5K visit Community-Harvest.org/events. All proceeds from this event will go towards supporting CHP’s mission of hunger relief.

2019 Milford Pumpkin Stroll
MILFORD - The 2019 Milford Pumpkin Stroll, featuring a pumpkin-carving contest and trick-or-treating, is Saturday, October 26, at the DCH Toyota of Milford, 308 Fortune Blvd. Pumpkin carvers are asked to drop off entries between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to those who are judged to have the most creative, fun 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.

All events are free, but donations of non-perishable food items for the Daily Bread Food Pantry are welcome. The luncheon, which is served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will feature crunchy chicken, vegetables, apple crisp and beverages. The cost is $1 for adults and $3 for children 10 and under. Everyone is invited to attend.

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From $3 to $12 and are packaged and ready to give. It is not too early to start holiday shopping! The public is invited to attend. Nancy Philpps is an independent Avon representative.

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St. Gabriel’s Christmas Fair
UPTON - St. Gabriel’s Church, 115 Mendon St., Upton, will hold its Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair offers a wide variety of fresh balsam wreaths, cemetery baskets and table top arrangements. Raffles on Themed Baskets, Gift Certificates, Home Heating Oil and over $450 of Lottery Scratch Tickets on one drawing are available. A lunch of soup, sandwiches, hot dogs, and traditional Grape Nut pudding will be served. A New Gift Boutique featuring new and “like new” items, Attic Treasures, Oddly Tyme Christmas decorations and a Christmas Craft and Holiday decor section will have something to interest everyone. Gams and Jewels has a collection of jewelry to suit every style. The Bake Table offers delectable pastries, candy, jams and jellies. Santa will be visiting early in the day so come, say “Hello Santa” and enjoy a festive day.

I Love My Clogs
MILFORD - The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will sponsor I Love My Clogs, My Clogs will be selling their merchandise on Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Atrium Café on the first floor of the MRMC.

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

The exhibit, presented by the Astromonshing Group from the Aldrich Astronomical Society, will feature photos of astronomical objects in the night sky. The Group will also share how they capture these images with modest, obtainable equipment. There will be a presentation next door at the Singh Performance Center immediately following the reception at 7:30 p.m.

The exhibit will be on view until December 28. An opening reception for people to look through.

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.

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3rd Annual Auction items please bring them to the Milford Town Library before the sale.

Textbooks more than five years old and Readers Digest condensed books are not accepted.

Butterfly Wishes
MILFORD - The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold the popular Butterfly Wishes on Friday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Atrium on the first floor of the Medical Center, 14 Prospect St., Milford.

New items offered for sale include gift sets, Avon products with a twist, Yankee candle, Pier 1, and Bath and Beauty gift sets for all ages. These practical, useful gifts are a great value. They will be sold from $3 to $12 and are packaged and ready to give. It is not too early to start holiday shopping! The public is invited to attend. Nancy Philpps is an independent Avon representative.

Holiday Family Paint Party
UPTON - Bring the whole family for a Sunday afternoon of creative fun on the Holiday Paint Party on November 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. and United Parish Church of Upton. Families and adults of all ages are invited to join Clártye of Shrewsbury for the Holiday Family Paint Party. There is limited space so participants must sign up and pre-order in advance by visiting UnitedParishUpton.org by Sunday, November 3. Paper signup forms are also available in the church office.

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Playoff Position at Stake for MHS Football

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford High heads into homecoming weekend this Friday night against Foxboro needing a win to secure a top-four spot in the upcoming playoff field, and hoping to bounce back after a pair of disappointing losses. After being on the wrong end of a 35-0 decision at Canton, the Scarlet Hawks let red zone opportunities slip by them last weekend in a 14-10 setback against Stoughton.

"Getting back to the playoffs would be huge, that was one of our goals going into the season," said MHS head coach Anthony Vizakis. "I think the kids have put in the time and they want it. Once you're in the bracket, it's like a whole new season, you start fresh."

Milford enters this weekend's game 3-3 overall and looking for a win to finish above .500 before the schedule flips over to the tournament.

"It all comes down to execution," Vizakis said, looking ahead to Foxboro. "We have a good game plan, the kids are confident in it, but they have to go out and do it."

A win this weekend and more victories come playoff time will be determined by the "little things," Vizakis said. The coaching staff has placed an added emphasis on not dropping passes, running proper routes and the things Vizakis says separate good teams from teams with championship aspirations.

Last week, the Scarlet Hawks were able to put up 268 total yards against Stoughton, but the offense had 126 yards in penalties.

"Foxboro is athletic and they are big up front," Vizakis said. "I thought we responded really well last week. The kids are strong and it's a big week for the seniors, especially the captains."

Luke Rosa ran the ball for Milford on both sides of the ball. Dom Corinssi was also pleased with the way his team was able to shut down Stoughton on defense.

"They have to get the job done to secure a playoff spot," Rosa said. "I am just focused on my team and the game next Friday against Foxboro."

In an effort to spread the load, Vizakis said he will be utilizing a two-way player.

"It's a tradition we want to continue for her family, for her memory," Blackburn said. "She is a big part of the program. She was a great person. We take this game very seriously and play with our hearts."
Milford Girls’ Soccer Nears Playoff Berth

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Milford girls’ soccer team entered the final week and a half of the regular season in a strong position to earn the program’s first playoff berth in six years. “They are excited, especially the seniors who have never been there,” said head coach Lou Colabello. “I am happy for them and happy we have been able to turn it around a little bit.”

The Scarlet Hawks came into the week having won four of their previous five games and Colabello said his team is “in contention to win each of the remaining games on the slate. Even though Milford “threw in a clunker” against Foxboro, according to its head coach, a tie earlier in the season against the Warriors set the stage for the strong finish Milford is currently enjoying. “The biggest thing is getting them to believe they can compete in the Hockomock League,” Colabello said. “It’s the toughest league in the state for girls’ soccer, bar none.” A balanced offense and consistent goalkeeping has helped Milford compete in the difficult division. Freshman Dani Atherton has led the way with nine goals, and fellow senior Ashleigh Starks have added seven apiece heading into this week’s schedule of games.

Dani Atherton has led the way with nine goals, and fellow senior Ashleigh Starks have added seven apiece heading into this week’s schedule of games.

Colabello said of the junior, who took over the goal. “She has gone above and beyond the call of duty, really well and it boosts the club’s confidence to know we can play with anybody because she is in net.” Senior Maddie Boyle has been strong in the platter and if we are aggressive enough, we have been able to score, “ he said. Milford has done well to take where Colabello estimates six or seven goals have been produced this season. “She puts the ball on a platter and if we are aggressive enough, we have been able to score,” he said. Milford has done well to take points from the teams it should beat and Colabello said there are plenty of points to be had over the last few games of the season. “We could get a decent seed in the tournament,” he said. “But the first business is to get in. We can definitely win at least a round or in the districts.”

Hall of Fame Spotlight:
Arthur Siipola

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Arthur Siipola loved growing up and playing sports in Milford, and said inclusion in the Milford High Hall of Fame is like having a “bucket list item come true.” “It’s very, very nice, I’m excited, pleased humbled,” Siipola said. “It’s just a nice thing.” Siipola arrived at MHS in 1960 and became a two sport starter on the gridiron under another Hall of Fame coach, Charlie Espanet and Joe Stoico. All of his coaches provided great examples for their players to follow, Siopola said. “The coaches were like fathers to us,” he said. “They focused on us and made us better players and better people than we were, they were great.” Siopola posted a 13-1 record on the mound and posted a 1.61 ERA. No victory were more significant than a win over St. Mary’s to capture the town series. He pitched for a Zone 4 championship Milford Legion team and went on to play baseball at Worcester Junior College and Salem State. He came back to Milford High as a teacher and spent coaching both football and baseball. Siopola spoke fondly about growing up as an athlete in Milford and playing sports with a litany of other great athletes who all lived in the same neighborhood. “There were a bunch of us who did well in athletics,” he said. “Sports was a focal point of the town,” Siopola said his childhood was like something out of the movie “The Sandlot.” “We all played every day, we rushed to the fields,” he said. “It was a great time to grow up as kids, we were all close and it was a wonderful town. It was just a great time to grow up in Milford.”

The Scarlet Hawks came into the week having won four of their previous five games and Colabello said his team is “in contention to win each of the remaining games on the slate. Even though Milford “threw in a clunker” against Foxboro, according to its head coach, a tie earlier in the season against the Warriors set the stage for the strong finish Milford is currently enjoying. “The biggest thing is getting them to believe they can compete in the Hockomock League,” Colabello said. “It’s the toughest league in the state for girls’ soccer, bar none.” A balanced offense and consistent goalkeeping has helped Milford compete in the difficult division. Freshman Dani Atherton has led the way with nine goals, and fellow senior Ashleigh Starks have added seven apiece heading into this week’s schedule of games.

Colabello said of the junior, who took over the goal. “She has gone above and beyond the call of duty, really well and it boosts the club’s confidence to know we can play with anybody because she is in net.” Senior Maddie Boyle has been strong in the platter and if we are aggressive enough, we have been able to score, “ he said. Milford has done well to take points from the teams it should beat and Colabello said there are plenty of points to be had over the last few games of the season. “We could get a decent seed in the tournament,” he said. “But the first business is to get in. We can definitely win at least a round or in the districts.”

The Homefield Credit Union Allstars helped raised funds for cancer research in the 21st Annual UMass Cancer Walk & Run.

Playing Together for a Dozen Years

Three Milford athletes are playing varsity football this season for Saint John’s High School in Shrewsbury continuing a tradition that began about a dozen years ago. The three, shown in the photo left to right, Nick Mazzuchelli, Josh Ahrens and Tyler Castronova, began playing together as six-year-olds in the Milford Pop Warner. Now they are seniors and playing in their final season together. Mazzuchelli is a captain and defensive back, Ahrens a defensive tackle and Castronotta an offensive guard. Mazzuchelli Family photo

Homefield Credit Union in UMass Cancer Walk & Run

A number of Homefield Credit Union employees participated in the 21st Annual UMass Cancer Walk & Run in September. The Homefield Allstars joined thousands of others who either walked or ran along the 5-mile route in Worcester.

Karl J. Moisan, President/CEO of Homefield Credit Union, spoke of the commitment by the Credit Union’s staff to raising funds and awareness of the continued need for cancer research, saying, “In 2018, the Homefield Allstars raised $3,000 as a result of the generosity of family, friends, and Credit Union members. In 2019, the Allstars decided to up their goal to $5,000. The team’s dedication to reaching their goal was unmistakable during the past several months. My sincere thanks go out to everyone who donated time and money so researchers will be able to continue making progress in the prevention, detection, and treatment of this disease.”

The Homefield Allstars began fundraising in June. The team’s most successful fundraiser was an August 17 yard sale. Other fundraising events included two “Dine Out for a Cause” events at area restaurants, employee dress-down days, donation jars in branch locations, as well as individual fundraising.

This year’s UMass Cancer Walk & Run raised over $750,000 to support adult and pediatric cancer research and care, and fund clinical trials of new, potentially lifesaving cancer therapies at UMass.

For further information, visit UMassMed.edu/cancerwalk.

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**School News**

**Sports Flash**

**By Chris Villani**

**Cancer Fundraiser Takes On Added Significance This Fall**

The annual fundraiser to support cancer awareness and research put on by the Milford High girls’ volleyball team will take on a special significance this year, the first without the matriarch of Scarlet Hawks’ volleyball in attendance. Linda Zacchilli passed away in March following a lengthy battle with uterine cancer. She attended the “Coaches vs. Cancer” match a season ago, despite struggling with her health at the time. “I remember her saying the week before the match, ‘I’m not sure if I can make it,’ and she made it,” said Milford head coach Tamy Webber. “I am going to have that vision of her sitting over in the corner of the gym. It seems like it just happened, and this will be the first time she is not there.” The boys’ volleyball program, which Zacchilli also started, held a fundraiser just months after her passing. The boys were able to put a significant amount of money towards a scholarship in her honor and also raise money for uterine cancer research. Webber’s team is hoping to raise more funds during this year’s match, which will take place Monday, October 28 at 5 p.m. against Hopedale. Fundraising effort will include a 50/50 raffle, concessions, and a variety of donated items. The Scarlet Hawks’ players have been soliciting donations for raffle items and other prizes. Webber said the girls have kept the prizes a secret from her and plan on making it a surprise, but last year there was a wide array of goodies for fans to enjoy. Webber said she spoke to Zacchilli’s longtime husband Nick, the former MHS athletic director, and he is looking forward to the night. “It should be a good event,” Webber said. “We hope it raises a lot of money.”

**High Powered Offense Drives MHS Boys Soccer**

The Milford Boys soccer team began the week without a loss and can largely thank an offense that has scored 49 goals, 14 more than any other team in the Hockomock League. Still, the Scarlet Hawks have been tested by the second half of their schedule and have been able to rise to the challenge. “We have had some tough games, there have been some challenging matchups but overall we have to be happy with the results we have been able to get,” said head coach Brian Edwards. “We are steadily improving and trying to get to the postseason.” Milford had to come from behind in a win over Canton earlier this month and won a slug fest with Sharon by a 4-3 final. Joso Pedro-Dalsha, a junior, has come through in the clutch numerous times for the Hawks, scoring the go-ahead or game-tying goal on four occasions this fall. Jordan Borges, a senior, has also done well adjusting to a new position. A career midfielder, Edwards moved Borges to the forward line this year. “He has been tremendous,” Vizakis said. “Picking up a new position like that on the fly isn’t easy.”

**On Added Significance**

“High Powered Offense Drives MHS Boys Soccer”

31st Annual Thanksgiving Whitin Race and Walk

The 31st Annual Thanksgiving Whitin Five Mile Race and Two Mile Health Walk will be held on Thursday, November 28 at Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville. Events start at 8:10 a.m. For more information contact Race Director Linda Usher at juniperhill@charter.net or 508-529-6862. Race information is also available at WhitinFive.com and on Facebook.

**School News**

**Sports Reporter/Columnist**

**By Chris Villani**

**The Milford Boys soccer team has scored 49 goals, 14 more than any other team in their league, and remain unbeaten as they face the last three games of the normal season.**

By Chris Villani

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The Milford High boys’ soccer team began the week without a loss and can largely thank an offense that has scored 49 goals, 14 more than any other team in the Hockomock League. Still, the Scarlet Hawks have been tested by the second half of their schedule and have been able to rise to the challenge. “We have had some tough games, there have been some challenging matchups but overall we have to be happy with the results we have been able to get,” said head coach Brian Edwards. “We are steadily improving and trying to get to the postseason.” Milford had to come from behind in a win over Canton earlier this month and won a slug fest with Sharon by a 4-3 final. Joso Pedro-Dalsha, a junior, has come through in the clutch numerous times for the Hawks, scoring the go-ahead or game-tying goal on four occasions this fall. Jordan Borges, a senior, has also done well adjusting to a new position. A career midfielder, Edwards moved Borges to the forward line this year. “He has been tremendous,” Vizakis said. “Picking up a new position like that on the fly isn’t easy.”

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**SPORTS FLASH**

**By Chris Villani**

**Sports Reporter/Columnist**

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With three games left and Milford having already locked up the league title, Edwards said the focus is on finishing strong and assuring that the Hawks end up with a top-four seed. Doing so would guarantee a home game and eliminate the chance of having a long bus ride in the expansive South Sectional playoff. Edwards said he hopes this team could put together a deep run, but the focus is on the next game. “We just want to go into the tournament playing our best soccer,” he said. “If you are playing well, the seeding doesn’t really matter that much.”

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