**Five Possible Races in Annual Town Election**

**By Kevin Rudden**
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Police Chief Selection Committee last week forwarded to the Board of Selectmen the names of three finalists to be considered for appointment as the town's new Police Chief. Selectmen were expected to vote on February 18 to take out and return nomination papers for the two available seats. The three candidates are: James H. Rhoden, Jr. – a Major/Commander with the Falmouth Police Department; Leon M. Krolikowski, Jr. – Chief of Police in New Bedford; and Brian L. Reid – a Captain with the Falmouth Police Department. The search committee interviewed two semi-final candidates, and on February 6, members interviewed two other semi-final candidates.

In forwarding the names to the board on February 7, Staff Reporter/Columnist Kevin Rudden wrote. “However, all the members remain principled on their positions and their politics.” DeBartolomeis wrote. “However, all the members remain principled on their positions and their politics.”

**Early Voting for March Primary Begins in 10 Days**

Early voting for the March 3 Presidential Primary will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, February 24 through Friday 28 at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall.

Town Clerk Amy Hennessy Neves reminds voters not to go to their normal polling locations for early voting. Sample ballots for the primary election are posted on the town's website, MilfordMA.gov. On March 3, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

- Precincts 1 and 6: Milford Senior Center at 60 North Street
- Precincts 2 and 3: Italian-American Veterans Hall at 4 Hayward Field
- Precincts 4,5,7, and 8: Portuguese Club at 119 Prospect Street

Deadlines to register to vote for upcoming elections are:

- September 1 State Primary
- October 7 State General Election
- April 7 Milford Town Election

Selectmen: Former Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin have taken out nomination papers for the one five-year seat. Incumbent Jennifer Parson and challenger Jamie Luchini have taken out nomination papers for the one five-year seat. Citizens for Milford will hold its annual Candidates’ Forum at St. Mary’s of the Assumption Church on March 19, with a “meet and greet” candidates at 6:30 p.m. and the forum beginning at 7 p.m.

**Show Wild Birds Some Love**

**Show the wild birds some love by taking part in the 23rd Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). This year’s count begins on Valentine’s Day, Friday, February 14, and continues through Monday, February 17. Volunteers from around the world count the birds they see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, and then enter their checklists at BirdCount.org. During the 2019 GBBC, bird watchers from more than 100 countries submitted more than 210,000 bird checklists reporting a record 6,850 species—more than half the known bird species in the world. To learn more about how to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, visit BirdCount.org.**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Birds Canada and is made possible in part by founding sponsor Wild Birds Unlimited. **Editors Note: See related articles on the GBBC on pages 6 and 14 of this issue.**

**Three Police Chief Finalists Announced**

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- James H. Rhoden, Jr. – a Major/Commander with the Falmouth Police Department
- Leon M. Krolikowski, Jr. – Chief of Police in New Bedford
- Brian L. Reid – a Captain with the Falmouth Police Department

In forwarding the names to the board on February 7, search committee Chair Dino DeBartolomeis noted the committee met 19 times since last March.

Six candidates completed a multi-day “Assessment Center” challenge in December, and the committee later winnowed the group down to four people. On February 4, the search committee interviewed two semi-final candidates, and on February 6, members interviewed two other semi-final candidates.

“The Milford Police Selection Committee has performed admirably throughout the process. They have been focused, committed and diligent. The process was very consuming, arduous and difficult at times,” DeBartolomeis wrote. However, all the members remain principled on their positions and their politics.”

**Police Chief Finalists p 13**
Kenneth Rabasto
Receives Award

Kenneth Rabasto (right) of Milford received the Paul J. Westberg Banner Award from Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis during the recent graduation of the 12-week Basic Recruit Training Academy No. 52, comprised of 11 new correctional officers. The award is given to the recruit who demonstrates the most effort and enthusiasm during the training. Contributed photo

World of Lights at Southwick’s Zoo

Southwick’s Zoo will hold a new World of Lights event in the fall and winter of 2020-21. The 14-week-long Chinese Festival of Illumination, featuring lanterns handcrafted by the award-winning Zigong Lantern Group, will be the first event of its kind hosted in New England. From late September to early January, Southwick’s Zoo will be illuminated by custom-made lantern displays on-site. The group’s artisans will arrive at Southwick’s Zoo mid-summer to craft the lantern displays on-site. World of Lights guests will also enjoy live acrobatic performances, a global marketplace, and specialty foods. World of Lights will be open Wednesday to Sunday, from September 30 to January 3, 2021.

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Claudia’s Cleaning Company

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Milford Town Crier
FEBRUARY 14, 2020
A continued commitment to quality and patient safety, ongoing expansion of services and a better bottom line all marked Fiscal Year 2019 for Milford Regional Medical Center (MRMC). In the report presented at the Annual Meeting of the corporation on January 27, the hospital worked its way from a $2.5 million loss in reported income from operations in FY 2018 to a loss of $371,446 for FY 2019. Even though the totals from bad debt and charity care increased as did salaries, expenses and depreciation, those losses were offset by a slight drop in the uncompensated care pool and interest paid along with a rise in patient service revenues and other operating revenues. Total operating revenues increased from $276 million to $294 million, total operating expenses rose from $280 million to $296 million. Service to the Community hours for inpatient care pool and interest paid along with a rise in patient care, observation stays day surgery visits, emergency level quality. Peer review committees were developed to strategically focus on ensuring high quality, safe care.

Last year the hospital also added a number of new technologies in surgery, became affiliated with more physicians, implemented a more efficient electronic medical records system and formed a partnership with Spectrum Health Systems, Inc. a non-profit that proves comprehensive addiction treatment in Massachusetts. Spectrum will provide rapid access to medication-assisted treatment to patients in the emergency department and at other MRMC facilities.

“Every day I see a team of nurses, ancillary staff and physicians who are all focused on providing excellent patient care, and all of whom made 2019 a very successful year at Milford Regional Medical Center,” says Edward J. Kelly, president and CEO of Milford Regional Medical Center. “When we look back at the accomplishments of 2019, and look forward to what we are going to achieve in 2020, you can see we have a very special regional hospital.”

A copy of the FY2019 annual report is available at MilfordRegional.org.
A Taste of Real Life at Milford High

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford High School (MHS) sophomores got a taste of what it was like to balance a checkbook, pay bills, and hopefully have something for savings and fun. On February 10, the class took part in MHS’s first Reality Fair, experiencing what life is in the “real world” where a dollar can only stretch so far.

The event was the result of yearlong collaboration and planning between MHS Assistant Principal Richard Piergustavo, MHS Business and Banking Teacher Alex Dion, and UMass Bank Branch Manager Joe Vettese.

“We want all students to be financially equipped for the real world,” said Vettese about the idea behind the Reality Fair. After an introduction, the class of 2022 was split up into two groups. One group heard presentations by industry professionals from IBM, Dell, UMass Medical and financial planning companies who spoke about education and career paths, while the second spent an hour in the gymnasium taking part in a simulation activity where they were assigned a career, income, and credit score and were tasked with managing their finances over a period of time.

Over a dozen booths were set up for students to visit – each booth representing different aspects of real life such as transportation (buying a car or taking the bus to work?) and housing (buying a house or renting an apartment). Students were asked to manage their finances over a period of time and think about what they would spend money on in the future such as transportation (buying a car or taking the bus to work) and housing (buying a house or renting an apartment with three other roommates). Each decision has an implication for the next decision, and students had to learn to balance their budget.

Over at the Luxury Booth, Alan Benjamin, Branch Manager of Milford Federal Savings Bank could see helping students understand that while Netflix may seem like a necessity, it doesn’t always fit into a budget. “Students don’t always understand the difference between needs versus wants,” said Benjamin. “This is why this is great for them to see how you need to budget for things such as vacations and pets.”

Piergustavo agreed saying, “I hope this creates enough ‘ah ha’ moments for the students so they can learn some good lessons.”

Milford Democratic Caucus

Registered Democrats in Milford will caucus on Saturday, February 29 in the Granite Room of the Milford Town Library, 80 Spruce St., to elect delegates and alternates to the 2020 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention, beginning at 10 a.m.

The 2020 convention is May 30 at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, where thousands of town that are well established in their careers and willing to offer advice to our students.”

Dion said for him the fair’s goal was to have students think their future. “To go home and talk to their parents or think themselves about their post-secondary plans,” said Dion. “They need to be ready for the real world.”

And just when a student thought they had their budget balanced, they found that life threw them a curve ball, an emergency or unexpected bill.

“We know for kids to be successful, they need to develop skills in personal financial management,” said MHS Principal Josh Otlin. “They need to be ready for the real world.”

Dion added, “We are very fortunate to have people in town that are well established in their careers and willing to offer advice to our students.”

Vettese added, “We are showing them that there is an incentive to improving your credit.”

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“Students don’t always understand the difference between needs versus wants,” said Benjamin. “This is why this is great for them to see how you need to budget for things such as vacations and pets.”

If a student found themselves in the red, they headed to the Budget Counseling Booth, where they could get help from several volunteers including Amanda Alemann, who is also the Branch Manager at the Milford Federal branch at Milford High School.

“A credit score is very important,” said Alemann. “We are showing them that there is an incentive to improving your credit.”

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Dean's List
The following Milford students were named to the Dean's List at their respective schools for the fall 2019 semester.

American International College, Springfield, Shannon Cormier
Ashland University, Ashland Ohio, Alexia Achu majoring in nursing.
Assumption College, Worcester, Gabriela O’Neil, Brianna Rondeau and Jenna Smith, all class of 2020, Hannah Caterine and Ellen Dolloff, both class of 2021, Deidre Flemming, Class of 2022, and Caleb Tammaro and Natalie Mazzoni, both class of 2023.
Becker College, Worcester, Mass., Allamro and Kevin Venancio, both working on Bachelor of Arts degree in Interactive Media Design.
Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn., Maia Puterman
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Penn., John Montana, a Biomedical Engineering major in the class of 2020.
Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio, Deborah Curran
Dean College, Franklin, Christopher Cagniano, President’s List.
Matthew Corsi, Neyssa Franklin, Trevor Heywood, Amanda Hyden, Valerie Ronacci, Mary Dykes, Laurie Gray, Eva Klima, Joaquim Morais, Fabio Santos and Tyanne Yaz.
Endicott College, Beverly: Megan Larusco, Nursing; Jennifer Levine, Libl Studies/Education; and Noah Shaldley, Liberal Studies/Education.
Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg: Iason G. Pinto, Hannah R. Ramuta, T. A. Tadzisena and Morgan M. de Curral, Dean’s List for a 3.20 GPA.
Viola L. Weisenhorn, President’s List for a 3.75 GPA for three semesters.
Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Penn., Abigail Curran, Undeclared major.
Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y., Sophia Rusecki majoring in Psychology.
Lasell University, Newton: Erin Fleming, Hannah Rich and Itah Torres.
Nichols College, Dudley: Clayton Fahey
Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn.: Jennifer Chiarello, Kate Dudley, Clayton Fahey, and Alexander Hastings
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester: Megan Pineatte, class of 2020 majoring in biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering. Christopher Watson, class of 2021 majoring in chemical engineering; and Gabriela Chong, class of 2022 majoring in chemical engineering.

University of Hartford, West Hartford, Conn.: Ryan Tomaso
University of New England, Durham, N.H.: Highest Honors for a 3.85 GPA or higher. Christopher Berthrong majoring in Marine, Estuarine and Freshwater Biology and Kate Rosenblatt majoring in Hotel & Hospitality Management.
High Honors for a GPA of 3.65 to 3.84. Ariana DeMarco majoring in Nursing, Joseph DeMarco majoring in Undeclared, Victoria Hodstrom majoring in Nursing, Rayanne Pereira majoring in Nursing, Cameron Hakeley majoring in Homeland Security, Kaitlin Hartman majoring in Nursing and Jessica Borsciky majoring in Biomedical Science: Medicine & Veterinary Science. Honors for a GPA of 3.5 to 3.64. Eric Beckemeyer majoring in Business Administration Finance and Sydney Morrison majoring in Occupational Therapy.
University of New Haven, West Haven, Conn.: Luidalzi Osacio, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Cody Silverman, Bachelor of Science, Forensic Psychology.
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I.: Lindsay Baron, Susan Deacone, Michelle Colimas and Alexander Hartings
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester: Megan Pineatte, class of 2020 majoring in biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering. Christopher Watson, class of 2021 majoring in chemical engineering; and Gabriela Chong, class of 2022 majoring in chemical engineering.

Fire Chief Touhey Retiring in May

Fire Chief William Touhey informed the Board of Selectmen last week that he plans to retire on May 16 after serving on the Fire Department for 42 years. He became chief in May, 2014 after serving as Deputy Chief for 13 years. “I have truly enjoyed my 42 years with the department. My career, I was fortunate to work along many outstanding firefighters and officers. Additionally, having had the opportunity to serve with my father, brother and son has been a wonderful experience,” Touhey wrote in his retirement letter. Kevin Rudden photo

GGC Member Participated in Flora in Winter

Greenleaf Garden Club (GGC) member Sandra Tosches once again participated along with over 20 other designers in the Worcester Art Museum’s winter extravaganza combining works of art with imaginative floral interpretations, Flora in Winter. She has participated in the event for 16 years and this year was challenged to create a floral design to compliment their pottery vase by Morihito Wada. The vase is an angular, geometric clay vessel. Inspired by the modern shape with its copper, black, speckled and gray facets, Tosches used a monochromatic palette of orange roses, protea and angular Bird of Paradise flowers to create a modern, contemporary interpretation of this work of art.

The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For more information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com.
Bird songs greeting us on a spring morning is one of those amazing gifts from nature. Birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health and they are telling us it is in a sad state of affairs. A recent study, “Decline, the Canaries in the Coal Mine,” published in Science, is the most comprehensive inventory ever done on North American birds, found that since 1970, we have lost 29 percent of North American birds, a disturbing loss of 2.9 billion birds. It is not only the rare bird species in decline, but also the common birds we used to see often. The loss is across almost every biome from forests to the seashore.

“These losses are a strong signal that our human-altered landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife and that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment,” stated one of the study’s authors, Ken Rosenberg, conservation scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, in a 2019 issue of Living Bird magazine. Additionally, the study reports, “…Habitat loss, climate change, unregulated harvest, and other forms of human-caused mortality have contributed to a thousand-fold increase in global extinctions in the Anthropocene.”

Yet, Amazon trailers were parked off the one-way section of Main St. I’m aware that I don’t have the data to back up this notion of van drivers, so to make it a more palatable statement, I didn’t count how many vans were really located all over Milford. I have a pretty good feeling the number is much greater than 450.

If I were a gambling man, I’d bet on it. Oh, wait. I can’t. The casino got turned down and Kevin Meehan mentioned something about wanting to park 1,000 vans on that site (which he now owns) at a recent selectmen’s meeting.

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**MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS**

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**Last Wednesday**

4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

5:30 p.m. Community Fiesta Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt. 133) Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Connection. 508-435-4536 or paul@hopkinton.org.

**Every Thursday**

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch, St. Mary’s of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Society. 508-472-7286.

**Third Thursday**

5:30-7 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation, three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192.

**Last Thursday**

4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, sponsored by First Methodist Church of Milford volunteers. 508-672-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org.

**Every Sunday**

4:30-6 p.m. Supper, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, sponsored by the Hopevale Churches (Unitarian, Sacred Heart and Union Evangelical). 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org.

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**TOWN CRIER PUBLICATIONS**

**48 Mechanical Street, Upton, MA 01568 | 508-529-7791 | TownCrier.us**

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**Opinion**

**By Anne Mazar**

Birds in Decline, the Canaries in the Coal Mine

Bird loss is the latest warning of an ailing our landscape. There are thousands of scientific reports which substantiate this and scientists, generally a reserved bunch, have been speaking out. Rosenberg has hope if we take action now, but is concerned that in 10 years it might be too late.

The good news in the report is that waterfowl, raptors and turkeys have increased in numbers. The reason is targeted efforts to help these birds, such as wetland conservation, the banning of some harmful pesticides and conservation funding. However, currently, the federal government is systematically stripping away vital environmental regulations across all sectors. This is the absolute wrong direction.

What can we do? Believe in science and support facts, not bad science. Politicians might bluff out for self-gain. Vote. Attend public hearings when trees are unnecessarily being cut down for a subdivision. Join a local town board. Support local land preservation. Reduce lawn size, avoid pesticide use and landscape with native plants to feed and shelter birds. Join a local town board. Support local land preservation. Reduce lawn size, avoid pesticide use and landscape with native plants to feed and shelter birds. This is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment. It is not only the rare bird species in decline, but also the common birds we used to see often. The loss is across almost every biome from forests to the seashore.

These losses are a strong signal that our human-altered landscapes are losing their ability to support birdlife and that is an indicator of a coming collapse of the overall environment,” stated one of the study’s authors, Ken Rosenberg, conservation scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, in a 2019 issue of Living Bird magazine. Additionally, the study reports, “…Habitat loss, climate change, unregulated harvest, and other forms of human-caused mortality have contributed to a thousand-fold increase in global extinctions in the Anthropocene.”

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**Eastern Bluebirds socializing and enjoying some birdseed on a winter's day. A recent comprehensive study found that since 1970, we have lost 29 percent of the birds in North America, which is a disturbing loss of 2.9 billion birds. In it is our hands to turn these numbers around. Anna Mazar photo**

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Avoid plastic use. Sea birds die from ingesting plastic and getting tangled in it. Carry a travel coffee flask for hot/cold drinks. Buy organic foods and shade grown coffee. Embrace our natural surroundings and take care of wildlife. It will help us many times over.

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Read this Town Crier Online

To read the February 14, 2020 Milford Town Crier online, go to TownCrier.us. In the left-hand column click Online Newspapers and scroll down to Milford Town Crier PDF Archive. Click on MTC 20.02.14.pdf.

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**FEBRUARY 14, 2020**

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Board of Health

- Michael Szczepan, Municipal Manager for E.L. Harvey & Sons, Inc., met with the board to review the status of trash/recyclables pickup roughly seven months into the Westborough firm’s contract with the town. Twelve-inch high “Town of Mendon” signs soon will be affixed to all trucks operating in Milford, he said. In addition, video cameras activated by drivers will be able to capture specific problems – such as too much trash at one house – and mark the videos with the date, time, and specific longitude and latitude of each problem, Szczepan said. “I’m going to show you every house that has an issue,” he said. (January 27)

- To cut down on trash disposal costs, board members discussed the possibility of stopping curbside pick-up of mattresses and box springs and making residents dispose of them for a fee at the Cedar St. (Rt. 85) transfer station. The board is looking into starting a mattress/box spring recycling program at the transfer station, members said. (January 27)

- To cut down on trash disposal costs, board members discussed the possibility of eliminating curbside trash pick-up at four-family and higher multi-family apartments. (January 27)

- Health Officer Jacquelyn Murphy said her office will be testing food and beverage establishments. In addition to capturing any violations, the software/tab system would allow health inspectors to photograph any violations, she said. (January 27)

Planning Board

- Continued until April 21 a public hearing on the proposed “Purchase Street Commons” planned residential development consisting of 12 detached single-family homes on land at 177 and 179 Purchase St. (January 21)

- Deferred discussion on reducing the bond held by the town to ensure completion of all required work at the Milford Crossing shopping plaza located at 120-128 Medway Rd. (Rte. 109) to $10,000. Town Engineer Mike Dean notified the board the lower amount was needed to ensure than 10 more trees are planted in the parking areas. (February 4)

- Endorsed an amended site plan allowing the Seven Hills Foundation locate an adult day care center for adults with intellectual disabilities in a 20,450 square-foot portion of the shopping plaza at 146 South Main St. (February 4)
Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen, Police Chief Search Committee

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
Board of Selectmen

• Approved Central Tavern pledging its All-Alcoholic Beverages license to the Milford Federal Bank. (January 27)

• Town Administrator Richard Villani reported that Information Technology (IT) consultant Christopher George has been hired to assess the IT department's needs and draft a job description for the position of Director of that department. George was chosen after Finance Director Zachary Taylor, Human Resources Director Maureen Giffin and he interviewed two candidates, Villani said. "We're moving in the right direction," commented Selectman William Kingkade, who recently asked the board to review the IT department's staffing and operations. (January 27)

• Accepted a gift of $2,500 from the Alavi + Braza law firm to the Milford Youth Center. (January 27)

• Approved a $525 gift from Jeffrey Mshain to the Fire Department. (January 27)

• Approved a one-day Wine and Malt Beverages license for the Milford Performing Arts Center for a fundraising event from 7 p.m. to midnight on February 29. (January 27)

• Granted the Milford Lions Club a Permit to Obstruct a Public Way by holding its annual "Pennies for Sight" toll road at the intersection of East Main St. (Rt. 16) and Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 9, with a rain date of May 16. (January 27)

• Accepted, with regret, the letter of resignation of Finance Director Zachary Potter, a Program Director at the Milford Senior Center. (January 27)

• Gave Town Treasurer Christopher Pilla permission to negotiate a contract with The Zekos Group of Shrewsbury to act as auctioneer in selling parcels the town acquired through tax title foreclosures. (January 27)

Police Chief Selection Committee

• Held a closed-door executive session to develop a set of questions to be asked to each of the four finalists for the Police Chief's position. (January 28)
To view photos from this wonderful event, please visit foundation.milfordregional.org/Melange
Amazon “Ride-alongs” Find Problems

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford Town Crier

March 27, Villani said Amazon's responses to our infrastructure. “Speaking to the selectmen on January 27, Villani said Amazon’s responses to numerous issues raised by the board in December and January to date consisted of just an e-mail promising to talk to delivery van drivers about their driving behavior and promising to broaden the number of service stations where the vans fuel up beyond the Mobil station on Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). “We do not feel we’ve received an adequate response,” Villani said.

Following the two ride-alongs on January 21, he, Pighetti and Building Commissioner Matt Marcotte and two Amazon officials agreed on the need for at least three short-term actions:
• The need for some type of community impact agreement with Amazon,
• The need for a comprehensive traffic study, and
• Amazon meeting with the Marcotte and Town Counsel Charles Boddy.

“Amazon did agree” regarding the traffic study, Villani said. Pighetti’s memo identified the Amazon representatives on the ride-alongs as Vincent DeMaio, Operations Manager, Delivery Operations and matt fein, Senior Operations Manager, Delivery Operations.

“So, there’s been some progress,” said Chairman William Buckley. However, he pointed out that Amazon had not yet responded to several things his board asked for – more meetings with the Board of Selectmen, meetings with Town Counsel Charles Boddy and Marcotte, a report on auto excise taxes being paid, and a community impact agreement.

“I would consider the 48-hour action plan inadequate,” said, referring to the selectmen’s request to Amazon earlier last month.

“They’re still providing a challenge,” Buckley added, saying Amazon is “acting like a big company that’s unresponsive to issues.” While noting he was “optimistic because they went on a ride-along,” two weeks after the board met with company officials the ride-alongs proved little had changed, the chairman said. “The drivers’ behavior wasn’t any better,” Buckley said.

“I thought we were very clear on the message we sent as a board,” Selectman Michael Walsh said about the January 6 board meeting with Amazon officials. “So far, they’re not starting off so well.”

Buckley said the town needs to let Amazon know that “We do mean business.” He also urged concerned residents to go to Planning Board meetings because that board handles development issues. “If we’re going to influence this process, it’s got to be done in Planning,” he said.

Problems Found on the “Ride-alongs”

Problems found at the Quarry Square shopping plaza at 196 East Main St. were:
• Delivery vans and drivers’ personal vehicles parked outside of designated spaces
• Damaged/inoperable vans left in the parking area
• Drivers gathering and vans blocking travel ways between rows of parking spaces
• “Tailgating” – drivers sitting in portable chairs, etc. at the end of the workday
• Trash left in the parking areas by van drivers
• Vans and personal vehicles illegally parking in designated “Handicap Parking” spaces
• Dozens of vans queuing in fire lanes and blocking access to buildings and businesses
• Drivers being inattentive and/or distracted while operating vans – looking at cell phones or route schedules – creating a hazard to other motorists and patrons of businesses
• Volume of vans queuing and leaving the location causing significant interruption to normal traffic flow and, in some cases, blocking entrances and exits to area businesses

Problems found at the Amazon distribution center at 8 Industrial Rd. were:
• Delivery vans queuing up in the rear of the building and blocking travel lanes and preventing proper access throughout the facility
• Dozens of vans queuing in fire lanes, blocking access to emergency responders
• Inadequate amount of parking area for the type of operation being conducted
• Vans driving into the building, being loaded, and then drivers blowing horns each time
• Building lighting causing disruption at night to residents who live nearby

Pighetti also outlined the intersections within Milford being affected by the delivery van traffic:
• East Main St. (Rt. 16) and Medway Rd. (Rt. 109)
• Medway Rd. and Birch St.
• Medway Rd. and Beaver St.
• East Main and Beaver Streets

He also noted that the one-way section of Beaver St. is being impacted.

“The aforementioned areas are of major concern to public safety officials on a daily basis due primarily to the impact the delivery vans have on traffic volume, traffic flow, damage to our infrastructure and neighborhood blight caused by discarded trash,” Pighetti wrote.

In a February 22 email, to Town Administrator Richard Villani, Matt Fein, Amazon’s Senior Operations Manager, Delivery Operations did list a series of actions his company would take to address the issues raised during the ride-alongs. That e-mail ended by stating: “I want to also remind that we did discuss about the positives Amazon brings to Milford – jobs, business, etc. – and that Amazon intends to be a great partner with the town.”
Planners Grapple with Amazon-Related Plans

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board spent most of its January 23 and February 4 meetings dealing with plans related to the parking of delivery vans for Internet giant Amazon.com — including discussions on a possible Zoning By-law amendment to better control the siting of so-called "transportation terminals."

Last month, the board began reviewing a site plan for what Rt. 85 Corp.'s civil engineer John Nenart termed a "transportation hub" with 420 parking spaces to be located at 21 Beaver St. Nenart said the property have yet been signed, but stated their desired tenant is Amazon.

Working with traffic consultants Tetra Tech, Nenart said, company is trying to make that section of Beaver St. — which is currently one-way toward Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) from Birch St. — a two-way road again, at least from Birch St. to the 21 Beaver St. site. "We have extensive traffic counts," Nenart said.

The idea would be to get most of the Amazon delivery vans off some of Milford's congested roadways by concentrating their travel from parking lot at 21 Beaver St. to Amazon's warehouse at 8 Industrial Dr., Nenart explained.

Nenart said Route 85 Corp. has explored the cost of improving the Beaver St./Medway Rd. (Rt. 109) intersection and the nearby I-495 on/off ramps should the one-way section of Beaver St. become two ways all the way to Medway Rd. The estimated cost is $4 million, he said, adding, "We're trying to get funding from the state."

"We're well aware of the problems of all the intersections here," Nenart said. Making all of Beaver St. flow two ways "would relieve a lot of the problems with Amazon going through Birch St. and the residential neighborhoods," Nenart said.

Questioned by board member Joseph Calagione about the town's desire to know the traffic routes Amazon's delivery vans would take, Nenart replied: "We are fully aware of the problems with Amazon in town and the problems that Milford is facing, and we will do everything we can with the traffic flow and to let everybody know where the vans are coming from, where they're going to, how many, how many an hour and so on and so forth."

Calagione also commented on having Beaver St. become two ways only to the proposed site. "I'm not too happy with half a one-way street," he said. "We can't get it [a full two-way traffic flow] through the state," Nenart said.

Board member Patrick Kennedy had to sit out the discussion because, he said, Route 85 Corp. was using an excavator from his business at the 21 Beaver St. site.

The board continued the discussion until February 4, at which time Nenart requested it be continued until February 18 to give traffic engineers time to complete a presentation for the board.

Other Amazon-related actions taken by the Planning Board were:

• Refused to set a site completion bond that would enable use of the new transportation terminal being built on East Main St. (Rt. 16), just after the Rt. 1-495 overpass when heading toward Holliston. "I think it's premature," Town Engineer Mike Dean said, noting the state Department of Transportation (DOT) has yet to grant a curb cut or specify any desired potential roadway improvements. Bonds are to ensure that landscaping is completed.

Town Planner Larry Dunkin said "The landscaping here is the least of our problems," he said. "There is no temporary occupancy here," Calagione said. (January 21)

• Continued until February 18 a review of two Beaver St. subdivisions proposed on either side of the one-way portion of Beaver St. by Route 85 Corp. Each would have two lots off a cul-de-sac roadway, Nenart said.

Board Chair Marble Maimini said Dean wants to hire a traffic engineer to evaluate the two proposals, with the cost paid for by Route 85 Corp. (February 4)

Transportation Terminal" Zoning Changed Discussed

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

Planning Board members last month started reviewing a possible amendment to the Zoning By-law that would better define what a "transportation terminal" is and where it could be located. The current zoning defines a "transportation terminal" as "premises for the parking and servicing of commercial vehicles," and allows them to be located in any of the town's commercial or industrial zones. Current zoning also transportation terminals are subject to a site plan review by the Planning Board, which means the board looks at things such as: the safety of internal traffic circulation and entrance and egress; minimizing access from minor streets servicing single-family homes; minimizing visibility of parking areas from public ways; providing adequate access to each structure for fire and service equipment; providing adequate utilities and drainage for the land; providing adequate provisions for all fire regulations; minimizing major topographic changes or removal of existing trees; making effective use of topography, landscaping and building placement to maintain, to the degree feasible, the character of the abutting neighborhoods; and making sure lighting of parking areas avoids glare on adjoining properties.

Town Planner Larry Dunkin's proposed change would not allow a transportation terminal to be located in a Neighborhood Commercial (CB) zone, would require a special permit be issued by the Planning Board in order to locate one in the other commercial and industrial zones, and would require that a full traffic study prepared by a traffic engineer accompany such special permit application. Dunkin's draft also would change the definition of a transportation terminal to "premises with or without structures, where passengers and/or freight originate, terminate, or are handled in the transportation process, including premises for the temporary storage and redistribution of goods, or for the parking and servicing of commercial vehicles." In addition, the proposed amendment would require traffic studies be submitted for any proposed warehouses in town. "The Amazon vehicles actually don't fit into this," board member Joseph Calagione said on January 21. "It's a parking lot for them," Dunkin referred him to the last phrase of the proposed new definition. "I struggle with the terminology of 'transportation terminal' as a catch-all for anything," board member Patrick Kennedy added. He suggested regulating the use through the terminology. Chairman Marble Maimini said warehouses with truck trailers don't generate that much traffic and so a special permit should not be required for them. The board decided on January 21 to have its members forward their comments on the draft to Dunkin. At the board's February 4 meeting, Dunkin said he was still working on a new draft. The board took questions about transportation terminals from residents attending the February 4 meeting. Steve Trettel asked if transportation terminals were defined in the current zoning bylaw, with Dunkin replying they have been since 1966. Trettel also asked if the board could stop transportation terminals from proliferating. Calagione said that only two — parking in the Quarry Square shopping center lot and a new one being built off East Main St. (Rt. 16) near the Route 1-495 overpass — have been legally allowed. Steve Trettel asked if the town could legally limit the number of transportation terminals allowed in town. Calagione said they could be made illegal in a zoning district, but cautioned such a proposal usually results in a flood of applications being filed once such a proposal is made. Calagione reminded people that the size of Amazon's facility on Industrial Rd limits "how much they can move in and out of there."

The only candidate with proven leadership

I have had the honor of serving the residents of Milford with personal respect, compassion and understanding. I will bring these same qualities as a member of your Board of Selectmen.

I have a proven track record of problem solving, involvement with the community and a strong working relationship with the residents, businesses, Town department heads, and the Finance Committee. It would be my privilege to continue as your next Selectman.

I have made Milford my home because it is a great community in which to live and work. As your Selectman I will help to ensure our town becomes an even stronger and more vibrant community for generations to come.

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH, VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP, VOTE FOR TOM O’LOUGHLIN!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin

FEBRUARY 14, 2020
Milford Town Crier
Dispute Arises Over Beaver Street Trailers

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

In December, tractor trailers were parked at 21 Beaver St., a parcel of vacant land roughly behind the McDonald’s restaurant on Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). The town declared them to be in violation of Milford’s Zoning By-laws and – in a letter dated December 20, 2019 – demanded they be removed.

That led to back-and-forth letters between the owner of the property – Route 85 Realty Corp. – and Town Administrator Richard Villani that raised potential issues about possible violations of the state’s Ethics Law and Open Meeting law.

The December 27 letter from Route 85 Realty Corp. to Building Commissioner Matt Marcotte states: “We would like you to understand the Board of Selectman to also be the governing power behind, and appointing authority of all local Boards.

“Before we allowed the trailers to be parked on the lot we were able to contact two of the three sitting Selectman, who gave us their blessing to go ahead and to do this with a plan to be filed forthwith, with the Town of Milford. They said there should be no problem with what we were contemplating. In fact, it was their impression that it should ease the traffic flow in the Town of Milford. After talking with said Selectman, we allowed the trailers to be parked there and the use of the lot free of charge until January 31, 2020, at which time all the trailers would be removed.

“It is important for us to let you know that these are registered trailers with no engines and there are on average no more than three of them present at any given time.

“Again, when we received the first letter we thought it was in error. Yet, after receiving the second letter we were compelled to get back to you and explain the facts as we understood them.

“We are sorry for the inconvenience we caused the Town.”

Villani responded with a January 17 letter stating: “On behalf of the Milford, Massachusetts Board of Selectmen, I respond to your letter of December 27, 2019. In your letter you state that ‘[you] received permission from the Milford Board of Selectmen’ to park trailers at 21 Beaver Street, Milford. I write to inform you that whatever private or personal discussions you may have had, you received no such authority. The Board of Selectmen, as the executive branch of the government is only authorized to act publicly, at a duly convened and noticed meeting at which a quorum is present, and not through back room agreements or arrangements. Furthermore, no member of such Board is empowered to act, when such actions violate local or state law, including the so-called State Ethics Law, G.L. C. 268A or the so-called Open Meeting Law.

“Moreover, compliance with the Zoning By-laws of the Town of Milford is not a matter which can be waived, nor can the restraints, prohibitions, or procedures prescribed by said laws be treated cavalierly or circumvented by mutual assent. The enforcement and applicability of such laws, in any event, lie not with the Board of Selectmen, but, pursuant to state law, with the Building Commissioner, Planning Board, and local Zoning Board of Appeals.

“Simply stated, your letter raises various concerns, however none is material to the issue of compliance with local law. The Building Commissioner, the chief zoning enforcement officer of the town, issued a Violation Notice and Cease and Desist Order to you on December 20, 2019, with which you failed to comply. Your failure to comply is not excused by your misunderstanding of the law, nor by the actions of any official to deliberately circumvent the law by granting an unwarranted privilege to one property which is not given to all property owners.

“I encourage you to take this matter seriously and to undertake compliance forthwith.”

Annual Town Meeting Scheduled May 18

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen voted on January 27 to adopt Town Administrator Richard Villani’s recommended schedule for the Annual Town Meeting:

- January 27 through February 27: warrant open for submission of articles
- March 9: Town Counsel begins preparation of official warrant
- March 23: Board of Selectmen approve final warrant
- March 24: Warrant goes to printer for reproduction
- March 10-May 18: Finance Committee, Personnel Board and Board of Selectmen schedule meetings to review warrant articles as necessary
- May 4: Warrant is posted as required and mailed to all Town Meeting Members as required
- May 12: Pre-Town Meeting Forum at 7 p.m. in Upper Town Hall
- May 18: Annual Town Meeting convenes at 7 p.m. in Upper Town Hall
- May 20: Adjourned Town Meeting reconvenes, if required.

Blaire House of Milford Assisted Living Residence

While you enjoy your much-needed
Winter Getaway...
...your loved one can relax in the warmth of companionship.

Blaire House of Milford Assisted Living Residence is here to provide caregivers a much needed rest from the mental and physical strain of caring for their loved ones. We can accommodate respite guests for a few weeks to a few months – giving you the opportunity to take a well deserved break – with the confidence your loved one is receiving the best possible care.

Caring for an aging parent or family member can be exhausting, difficult and lonely – but you are not alone.

$199/per night (Traditional) • 5-night minimum • Includes meals, entertainment, personal care, 24-hour staff and security, and more.

$249/per night (Memory Care)

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE SPACE!
Beth LaForge at 508.958.0301 or blaffle@egmcare.com

April 2020

FEBRUARY 14, 2020
Questions Posed to Police Chief Candidates

Members of the Police Chief Selection Committee posed a series of questions to each of the four semi-finalist candidates on February 4 and February 6 interview sessions:

- What specifically drew you to apply to the position of Chief of Police in Milford?
- What is your biggest concern as you transition to the chief of police in Milford? How could you plan to get the men and women of the Milford Police Department to "buy into" your vision in order to move the department forward, to ensure the Milford Police Department is the most cohesive, efficient and effective as possible?
- Tell us what you've accomplished with your current position?
- How did it involve?
- Based on what you know about the Town of Milford, what do you see as the most challenging issues? How would you address these?
- How would you plan to get the men and women of the Milford Police Department to "buy into" your vision in order to move the department forward, to ensure the Milford Police Department is the most cohesive, efficient and effective as possible?
- What has been your most significant professional accomplishment over the past year and how you brought it to fruition.
- What has been your most significant professional disappointment? Why and what did it involve?
- What is your experience in developing a budget from the ground-up, as well as your experience seeking grants?
- Have you ever overspent your budget and, if so, why?
- Presently the Milford Police Department has a Special Ops team that is focused on protecting schools and reducing response time in the event of a critical incident. What has your experience been thus far to prepare for such a situation?
- Town Meeting Member appointed by Town Moderator: Richard Hellier
- Town Meeting Member appointed by Board of Selectmen: Edward Bertorelli
- At Large members appointed by Town Moderator: Donato Niro and Dino DeBartolomeis
- Three Residents (not town officials or Town Meeting Members) appointed by Board of Selectmen: David Brutsch, Christopher Fritts and Jodie Nosiglia

DeBartolomeis singled out Nosiglia – a Human Resources professional – for contributing "greatly with her knowledge and expertise" and also thanked Town Administrator Richard Villani, Town Counsel Charles Boddy, Finance Director Zachary Taylor and Human Resources Director Maureen Griffin for assisting the committee. Griffin, he said, was "a significant part of the process" who "provided valuable assistance to all of us with her knowledge and assistance."
Twice Blessed Thrift Shop
HOPEDALE-The Second Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop offers the following specials in February - sweaters, accessories, outerwear, boots and jewelry. During the first full weekend of February till the end of February, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Pet Emergency Care
MILFORD-The Milford Community School Use Program (MCSUP) is offering a Pet Emergency Care Education on Monday and Tuesday, March 2-3, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Milford High School. Laura McCullon, lead instructor and founder of Four Footed Family, will teach First Aid & CPR for both cats and dogs, so pet owners and professionals can be first responders for their animals. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of the class along with a book and a lead. To register visit MilfordCommunity.com, click Register for Activities > Adult - Winter > Art/Crafts/Hobbies/Interests. For information call the MCSUP office, 508-478-1119. Registration deadline is Thursday, February 27 at 9 a.m.

Maple Sugaring-Themed Paint Night
WHITINSVILLE-To celebrate maple sugaring season in the Blackstone Valley, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) has teamed up with artist Luba Groenvald of DCoAco: Art Lessons and Crafts for All to host a Paint Night on Thursday, March 5, at her new studio in Alternatives’ Whitins Mill, 70 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A portion of the $35 class fee will benefit Blackstone Heritage Corridor. Participants will do a maple sugaring themed painting created by Luba entitled First Snow over the Maple Field. The March 5 paint night falls just before the annual Maple Sugar Days event at Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge, MA, on March 7 and 8. Seating is limited, so advance ticket purchase is required by going online at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/tickets or in person at Blackstone Heritage Corridor’s office, 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. For more info, contact Bonnie Combs at bcombs@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org or call 508-234-4242.

Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Events
AREA-The Milford Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will be holding the following events. To register visit MilfordChamber.org, email biale50@ milfordchamber.org, or call 508-478-0700 or stop by the offices, 258 Main Street, Suite 306, Milford. MACC Match Lunch, Friday, February 14, 11:30 a.m., Healthsource and South East Main St., Milford. Alike/Alikeability Workshop, Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 a.m., Chamber Office. CWI Luncheon and Workshop, Wednesday, February 19, 11:30 a.m., the Crystal Room, 49 Cedar St., Milford. Family Fest & Home Show 2020, Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., DoubleTree Hotel, Beaver St., Milford. Free, family event includes activities for kids, vendor booths and MACC and Cheese Contest.

Annual Great Backyard Bird Count
UXBRIDGE-Join Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park volunteers and West Hill Dam Team on Saturday, February 16 at 2 p.m. to take part in the Cornell University Annual Great Backyard Bird Count. The rainy/heavy snow day is Saturday, February 22 at 2 p.m. at Meet at the West Hill Dam office, 518 East Hartford Ave. Uxbridge. Observations help researchers determine species decline and migration patterns Participants should dress for the weather, be prepared to hike about a mile to the various sites, snow shoes or snow boots are recommended. All are welcome to bring binoculars, backpack, and water. Participants will observations over warm beverages while supplies last. Junior Rangers Level 2 -- earn wildlife certificate. Scout Troops, home schooled students welcomed for merit badge requirements. Youth under the age of 18 please bring an adult. For more information, please call Park Ranger Viola at 978-318-8417.

In the Bag Sale
MILFORD-The MRMC Auxiliary has announced that the In the Bag sale will be held at the Atrium Cafe in the hospital, 14 Prospect St., Milford, on Thursday, February 20, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. This sale features a large selection of handbags. District 33A Lions sort the readers by exceeding 20,000 pairs, include readers, prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and bifocals. District 33A Lions sort the readers by species decline and migration patterns. Participants should dress for the weather, be prepared to hike about a mile to the various sites, snow shoes or snow boots are recommended. All are welcome to bring binoculars, backpack, and water. Participants will observations over warm beverages while supplies last. Junior Rangers Level 2 -- earn wildlife certificate. Scout Troops, home schooled students welcomed for merit badge requirements. Youth under the age of 18 please bring an adult. For more information, please call Park Ranger Viola at 978-318-8417.

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Shawn are Milford Lion Don Fortin, center, with High School students William Williams and Colin Eilson, who are working on creating new computerized prescriptions for glasses donated to the Lions. The glasses are then sent to those in need. Milford Lions photo

Free Coat Giveaway
MILFORD-The Sacred Heart Parish Religious Education Office will be holding a free coat give away for Milford residents in need of warm winter coats. Adult and children sizes are available. This year’s coat give away will be held on Saturday, February 15 from 12 to 3 p.m. in the former Milford Catholic School building 11 East Main St. (side entrance near church elevators). To donate a coat that is no longer needed, please stop by the same location on Saturday, February 15 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Then call Amy Donahue at 508-478-0199 with any questions.

I Love My Clogs
MILFORD-The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary will hold an I Love My Clogs sale on Tuesday, March 3 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the hospital’s Atrium Cafe, 14 Prospect St., Milford. A wide selection of comfort clogs in various colors and styles will be offered. Cash, MasterCard, Discover and Visa are accepted.

MAPLE SUGARING

Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair 2020 - Exhibitors Needed
MILFORD-The Milford Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair is seeking exhibitors for its 26th Annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair which will be held Saturday, March 7 and 8. Contact the Blackstone Valley, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor’s office, 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. For more information, please call 508-277-4981 or email familynetwork@milfordma.com by February 28.

Living with the Ribbon Fundraiser
MILFORD-Living with the Ribbon is having a fun night out and fund raiser at Craft Roots Brewery, Milford on Sunday, February 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. The price is $30 per ticket and includes live music, a free pass of beer, light refreshments and more. Register online at Eventbrite.com/e/CraftRoots-Brewing-fundraiser-tickets-88594986991. Living with the Ribbon provides scholarships to students pursuing higher education in a field of healthcare; grants to assist in funding cancer research; support for families facing a cancer diagnosis and donations to hospitals and cancer centers.

School News
You are Our Heroes
Don Fortin, Lions District 33A Eyeglass Recycling Coordinator, honored eight Milford High School Transition Vocational students and their Vocational Coordinator, Nathan Gaucher, with this pronouncement: “You are our heroes!” at an appreciation party on January 23. Each year, Central Mass. Lions gather donated eyeglasses from collection bins scattered throughout the area. The donations, exceeding 20,000 pairs, include readers, prescription eyewear, sunglasses, and bifocals. District 33A Lions sort the readers by style and bundle the sunglasses for distribution. The program requires specialized equipment, called a Lensometer, to determine the strength. That’s when the Milford students take over. Using the Lensometer they carefully identify the prescription of each pair, so that someone else living in the U.S. or in a third world country may use them to regain their sight. These simple donations literally give those in need the ability to live in the sighted world. Milford High School students have been partnering with the Lions in this effort for 10 years. On February 5 the Lions made the pronouncement: ‘You are our heroes!’ at an appreciation party on February 5. The appreciation luncheon and recognition luncheon for the Milford students was organized by Fortin in conjunction with the Milford Lions Club. Thanks was also extended to Milford High Transition-Vocation Department staff. Together, they truly embody the Lions motto: We Serve! To learn more about District 33A Lions, visit LionsDistrict33A.org.
Shining Start: Shining Star’s PreSchool registration for the 2020-2021 school year will be this month in the Main Office. All interested families must apply through this registration process. Registration packets are available for pick up in the main office for current families interested in having their child and or sibling return/attend Shining Star for the 2020-2021 school year. Current families register on February 24 and 25 at 8:30-9:30 a.m. 10:45-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m. Registration for new families is March 17 and 18 at 9-10 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. Completed registration forms along with non-refundable registration fee are due at registration. All families will be notified on April 1 of session placement. First month tuition payment is due no later than May 1. If payment is not received by May 1 the slot will be awarded to the next family on the waiting list. Parent’s are reminded that children must be three years old by August 31, 2020 to attend preschool and must have independent toileting skills.

Brookside: On Friday, January 24, members of the Brookside PTO along with Brookside administration and staff hosted a Pep Rally for students to kick-off a fundraiser program. Students will be participating in a Fun Run and working with MindSpark Wild West program to learn about living with character. Students will be working with members of the school community to embed social emotional learning within daily programming. Katie Lavin, Adjustment Counselor at Brookside Elementary School, is working with peers and community members to expand the schools’ Food and Clothing Pantry Project. Bags of healthy foods are filled and seasonal clothes are made available for students and their families ensuring that Brookside scholars have basic necessities.

Memorial: Memorial Elementary School thanks the PTO and community members for helping make Parent’s Night Out on January 17 a success.

Woodland: A group of Woodland Elementary Students were “blown away” by the technology and innovation taking place at the Wind Technology Testing Center (WTTC) in Charlestown. During a field trip, students tested wind turbine blades and interfaced with engineers answering questions, showing students the longest blade in the world, and guiding students through the testing process for turbine blades.

On Tuesday, January 28, Steve Burton, Sports Director for WBZ TV in Boston, visited Woodland to speak to the 5th graders to speak about the importance of kindness. The following students were nominated by their teachers for being INCLUSIVE of others in our school community: Reese Cunnors, Sophia Diatlevit, Christopher Neves, Aden Pascull, Caleb Rondeau, Vazeque, Henry Shaver, Hank Richards, Maggie Holland, Erwin Godoy Buerzo, Beatriz Oliveira, Alex Wright, John Duchi, Cameron Hayes, Brana Bautos, Kai Demers, Ethan Braga-Sousa, Jillian Brown, Lauren Williams, Julian Tomlinson, Emilie Pires, Daniel Carvalho, Emma Michalewski, Kierstynn Donovan, Christopher Louis, Evan Underwood, Andrew Eastwood, Brooklynn Thomas, Alexis Devaney, Alisson Howe, Isabella Santos, Melanie Jenkins, Isabella Grady Harper, Owen Bullock, Alexis Hall, Noah Pearson, Mayck Moreira, Sophia Santos, Gina da Cunha, Manuealla Bernardes, Jheni Guaman, Reagan Cunningham, Jeff Chimboraos, Sofia Leece, Lucas Ricca, Ricardo Dalshwa, Eli Coburn, and Brody Jenkins.

Stacy Middle: Save the date for Stacy Middle School Performing Arts performance of Disney’s Little Mermaid Jr. on March 6 at 7 p.m. and March 7 at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are available in the Stacy Main Office, $10 (adults)/$5 (students).

Shining Star Middle School has been approved for the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation Grant for $4,250. Funds will be used to implement an After School Unified Arts Program.

Milford High: Milford High School has been approved for the Chef Anne’s Salad Bar to Schools grant. ($825) $4,000. The SB2S (Whole Kids Foundation and United Fresh Start Foundation) and the surrounding community raise funds to open salad bars in schools. Milford High School thanks the Chef Anne Foundation, the Whole Kids Foundation, the United Fresh Start Foundation, as well as local supporters, for the opportunity and support.

The following Milford High School students were recognized for their achievements at the January 9 School Committee meeting. Students were selected as recipients for various Superintendent Association Awards: Worcester County Superintendents Association Scholar Award - Madelyn Boyle and Lucas Rosa; Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award - Emily Parke and Maxwell Manor; National School Development Council Award for Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning - Amanda Wencus and Carlos Ferninha.

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

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Blackstone Valley Tech Celebrates SkillsUSA Week

Students and faculty at Blackstone Valley Tech joined others across the nation to celebrate SkillsUSA Week, February 2 to 8. The annual celebration represents over 365,000 SkillsUSA members nationwide to promote career and technical education (CTE). The week highlights the benefits of the SkillsUSA program in developing personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. It also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate how CTE helps prepare local students for college and high-wage, high-demand career fields.

“SkillsUSA students continuously impress me with the work they perform on a daily basis, and they continue to be exceptional advocates of Career and Technical education,” said SkillsUSA Advisor, Robert Jordan. “These students use the multitude of skills they have learned to illustrate how CTE programs truly prepare them for success in the workplace and as future leaders. Our students also demonstrate an understanding of the importance of giving back and serving the community through their frequent volunteerism and leadership at service events.”

Helping raise awareness of SkillsUSA, the BVT Chapter Officers on Advocacy Day, February 4, used social media channels to share their personal stories of how CTE has positively impacted their high school careers. Other activities were thanking their teachers, partnering with the Student Council to distribute letters of hope and teddy bears to patients at Milford Hospital and working with their official charity, Be Like Brit, to deliver donations. Additional information about SkillsUSA is available at ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/SkillsUSA.

School News

2020 Student Journalism Scholarships

The New England Newspaper and Press Association awards up to 10 scholarships each year to aspiring journalists through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England. Applications are open through the deadline of March 27. The foundation strives to encourage and support young people who plan to pursue a career in the newspaper industry.

College students or high school seniors who are studying and acquiring work experience that will prepare them to work in the field of journalism are eligible to apply. They must also be a New England resident, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and be a high school senior planning to attend college the following year or an undergraduate college student studying journalism or a related field.

To demonstrate a serious interest in a career in journalism, applicants must send a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation, and a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication, and or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.

For an application and more information visit NENPACom/students/scholarships

Working Together to an Endangered Animal

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Bats are not out to drink human blood. That is just one of the many facts that Memorial Elementary School 2nd-graders passed on to a group of Milford High School (MHS) students during an inter-school project earlier this month.

After learning all about bats and their ecosystem through different activities and fiction and non-fiction books, the students were inspired to help their endangered flying friends. Deciding that the best way to help would be to give them a safe shelter, an idea was born to collaborate with the Milford High School Buildings & Trades class to build authentic bat houses.

The younger students first designed and constructed prototypes of the bat houses out of cardboard, using math and engineering skills to find the sturdiest and most “comfortable” design for the inhabitants. The houses had to have a place for the bats to roost, had to keep out all the light and hold in the heat, but still have holes for the bats to have air.

“There are fewer and fewer bats every year and we want to save the bats,” said 2nd grader Makayla Keenan, explaining why they were building the houses.

Her classmate John Boccia had a different take on why it was so important to help the bats. “They eat bugs,” he said. “We don’t want too many bugs around because they are gross.”

After a prototype was chosen, the design was sent to the older students to get to work on cutting the wood and organizing the bat houses.

On February 5, the two age groups got together and worked in teams to build and stain the new bat houses.

“It’s really cool to see them having fun building these houses,” said Brian Traya, a MHS senior, who was working to give each student a turn applying stain to a bat house. MHS’s Building Trades teacher Rich Johnson said that the students have been working for a few weeks on cutting the wood that was donated by the Memorial PTO and Home Depot, and putting together some of the materials before the build day.

“It was a great project for everyone,” he said. The second-grade teachers at Memorial said that the project ended up being much more than a basic science lesson about a species.

“The kids were really engaged throughout this whole process,” said Memorial teacher Kathryn Hadfield. “They learned a lot and feel like they are saving the bats now.”

And bringing in the high school to collaborate made it even that more of a learning opportunity for everyone according to 2nd grade teacher Vincent Kierjo.

“It is always valuable to have experiences with older students who they can look up to as role models,” he said. “This is an experience they are going to remember forever.”

The bat houses will be sold by the Memorial PTO and the money raised will go toward the construction of an outdoor classroom for the school.

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Staff Reporter/Columnist

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School News

BVT Celebrates the Practical Nursing Class of 2020

The Blackstone Valley Tech, Practical Nursing Class of 2020, marked the successful completion of one and a half years of work and study, with their commencement on Wednesday, January 22.

During the ceremony, held at BVT, 16 graduates, beaming with pride and dressed in the traditional all-white outfit of nurses, walked the stage and received their nursing certificates and pins to applause from proud BVT staff, family and friends.

“The pinning ceremony is a symbolic welcoming for graduate nurses in the nursing profession,” explained Practical Nursing Coordinator, Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA in her welcoming remarks. “In August of 2018, this group of students came together with a common goal, to become nurses. Given the depth and rigor of this program, they made a pact to support each other as adult learners, with many priorities. We are so proud that they now graduate together, beyond prepared.”

Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick said, “You embody the talent, courage, and knowledge that has become the hallmark of the practical nursing population. Tonight’s graduates have availed themselves of a valuable resource for the residents, hospitals, and healthcare providers of the Blackstone Valley. I look forward to seeing you succeed.”

Rochelle Rivera, Class President, delivered the class address. Focusing on empathy, which she said is best described not in words but the actions of nurses. “Empathy is a nurse who takes their profession seriously, double checks their work, and delivers safe, professional, and holistic care. This nurse views nursing not as a job or a task, but as a service to others to ensure that their patients have the best quality of life possible,” she said. 

Guest speaker, Charlene Gonyor, MSN, RN, BVT Practical Nursing Faculty, commended the graduates. The the Practical Nurse’s Pledge, led by Melanie MacLeod, Class Vice President, was recited during the Ceremony of Lights.

The Practical Nursing Class of 2020, completed the requirements for a certificate in practical nursing and will be eligible to test for the National Council Licensure Examination - Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). Milford residents who graduated were Joyce Anyizi, Melanie L. MacLeod, Jessica Marie Robar Mendall, and Kerri A. Smith.

For more information about the Blackstone Valley Tech Practical Nursing program, visit ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing.

Thimble Pleasures

Quilt Guild Scholarship

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild of Mendon reminds high school seniors that applications for its annual $1000 scholarship to a student who is planning to study a field of visual arts, design or textiles are available at local high school’s guidance office or are available to download at ThimblePleasures.org. The application deadline is April 1.

UMass Amherst September Graduation

Approximately 320 students received bachelor’s degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst this September, 2019. Local students who earned a degree are: Mendon-Aleksa Deric; Milford-Michael Douglas Antonellis and Sydney Caroline Bushard; and Upton-Sansha Satish Khakhar and David Morais.

University of New Hampshire Graduates

Katherine Machione of Mendon and Philip McHenry of Milford graduated from the University of New Hampshire, Durham, in December 2019.
By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Hopedale Boys Hockey co-op has beaten a number of teams for the first time in program history this winter, largely with the help of a group of nine Milford athletes.

“You need Milford in the co-op to compete at the level we are competing at,” said head coach Mike MacQuarrie. “This is the toughest division around and we couldn't compete without Milford. They have brought another level of quality of players to us that allows the co-op to be so successful.”

Hopedale began the week with a 9-4-4 record and has beaten Watertown and Blackstone Valley Tech for the first time ever. Hopedale also knocked off Fitchburg on the road, another program first.

Co-captain P.J. Gray reached a milestone with his 100th career point. He currently ranks second in the league, even though he is a sophomore. “He seems to be learning and getting better every day,” MacQuarrie said. “It’s amazing for a freshman to have that many goals,” MacQuarrie said he is better than most in the league, even though he is a sophomore.

Matt Girard, Joey Mahoney, Eric Landry and Aiden Wendaus have all aided the cause. Girard drew praise from his head coach as someone who could potentially be a captain in the future. “He is probably our most physical defensemen in and game out,” MacQuarrie said. “He is becoming a leader.”

Hopedale has some significant games coming up before turning its attention to the tournament. The Blue Raiders will be shorthanded without Gray, who is on a class trip overseas.

The group has also given its all on the ice throughout the winter, the coach said. "They have a hard working team," Panarelli said. "We win by working hard. We don't have any superstars we can rely on, so everyone has to work hard and it's been great to see that all season."

In her final year with the program, Stansbury has served as one of the team's backup goalies and has seen action in a few games this season. "She is a great influence on the girls," Panarelli said. "She has done well for us when she has gotten in and she is a great kid and a great teammate. The girls love her. She is very positive with the team and works hard in practice."

Bennett was able to earn playing time as a freshman and this season has blossomed into one of the Colonials’ top defensive players. Panarelli said she has improved throughout the course of the season and has produced double digit points for Shrewsbury. In addition to playing significant minutes on the blue line, Bennett also is a member of the team's power play unit.

"She is a scoring defensemen and is only getting stronger," Panarelli said. "It's exciting to see just from last year when she came in and played well, to this year when you can really see the experience and turning into a veteran leader on the defensive corps."

The duo hopes to continue to buoy a Shrewsbury squad that will be thoroughly tested even before the playoffs begin. The Colonials finish the year with three games against other teams ranked in the top 10, including top ranked Austin Prep last weekend.

"I try to schedule a hard schedule so we can really gage where we are," Panarelli said. "We need to use these next games as a tune up for the playoffs. These are all going to be playoff type atmospheres and hopefully they get us ready for when the tournament starts."
The boys’ winter track and field team at Milford High did not have the depth that some of its Hockomock League rivals enjoyed this season, but the Scarlet Hawks turned in some of their best performances of the year during the league meet.

“We had about 16 personal bests among the younger kids,” said head coach Derek Rose. “It has taken them all season, but they are learning how to run some of these races intelligently. A lot of times they want to hold back, but I think they are learning how to put their foot on the gas and just go.”

Rafael Feliciano was not seeded in the 300-meter dash, but he turned in a personal best time and broke the 37-second mark. The run was good enough to finish fifth in the league and move to within two-tenths of a second of the MHS program record.

Anthony Ghalbouni also finished fifth in his event, the 600-meter run, a feat made all the more impressive considering that race is one of the hardest to run.

The tandem of Feliciano and Ghalbouni combined with Sam Borst and Sam Vilt to finish third in the 4x400 relay at the Hock meet. They qualified for this Friday’s Division 3 state meet and shattered their personal best from earlier this year by seven seconds.

Max Manor earned a seventh place finish in the 2-mile run, and is one of the top five mile runners in the state. “He will have a good chance to place at the D3 meet,” Rose said.

Other personal best times at the league meet included Borst with his leg in the 4x400 and Kristhy Sutton in the 300. Freshman Saverio Fulginiti ran his best times in both the 600 and the 4x200 relay and impressed his coach with his progress through the winter. “He was a real long way with a great attitude,” Rose said. “I can’t wait to see him in the future.”

Fulginiti compares to Ghalbouni, Rose said, pointing out that the older runner flashed his times by several seconds each year through hard work. Ghalbouni heads into the state meet with the fifth best attitude, “Rose said. “I can’t wait to see him in the future.”

“Raf and Anthony have been awesome captains,” Rose said. “I went to them before the year and said ‘you guys need to help me out and pull these younger guys along with you.’ They’ve made a couple of points on that middle distance group and, thanks in part to them, we have some good runners coming along.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford Boys Track Saves Best for Last

Shown left to right with their medals are MHS Girls Track team members Kyannon Simas, Sarah Flanagan, Kerry O’Connor and Jenna Mastroianni who ran a 4:47.26 to win the Hockomock League Championship. MHS photo

The Milford High girls winter track and field team has the second smallest roster in the Hockomock League, but that didn’t stop the Scarlet Hawks from riding the strong performances of their underclassmen to a third-place finish.

“I thought it was pretty impressive,” said head coach Derek Rose, summing up the team’s performance.

Milford has been led by some of its younger athletes all season long, most of whom are slated to return for at least one more season. Kerry O’Connor continued to add to her stellar career, winning the 600-meter run with a time of just over 1:35, good enough to shatter the state record by more than two seconds and finish two seconds clear of her nearest competitor.

The Scarlet Hawks also won the 300-meter dash with Sarah Flanagan turning in a personal best time and setting the competition by a full second. Flanagan continued a standout day with a second place finish in the 55-meter dash and by running a leg on the 4x200 meter relay, which won the league title.

In the 55, Flanagan was just a hair faster than her teammate, freshman Kyannon Simas. Rose called her third place finish in the Hockomock “spectacular” especially considering her young age. Simas also earned a top-10 spot in the long jump, finishing 8th.

The league title really team, which includes Flanagan, O’Connor, Simas and Jenna Mastroianni, is not only the best in the league; it’s also the top seeded team heading into Friday’s Division 3 state meet at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston.

“They are about a second and a half favorite,” Rose said. “Anything can happen with running and handoffs, but they are running really well and are just a great group of girls who continue to get better because they keep working.”

The work ethic is something that has come to define this year’s team.

“When we do well, it’s because we have kids who work hard and care about the sport,” Rose said.

Sarah Brogioli, another of those younger track stars, capped off the league meet with a third place finish in the high jump and a seventh place finish in the hurdles. Milford also earned a fourth place finish in the 4x400 relay with O’Connor, Lexi Marcolini, Maren Halpin and Bella Gonzalez.

Perhaps the best news for Rose after such a strong season is that nearly all of his key cogs can return next winter. “There is no question we will have a pretty good base to work from next year,” he said.

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford Girls Track Scores 3rd at Leagues

The Milford High boys swimming and diving team capped off the winter undefeated in dual meet competition, capturing the Hockomock League’s Davenport Division crown and finishing second at the all league meet. The Scarlet Hawks secured the Davenport crown in come from behind fashion, using its depth to outlast Canton in the final meet of the campaign.

“That springboards us into the Hockomock League championship meet,” said head coach David Chaplin. “That was an incredible performance for us.”

Milford amassed 267 points at the league meet, trailing only Franklin’s 296. All three MHS relays placed in the top three and each turned in their best performances of the year.

The 400 freestyle relay quartet of Gil Hobart, Ted Stearns, Jacob Desmond and Joshua Kravetz placed second to earn league all-star honors. That group will swim in the prelims this week as well as the 200 relay. The Scarlet Hawks also continued to rely on their depth.

“The same thing that got us through the dual meet season undefeated got us a second place performance in the league,” Chaplin said. “We got a lot of points in the championship swimming when the scoring goes down 16 places and we were getting two to three kids in the top-16.”

“We were just accruing points all the way through,” the coach added. “It was a real team effort.”

Chaplin said every swimmer on the team put together their best performances at the end of the year and 10 of the 16 swimmers contributed to the scoring. “That puts us up to the next level,” Chaplin said.

Milford swam well at the sectional meet as well last weekend at MIT. The Hawks will send three relay teams to the state meet this weekend at Boston University along with Liam Bennett, who qualified in the breast stroke and won his heat at the sectionals. “He has been a come-from-behind swimmer all year, but this meet I told him he needs to try to win it from wire to wire and really work,” Chaplin said. “He put it all together, it was the fastest swim of his career.”

Bennett will join Desmond, Hobart and Kravetz at the state meet in the medley relay. “We will have all of our A groups going at BU,” Chaplin said. “We are expecting some great things out of these relays.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Depth Helps MHS Boys Swim to League 2nd Place

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Bennett will join Desmond, Hobart and Kravetz at the state meet in the medley relay. “We will have all of our A groups going at BU,” Chaplin said. “We are expecting some great things out of these relays.”
Milford High has a long tradition of athletic success, but over the past couple of years a group of MHS students have been able to succeed in a different, virtual arena.

An electronic sports, or e-sports, team was formed a year ago and managed to advance to the postseason in both campaigns. This year's group, consisting of Leonardo Paula, Yuri Campos, Luiz Fernando Pereira, Gabriel Fernandes and Lucas Fernandez, competed from the computer lab at the school, taking on teams from other schools through the regular season and playoffs.

"Sports have been such a critical foundational part of high schools and now we have access to e-sports," said Steve Mullahoo, the coach of the team. "I cannot speak more good things about this whole process and experience."

Mullahoo is very familiar with the game the team plays, called League of Legends, and became the squad's coach last year. League of Legends is a multiplayer online battle arena game and one of the most prominent and popular e-sports games in the world, with championship tournaments in Europe, North America and Asia. The game has been gaining popularity with organized teams at the collegiate level and is now filtering down to high schools. "The high school e-sports infrastructure is still sparse and somewhat unsupported," Mullahoo said. "Seventeen states can participate and make a team or multiple teams. Some schools will have a varsity and junior varsity League of Legends teams." Most teams consist of five to seven players, Mullahoo said, and the competition can be set up similar to other sports in which different players play different positions. Some colleges are even starting to scout high school students based on their potential skill in e-sports, Mullahoo said. One of the interesting aspects of Milford's team this year is that all five members are fluent Portuguese speakers and spoke that language when competing, something Mullahoo said improved the team's communication during matches. "Having an entire sports team of these Portuguese-speaking, Brazilian players was super fun and interesting," Mullahoo said. "I think we had an edge over other teams because we had five players all speaking the same language and they were comfortable with it and with each other."

And the team worked hard, practicing multiple times per week, studying the game and improving their individual and collective skills. "It's such an interesting time for e-sports," Mullahoo said, noting the rapid growth at the high school and collegiate level. "We are really seeing what e-sports can do and Milford was proudy able to participate."

Members of the Milford High School e-sports team are, l-r: Leonardo Paula, Yuri Campos, Luiz Fernando Pereira, Gabriel Fernandes and Lucas Fernandez. Contributed photo

Sports

Milford Finds Success in E-Sports Arena

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

SPORTSFLASH

By Chris Villani

There are a couple of members of the Milford High boys' basketball program who know what winning a league title is like, but they wear suits to games instead of gym shorts. Head coach Paul Seaver was part of back-to-back league championship teams in 2006 and 2007 and assistant coach Chris Trafecante was part of the last league title team for MHS in 2013.

This year's team has the chance to add its own banner to the wall in the MHS gym. The Scarlet Hawks, who qualified for the district tournament last Friday with a win over North Attleboro, began the week needing one win to clinch a share of the Hockomock League's Davenport Division and are two wins shy of winning the league outright.

"These kids have an opportunity to put a banner on the wall and it's something to that would mean a lot to them and a lot to me," Seaver said.

Milford needed 16 games to earn a spot in the tournament this winter, the fastest an MHS team has qualified for the postseason since the last league title squad in 2013.

Junior guard Ben Blanchard has led the way in scoring at nearly 15 points per game. Over the second half of the season, the talented outside shooter has found other ways to score as teams have keyed in on defending his ability from the perimeter.

Jordan Darling, a junior forward, has also been a key contributor for the Hawks, scoring 25 points and pulling down 11 rebounds in the tourney-clinching win over North Attleboro. "He has exploited some teams he feels unstoppable against," Seaver said. "He has always been a guy who has trusted in his talent but now he is starting to really understand his potential and run with it."

On the season, Darling is scoring north of 14 points per game. Senior Cobby Pires, a two-time captain, has also averaged in double figures. "He runs the show for us," Seaver said.

With only a few games left in the regular season, the chance to lock up a Hockomock title and the Division 2 Central Mass tournament all ahead, Seaver said experienced players like Pires will be integral to the Scarlet Hawks' chances at a deep run.

"We are at the point in the season when it's time for seniors and leaders to do things to help us win," he said. "Our guys have showed that over the last week."