Milford Prepares for COVID-19 Coronavirus

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

While there is no known case of anyone in Milford having the COVID-19, coronavirus disease, Milford officials quietly have been preparing for any possible outbreak.

An “Emergency Preparedness Team” consisting of staff from the town’s Health Department, School Department, Police Department and Fire Department along with Milford Regional Medical Center have been meeting to share information including daily updates from the Massachusetts Department of Health.

“Everyone is making sure everyone has the most updated information,” said Milford Health Officer Jacquelyn Murphy. “I don’t think there’s a cause for panic.” Murphy said. “You’ve got to live your life and be smart about it.”

Some people were concerned that a student trip to Italy last month could have brought the coronavirus to Milford, but Murphy noted she is “in close contact with the schools.” The students actually returned to Milford before the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy and none has had any symptoms, she said. Milford Regional Medical Center is equipped with test kits to check for the coronavirus, Murphy said, but cautioned they are not for everyone. Under the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s strict conditions, test kits may only be used on people recently returning from mainland China and showing symptoms of COVID-19, Murphy said. Although Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said on March 10, 2020 the “infection may not last past March,” he made it clear that the coronavirus could reach the United States. Murphy said they have not seen any cases of COVID-19 in Milford.

“Everyone is making sure everyone has the most updated information,” said Murphy. “I don’t think there’s a cause for panic.”

Paul McIntyre, Director of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Crier on March 10.

As of March 10, the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has sickened more than 100,000 people worldwide with over 700 in the U.S., and killed nearly 3,000. Originating from Wuhan, China, the coronavirus has spread to more than 40 countries, with some of the hardest hit including China, Japan, South Korea and Italy.

With schools already on high alert for influenza this season, what other precautions are districts taking to prevent the spread of Coronavirus?

“We are thoughtfully looking at ‘what if’ scenarios right now,” said Anthony E. Steele, II, Assistant Superintendent/Principal of Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) during an interview with The Crier on Feb 27. Steele said that since the Department of Education put guidelines for schools on preparedness practices, BVT has been focusing on a number of factors that could affect operations, staff and students. “We have been dessibling our efforts to bring awareness about best practices for infection control,” said Steele. “Areas that the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommends schools focus on such as sanitization methods and proper hand washing.”

With an already tough flu season for the school, Steele said that the Facilities Department has taken extra precautions to sanitize classrooms and common areas of the school in order to minimize the spread of contagions. Trips domestically and abroad have also been cancelled.

“Hopefuly we won’t get to that point,” commented McIntyre, who went on to say that they are still reviewing their options in the unlikely event that schools will need to close for a long period of time.

That same planning has been happening back at BVT as well. “That is a difficult decision, but we have started to look at our infrastructure and capabilities in order to provide online education in that scenario,” commented Steele. “We are not alarmed but we would rather be thinking ahead than be behind.”
Antique Appraisal Night

The Upton Historical Society will sponsor an Antique Appraisal Night, Friday, March 27 at 7 p.m. in the Upton VFW, Rt. 140, with appraisals by Tom Tomaszek, noted antiques dealer and appraiser. The event is open to the public.

The cost of appraisals for members $6 for one item, $10 for two, non-members $7 for one item, $12 for two or a $3 entrance fee. There is a two item limit. Audience members do not have to have an item appraised to attend. The total number of appraisals will be limited based on available time. Owners are responsible for their own items.

Tomaszek, who has a degree in History and Anthropology from Rhode Island College, has appeared at Historical Society programs in the past presenting an interesting and informative program. His ability to provide detailed background on a wide variety of items is amazing. Even those without an item to be appraised will enjoy his presentation.

Tomaszek entered the antiques business in 1964 at the age of 12, was apprenticed with the House that Jack Built Antiques in Bellingham, spent much of 1970-80s traveling in Europe, as well as Japan and Singapore studying antiques and exhibited at East coast shows for decades. Tomaszek has over 30 years of antiques and estate planning and selling with expertise in numismatics (coins and tokens), militaria (military antiques) ephemera, pre-1900 stamps, fine jewelry of the Georgian to Edwardian period, artwork, and American folk art.

Living in Blackstone, he displays and sells in antique cooperative shops in New England.

Blackstone State Park Interpretive Programming

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation announces the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park March 2020 Interpretive Programming Schedule. All activities are held at the River Bend Farm, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, unless otherwise listed and are for all ages unless an age range is noted. Children must always be accompanied by an adult. Call the park, 508-278-7604, for more information.

Canal Walk, Friday, March 6 and 20 at 1 p.m. A two-mile guided walk along the Blackstone Canal following the Blackstone River Greenway. The walks explore the canal's historical and cultural significance and its role in the farm to factory transformation of the Blackstone Valley. All walks end at the start location. If conditions permit, bring snowshoes and hiking poles. The walks on March 6 and 20 are at River Bend Farm.

Brown Bag Along the Blackstone, Thursday, March 19, 12 noon. Pack a lunch and watch an episode of Along the Blackstone at River Bend Farm Visitor Center.

Boots Along the Blackstone, Thursday, March 19, 1 p.m. Join an interpreter in a leisurely two mile walk along the tow path while discussing the stories and history uncovered in the episode of Along the Blackstone watched during Brown Bag along the Blackstone.

The Center for Pain Medicine Opens at Milford Regional

Brigham and Women’s Center for Pain Medicine at Milford located in the Hill Health Center, part of Milford Regional Medical Center, is now open, offering a comprehensive approach to pain management focused on alleviating symptoms, restoring function and encouraging emotional health.

It is led by Medical Director Victor Wang, MD, PhD, a neurologist who specializes in pain medicine - including chronic issues such as low back, neck and joint pain - with a “whole person approach” to treating his patients. Under his direction, the Center for Pain Medicine offers a multi-disciplinary team approach that works with primary care physicians, spine surgeons and other specialists to provide a thorough and individually tailored program for patients to manage their pain.

Dr. Wang earned a degree in animal physiology and neuroscience, and a degree in psychology from the University of California at San Diego. He later completed a combined MD/PhD in the Medical Scholars Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He performed a residency program at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and a pain medicine fellowship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Dr. Wang is board certified in both neurology and pain medicine and holds appointments in both the anesthesiology and neurology departments at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. In addition, Dr. Wang is an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

At the Center for Pain Medicine, the team offers services that include anesthesiology, psychiatry, psychology, nursing, neurology and physical therapy to treat a variety of conditions including back pain, abdominal pain, vasculitis pain, headaches, neuropathic pain, neck pain, pancreatitis, pelvic pain, cancer pain, peripheral neuropathy and chronic post-surgical pain.

While pain is personal and varies from patient to patient, Dr. Wang’s goal remains the same – to help each patient improve. “I try to look at the whole patient, and bring a different approach to pain – not only how the patient defines the pain, but how I interpret the symptoms. It’s about the patient’s experience and the patient’s experience in their life,” says Dr. Wang. “You always have to discuss with the patient their expectations, but my goal is to see improvement, however you may define that for yourself, so you can ultimately have a better quality of life.”

“We are pleased to offer pain management services to our patients with the opening of the Brigham and Women’s Center for Pain Management at Milford,” says Edward J. Kelly, President & CEO, Milford Regional Medical Center. “Dr. Wang is a highly respected physician whose unique approach to pain management will provide physical and emotional relief to patients across our region.”

Milford Town Crier
MARCH 13, 2020
6th Annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair

The MA Department of Developmental Services, Kennedy-Douglas Family Support Center, Milford Commission on Disability and Milford Family & Community Network CFCE will host its free 26th annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair on Saturday, March 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Milford High School Cafeteria, snow date is March 21. There will be a wide range of exhibitors who work with families from the prenatal stage through adolescence, including health care professionals, social services, community and educational programs, day care providers and small businesses. There will be entertainment throughout the day. Exhibitors are all encouraged to include a child-friendly activity for the kids. The Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program (MYCHIP) will be provided again this year by the Montgomery Lodge of Milford, Ancient Free Accepted Masons. MYCHIP is the most comprehensive service of its kind anywhere. The program is free to the public, with all of the identifying items generated during the event given to the child's family.

In addition, there will be a supervised obstacle course running all day along with a supervised bounce house, fun for youngsters of all ages. And last but not least bring a favorite stuffed friend or doll for the Teddy Bear Clinic!

The Fair is a great vehicle for families to learn about all the community has to offer. For more information, call Sara Humiston at 508-277-4981.

Thanks To Yanks Supplies
a Taste of Home

Michael Shain, the founder and president of Thanks To Yanks, is happy to report that the care packages recently shipped to deployed U.S. service men and women have been joyfully received. Frank Licursi is one of those soldiers who was happy to receive a taste of home. Thanks To yanks is a local 501c3 Charity that is dedicated to serve those who serve and the families who love and support them. For more information, visit ThanksToYanks.org or like them on Facebook. Contributed photo

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Camping in the Winter

Members of Milford Brownie Troop 64720 enjoyed a winter camping trip in Harvard during early February. The Brownie practiced outdoor skills including building fires, tying knots, and making bird feeders. Troop members pictured, l-r, are: front row: Isabella Michel, Kaia Demers, Claire Via and Vanessa Perez. Back row: Olivia Ingemi, Tessa Perrins, Mila Cales, Lily Schwenke, Ella Knapp, Alessa Ingemi, Regina Cincotta and Ellie Wallace. Brownie Troop 64720 photo
Coronavirus: the elderly and people with compromised immune systems should be vaccinated first. The vaccine is not yet available, but Murphy said it will be ready in six months. The first dose will be for COVID-19, and the second dose will be for the approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The vaccine will be available to the public in March 2021. The public should not wear face masks to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
New Police Chief

He described a process of first realizing you made a mistake, then accepting the consequences of that mistake, next learning from it and not repeating it.

Kingkade asked him about building relationships and community support for police. “I’m a very visible person,” Rhoden replied. He talked about walking through the community and talking to people, stopping in coffee shops, visiting schools and churches, handing out candy on Halloween and having “Pizza in the Precinct.” “It’s important to build those relationships,” he said. “I like to be innovative. I like to be creative. I like to have fun.”

One of Walsh’s main concerns was growing the existing force so that an internal candidate could become the chief. Rhoden described one simple way of giving people the opportunity to act as they were at a higher rank. He talked about offering training opportunities based on a person’s strengths and weaknesses. “The members in any organization want to feel valued,” Rhoden said.

Rhoden took advantage of being the finalist the longest distance away from Milford to spend some time in town. He talked about visiting various parts of town, walking on the Upper Charles Trail and visiting the Police Department. “I get a vibe for the area just from being around the people, he said. In terms of the Police Department, Rhoden noted that “The department was very open” and “I was valued, “ Rhoden said.

When Will Rhoden Take Over?

Now that James Rhoden has been selected as the town’s new Police Chief, there needs to be a process to bring him to town as quickly as possible while recognizing he needs to relocate, according to Selectmen Chairman William Buckley. At the same time, Interim Police Chief Michael Pighetti needs to stay on board until Rhoden is acclimated, the chairman added.

Speaking during a brief Board of Selectmen meeting held on March 4, Buckley said Rhoden may be in town as soon as next Monday as he works on contract negotiations with Town Administrator Richard Villani and Town Council Charles Boddy. The exact date Rhoden will start in Milford has yet to be determined, Buckley said.

Hospital Patient Advisory Council Needs New Members

Milford Regional Medical Center is seeking community members from their 19 town service area to serve on the hospital’s Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC). Now in its 10th year of operation, the PFAC is dedicated to promoting a partnership between the patients, families, and working professionals affiliated with the Medical Center to promote and foster patient-centered care.

The PFAC at Milford Regional, which meets monthly, includes staff from the Medical Center’s administration and departments, and former patients or those who have had family members receive care at the hospital. Community members must reside within Milford Regional’s service area which includes Milford, Hopkods, Mendon and Upton. Members commit to a two-year term and have the opportunity to participate on various committees, task forces and advisory boards.

Those interested in becoming a member of Milford Regional’s Patient Family Advisory Council must complete and submit an application form by Friday, March 27. For more information on the PFAC at Milford Regional and to obtain an application, MilfordRegional.org and click on “About MRMC” (in the upper right corner), then click on the Patient & Family Advisory Council (PFAC). Or contact Michelle Barry 508-422-2848 or michbarry@milfordreg.org

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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.

Wednesday, March 18

Last Day to Register to Vote at Annual Town Meeting. Town Clerk’s Office, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Commission on Disability, Senior Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 19

Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition, Trinity Episcopal Church, 6 p.m.

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

The Advertiser’s Club Directory is a listing of those businesses that have contracted to advertising at least 12 times a year in The Milford Town Crier. Features include a listing in this directory, discounts and a feature article about your business (size and frequency requirements apply).

Business Name .................................................. Ad on Page

American Climbers ................................................. next

Areas Glass ....................................................... 14

Barry Marcus Watch Maker ................................ 11

Bright Insurance ................................................... 7

Boston Eye and Laser Group .............................. 8

Canvas & Cup .................................................... next

Charles River Bank ........................................... 5

CPR Inc. .............................................................. 9

Crystal Pools ...................................................... 12

Gallo Moring & Storage ..................................... next

Gentle Dental, Milford ........................................ 5

Guerinier & Fanlon, Inc. ...................................... 9

Health Source Chiropractic ......................... next

Homefront Credit Union ..................................... next

Inland Plumbing .................................................. 12

Imperial.com .................................................... 1, 3, 15, 20

Iolitec Overhead Doors ..................................... 12

Ivy Plumbing ..................................................... 12

Kempman Paint & Lambar ................................ next

Loose Properties Group .................................. next

Mac Med Spa .................................................... 7

Ashley Oil & Propane Company ......................... 12

MetroWest Oral Surgical Associates .............. 5

Milford Dental .................................................. next

Milford Federal ................................................ 17

Milford-Franklin Eye Associates ....................... next

Mt. St. Charles Academy ................................. 12

Nathan’s Jewelers .............................................. 14

Park Max Dental ................................................ 17

PAWS Real & Discount .................................. next

Simmonet Electric ............................................ next

Templeman Tow Service ................................. 12

Towne Dental and Family Services ................. next

Well Dental ..................................................... 9

Women’s Total Body Fitness / Mass Up ........... next

Zeith Mortgages ............................................. next

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Milford Morristown

Developing a business relationship.

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Milford's Best Snow People

Members of the Kidman family, mom Laura and her daughter Julia, built a Mamma and Baby snowman on two days in early December. The Mamma is over 5’2” tall and the Baby was too small to measure. Kidman Family photo

The Tuccio family – Julia, Matt and son Matthew – made this dapper snowman in mid-January. It was 4’ tall and 3’ wide at the base. Tuccio Family photo

Opinion

RUMINATIONS

By Kevin Budden

It may be a bit bruised and battered, but Article 32 of the Town By-Laws worked as intended. In other words, the Police Chief Selection Review Committee recommended finalists for the position of Police Chief to the Board of Selectmen. That board, in turn, interviewed the finalists and appointed one to be correct.

• The committee has an even number of members, which makes it hard to obtain a majority vote if there is a tied vote.
• There is no provision for the selection committee to disband once its work is done. Technically, the current committee no longer exists and the one appointed during the prior search almost 20 years ago – are still in business.
• There is no specific language dealing with the issue that happened twice during the current search – namely, what to do when the person holding a position (chair of the Board of Selectmen and Police Chief) on the committee was replaced during the search. The language should be cleared up so that a legal opinion from Town Counsel is not needed to determine who is entitled to be on the committee.

Despite all the speculation before and during the search process about who would or would not become the new chief, I am reminded of back when I was in college and President Richard Nixon resigned. Whether you liked or disliked him, the key fact was that the system worked. We had an orderly succession of power.

On a much smaller and more local level, the system worked here in Milford. A by-law was enacted by the elected Town Meeting Members. People were appointed to the selection committee per that by-law’s terms and they did the tasks required by the by-law.

Again, the system worked. You are entitled to not like the end result, but it worked.

On a different note, how much longer will the state Department of Public Utilities keep the town and the Milford Water Company waiting to hear exactly how much the DPU thinks the utility’s assets are worth?

The DPU was “supposed” to issue its determination by the end of 2019 but, here we are, almost at the end of the first quarter of 2020. After reading through the pages and pages of back-and-forth on different valuation methods and estimates presented to the DPU by both sides, I understand the magnitude of the state regulatory agency’s task. But, at some point, the DPU has got to come to a decision.

The last numbers I read were the Milford Water Company thinks its assets are worth $149 million, while the town says they are worth only $40 million. That $109 million difference is big difference to resolve, but the DPU shouldn’t be leaving both sides hanging on indefinitely.

HELP WANTED

Writer/Reporter Wanted

Would you like to write for the Town Crier? Town Crier Publications is looking for an experienced writer/reporter to cover school committee meetings and related events in our coverage area – Milford, Mendon and Upton. Journalism background preferred but other writing experience will be considered. Must be able to conduct interviews, attend meetings or events, meet deadlines, and have basic word processing and email capability. Photography skills a plus. No phone calls please. Apply by sending a resume and cover letter plus writing samples to TownCrierEditor@gmail.com.

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Recent Actions by Milford Town Boards

By Kevin Ruddin  Staff Reporter/Columnist

Board of Sewer Commissioners
• Voted to send letters to the Planning Board stating that the Sewer Department has no issues with plans to convert the Mobil gasoline stations at 134 Cedar St. (Rte. 45) and 140 Medway Rd. (Rte. 109) to self-service stations. (March 3)
• Voted to send a letter to the Planning Board stating that the Sewer Department needs information about a proposed sewer force main at 1-3 Industrial Dr. before it could comment on a preliminary subdivision plan. (March 3)
• Voted to send a letter to the Planning Board stating the Sewer Department has no issues with plans for a restaurant to be located at 283 Main St. (Rte. 16), provided that a grease trap is installed. (March 3)
• Approved a three-year new contract with Synagro Technologies to remove sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. (March 3)

Planning Board
• Continued until March 17 a site plan review of Global Companies, LLC’s request to convert the Mobil gasoline service station at 40 Medway Rd. (Rte. 109) into a self-service station. A company representative said Global Companies is still working with Town Engineer Mike Dean regarding Dean’s request to close the Medway Rd. entrance closest to Beaver St. (March 3)
• Continued until March 31 a site plan review request by Tata & Howard, the Milford Water Company’s engineering consultants, to build a new, 4,800 square foot metal building housing a water treatment facility for the Godfrey Brook wellfield to be located at 14 South Cedar St. Town Planner Larry Dunkin said the plans submitted to date were incomplete. (March 3)
• Voted to send the Zoning Board of Appeals an unfavorable recommendation on a special permit request by Russet Rental, Inc. to convert the basement office area at 42 Pine St. to two additional apartments and to add another unit to the top floor. (March 3)

Upcoming Candidate Forums
There are two upcoming candidate forums for voters to learn more about the candidates running in the April 7 Annual Town Election.
• Thursday, March 19: Citizens for Milford will hold its annual candidate forum at St. Mary’s Parish Hall. At 6:30 p.m., voters can meet the candidates. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. Those unable to attend the forum at St. Mary’s Parish Hall. At 6:30 p.m., voters can meet the candidates. The forum will begin at 7 p.m. Those unable to attend the forum will be able to view the video as soon as it is available.
• Monday, March 23: The Milford Senior Center will hold its annual candidate forum at 10 a.m. The forum will be tape and then air it several times before the election. Citizens for Milford will also provide a link on CitizensforMilford.com to the video as soon as it is available.

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The Town Crier was established over 25 years ago. We are the good news newspaper. We know our readers and advertisers. Advertising with us means supporting the community and recognizing the strength of a smalltown USA.
Submitted by Mary Frances Best, Milford Town Library
Poster Exhibit: International Women’s Day
Stephen Lewis returns to the Milford Town Library for the sixth time with a selection from his enormous international poster collection. Lewis has amassed over 9,000 labor and political posters gathered from all over the world.

The current exhibit features International Women’s Day, celebrated on March 8. This year is the International Women’s Day’s 110th Anniversary. There are posters here from many countries and in many languages, but all carrying the message that women can and have been “doing it” from the beginning of time, often by overcoming incredible obstacles.

The posters are a graphic delight as well as being politically inspiring, exhibiting a riot of color and democracy.

The posters are a graphic delight as well as being politically inspiring, exhibiting a riot of color and democracy. They are: The Woman of Others Sun by Isabel Wilkinson, Saving Capitalism by Robert Reich, Excited by Matthew Desmond, and Nickel and Dime by Barbara Ehrenreich.

Submissions are due March 31. For complete details visit Prospect.org/essaycontest. Winners will be awarded for two categories: Juniors and Seniors, and Freshmen and Sophomores. There will be first, second and third prize winners in each level. Winning essays will be published online at Prospect.org, with a selection in print.

Center Book Group
The Center Book Group will discuss Good Riddance by Elinor Lipman on Tuesday, March 17 at 1 p.m. at the Ruth Ann Bleakney Senior Center. Lipman brings her trademark wit and humanity to her latest novel with the premise of a yearbook, complete with honest assessments of those on its pages, being discarded in Maria Kondo lot of “tidying up.” The year book is found by a filmmaker and neighbor, whose documentary reveals much about the owner’s mother’s secrets. Newcomers are always welcome to join the Center Book Group. To reserve a copy of Good Riddance call the information desk at 508-473-2445, ext. 2.

Women’s History – on Display
International Women’s Day was March 8, but we celebrate Women’s History Month throughout March. On the Round Table near the Circulation Desk is a selection of books, CDs, DVDs and even the box of our most difficult poster – Rosie the Riveter.

Tax Forms
Federal 1040 and 1040-SR forms and instructions Booklets and Massachusetts Resident and Non-Resident Tax forms have been received. Forms are on a cart near the entrance. Additional forms will be on the cart when they arrive.

Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle – free passes
Jacob Lawrence spent five years researching American history at the 135th Street branch of the New York Public Library before he began to paint his epic series, Struggle: From the History of the American People. For the first time in over 60 years, the 30 paintings and their accompanying title captions, which had never been shown in a museum, will be on view at the Essex Peabody Museum, Salem.

To celebrate the integral role libraries have played in this compelling story, the museum has provided libraries throughout the state with free passes to the exhibit that runs through April 26. Passes admit two non-members free of charge and are available at the Circulation Desk.

Ongoing Programs
The Cookbook club will meet on Wednesday, April 8, bringing food to share from My Greek Table, by Diane Kochilas. Somehow Greek food and Easter just seem to go together. New members are always welcome. Anyone interested may pick up a copy of My Greek Table at the Circulation Desk. Just remember to let Mary Frances know what you’ve decided to bring at mfbest@cwmars.org or 508-473-2445 x219.

Checkout Receipts by Email
Patrons now have the option of receiving their Checkout Receipts by email instead of being printed by staff. This may be arranged in one of two ways: during the registration or edit process, staff can check to have the checkout receipt emailed to the patron by default. Patrons are now able to enable this setting when logging into their account on the catalog, through the Notification Preferences. Doing this will work the same as if staff enabled it.

Chess Club
The Chess Club which meets on Wednesdays from 1 to 5 p.m. for all ages now has Chess Lessons available on Saturdays at 1 p.m. for all ages as well. Pre-registration is required. Check with Pat or Jean, Chess Club coordinator on a Wednesday for more information.

ESL Classes
The winter/spring 2020 semester of free drop-in classes for adults wants to improve their English Listening and speaking skills are held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the ESL Room until June. Check with the Reference Desk for the schedule. A new addition to the schedule is the Monday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Grammar Group.

Summer is not provided and children may not be left unattended at the library, so please make arrangements for childcare. Los niños NO pueden quedar solos en la biblioteca. Por favor, hacer otros planes para el cuidado.

Ongoing Programs
• Food Pantry donations from the library, which are greatly appreciated are delivered weekly by a staff member
• Museum Passes are available to many area museums, zoos and attractions thanks to the Friends of the Library.
• Membership to the Friends of the MTL is $30 a year. Forms are available at the Circulation Desk.
• Book Sale Table has items for all ages replenished each Monday.

The Milford, MA location incorporates both Optometrists and Ophthalmologists who work as a unit to provide each patient with the best care. Our doctors are all accepting new patients and same day appointments are available. To book an appointment please call (617)366-0062.

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The Cookbook Club will meet on Wednesday, April 8, bringing food to share from My Greek Table, by Diane Kochilas. Somehow Greek food and Easter just seem to go together. New members are always welcome. Anyone interested may pick up a copy of My Greek Table at the Circulation Desk. Just remember to let Mary Frances know what you’ve decided to bring at mfbest@cwmars.org or 508-473-2445 x219.

Checkout Receipts by Email
Patrons now have the option of receiving their Checkout Receipts by email instead of being printed by staff. This may be arranged in one of two ways: during the registration or edit process, staff can check to have the checkout receipt emailed to the patron by default. Patrons are now able to enable this setting when logging into their account on the catalog, through the Notification Preferences. Doing this will work the same as if staff enabled it.

Chess Club
The Chess Club which meets on Wednesdays from 1 to 5 p.m. for all ages now has Chess Lessons available on Saturdays at 1 p.m. for all ages as well. Pre-registration is required. Check with Pat or Jean, Chess Club coordinator on a Wednesday for more information.

ESL Classes
The winter/spring 2020 semester of free drop-in classes for adults who want to improve their English Listening and speaking skills are held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the ESL Room until June. Check with the Reference Desk for the schedule. A new addition to the schedule is the Monday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Grammar Group.

Children are not provided and children may not be left unattended at the library, so please make arrangements for childcare. Los niños NO pueden quedar solos en la biblioteca. Por favor, hacer otros planes para el cuidado.

Ongoing Programs
• Food Pantry donations from the library, which are greatly appreciated are delivered weekly by a staff member
• Museum Passes are available to many area museums, zoos and attractions thanks to the Friends of the Library.
• Membership to the Friends of the MTL is $30 a year. Forms are available at the Circulation Desk.
• Book Sale Table has items for all ages replenished each Monday.

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Hopkinton Wants to Extend Sewer Agreement

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Hopkinton town officials met with the Board of Sewer Commissioners on March 3 to discuss extending the inter-municipal agreement to send up to 200,000 gallons of sewage per day from businesses on the neighboring town’s South St. to Milford’s wastewater treatment plant. Hopkinton promised an immediate resumption of $120,000 dollars a day – but asked for a lower price.

Hopkinton Town Manager Norman Khumalo outlined a desired two-step process: First, the towns would – even though their agreement currently has expired – continue to operate under its terms. Second, the two towns would negotiate a new agreement.

John Westerling, Hopkinton’s director of Public Works, noted that after Lozna Biologics moved out of its South St. facility two years ago, there was no immediate need to send sewage to Milford. That’s why there’s been virtually no sewage – and the revenue for years ago, there was no immediate need to send sewage to Milford. “I don’t blame them for trying,” Morelli said.

But, with another company moving into the vacant building, “We would like to start flowing this way,” Westerling said, referencing the meeting in Milford Town Hall. Hopkinton also sends sewage to Westborough, but at a third the cost Milford charges, he noted. “For now, we choose the less expensive option,” he said.

John Mainini, Milford’s director of Sewer Operations, challenged the three times higher figure, noting adding in the share of capital costs for Westborough’s treatment plant that Hopkinton has to pay, the amounts Milford and Westborough charge Hopkinton are roughly similar.

Also, charging the same treatment rate as Westborough would be less than Milford’s sewer users pay, he added. “We can’t give you less than the town of Milford is paying,” Mainini said. Milford Board Chair Thomas Morelli said he not against extending the expired agreement, but had problems with lowering the rate.

After the Hopkinton officials left, the consensus of the Milford board was against lowering their rate to what Hopkinton requested. “We gave a little bit there,” he noted. After the Hopkinton officials left, the consensus of the Milford board was against lowering their rate to what Hopkinton requested. “I don’t blame them for trying,” Morelli said.

The Mendon officials decided to have Hopkinton’s town counsel discuss a new contract with Milford Town Counsel Charles Reddy.

Biden, Trump Win Primary in Milford

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford followed the “Super Tuesday” national trends in the March 3 Presidential Primary Election, with Democrat Joseph Biden and Republican Donald Trump winning their respective ballots. A total of 5,873 registered voters participated in the election – a 32.9 percent turnout.

The top three winners in the Democratic primary were: Biden (1,6190 votes), Bernie Sanders (1,239 votes) and Elizabeth Warren (688 votes). In the Republican primary, Trump received 1,064 votes, followed by William Weld with 88 votes and Roque De La Fuente with 21 votes.

Dario Hunter topped the Green-Rainbow ballot into mulch, Road materials turned into gravel. John Mainini, Milford’s director of Sewer Operations, challenged the three times higher figure, noting adding in the share of capital costs for Westborough’s treatment plant that Hopkinton has to pay, the amounts Milford and Westborough charge Hopkinton are roughly similar.

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Town Sets Financial Goals for Next Fiscal Year

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen voted on March 2 to adopt a broad set of financial goals and objectives for the fiscal year beginning on July 1. "It's that time of the year again," Finance Director Zachary Taylor said, explaining that all proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2021 are due in his office today. The approved goals and objectives are:

- Potentially put additional funds into the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) account.
- Potentially put additional funds into two special revenue funds: Compensated Absence and Injured on Duty.
- Continue preparation to acquire the Milford Water Company as the town awaits a valuation decision from the state Department of Public Utilities. This includes a moratorium on any new bonding.
- Close out the authorization to borrow money for the now-completed new Woodland Elementary School.
- Prioritize and implement the town's updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan.
- Build the Central St. parking lot advocated by the Downtown Revitalization Committee.
- Fund the Parks Department's plan to rebuild the public pool at Fino Field.
- Keep the operational budget under control.
- Target a single tax rate increase to be less than three percent.
- Create a properly structured Information Technology department with a director.
- Pursue Godfrey Brook culvert repairs if grants are available.
- Replace the Inspections Department's software.
- Fund the positions of Assistant Town Administrator and Human Resources Generalist.
- Demolish the dilapidated building at 72 Depot St.

Chairman William Buckley congratulated Taylor for refining the annual budget process each year. "I've seen the process grow and mature," he said. "This list should be our list." Buckley noted. His colleagues voted to adopt his suggestion of making the items on it not just financial goals, but the strategic goals for the town government.

“"That's a pretty impressive list," Selectman William Kingkade said. As the incoming board chairman next month, Kingkade noted that – with the School Department having the largest part of the budget – he plans to have frequent meetings with the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools to make sure everyone is in agreement on budgetary issues. "He was pretty happy to hear that," Kingkade said about Superintendent Kevin McIntyre. Kingcade added, "The schools make the town. That's why people want to come here and stay here."

Taylor noted the School Department is looking to add 20 or more new teachers next year, with the majority in the Special Education and English Language Learner programs. "In my nine years [serving on the School Committee], I never saw that kind of increase," Selectman Michael Walsh said.

As your Selectman, I will:
- NEVER support a 2 1/2 override or debt exclusion
- ALWAYS support maintaining Milfords dual tax rate
- NEVER support a fee for trash or recycling
- NEVER support a school transportation fee

Paid for the Committee to elect Josh Lioce

- Bake Sale
- Saturday, March 14th
- 8:30am–12:30pm
- The Crystal Room
- 49 Cedar Street
- Please join me and my family for conversation, coffee, homemade food & baked goods.

Josh, Julie, Ava + Nicholas

I ask for your Vote on April 7th to help me Move Milford Forward!
Proven Leadership!

- In 2002, Tom O’Loughlin was appointed Police Chief in Milford. He inherited a department that was demoralized, factionalized and under-performing. It was obvious that an overhaul of the department was necessary.

- Tom’s initial efforts to revitalize the department included: Increased community outreach to determine concerns of our residents, ongoing meetings with his officers for their input, and collaboration with department heads in town for their input.

- New training programs were mandated, additional educational programs were provided, additional funds for new equipment were sought through budget adjustments, and new Federal and State grants were applied for and received.

- For 17 years, Tom dedicated himself to building the Police Department. He worked collaboratively with officers of the department and with residents of our community, always seeking consensus and always solving problems. And thankfully our officers responded!

- These years of dedication to this task resulted in a Police Department that was the pride of the community as well as the envy of many in the area.

These efforts have made the Town of Milford a safer and better place to live.

The Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin believes that these accomplishments and leadership skills have prepared Tom for service as a member of our Board of Selectmen. We respectfully ask for your vote on April 7th.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin
Free Homebuyer Bootcamp

Michael Shain of Bay Equity Home Loans will host a free Homebuyer Bootcamp seminar on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Milford High School, Room A-1. Snow date is Wednesday, March 25.

A panel of experts will discuss and answer questions about the home buying process including mortgage opportunities in the Blackstone River watershed. Free pizza will be served! For more information, call Shain at 508-330-8487 or email mshain@bayeq.com.

History of the Blackstone River

UPTON-The Friends of the Upton State Forest will present a program about the history of the Blackstone River on Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at the Upton VFW, 15 Millford St. (Rt. 140). The program was developed by Mass Audubon Broad Meadow Brook and will be presented by Susan Thomas, a teacher-naturalist and Program Coordinator for the Blackstone River Coalition’s Water Quality Monitoring Program. She will explore the fascinating history of the Blackstone River, talk about the current state of the river and discuss the fun recreational opportunities in the Blackstone River watershed.

Pre-registration is required. Call 508-478-1119 or visit MilfordCommunity.com and click on “Register for Activities”, then select “Adult/Winter/Spring > One-Night Workshops > Homebuyer Bootcamp.” Space is limited.

Celebrate Maple Sugar Month

The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park celebrates Maple Sugar Month at River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge. Sugar Makers Open House is March 14 and 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the drop-in program, see a video about sugaring in the visitor center, enjoy hands-on activities, visit the open sugar house and talk about maple sugaring from tree to table.

For updates during inclement weather and more information, email blackstoneheritage@mass.gov or call 508-278-7604.

Are you a Home Improvement Business? Your ad should be here! WE DIRECT MAIL TO OVER 20,000 ADDRESSES!!!
Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

• Approved the Medal of Liberty Committee’s request to move the “Wall of Heroes” display from Memorial Elementary School to the Town Hall, provided the committee work with Town Administrator Richard Villani to locate a suitable space. “This [location] makes more sense,” committee member Vincent Cilizzi said, “so people can pay homage to those heroes.” Selectmen Chairman William Buckley commented, “It seems like the least we can do for our veterans who’ve passed in the line of duty for our country and our community.” (March 2)
• Approved the group health, dental and life insurance rates for town employees effective May 1. Benefits Coordinator Kelly Capece said health insurance premiums would rise by 3.0 percent after dropping by 3.7 percent last year – meaning the 2020 rate is still below the 2018 rate. Dental and life insurance premiums will remain unchanged, she said. (March 2)
• Granted a Common Victualler license to Mariscos Lagunas, LLC at 206 East Main St. (Rte. 16). Owner Mariana Felipe said the new restaurant will offer a variety of Mexican seafood. The approval was subject to the restaurant getting final approvals from the Board of Health. (March 2)
• Gave Town Treasurer Christopher Pilla approval to use it. People rely on it. ” Committee member Vincent Cilizzi said, “so people can pay homage to those heroes.” Selectmen Chairman William Buckley commented, “It seems like the least we can do for our veterans who’ve passed in the line of duty for our country and our community.” (March 2)
• Accepted the resignation of Brenda Wheelock from the Milford Youth Commission. (March 2)
• Appointed Karlyn Roy to the part-time position of Program Coordinator at the Senior Center at a starting hourly rate of $22.25. Buckley said 49 people applied for the job, and then three were interviewed via phone call and in-person. (March 2)
• Accepted a $100 donation to the Senior Center from the campaign committee of State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford. (March 2)
• Approved a 2.5 percent pay raise for the fiscal year beginning July 1 for the elected town officials and board members eligible to receive salaries or stipends. Selectman Michael Walsh noted the increase is the same percentage increase received this fiscal year. (March 2)

Bus Ridership Continues to Grow

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Ridership on the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority’s bus line in Milford continues to grow, reaching nearly 1,700 riders in the month of January. “This January was leaps and bounds the best month of any so far,” said Brian Long, vice chair of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee. “Almost every single month, year over year, there’s an increase.” The MWRTA bus line in Milford started in August 2016. “It’s definitely showing progress,” commented chair Scott Crisafulli. Long added, “People know about it. People use it. People rely on it.”

Discussing ridership at the committee’s March 4 meeting, Crisafulli noted the town is receiving calls from people planning to run in the Boston Marathon and people who want to watch family members run, asking whether there is bus service from Milford’s hotels into Hopkinton. Unfortunately, there is no direction between the two separate MWRTA routes, he said. Milford resident Jamie Wheelock met with the committee to discuss the idea of evaluating a trial run of making bus ridership free by subsidizing the cost with the community impact fees paid to the town by marijuana grower Sira Naturals. “It’s not a taxpayer expense,” he said, referring to the bus. Wheelock explained that there is a national trend to get people to stop using their cars and ride public transit. The committee took no action on Wheelock’s proposal. Crisafulli estimated the cost at $30,000 per year. Long said the issue would have to be negotiated with the MWRTA. Contacted by the Town Crier, Milford Finance Director Zachary Taylor said the Sira Naturals money is being placed in the town’s Stabilization Fund, an action approved by Town Meeting Members at the October 28, 2019 Special Town Meeting. A two-thirds majority vote by Town Meeting Members would be needed to transfer money out of the Stabilization Fund.

Milford is my home and where I chose to raise a family. I am committed to doing anything I can to make our community a better place for my wife and children. I want to bring the vast knowledge I have acquired being the Northbridge Highway Superintendent back to our community and apply it to make much needed improvements.

Meet the Candidate Brunch

Sunday, March 22nd, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
49 Crystal Room, Cedar Street, Milford MA
$25 donation

I ask for your vote on Tuesday April 7th

Paid for by committee to Re-Elect Scott Crisafulli, 5 Harding St., Milford, MA, crisafulli4highway@gmail.com

THIS JOB TRULY IS A MATTER OF EXPERIENCE.
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH, RE-ELECT EXPERIENCE, VOTE FOR SCOTT CRISAFULLI!

Paid for by committee to Re-Elect Scott Crisafulli, 5 Harding St., Milford, MA, crisafulli4highway@gmail.com

MARCH 13, 2020
Milford Town Crier
13
Free Pajama Party Movie Night
WHTINSVILLE-The Open Sky Community Services and Northbridge High School Rest Buddies is holding a Free Family Movie Night on Friday, April 17 at Open Sky’s GB & Lexi Performance Center, 60 Douglass Rd, Whitinsville at 6 p.m. The PG rated, E.T., Steven Spielbergs touching tale of a homework alien, movie magic for young and old, will be shown. Children and parents are encouraged to wear pajamas to this event, which includes raffles, door prizes and refreshments for sale. Proceeds benefit the Northbridge High School Rest Buddies program and the people with disabilities Open Sky Community Services serves.
Open Sky is an affiliation of two human service agencies, Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts, serves more than 2,000 people through over 100 programs across Massachusetts.
For more information on this event, please contact Lori Girard at 508-266-6566 or lori.girard@openskys.org.

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop
HOPEDALE: The Sacred Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop, 187 Hopedale St. offers the following specials in March – half off on picture frames, activewear, shoes plus men and women’s suits and suit jackets. During the first full week of March fill a bag with clothes for only $5. Open every Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the first and fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Country & Western Dance
UXBRIDGE-The New England Country Music Club will hold a dance from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 15 at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitman St., Uxbridge. Live music provided by Branded Music. Admission charge. For more information, visit Facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

Easter Egg Hunt
MILFORD-Sacred Heart of Jesus in Milford is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 22 in the Bell Town Room in the parish center at 11:30 a.m. Cost is $8 for those age 15 through adult, $6 for those age three to 12 and under two is free. There will be eggs, candy, eggs, cakes, drinks and dinner. Reserve and pay for the admission at the rectory. Bring a camera for photos and a basket for the eggs.

Friends of Mendon Elders Book Sale
MENDON-The Friends of Mendon Elders are sponsoring their 12th Annual Book Sale Friday, March 27 from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and again, Sunday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Besides a large assortment of fiction, nonfiction, science fiction, and children’s books, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, and other previously viewed videos will be for sale. Everything is being sold at unbelievable prices. Books are sorted and organized by author or subject to make shopping easier. The Book Sale takes place at the Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St., Mendon. Proceeds from this fundraiser support the Friends of Mendon Elders.

Hungrytown – Folk Duo
MILFORD-The Hungrytown-Folk Duo will present a concert at the Milford Town Library, Spruce St., on Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Quarry and Granite Rooms. After 15 years of world-wide touring and three album releases, Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson, also known as the folk duo Hungrytown, have earned a reputation for the quality and authenticity of their songwriting. Rebecca Hall is credited with “compositions that sound as timeless as any traditional songs,” while producer/multi-instrumentalist Ken Anderson is lauded for “his instrumental embellishment” and for crafting “gorgeous vocal harmonies.”
Hungrytown released their first CD, Hungrytown in 2008, Any Forgotten Thing in 2011, and Further West in 2015. Suggested donation for this event is free and open to the public.

Creative Feast Cooking Expert
The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford (GGC) will have Liz Barbour, cooking instructor, author and gardener at their Monday, March 16 meeting. She will be at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, 60 North Bow St., Milford. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments. Barbour will present a cookery demonstration on edible herbs and flowers, inviting all on a cooking adventure and sharing two colorful dishes with the audience. Recipes will be shared. Barbour considers cooking a culinary art saying, “We eat with our eyes.” She has a passion for gardening and choosens ingredients for taste, color and contrast when creating dishes. Barbour has written a cookbook, Roast! Roast! Deliciously.
There will also be a display of floral designs presented by GGC members at the Tower Hill Botanical Garden show, in Bloom, and the Boston Flower and Garden show. Welcome Spring, which were held the weekend before the meeting. The Greenleaf Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For further information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Donations Needed
MILFORD-The American Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood or platelets to help maintain a sufficient blood supply and prevent shortages as the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019, COVID-19, rise in the U.S.
Please make an appointment to donate blood now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-7737) or by enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. Blood donors of O Blood and the handful donors are especially needed right now.
Donating Blood is a wonderful opportunity for people who should not hesitate to give or receive blood. There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusions. Donors are needed to report any worldwide transmissions for any respiratory virus, including this coronavirus, from a transfusion.
Blood may be donated at Milford Regional Medical Center, 14 Prospect St., Milford on Friday, March 20 and Monday March 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. plus Wednesday, March 25 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Beyond Your Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant
NORTHBOROUGH-The Hearing Loss Association- Central Massachusetts Chapter is sponsoring an informal Bap Conference. The free event is for people interested in issues affecting them and their loved ones, Beyond My Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant, on Saturday, March 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Northborough Free Library. Everyone including first timers are welcome.
The parking lot for the library is behind the building, accessed via Patty Lane with directions available at Northboroughlibrary.org/AboutHours.asp

Slaterstown Church Cantata
NORTH SMITHFIELD-Saturday, March 29 at 6 p.m. the Slaterstown Congregational Church, 60 North Bow St., under the direction of Music Director John Stapples, will present the Cantata, Worthy is the Lamb, the compelling story of God’s plan to deliver all people from the clutches of sin and death. Refreshments and fellowship follow the program. The church is located at 25 Green St., North Smithfield, R.I.

Chocolate Fest
MILFORD-The New England Humane Society will hold its 16th Annual Chocolate Festival, Sunday, March 22, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the WVF Hall, 123 Hollow St., Milford. A $5 entry fee provides goes toward the purchase of scrumptious baked goods. There will be chocolate cookies, too! More tickets can be purchased inside at the event. In addition to sampling chocolate, a live auction for the kids, raffle prizes, and Easter baskets will be on sale. For more information, call 508-473-7008 or visit MilfordChamber.org.

Thimbles Pleasures Quilt Show
UPTON-This bi-annual Quilt Show in Mendon is holding its bi-annual Quilt Show on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15 at the Blackstone Valley Technical High School in Upton. The event will feature an exhibit of table runners, key fobs, napkins, pillowcases, etc. The proceeds from the show to support Garden Club’s program activities. In addition, a hand-crafted quilt will be raffled on Sunday afternoon at the close of the show. Tickets for this quilt are available from any quilt member and Thimbles@pleasures.org.

Get in on the Act!
WHTINSVILLE:The 11th Annual One Act Play Festival on the buffet is on Friday and Saturday, March 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Upton United Congregational Church, 10 Douglass Rd., Whitinsville. One act plays may include comedies, dramas, musicals, plays, and original pieces written and performed by area theater companies and laymen alike. The Festival is judged after each performance and cash awards, and a trophy, are presented after the last act on Saturday evening. A wine and cheese reception in the Heritage Gallery will be held opening night, Friday, March 27 from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information about participating or to download a submission form, visit, OpenSkyCS.org/news/events/events. This event is sponsored by ValleyCAST and Open Sky Community Services.

Knights of Columbus Foxwoods Trip
MILFORD-The Knights of Columbus Valencia 80 is sponsoring a trip to Foxwoods on Friday, April 17. The bus will leave the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church, Milford, at 4 p.m. and leave Fournous House on School Street at 4:30 p.m. Includes transportation, a $10 food voucher or buffet and $10 in slot plays. Anyone interested in attending must call Sister Susan B. Girard at 508-266-6566 or Lori.Girard@openskys.org.

Volunteering with Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
WHTINSVILLE-In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Volunteers-In-Parks program in 2020, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor is hosting Volunteer House Open Events on Wednesday, March 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at its office, Linwood Mill, 670 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville. Learn about the many volunteer opportunities throughout the 25 communities of the National Heritage Corridor and with the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. To register, contact Susan Buchanan at Volunteer@Blackstoneriverheritage.org or call 508-234-4242.

Upton Men’s Softball
UPTON-Sign up for the Upton Men’s Softball League at the Upton Men’s Softball League Meeting on Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the United Congregational Church, 157 Main Street, Upton. For more information call 508-509-5473 or email rickrankins@me.com.

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MILFORD Town Crier
BVT Raises $50,000 in Funds for School Maintenance

Intending to reduce the budget impact of purchasing needed snow-removal equipment Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District recently raised $50,000 for a new campus snow plow truck. The donations came from school alumni and other contributions. As an entity owned by 13 municipalities, including Mendon and Upton, BVT's central staff (not including the local DPW) is responsible for all campus maintenance. When necessary, the District's Auto Technology/ Diesal Program and its students help the department with appropriate vehicle maintenance.

In other good financial news, BVT recently received news that a $751,188 reimbursement from Commonwealth's Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the school’s self-funded roof project has been approved. Julie Mitchell, School Committee member, and FY21 Budget Subcommittee Chair said, “From securing mission-related grants to pursuing energy or other rebates, we are delighted that the District is particularly vigilant in adding resources which complement local assessments.”
Milford DTC Third Annual Scholarship Contest

The Milford Democratic Town Committee (DTC) announces its annual scholarship essay contest. For the third consecutive year, the Milford DTC will award $500 to the student who submits the winning essay. The essay must be between 400 and 600 words in length, and address the following question about the 2016 Platform preamble for the Democratic Party: “above all, democrats are the party of inclusion. We know that diversity is not our problem — it is our promise. As democrats, we respect differences of perspective and belief, and pledge to work together to move this country forward, even when we disagree. With this platform, we do not merely seek common ground — we strive to reach higher ground. “We are proud of our heritage as a nation of immigrants. We know that today’s immigrants are tomorrow’s teachers, doctors, lawyers, government leaders, soldiers, entrepreneurs, activists, PTA members, and pillars of our communities. We believe in protecting civil liberties and guaranteeing civil rights and voting rights, women’s rights and workers’ rights, LGBTQ rights, and rights for people with disabilities. We believe America is still, as Robert Kennedy said, ‘a great country, an unsullied country, and a compassionate country’.”

The contest is open to any graduating high school senior living in Milford. Students should submit their essays to their school’s guidance office by Friday, March 28. The Milford DTC will announce the award winners in May.

BVT Secures $2 Million in Reimbursements and Grants

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, working with state legislators, secured $2,084,321 in reimbursements and grants during its recent FY20 budget cycle with more approved toward future years. The FY20 awards ranged from $751,188, reimbursement funds from the Massachusetts Building Authority (MBA) for the Woodland School roof repair project, 55 percent of the project, to a $375,000 Workforce Skills Capital Grant to create a series of engineering innovation labs and $500 for an American Revolutionary re-enactment, subsidized by the New England School Development Council.

BVT also was awarded a $830,106 multi-year Skills Capital Grant by the Baker-Polito Administration. The competitive Governor’s Capital Skills Program will add multiple learning opportunities for students by creating two biotechnology laboratories that will respond to the anticipated growth of STEM-related occupations. The labs will feature state-of-the-art equipment designed to serve both academic and vocational instruction. The program will begin as a core science offering with concurrent certification, and college credit, in biomedical science. These courses will also enhance several vocational programs with additional lab space, including Health Services, Engineering, Dental, Post-Secondary Practical Nurse, Veterinary Assistant, and Advanced Manufacturing.

Noting that BVT has pursued grants and reimbursements to help reduce tax assessments from district towns, Kurtis Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations said, “BVT has remarkably amassed more than $70 million during the last 24 years alone, in non-tax supported assets.” A summarized report of the specific sources and their award levels is available upon request.

District Continues Preliminary Work to Renovate or Rebuild Milford High

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford is one of 30 school districts in Massachusetts that will be sharing in close to $2 billion in additional funds to benefit low-income, special needs and English Learner students.

The Student Opportunity Act, signed into law last November, allows for a small number of districts to receive extra funding to use on programs and services to help close the achievement gap for students, especially those in the special needs, English Learner or economically disadvantaged subgroups.

Where most districts in Massachusetts will be receiving an additional $30 per student in Chapter 70 aid this year, Milford will be receiving $851 per student. “This is great news,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kevin McIntyre during a March 5 School Committee Meeting. The district will go from receiving $27,301,000 in Chapter 70 funds in FY20 (this school year) to $31,117,885 for FY21, a 14 percent increase over year. In order to qualify for the Student Opportunity Act, districts must create three year improvement plans that specify how the new funding will be spent and submit the plans to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) by April 1.

“They want to know how the resources will be spent and how it will impact subgroup performance,” said McIntyre. McIntyre told the Committee that much of the new plan that they will be presenting to the DESE will be straight from the district’s Strategic Plan that has been in the works over the past year. The additional funds will go to new initiatives, increased personnel, and services to support “wholistic student needs,” he said.

“This aligns nicely with what we are already trying to accomplish,” he said. Additional guidance of how to ensure where the money is spent will be forthcoming over the spring and summer, but McIntyre informed the Committee that there are strict guidelines on how the new funding is allocated.

“They want to ensure that districts and towns are spending the money directly on education and that it is going into the classrooms,” he said.

The district will be holding a forum on March 17 at 7 p.m. in the Milford Public Library, Spruce St., to present an initial plan to the community and to solicit feedback for how the funds will be used.

“The fact that we are getting a significant influx of resources from the state is fantastic; it’s really what the Student Opportunity Act and the Foundation Budget Commission is all about,” said McIntyre. “It is really going to benefit the students and families in Milford”.

State Funding for Milford Schools Jumps 14 Percent to Help Students in Need

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Public Schools is getting closer to finishing their Long Range Facilities Plan which will look first to renovate or rebuild the high school.

The district hosted a Long Range Facilities Planning forum on March 2 to discuss progress on the plan and when/ if they should go forward to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to help fund a large school building project.

“We have done extensive surveying of the students, parents, teachers, and community members,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kevin McIntyre to the School Committee during a March 5 meeting. “We have hosted a number of focus groups and will continue to reach out before we make any decisions.”

School officials have been looking at each of the district’s buildings to see where the immediate needs are for space and repairs. With enrollment at a peak this year, and with projections continuing to grow, the time is now to get a plan in action before it is too late, said McIntyre.

“We picked MHS first because a lot of the systems in the building, such as HVAC and plumbing, are original to the school,” he said of the almost 50-year-old building. “The systems are coming to the end of their natural life and are going to be very costly for the taxpayers to repair or replace if need be.”

Just like with the Woodland School Building, the Milford Public Schools in partnership with the Barnstable Authority would apply to the MSBA for reimbursement for any new building or renovation project that they could take on. If approved into the MSBA program, the district could get reimbursement of a significant portion of the project. The $60 million Woodland Elementary School project five years ago cost the town approximately $30 million thanks to MSBA reimbursement.

But a new high school building is still a long way off, cautioned McIntyre, reminding the School Committee that there was still much work to be done.

“There still needs to be a lot of discussions on timelines,” said McIntyre. “Both the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen would have to vote to approve [submitting] a Statement of Interest. After a SOI is filed and approved, the next step would be for the district to go forward with a feasibility study which would cost approximately $1 million for a specialized organization to come in and determine if the existing building should be renovated or knocked down and rebuilt or explore new locations in town where a school could be built. Once the feasibility study was complete, a recommendation would be put forth to the town for a vote.

“The project will be in excess of $100 million,” said McIntyre. “Northbridge is undertaking a similar project and there is coming in at a little over $100 million.”

Although the cost is high, so is the need for a new building, according to officials who are watching the every-increasing enrollment in the Milford Public Schools.

“Sometimes we get to a point where a building itself is starting to impede learning,” commented School Committee Chairperson Jen Parson. McIntyre encouraged the community to work with the School Committee on the Long Range Facilities Plan, which was taped and put up on the Milford Public Schools website.
The Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and its partner school at the University of Massachusetts Lowell have received a $73,699 grant from the One8 Foundation, to expand Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Biomedical Science program at the school. This grant will enable the school to purchase equipment and tools used by industry professionals, expanding learning opportunities for students in STEM fields.

“Thank you to the Governor’s Office, the One8 Foundation, and Mass STEM Hub for making these grants possible and further investing in Massachusetts’s students,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “Partnerships with organizations like Project Lead the Way allow us to provide children with opportunities to learn hands-on, real-world STEM skills and put them on a pathway to success in the classroom and beyond.”

“We are proud to partner with BVT to empower students to develop the in-demand knowledge and transportable skills to thrive in our evolving world,” said Vince Bertram, PLTW President, and CEO. “We are thrilled to support educators across the Commonwealth. To bring applied learning and STEM education to their schools in a way that has students learning rigorous STEM content and then applying it to solve real-world problems,” said Joanna Jacobson, President of the One8 Foundation.

“The Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School is proud to receive this grant, which will allow us to continue to provide children with hands-on learning experiences,” said Dr. Matthew Connors, Director of BVT’s Commonwealth Campus. “This grant is an important step towards closing the opportunity and achievement gaps in STEM fields for students across the Commonwealth.”

BVT will use grant funds to provide a PLTW Biomedical Science program in biomedical science from Project Lead The Way (PLTW). In 2008, BVT partnered with PLTW, a nonprofit organization that provides transformative learning experiences for students and teachers by empowering them to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through computer science and engineering pathways. The partnership has created new learning opportunities, brought recognition to science and engineering pathways. The partnership has equipped educators with the tools and resources to transform STEM education to their schools in a way that has students learning rigorous STEM content and then applying it to solve real-world problems.”

“Thank you to the Governor’s Office, the One8 Foundation, and Mass STEM Hub for making these grants possible and further investing in Massachusetts’s students.”

BVT Receives $73,699 Grant to Support Biomedical Science
**BVT Girls Hoops Falls in District Final**

**By Chris Villani**
Sports Reporter/Columnist

A stellar season for the Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ basketball team came to an end in the district final last weekend, as the Beavers came up short against Maynard 52-39.

BVT entered halftime tied with the Tigers at 22 each, but Maynard pulled away with 30 second-half points to capture the district title.

“It was tough, I thought we came out strong but there was a different feel to the day,” said Valley Tech head coach Britt Kahler. “We didn’t really execute as well on either end of the court.”

Maynard was not the deeper team, but the explosive scoring duo of Jordan Tucker and Hayle Thompson poured in a combined 42 points.

“They were just more aggressive than we were on offense,” Kahler said.

The Beavers were led by Emma Ballard in the scoring column, as the sophomore guard finished with 12 points and was the lone BVT player in double figures. But BVT showed great balance, with nine different players contributing to the scoring effort.

“Emma had a great game,” Kahler said. “She was trying to push the ball up the floor when she got the chance and she shot the ball really well.”

Senior forward Kasey Reeves was another standout, rebounding the ball well all game and trying to take the ball to the basket when she had the chance, Kahler added.

Too many shots tried from the perimeter plagued the Beavers. “We were settling for outside shots,” Kahler said. “We didn’t get the ball into our posts.”

Senior forward Victoria Russian finished with six points and some strong play down the stretch.

“She tried to take over at the end of the game,” Kahler said. “She was driving and taking the ball to the hoop, but by then it was a little too late.”

Despite the loss in the district final, the campaign was an overwhelming success for the BVT girls. They won both the state vocational title and the Colonial Athletic League crown and amassed 20 victories on the season against only six defeats. At more than 52 points per game, BVT outscored every other opponent in the CAL and had the second stingiest defense.

The Beavers also had the backing of a strong fan base that came out in droves for the final at WPI.

“It was amazing, we had a ton of support and parents who were there an hour before the game,” Kahler said. “It was really amazing to see the different people who supported us along our journey, we were super grateful.”

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**MHS Boys Hoops Lays Strong 2020-2021 Foundation**

**By Chris Villani**
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The win came before a capacity crowd, making it one of the biggest crowds Milford has had since 2007. Milford High School Boys’ Basketball District Final — Maynard 52-39.

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**Milford Basketball Rewards Home Playoff Crowd**

**By Chris Villani**
Sports Reporter/Columnist

It had been seven years since Milford High hosted a boys’ basketball playoff game and the Scarlet Hawks did not disappoint the capacity crowd that packed the MHS gymnasium.

Milford outlasted Westboro 61-60 in a thriller reminiscent of some of the great MHS playoff games of the past.

“We played a great game and executed very well,” Seaver said. “We got a lot of solid contributions from a lot of different guys, but just not enough to win the game on Tuesday.”

Even with the loss in the semifinals, Seaver could not help but look back with pride on the season his team had, which included a share of the Hocsmock League’s Davenport Division title and a 14-8 overall record.

“It was a disappointing ending to what was undoubtedly a fantastic year,” he said. “It was tough in the locker room after the game. A lot of guys who had put in so much time and effort since last winter. They wanted to get back to the postseason and they did. They wanted to compete for a league title and they won it.”

The 14 victories are also the most an MHS basketball team has won since 2013, also the last time the Hawks hosted a tournament until now.

Milford has 12 juniors on this year’s roster, including numerous players who saw significant playing time this year and were key contributors in the Scarlet Hawks’ success.

“We are going the more senior heavy than we have ever been since I have been coaching and maybe more senior heavy than any Milford basketball team has been,” Seaver said. “And we are going to be motivated to accomplish even more.”

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**A High Bar Set for BVT Girls Hoops**

**By Chris Villani**
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After multiple trips to the district final and titles in the state vocational tournament and Colonial Athletic League, the expectations have been raised for the Blackstone Valley Tech girls’ basketball program and head coach Britt Kahler said her team welcomes the challenge of maintaining the high level of play.

“I have kids who are really competitive and they set the bar high,” Kahler said. “I ask them every year what their goals are and it’s their job to determine how high they want to set the bar. They set some big goals this year and they achieved them.”

Getting back to the state vocational tournament and rising to the top of the CAL will be challenging with a few key seniors leaving the team this year. Victoria Russian and Gabby Muscatell are both four-year members of the varsity program.

“Before any game and they all hung out and got along,” said Kahler. “There were no cliques on this team. They had a pasta feeling of this year’s squad.”

“I feel like we have kids that are ready to step up for next year,” Kahler said. “I ask them every year what their goals are and we are going to miss that leadership for sure.”

But the Beavers return a significant group of players who saw major minutes this winter. Sophomore Emma Ballard will be back for her third year as the starting point guard.

“Emma was a tall guard and defensively she was awesome this year,” the coach said. “She also stepped up as a vocal leader and we are going to miss that leadership for sure.”

But the Beavers return a significant group of players who saw major minutes this winter. Sophomore Emma Ballard will be back for her third year as the starting point guard.

“We saw her step in and really start taking over games and acting more like an experienced point guard this year,” Kahler said. “I feel like we have kids that are ready to step up for next year.”

Next year’s group will also look to maintain the close-knit feeling of this year’s squad.

“This was a really fun group, they were really close,” Kahler said. “There were no cliques on this team. They had a pasta dinner before every game and they all hung out and got along.”

Kahler said she is hopefully Valley Tech can match the depth of this year’s team during the 2020-2021 season. The goal will once again be to get back to the district final and hopefully bring home a championship.

“I am excited about next year,” Kahler said. “I think it’s going to be a great year.”

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**Sophomore Emma Ballard will return as point guard for BVT next year. Russ Boisvert photo**

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**The BVT Girls Basketball team will miss graduating senior Victoria Russian next year. Russ Boisvert photo**

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**Milford Town Crier**

**MARCH 13, 2020**
Sports

Historic BVT Boys Hoops Season Ends in District Final

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech boys’ basketball team advanced to the district final this year, putting together a deeper run than any other BVT team and winning 15 games in the process.

“I think we did very well,” said senior Drew Galicki. “Especially coming into a season when we graduated nine seniors the year before. It was hard to get a gauge on what this year was going to look like, but we had a lot of guys step up and play big roles.”

The Beavers blew out Notre Dame and Main South in the tournament before falling to Hopedale in the district final by an 86-47 score. “Hopedale is a strong team” said junior Shea Finnegan, who lead the team in scoring this winter. “They had a plan for me, I was face guarded the whole game. They were definitely the best team, offensively and defensively, we have played all season.” Finnegan finished the season among the top scorers in all of Division 4, averaging 20 points per game. Sophomore Josh Mateo also averaged double-digits in the scoring column and he is one of four starters returning to the team next year. Galicki, the lone senior starter, scored around seven points per game. He will be heading off to college next year to study engineering, he said, but his competitive basketball days may have come to an end in last weekend’s district final. He was able to take stock in the program’s growth during his time at BVT. “It’s really awesome coming from where the team was my freshman year to where the team is now,” Galicki said. “We have set the foundation for what is going to be a long run of BVT getting to the playoffs and going deep into the playoffs.”

The tournament wins over Main South and Notre Dame were the product of strong practices, he said. “Everyone wanted to win,” Galicki said. “We were locked in.” With so much of the roster set to return, Finnegan said he is excited for next season. He has a personal goal of hitting 1,000 points for his career and hopes to make another deep run into the postseason. With most of the Beavers’ playmakers back and some of the other top area teams losing key cogs to graduation this year. Before looking ahead to his senior season, Finnegan also took a moment to take stock in what he and his teammates were able to do this winter.

“It was the farthest BVT has made it in history,” he said. “It was a great achievement for all of us.”

MARCH 13, 2020

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Milford Town Crier
Milford Youths Make Mass. Elite Football Squad

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford freshman Brady Butler said he wasn’t sure what he was getting into when he joined the Hopedale/Mills ice hockey co-op. But the season proved to be a great success for both he and the team, as the Blue Raiders advanced to the district final and he led the way with 23 goals.

“I was really surprised at how many goals I scored, I am usually more of a passer than a go-scorer,” Butler said.

Being paired on the same line as junior Hunter Dunn proved to be a game changer for the 15-year-old Butler, he said. The first time they played together, Butler scored twice, and they were off to the races after that. “After that, we just had this chemistry,” Butler said. “I put my head down and got to the net, he would find me and I would just tap it in.”

Dunn, the team’s leading scorer, had 31 assists on the season with many of the helpers Butler during his time with the high school team. Butler plays club hockey and spends plenty of time working on his skills. “I just like the whole environment,” he said. “I love coming to practice every day, working hard and playing.”

Butler’s dad also has a big impact on his game. “I think Brady snuck up on a lot of people,” said Hopedale head coach Mike MacQuarrie. “He has a ton of speed and he has some great skill. When he gets a little bigger and stronger, he will be even better.”

Butler acknowledges being on the smaller side compared to many of his teammates and opponents. MacQuarrie said teams tried to play physical with him as the season wore on, but that did not stop Butler from picking some crucial goals for the Hopedale/Mills team. “I am looking forward to his development in the years to come,” MacQuarrie said. “It sounds crazy to have a freshman scoring 23 goals. He gets a lot of dirty goals, back door goals, grinding goals in front of the net and he can score on breakaways.”

Improving his shot is an aspect of Butler’s game that MacQuarrie would like to see him develop as he continues his high school career. Butler, who has played soccer and baseball as well, is a tall, big forward. “I just love the whole environment,” he said. “I love coming to practice every day, working hard and playing. I just like everything about it.” Butler said he is mostly focused on next high school season, when he will once again be paired with Dunn. But he also has some long term goals. “I want to keep playing hockey,” he said. “If that’s after high school in college or juniors, I just want to keep playing for as long as I can.”

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