Spring Has Sprung

The surest sign that life goes on. Life is regenerating, plants are growing and blossoms are starting to bloom.

Governor Closes Non-Essential Businesses During Pandemic

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Milford Senior Center Closed Until Further Notice; Continuing to Provide Some Services

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

The latest information on the coronavirus continues to reiterate that the elderly population is considered the most vulnerable when it comes to catching and fighting the virus. As a result, senior centers across the state, including the Ruth Anne Bleakney Milford Senior Center, have closed until further notice but are continuing to provide certain essential services that the elderly rely on.

In Milford, the Meals on Wheels program, which delivers lunch to shut-ins is continuing, as is transportation to and from medical appointments. To make an appointment for transportation call the Senior Center at 508-473-8334. SHINE representatives, who help work out insurance coverage for senior citizens are available by phone only; 508-422-9931. Client Services Coordinator Kim Considine is available by phone only at 508-473-8334.

Milford Senior Center Director Susan Clark wants residents to know that while the Senior Center is closed to the public, staff continues working on site. “We’re still working and may be able to help seniors who need assistance,” she said. Clark added that her staff is also contacting certain seniors via phone to see if they need anything.

Still, the Senior Center Director added that family and friends also play a critical part when it comes to helping out during this time. Not all elderly people have smartphones or access the internet and because of that, communicating with them routinely is very important to make certain they have what they need and to feel less isolated.

“We encourage everyone to look after a senior. Call them, make sure they’re good,” said Clark. In a statement from the Board of Selectmen dated March 13, the risk to the general public in Milford remains low. The statement went on to say, “As we receive updated information about prevention and protection measures regarding COVID19, we will use the Town of Milford website (MilfordMA.gov) and Reverse-911 for additional announcements.”

Small Businesses Part of the Community

Life is changing fast in the face of the Coronavirus. But small businesses are here to help. They know what is happening in our neighborhoods and our towns. Smaller and more flexible they can respond more quickly to your needs.

Support your local, small businesses, they are ready to help you.

Milford Town Crier
MARCH 27, 2020

Local Grocers Offer Senior Shopping Hours

Some of the larger store chains are trying to do their part to help older shoppers and those who have underlying medical conditions feel more comfortable shopping during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local stores with senior hours are:

- Target is currently reserving the first hour of shopping every Wednesday to the elderly and those with underlying health conditions only. Target stores open at 8 a.m. on Wednesdays. The store will then close at 9 p.m. each day for cleaning and restocking.
- Stop & Shop is opening its doors earlier for seniors 60 years and older. From 6 to 7:30 a.m., seniors and more vulnerable customers are welcome to do their shopping daily.
- Shaw’s/Star Markets stores will open early on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 a.m. for those seniors and other at-risk populations.
- Starting March 19, Big Y Market reserved the 7 to 8 a.m. time slot daily for customers who are 60 years and older or who have compromised immune systems. The store will close at 8 p.m. for cleaning and restocking.
- Hannaford has added a dedicated time when customers who are 60 or over and individuals identified as being identified by the CDC as at high risk may shop, providing them with the opportunity to have more social distance while in the store; 6 to 7 a.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week.
- Price Chopper and Market 32 is now open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. It will be open to senior citizens from 6 to 7 a.m. daily.
- Senior shopping hours for those 60 and above are 5:30 to 7 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Market Basket.
- And each Tuesday, Walmart is hosting an hour long senior shopping day for those 60 years and older. The store will be open for seniors one hour before it opens.

COVID - 19

Milford Senior Center
Closed Until Further Notice;
Continuing to Provide Some Services

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John C. Park, DMD
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Massachusetts RMV Limited to Eight Locations

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) announced that eight of its 30 customer service center locations are open until further notice. Those locations are Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Springfield and Worcester. All road tests are suspended indefinitely.

Customers who do not have immediate needs for required in-person services are asked to defer their visits and to not bring multiple individuals with them. The open centers will prioritize transactions that cannot be completed online, by phone or mail. Customers visiting the open centers will be issued tickets on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to those customers with transactions that cannot be completed online. Tickets will designate for customers whether they will be served in the morning (9 a.m. until 12 p.m.) timeframe or the (12 p.m. until 5 p.m.) timeframe in groupings. Limited tickets will be issued based on the Service Center capacity and number of customers that can be served realistically through the course of the day. Any remaining customers will be asked to leave and return another day.

Meanwhile, AAA locations will continue to offer select RMV services to AAA members.

These steps are being taken following Governor Charlie Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency the week of March 9 to complement the work that has been underway for weeks across state government to keep residents safe and healthy.

RMV hearings will be conducted at Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, Springfield and Worcester. Hearings at the Pittsfield RMV occur weekly on Wednesdays. No hearings will be conducted in Plymouth.

Announcements regarding the resumption of road tests will be made when available. The Governor's Executive Order provides that Learner's Permits dated between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020 will continue to have an active status until 60 days after the printed expiration date.

To assist customers, the RMV as of March 16 implemented a 60-day extension for the following: residents with Class D and Class DM driver's licenses, ID cards, and Learner's Permits that have an expiration date between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020. The extension will be applied to the credential.

This deadline extension does not apply to customers with Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) or those whose end of stay in the United States is the same as the expiration date on their driver's license, ID card, or Learner's Permit.

Customers eligible for this extension should wait to visit an RMV Service Center or AAA office (if a member of AAA), to renew until after the State of Emergency is over.

More than 40 Registry transactions may be conducted online at Mass.gov/rmv.

Coronavirus Changes at Charles River Bank

As a result of government directive and for the health and safety of customers and staff, Charles River Bank is limiting access to its branch lobbies effective March 17. Banking transactions may now be conducted through the Drive-Up, the ATM, Online or Mobile Banking Services. For complex transactions or for Safe Deposit Box access, please call the local branch to set up an in-branch appointment:

- Medway: 508-533-8661
- Bellingham: 508-966-2857
- Mendon: 508-422-9792

A complete Coronavirus Statement that outlines Charles River Bank's strategies related to this outbreak is available online at CharlesRiverBank.com/COVID-19. The page will be updated as warranted.

COVID-19

Open Meeting Law Update

On March 11, the Baker-Polito Administration announced an emergency order temporarily modifying the state's open meeting law in order to allow state, quasi and local governments to continue to carry out essential functions and operations during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

This emergency order suspends the requirement for public access to the physical location where a public meeting is taking place, provided there are other means of access available. This includes the use of a phone conference line for members of the public, social media or other internet streaming services, on-line meeting services, or methods of access.

Both the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

Additionally, the order relieves the requirement that a quorum of members be physically present at a public meeting. During this period, members may all participate by remote or virtual means.

This order is applicable to meetings of public bodies including commissions, boards, and committees that engage in policy making at the state, quasi and local level, and it does not apply to Town Meetings or judicial and quasi-judicial hearings. It follows Governor Baker's declaration of a State of Emergency on Wednesday, March 11, and it will remain in place until rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.

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The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) announced March 20 that Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) and Commercial Learner's Permits (CLPs) expired or expiring in March and April are extended for 60 days. Service Centers in Milford and Wilmington are reopened to exclusively perform commercial license/permit transactions. These initiatives recognize the importance of commercial vehicle drivers to the supply chain during the State of Emergency declaration, and will continue to prioritize reducing customer volumes in physical locations.

All commercial licenses or permits with an expiration date between March 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020, will have the 60-day extension applied to that customer's credential. The RMV implemented a similar extension for residents with Class D, Class M and Class DM driver's licenses, ID cards, and Learner's Permits on March 16th with the exception of customers whose end of stay in the United States is the same as the expiration date on their driver's license, ID card, or Learner's Permit. Customers eligible for these extensions should wait to visit an RMV Service Center to renew until after the State of Emergency has concluded.

In addition, in an effort to help customers maintain proper social distancing, the annual motor vehicle safety and emissions inspection expiration dates are being extended as follows:

All non-commercial vehicle inspection stickers that expire on March 31 (designated by a number 3 on the inspection sticker) must be inspected by May 31.
All non-commercial vehicle inspection stickers that expire on April 30 (designated by a number 4 on the inspection sticker) must be inspected by June 30.
Non-commercial vehicles that are issued a failed inspection sticker (indicated by a sticker with a red or black letter ‘R’) that is due to expire in the month of March, 2020, must be re-inspected by May 31, and non-commercial vehicles issued a failed inspection sticker due to expire in the month of April, 2020, must be re-inspected by June 30. Additionally, the one free re-test for these vehicles is also extended to May 31 or June 30 provided the re-test is performed at the same inspection station that performed the initial inspection.

Regardless of the date of inspection, vehicles issued a failed inspection sticker due to a safety defect (indicated by a sticker with a red letter ‘R’) shall not be operated until appropriate repairs have been completed.

All motorcycle inspection stickers originally set to expire on May 31 must be inspected by June 30.

The RMV is extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected. Any newly-registered, non-commercial vehicle purchased between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 must be inspected by May 31. Any newly-registered non-commercial vehicle purchased between April 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020 must be inspected by June 30.

In addition, during the declared emergency period, the RMV is waiving the requirement of 540 Code Mass. Regs. § 4.08(2), which requires that inspection stations must remain open and available for inspections for a minimum of six hours per day, five days per week. Inspection stations are excused from compliance with this provision during the length of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Finally, inspector and station licensing expirations are not being extended at this time because current resources are able to meet the application demand. However, inspectors and station owners are strongly encouraged to submit applications on-line at www.Mass.gov/RMV.

Blackstone River Valley Heritage Facilities Closed

Administrators of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor have written the following statement for the public:

“The Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation. The safety and well-being of our visitors, staff, and volunteers is our top priority. Acting with an abundance of caution, the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Center at Worcester, and our administrative office in Whitinsville will be closed to the public until April 1. We are doing this as a proactive effort to help slow the spread of COVID-19 for the health of our community. We will continue to assess the situation as it evolves.

We thank you for your support during this unprecedented time. Continue to follow us on social media or visit BlackstoneRiverHeritageCorridor.org for further details and the most up-to-date information. You can also contact us at mail@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org.”

RMV: New Extensions and Reopening of Milford Center for Commercial/Permit Transactions

The safety and well-being of our visitors, staff, and volunteers is our top priority. The Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor has written the above statement for the public.

The RMV is making changes to service, including extending the time during which newly registered vehicles must be inspected. Any newly-registered, non-commercial vehicle purchased between March 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 must be inspected by May 31. Any newly-registered non-commercial vehicle purchased between April 1, 2020 and April 30, 2020 must be inspected by June 30.

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Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild Show and Raffle to be Rescheduled

MENDON—Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild will reschedule their 2020 Quilt Show, originally slated for the weekend of March 14 and 15. Anyone who purchased tickets for the Raffle Quilt should hold onto them. The drawing will be held on the new date. Announcements of when the drawing will be held and other information from the guild will be published in future issues of the Town Crier and on their blog, https://thimblepleasuresquiltguild.blogspot.com/p/quilt-show-2020.html.

Developing a business relationship.

This is Tim Rice. A professional photographer, he spends a lot of time behind the camera, focused on his business, clients and capturing picture perfect moments.

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Sticky label with “MARCH 27, 2020”
Agency (MEMA) and coordination with Milford Regional Medical Center regarding the town’s first responders.

• Police Chief Michael Poggetti: Responsible for security issues and enforcement of executive orders issued by the Board of Selectmen and Governor Charlie Baker.

• Health Officer Jacquelyn Murphy: Coordination with the matter experts do their jobs. “If we can’t keep the election workers safe and keep the health emergencies.

• Selectmen and Governor Charlie Baker.

Selectmen Chairman William Buckley said last week. "We’re handling stuff situationally,” Buckley said.

Public officers are now disinfecting after each shift, he added. And, all town buildings have been disinfected, he noted.

While Town Hall is closed to the public, a secure lockbox for tax payments is now located outside the building and people can also make payments electronically, Buckley noted.

Steps Taken by the Town

As of March 20, the Town of Milford has announced several steps to “flatten the curve” of spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus:

• From March 13 onward, the following town buildings are closed to the public: Town Hall, Milford Youth Center, the Senior Center, Memorial Hall, Milford Town Library, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Animal Control.

• From March 16 onward, all bars and restaurants in town can only provide takeout and delivery.

• From March 17 onward, all public playgrounds – including stand-alone playgrounds and playgrounds within parks – are closed to the public.

The Board of Selectmen was scheduled to approve a Declaration of Emergency at its meeting scheduled for this past Monday. Doing so will make the town eligible for any federal or state reimbursements for costs incurred by the town in dealing with the current public health emergency.

Wills and Town Election Be Postponed?

Town across Massachusetts are grappling with the issue of whether to postpone their Annual Town Elections in the interest of limiting public gatherings during the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency. As of March 20, Milford has taken no action to postpone either event.

However, a bill before the state legislature – scheduled for House of Representative and Senate votes this week – would allow any community to postpone its municipal election due to a public health crisis without having to obtain a court order to do so. State law currently allows communities to postpone Town Meetings due to public health emergencies.

“We’re looking to the legislature for guidance,” Selectmen Chairman William Buckley said last week. “If we can’t keep the election workers safe and keep the public safe, the alternative is to postpone,” he explained.

COVID-19 Information Resources

Public health officials on international, national, state and local levels are advising people to get information about the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency from reliable and credible resources rather than social media.

Here is a compilation of credible web sites to stay updated.

• Centers for Disease Control CDC – CDC.gov/coronavirus

• State of Massachusetts – MASS.gov/Coronavirus19

• Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) – MASS.gov/DPH/Department-of-Public-Health

• DPH COVID19, real-time COVID19 information, resources and referrals hotline – 211

• Town website – MilfordMA.gov/coronavirus-covid-19 updates, which links to state and federal sites.

• Milford TV is broadcasting up-to-the-minute local updates on Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 38 and it has many videos available on its website MilfordTV.net

• World Health Organization (WHO) – WHO.int

• John Hopkins University, latest outbreak statistics on an interactive map – Coronavirus.jhu.edu

• New York Times – Nytimes.com, free access during the pandemic.

• Washington Post online simulation of how infections can spread without “social distancing” at Washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/

• To get Massachusetts COVID-19 phone text alerts, text COVID19 to 888-777.

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Read this Town Crier Online

To read the March 27, 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 02.03.27.pdf

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

The Advertiser’s Club Directory is a listing of those businesses that have contracted to advertise 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

Adequate Lock Removal .................................. 12

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

Airglass ......................................................... next

Barry Marcus Watch Makers .............................. next

Bright Insulation ............................................ 3

Boston Eye and Laser Group ............................ next

Camra & Cup ............................................... next

Charles River Bank ....................................... 4

CPR Inc.......................................................... next

Crystal Pool .................................................. 18

Guile Moring & Storage .................................. next

Gentle Dental, Milford ................................. 4

Guerrero & Blodon, Inc. .................................. next

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

Homefield Credit Union ................................ next

Izadias Plumbing ......................................... 12

Imperial.com ................................................. 1, 3, 16, 20

Joice Overhead Doors ................................... next

Joyo Plumbing .............................................. next

Kosperm Paint & Lumber ............................... next

Losco Properties Group ................................. next

Mac Med Spa .............................................. next

Meadaway Oil & Propane Company ................. 12

Metrosouth Oral Surgical Associates ............... next

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

Milford Federal ............................................ 11

Milford Franklin Eye Associates ........................ 3

Mt. St. Charles Academy ................................ next

Nathan’s Jewelers ......................................... 15

Park Hiss Dental ........................................... 2

PAYS Real & Biscuit ...................................... next

Simonton Electric ......................................... next

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

Wayne’s Youth and Family Services .............. 10

Wolf Dental .................................................. next

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

Zemith Mortgage ........................................ next

Funeral Homes

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Town Crier Reporter Needed

The Town Crier is looking for a part-time, freelance reporter to cover education in Mendon, Milford and Upton, Massachusetts. A typical assignment might include covering a school board meeting or event in the evening or afternoon, following up on a news tip, or interviewing and writing a profile of a local resident. Strong writing and research skills, computer access (including Internet) and ability to file stories by weekly deadline required. The ability to take and send photos from an event is also needed. Familiarity with the communities of Mendon, Milford and Upton preferred. Submit writing samples and resumes to Jane Bigda, Town Crier Editor, via email: TownCrierEditor@gmail.com.

MARCH 27, 2020

Milford Town Crier

5
For over 20 years the Town Crier has been part of our communities. As I have written many times, we are your neighbors, these are our hometowns. We have been with you to celebrate the good times and to cope with the bad.

As a neighbor, I want you to know how we operate. We are a twice-monthly paper, not a weekly. Rub each issue each Tuesday on the Tuesday prior to the Friday when you get it in your mailbox. Because of our deadlines and publication schedule, we cannot provide breaking news stories and same day announcements for you. During the last few weeks, some of the information we have published was already out of date when you opened your paper. We regret that but there is very little we can do to control it.

Right now we are facing a serious challenge. COVID-19 is affecting all of us, in big ways and small. This issue of the Town Crier is filled with articles related to that, and our announcements, cancellations and information.

Our aim is to provide you with the most accurate, most reliable information that we can. Our motive is to be a resource that the community can turn to and trust.

COVID-19 hits us individually and as a community. We have two responsibilities, the first is to prepare and safeguard ourselves and our families and, almost equally as important, to prepare and safeguard our communities. We need to follow CDC, Department of Public Health, state and local guidelines including hygiene and social distancing to keep ourselves secure and those around us safe. We need to prudently buy certain products to follow the guidelines, but we don't need to hoard goods, putting others at risk. We need to keep ourselves informed through reliable sources and not get swept up with rumors or questionable social media/internet sites. Part of our communities are the small businesses advertising in this paper. Many of them will be hurt by the economic repercussions of this pandemic. Because they are small and flexible, they can more easily respond to changing conditions locally. If you need something, look to them first. Talk to them and see what they can do for you. They are valuable assets that will help us get through this event and ensure we have viable communities once it is over.

In 1780, when Massachusetts was established, its founders created a Commonwealth that in order to survive and prosper, every neighbor had to work for the common good. That was true then and it is true today. So come on, neighbors, we can do this if we work together.

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As things continue to change with the coronavirus outbreak, Milford Regional Medical Center (MRMC) continues to respond by adjusting services as necessary. As of March 19, mammography services at Milford Regional in Franklin have been suspended, as have ultrasound services at both Milford Regional in Franklin and Milford Regional in the Blackstone Valley. All emergency studies will be performed at the hospital.

Offsite x-ray services remain open for walk-in patients at MRMC urgent care locations in Milford, Franklin, Hopkinton and Northbridge. Imaging services at the Women's Pavilion, located on the fourth floor of the Hill Building, will only be open on Thursdays for emergency cases.

In addition, patient pick-up locations have changed. All patients and day surgery patients will be discharged through the Imaging Center on the first floor, and their ride can pick them up at that entrance. Patients that may have urgent or diagnostic procedures in the Hill Health Center can be picked up at the Hill Health Center entrance.

Blood Donations
Blood donations will continue to take place at The Blood Donor Center at Milford Regional located at the Imaging Center entrance.

The Red Cross is currently facing a severe blood shortage and urgently needs all blood types. Milford Regional supports the ongoing efforts of the Red Cross to ensure patients continue to have access to a safe, adequate blood supply. Anyone who has an appointment will be screened before entering the Medical Center. At each blood drive, Red Cross employees follow thorough, extensive safety protocols. More information can be found at RedCross.org/give-blood. Appointments for blood donations at Milford Regional can be made by calling 1-800-733-2767. Milford Regional encourages the public to visit MilfordRegional.org prior to coming the hospital for the most up-to-date information.

The following restrictions remain in place:

Visitor Restrictions
- Those who have had close contact with someone who has tested POSITIVE for Covid-19, those who traveled within the past 14 days to China, Macau, Hong Kong, South Korea, Italy, Iran or Japan, or those who work with or have had contact with employees of Biogen within the past 14 days.
- Those who have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath.
- Visitors who pass the screening must wear a visitor tag at all times and it expires in 24 hours.
- Visitors who screened positive must wear a mask at all times.
- Visitors who have traveled to South Korea, Italy, Iran or Japan in the last 14 days are not allowed to enter.
- Visitors who are ill or have symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath are not allowed to enter.
- Visitors must wear a face mask at all times.
- Visitors are asked to wash their hands before entering and after exiting the building.
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- Visitors are asked to wash their hands before entering and after exiting the building.

Milford Regional encourages you to go to our website at MilfordRegional.org to stay up to date on the Medical Center's response to COVID-19.

Hospital Suspends Some Offsite Services and Elective Surgeries, Relocates Patient Pick-up, and Limits Visitors

Love your local shops! Support them through this crisis. Phone and online orders, and buying gift cards are some ideas to keep them going.
Committed, Accountable and Accomplished

For the last 30 years, 13 years as Highway Surveyor, Scott Crisafulli has been focused on improving and maintaining the Town of Milford’s infrastructure to better serve the residents of Milford.

The job of Highway Surveyor has changed dramatically in recent years. Once concentrated on snow and brush removal, filling potholes, and patching streets, major changes have occurred in the role.

While Scott takes great pride in doing the basics well, he is working daily to address Milford’s critical issues:

• The protection of the Environment and clean water concerns
• The Godfrey Brook reconstruction project
• The solicitation of Federal and State grants to supplement the budget
• The TIP project on Main Street from Water Street to the Hopedale town line
• Bridge maintenance and repair
• Administration of the EPA mandated Stormwater Permit (“MS4”)
• Training and advancement opportunities for department personnel

Scott has been in the forefront of these new challenges and these issues will continue to be his priority. He is not looking for a new job. He is doing the job!

On April 7th, the Committee to Re-Elect Scott Crisafulli respectfully requests that you support Scott and allow him to continue these efforts.

Committee to Re-elect Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor

“During these times of uncertainty, it is important that we do not lose hope or faith. The actions and adjustments that have been made are necessary, but remember they are only temporary. This too shall pass... and the country, state and the town of Milford will be stronger as a result.

From my family to yours, stay healthy and safe”
THE CHALLENGES WE FACE

Throughout this campaign, I have honestly and clearly discussed my record of service and what I believe has prepared me to be a worthy member of the Board of Selectmen. As election day nears, I'd like to share what I believe to be the critical challenges facing the Town of Milford which must be met.

1. DUAL TAX RATE:
I PLEDGE TO VOTE TO PRESERVE THE DUAL BUSINESS/RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE TO PROTECT THE RESIDENTIAL TAXPAYER. You should not be burdened with an 18% tax increase to the benefit of businesses. The individual elected to the Milford Board of Selectmen on April 7th will vote on whether to change the Town's dual tax rate.

2. TRAFFIC AND AMAZON CONCERNS:
I PLEDGE TO BRING MY 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TO ADDRESS THESE CONCERNS ON YOUR BEHALF. The Town must develop a comprehensive plan with real solutions to deal with unprecedented traffic, while understanding that large part of the vehicular traffic currently affecting the Town is a consequence of the Amazon facility. Additionally, the Town must enforce a strong traffic plan to include control of the Amazon vehicles and other commercial vehicles which daily clog and cause concerns on the Town's roads.

3. MILFORD WATER COMPANY:
I PLEDGE TO ENSURE THAT THE TOWN SECURES AND PRESERVES ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCES. I will vote to ensure that the Town secures this most precious resource in the most economic and responsible manner before they are bought out by a large corporation. We will put in place the most qualified management to guarantee that yours and the Town's substantial investment and resources are protected.

I have met and spoken with a large number of residents during this campaign. I have listened to your concerns and shared my thoughts. These discussions have strengthened my belief that this upcoming election is crucial because the results will be felt for decades to come.

I am excited to meet the many challenges which lie ahead. I respectfully ask that you vote for me on April 7th.

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

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin.
VIOLENCE HURTS.
Call for FREE and CONFIDENTIAL Services.

Wayside’s Rape Crisis Program: Be a part of the solution!

Get trained to:
- Answer/respond to hotline calls
- Support sexual assault survivors at hospitals
- Use essential counseling skills.

Call Us: (508) 478-6888 x 3135
24 hour Rape Crisis Hotline: (800) 511-5070

We Offer:
- Crisis intervention, safety planning
- Individual and family counseling
- Support groups
- Trauma informed Yoga (childcare available)
- Legal and medical advocacy
- Community outreach and education

Call for VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!!

STAY SAFE, STAY HOME.

Jamie, Cathy, Olivia, Talia & Ace

“From my family to yours, together we will get through these challenging times and be stronger from it.”

-Jamie

Milford Meetings

Due to the coronavirus, Milford’s Town Hall is closed. Residents are encouraged to check the town’s Web site concerning the latest status on posted meetings, including cancelations or other special instructions on agendas. For additional information needed, contact the appropriate Board or official. Unless otherwise noted, meetings held take place at the Town Hall.

Tuesday, April 7
Milford High School Improvement Council, Milford High School, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8
Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Board of Commission, 111 Otis St. Northborough, 11 a.m.
Finance Committee, Capital Planning Subcommittee, Room 14, 5:30 p.m.
School Committee, Milford High School, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 9
Milford Zoning Board of Appeals Notice of Hearing, Room 3, 7 p.m.

Monday, April 13
Milford Youth Commission, 24 Pearl St., 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 16
BVT School Committee, BVT, 6 p.m.
Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition, Trinity Episcopal Church, 6 p.m.

COVID - 19
Life is Changing in Massachusetts Due to COVID-19

On Sunday, March 15, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a wide range of actions that will affect every facet of life in the Commonwealth in response to COVID-19, the coronavirus outbreak. More information and the latest update about each action is available at MASS.gov/COVID-19. The actions are:

Education
Every elementary and secondary school in the Commonwealth, public and private, was ordered to suspend educational operations through Monday, April 6.

Governor Charlie Baker said during this period it is critical that students and their families, as well as school staff, stay home as much as possible. If any individual needs to leave home, it is essential to strictly follow social distancing guidelines by avoiding crowds, canceling social gatherings, and maintaining a safe separation of at least six feet from others. Districts will be working on plans for alternative student learning, providing other vital services such as food and special education for qualified students. Higher Education is directed to continue to move towards remote learning.

Restaurants
Governor Baker issued an emergency order prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants effective until April 6. Drive up and take out services can continue or be established at these businesses.

Health Care
The Department of Public Health (DPH) issued various new guidance. All commercial insurers and the Group Insurance Commission are required to cover medically necessary telehealth services in the same manner they cover in-person services. Insurers must cover COVID-19 related treatment and testing without requiring cost-sharing of any kind – such as co-pays and coinsurance – for testing and treatment. No prior authorization is required for these services. All assisted living residences are to ban visitors to protect the health of residents and staff. This is in addition to the federal guidance issued on March 13 that bans visitors to nursing homes and rest homes.

All hospitals operated or licensed by the DPH or the Department of Mental Health are to screen all visitors and restrict visitation if individuals show any indication of illness; and non-essential elective procedures are cancelled. See page 7 for the latest from Milford Regional Medical Center.

Licensed pharmacies are authorized to create and sell hand sanitizer over the counter. RMV

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has made extensive changes regarding service centers and timelines for credentials. See page 3 and 4 for details.

Unemployment
For current unemployment claims, all requirements for attending seminars at the MassHire career centers have been suspended, missing deadlines due to effects of COVID-19 will be excused under the good cause provision and all appeal hearings will be held by telephone only.

The Department of Labor (DOL) issued guidance to the states instructing state agencies to apply existing law flexibly. Specifics of new unemployment regulations are being worked on and will be available at the state website.

Municipalities
Governor Baker announced a package of legislation to help address challenges to municipal governance resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The legislation would authorize Moderators to postpone Town Meetings by 30 days, permit Select Boards to postpone Town Meetings beyond the statutory June 30 deadline and allow local Select Boards to temporarily adopt lower quorum rules. A variety of measures also allow towns to keep running as FY21 starts and until new budgets are adopted by continuing use their approved FY20 budget to determine spending on a month to month basis, allow towns to access their free cash balance spending with approval of the Division of Local Services and to spend from revolving funds.

The legislature would also authorize a three-year amortization period for deficit spending incurred as a result of COVID-19 crisis. The default rule would require an FY21 tax rate to provide for one-year amortization and this change would follow the 2015 precedent for snow removal costs.

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Support your local shops!

Jamie for Highway Surveyor

Paid for the committee to elect Jamie Lucchini

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOPS!
Milford Town Crier

Condo Resident Complains About Rodents
By Kevin Rudden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist
Country Club Lane resident Camilla Amandolare asked the Milford Board of Health on March 9 to help get her condominiums management company to exterminate mice from the “common area” in her four-unit building. The management company, she said, claims it is an individual owner’s responsibility to do so.
“You can’t leave it up to a homeowner to exterminate a common area,” Amandolare told board members. The mice are in an attic area shared by all four homeowners in her building, she explained.
“Common areas are the responsibility of the condo association,” board member Paul Mazzuchelli said. He suggested the board write a letter to the management company requesting that it perform a pest control inspection. If the company fails to comply with the board’s order, it can be taken to court, he continued.

Highway Department to Manage Transfer Station
By Kevin Rudden  
Staff Reporter/Columnist
The Board of Health is planning to turn management of the town’s Transfer Station on Cedar St. (Rt. 85) over to the Highway Department.
“Right now, everything’s going to be the same,” Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli told the board on March 9. “They’ll be some changes in the future, but not right now.” Both Crisafulli and Health Officer Jacquelyn Murphy said they needed to meet with Town Counsel Charles Body to work out how to correctly move the transfer station’s functions and budget from one department to the other.
Separately – and before the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency was declared – Crisafulli said he planned to open the Fiske Mill Rd./Asylum St. leaf dump on April 2.

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, Hopkinton, 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/or to obtain an application, visit 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 508-422-2648 or mbarry@milreg.org

Swandale Cemetery Meeting
The Annual meeting of the Swandale Cemetery Association will be held on Monday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of Charles River Bank, Hastings St., Mendon. The purpose of the meeting is to listen to reports, elect officers and discusses any business which will come before the association. This meeting is open to all lot owners and family members.

Swandale Cemetery Cleaning
The Swandale Trustees notify all plot owners in the Swandale and Quaker Cemeteries in Mendon that graves should be cleared of decorations. Any old plants or decorations left on the graves after April 15 will be discarded and disposed of as cemetery cleaning will be taking place. The cooperation of plot owners and family members is appreciated.

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Hand tools. A good stock of hand tools.

Ave., Uxbridge. This work includes cleaning up winter weather, wear appropriate work shoes and gloves and bring hand tools. Register by contacting Becky, 508-476-3960 or beastra@charter.net.

Saturday, April 4 – Trail Work Day at West Hill Dam Headquarters, 518 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge. This work includes cleaning up winter debris, cutting brush back and cleaning out all the water bars. There is a good stock of hand tools.

The Greenleaf Garden Club of Mendon will host Kate Donovan, a garden coach, at their Monday, April 13 meeting, at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center, 60 North Bow St., Milford, which starts refreshments at 6:30 p.m.Donovan of Blackstone Valley Vegetable Gardening will teach techniques to make gardening easier. Her presentation on raised bed gardening will encourage everyone to grow their own and the multi-media event will teach “everything you ever wanted to know about raised bed gardening.” This event will start at 6:30 p.m.

Trash Deficit Pegged at $134,000

The rising cost of disposing of recyclables is leading to a projected $134,000 deficit in this fiscal year’s trash pick-up and disposal budgets, Board of Health members explained to Finance Committee Chair Christopher Morin on March 9. An article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant is needed to transfer funds to cover that shortfall, Morin said.

The reason for the deficit is that the worldwide system of recycling plastics, paper and other items “is broken,” board member Paul Mazzuchelli explained. Countries such as China are no longer accepting recyclables, which has dried up the market for them. As a result, the town now pays $67 per ton to dispose of rubbish and a much higher $110 per ton to dispose of recyclable items, he said.

While the same situation is confronting every community in Massachusetts, they cannot stop designing certain items as being “recyclable” because Massachusetts laws require communities to recycle, Mazzuchelli said. The state’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) even has staff monitor the rubbish disposal at the Wheelabrator incinerator in Millbury — where Milford’s rubbish is taken — to ensure no recyclables are dumped there, he said.

The DEP will fine a town if it determines that items are not being recycled, Board Chair Leonard Izzo said. Mazzuchelli told Morin that Milford is one of a handful of communities in the state that covers trash pick-up and disposal within its operating budget. All but about six communities charge separate disposal fees, he said.

“I will never, ever charge anyone to pick up their trash,” Morin responded. “It is what it is,” he commented on this year’s projected deficit.

The increased costs to recycle will be included in the Health Department’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021, which begins on July 1, board members said.

Small Businesses Part of the Community

Life is changing fast in the face of the Coronavirus. But small businesses are here to help. They know what is happening in our neighborhoods and our towns. Smaller and more flexible they can respond more quickly to your needs.

Support your local, small businesses, they are ready to help you.
Restaurant Staffs Trained on New Food Code prior to Pandemic

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

More than 60 of Milford’s restaurant managers and staff gathered in two Town Hall training sessions earlier this month to learn the latest federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code requirements for providing safe food to patrons. The training by Milford Health Inspector Joan Clarico was scheduled well before the current COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency.

“You have an obligation to serve safe and healthy food,” explained Paul Mazucchelli, the town’s former Health Officer and now member of the Board of Health. “Joan wants to let you know what to expect from newer Food Code requirements, he continued.

“It’s very important that you have safe food to eat,” Clarico explained, noting that half of all food borne illnesses result from how food is handled. “I don’t write the laws, I just enforce them,” she noted.

Restaurants and food service inspections done under the new Food Code will be done on iPads and be based on a point system that deducts certain numbers of points from a top score of 100 for each type of violations found, she said. The “risk” types are “priority items” (five points), “priority foundation items” (two points) and “core items” (one point), Clarico explained. In addition, the tablets can be used to photograph the violations, Clarico added.

Rather than punishing foodservice establishments, the goal is to teach people what to do, she explained. “It’s all about education and doing it right,” Clarico said. Her topics included employee illnesses, proper hand-washing techniques, staff hygiene and cleanliness, clean-up of contamination events, proper dishwashing, temperature requirements, and date-marking commercially processed and locally prepared foods.

Questions from restaurant operators ranged from storage dates to types of sinks required to how many inches food racks need to be off the ground so someone could clean underneath them.

“It was great,” Nellie’s Sandwich Shop owner Natalia Marques said about the training. Clarico’s presentation provided her with information about “stuff that we didn’t know,” she said.

Selectmen’s Choice for Chief, Rhoden, Staying in Baltimore

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Baltimore Police Commander/Major James Rhoden – who verbally accepted the town’s offer to become Milford’s new Police Chief after being appointed by selectmen on March 2 – notified Selectmen Chair William Buckley on March 16 that he had decided to remain in Baltimore.

A discussion on what selectmen will do next was scheduled for the board’s meeting this past Monday night.

“After much talk and consideration with my wife, we feel that it is best for our family at this time to decline the offer,” Rhoden said in an email to Buckley. “You have a great community and we wish you the very best in your search for the Police Chief. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.”

Rhoden declined the town’s offer before any negotiations began on his contract, according to Buckley.

Selectmen interviewed three finalists for the chief’s position on February 27. Buckley and Selectman William Kingkade voted the following week to appoint Rhoden, with Selectman Michael Walsh favoring another finalist, Leon Krolikowski, the Police Chief in New Canaan, Connecticut.

The finalists’ names were given to selectmen after a lengthy search process by the Police Chief Selection Review Committee. Working with a consulting firm, the search committee whittled the initial 27 applicants to 11 people, then six, then four and then the final three. The third finalist was Falmouth Police Captain Brian Walsh.

Finance Committee Reviewing Fino Pool Plans for Fall Special Town Meeting

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Parks Department presented its $3.4-million plan to renovate the 60-plus year old Fino Field Pool to the Finance Committee on March 11, with an eye toward bringing it to Town Meeting Members at next fall’s Special Town Meeting.

Principal Architect Tom Scarlatta of Boston-based Bargmann Hendrie + Archtype, Inc. – the consultants hired by the Parks Commission to study the site – reviewed plans, presented to the public last November, for a multi-generational facility including a new bathhouse, pool, “spray desk” for children and playground. “What you want to do is right-size the pool to give you the maximum program,” Scarlatta said.

James Asam, Parks and Recreation administrator, said he plans to hold two more public forums on the project before the anticipated Town Meeting next October.

Alberto Correia, vice chair of the Finance Committee and chair of its Capital Planning subcommittee, noted one reason for this month’s meeting was to gauge the full Finance Committee’s interest in funding the proposed renovations. “I’m all for saving this part of Milford,” he stated.

“This pool has really been a fixture in Milford,” commented committee member Philip Ciaramicoli. “Greta memories,” he added. “That pool has served Milford very well,” he continued. “It should be used more frequently and we need to keep it.”

Park Commissioner Paul Pellegrini estimated that 8,000 visits were made to the pool last summer. Asam said the pool use averaged about 980 people each week it was open last year.

The life expectancy for the current pool is “about two more years,” Pellegrini said. “The era of bubble gum patching is over,” Correia commented.

Scarlatta said that if the project is funded by October, construction could begin at the end of the 2021 pool season with a new facility ready for the 2022 season.

“Something this big,” Correia said, needs to be supported by the full Finance Committee. “It’s still not a given that this would happen,” he said. Finance Director Zachary Taylor will have to figure out the best method to fund the project, Correia added.

Taylor indicated to the Finance Committee that the best method would be to pay cash for the project as opposed to borrowing money for it. “No bonding,” he said.

Other FY2021 Budget Items

While reviewing guidelines for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget with the Finance Committee, Taylor noted there were two proposed new positions – an Assistant Town Administrator and a Human Resources “generalist.” Committee chair Christopher Morin said there needs to be a back-up person to help Town Administrator Richard Villani manage the town. In terms of Human Resources, “We’re understaffed” with only one person in that function, Morin added.

Reserve Fund Transfer

The committee voted to make a $10,000 emergency transfer from its Reserve Fund to pay for fencing around a dilapidated commercial building off Depot St. that needed to be secured for public safety. Taylor said it will cost about $175,000 for the town to demolish that building in the future.
Women in the VFW 2020 and Beyond

The Upton VFW is reaching out to women veterans. Ingrid Centurion, LTC US Army Retired and VFW, MA Women’s Liaison, will be hosting monthly Zoom calls on the last Wednesday of the month. The calls will be held at 8 p.m. on March 25, April 29, May 27 and June 24. Details about the Zoom calls, which will have guest experts sharing information, will be available soon.

In the meantime, women veterans with questions or concerns may contact Centurion at Ingrid@vetr. org or 901-289-8158. Information is also available at the Women’s Veterans Call Center, part of the US Department of Veteran Affairs, 1-855-829-6636.

Calendar

WINGMasters – New England Birds of Prey
MILFORD-WINGMasters, New England Birds of Prey presentation will be held Wednesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. in the Quarry and Granite Rooms of the Milford Town Library, Spruce St.

New England Birds of Prey, which includes five live birds, is designed to explain predation, the raptor’s place at the top of the food web, their different hunting adaptations and their status in a rapidly changing world. Because many birds of prey are declining in number, this presentation also features one or more of the endangered raptors that WINGMasters care for and explains why these species face an uncertain future.

WINGMasters is a partnership of two people dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey.

ATHA Quiet Corner Hook-In
WOODSTOCK-ATHA Quiet Corner will hold a Hook-In on Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Woodstock Fairground, Rts 169 and 171, Woodstock, Conn. Traditional hooked rugs will be on display along with good times. Admission is $15 for the entire day at the Hook-In and $5 for vendor shopping only. Pre-register by Saturday, May 30 by contacting getchig@verizon.net.

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. Algah is 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. Algah and Ken Anderson are 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. Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, this event is free and open to the public.

Country & Western Dance
UXBRIDGE-New England Country Music Club will hold a dances on Sunday, April 5 and 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitan St., Uxbridge. Live music will be provided by Mountaineer Family & Friends on April 5 and Rachel & the Western Partners on April 19. Open to the public, admission charge. For more information, visit Facebook.com/necnymusichub

Milford Regional Medical Center- Auxiliary Meeting
MILFORD- The Milford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary meeting will be Tuesday, April 10 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Conference Room A on the first floor of the hospital, 14 Prospect St. The Auxiliary members conduct monthly fundraising events to directly support building funds, departments throughout the hospital, and scholarships. New members are always welcome Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June. For more information, call 508-422-2099 or visit MRMCAuxiliary@milreg.org

Knights of Columbus Foxwoods Trip
MILFORD- The Knights of Columbus Columbus Council 80 is sponsoring a Foxwoods trip on Friday, April 17. The bus will leave the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church, Milford, at 4 p.m. and leave Foxwoods at 11 p.m. The cost is $22 per person and includes transportation, a $10 food voucher or free buffet and $10 in slot plays. Anyone interested in attending must reserve a spot by Friday, April 10, by calling James Burke at 508-478-9813. The trip is open to anyone age 21 and above. Proceeds will benefit the Corpi Family to support their 10-year-old son Nicholas who is undergoing kidney dialysis.

Jewelry Fundraisers Supports Trail Projects

ONLINE- Between now and May 16, when jewelry purchases online at TouchStoneCrystal.com/3TWR5BAD and 25 percent of your purchase will benefit Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc. (BTRA) to help fund upcoming trail projects. This fundraiser offers everyone an opportunity to make a difference to trails in State Forests in their community. BTRA has a large $53,000 trail and parking lot expansion project scheduled for the Dough State Forest, as well as a connector trail creation and bridge improvement project in the Upton State Forest, and a project for trail improvements at Crafton’s Bell Farm.

BTRA believes that trails are important assets to the community, and it has been their mission to help create, maintain and preserve trails for community use since 1973. Since 1989, BTRA has put more than $630,000 into trails within State Forests and Parks within 34 towns in Massachusetts.

PASSOVER SEDERS, SERVICES AND HOLIDAY EVENTS AT CHADAB HOUSE JEWISH CENTER ARE OPEN TO EVERY JEW REGARDLESS OF PRIOR KNOWLEDGE, AFFILIATION OR NON-AFFILIATION. VISIT JEWISHMA.COM OR CALL THE PASSOVER HOTLINE, 508-473-1299, TO REGISTER AND FOR INFORMATION. THERE ARE MANY UNKNOWN DUE TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO EMAIL OR CALL THE CHADAB HOUSE TO FIND OUT HOW ANY OF THE SCHEDULED EVENTS MAY HAVE CHANGED.

For those who plan to hold a private family Seder, Chabad can assist with everything needed, including instructions on conducting your own Seder for no charge.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
First night, 90-Minute-get-out-of-Egypt quick Seder for adults and children, 7 p.m.
Candle Lighting, 7:02 p.m.
Thursday, April 9
Holiday Services, 10 a.m.
Candle Lighting, 8:04 p.m.
Second Night, Traditional Non-Hourcut Seder 9:15 p.m.
-friday, April 10
Morning Services, 10 a.m.
Light Candles at 7:04 p.m.
Saturday, April 11
Morning Services, 10 a.m.
Sunday & Monday, April 12 & 13
Urban Air in Bellingham will be open with Special Pesach Pricing, Hours & Jewish Music.

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“Nothing lets our deployed men and women know that we care and support them,” said Mike Shain, the founder and president of Thanks To Yanks, a local charity that supports military families, stands with multiple boxes of Girl Scout cookies. Shain said of this taste of home donation, “Nothing lets our deployed men and women know they are appreciated and not forgotten more than delicious Girl Scout cookies, always a care pack basic.” For information on Thanks To Yanks, visit them on Facebook or ThanksToYanks.org.

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Educators Reach Out to Students as Schools Closed Until at Least April 7

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter/Columnist

All Massachusetts schools will be closed until at least April 7, while the state tries to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In this time of social isolation, McIntyre said it was very important to foster connections, and is encouraging teachers to reach out to their students and families through email and video chats.

McIntyre. “It is an extremely challenging situation and they are reformatted to remote instruction.”

For both districts, it’s all about working together to ensure that the students have everything they need during this difficult time.

“I credit our leadership team, the teachers, the cafeteria staff, the custodians, for making this all possible,” said McIntyre. “It is an extremely challenging situation and they have all stepped up to the plate to make this work.”

Quinsigamond Community College Remote Learning

Due to the current and unfolding situation regarding the Coronavirus/COVID-19, Quinsigamond Community College has instituted the following safety measures:

- From March 18-27, the College will be closed to in-person services for current students and the public.
- On March 22, regularly scheduled online classes resumed as normal.
- Current in-person courses, labs, and clinicals (including in-person meetings of blended/hybrid courses) are being delayed until Monday, March 30 as the College transitions to remote instruction.
- Seven-week courses (QCC’s Spring II) that are online began on March 23 as scheduled.
- New, in-person, seven-week courses scheduled to begin on March 23 will be delayed until Monday, March 30, as they are reformatted to remote instruction.
- Additional strategies such as facilitating access to Internet and online services, the QCC Food Pantry and Resource Center, and other student support services are being addressed and new procedures are being adopted. All information will be available to the public as strategies are finalized.
- Registration for current QCC students will begin on March 30. Students will receive emailed instructions. For the latest information and updates, visit QCC’s Coronavirus/COVID-19 Information Center at QCC.edu/coronavirus.

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Extra Credits
Milford Public School Activities and Events
Compiled by Melissa Orff

District: Per Governor Charlie Baker, all Massachusetts schools are closed through April 7, 2020. The Milford Public Schools (MPS) will continue to monitor this fluid situation and will make the best determinations in the best interest of the students and staff. Information will continue to be provided via Blackboard Connect, on their website, via @MilfordSchools on Twitter, and on all major news outlets (Milford Daily News, Town Talk, Patch, WMBR etc.).

At this time, all school buildings are closed to everyone for a deep cleaning. The district is aware of building access requests and will be communicating accommodations for reasonable requests in the near future. Each school district is in a different place based upon the timing of their closure and their progress with cleaning, so they ask you to please follow Milford Public School guidelines.

Lunch and breakfast will be provided to students and their families at Memorial Elementary School every weekday while the school buildings are closed. Breakfast will be offered from 8 to 10 a.m. and lunch will be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both breakfast and lunch can be picked up at the same time. This will be a “grab and go” service. Milford Public Schools wants to ensure that everyone in the community has access to nutritious meals and food.

Each school in the district has developed learning opportunities for students while they are closed. Schools have either already provided these opportunities or will be beginning shortly. If you have specific questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher or principal via email.

The MIAA is currently planning for the spring high school athletic season to begin on April 27. Athletic Directors in the league are collaborating to develop a modified schedule. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Follow @MilfordSchools on Twitter for daily updates and resources from teachers across the district. Additionally, visit the MPS Technology Website and look for your child’s respective school on the Milford Public Schools website.

School News

Quinsigamond Community College
Remote Learning

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Quinsigamond Community College
Remote Learning

Due to the current and unfolding situation regarding the Coronavirus/COVID-19, Quinsigamond Community College has instituted the following safety measures:

- From March 18-27, the College will be closed to in-person services for current students and the public.
- On March 15 that all schools will be closed for the next three weeks, a measure they hope will mitigate the number of people contracting the coronavirus which has sickened more than 370,000 and killed over 17,000 people to date worldwide.

In this time of uncertainty, the Milford Public School District (MPS) and the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) want students and families to know that although the buildings may be closed, school is still in session.

“We are providing a number of different learning opportunities for our students, giving them online resources and assignments that they can complete at home,” said Milford’s Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kevin McIntyre. “They are given writing prompts and problems to solve that don’t necessarily have to be done online to complete them,” said McIntyre.

In this time of social isolation, McIntyre said it was very important to foster connections, and is encouraging teachers to reach out to their students and families through email and video chats.

With over 50 percent of the students in Milford receiving free and reduced lunch, it is just important to make sure that keeping student’s healthy also includes making sure that they are fed during this shut down. Students and their families can pick up a “grab and go” breakfast and/or lunch outside of the Memorial School every weekday from 8 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We handed out close to 1,500 nutritious, well-balanced meals in the first week,” said McIntyre. Students at BVT who utilize free and reduced lunch should visit the BVT website under School Year Information for information about food services available during this time.

But meals are not the only thing that BVT is handing out right now. The Technical High School made a donation of cleaning and medical supplies to the Milford Regional Medical Center in Milford this week. The donation included 35,000 gloves, 900 masks, wipes, goggies, and face shields, much needed supplies for a hospital with already strained resources.

For both districts, it’s all about working together to ensure that the students have everything they need during this difficult time.

“I credit our leadership team, the teachers, the cafeteria staff, the custodians, for making this all possible,” said McIntyre. “It is an extremely challenging situation and they have all stepped up to the plate to make this work.”
MURSD Shredding Health Records

Mendon Upton Regional School District will be shredding unclaimed school health records dated prior to 2013. Please contact the school nurse at the last school you attended to see if you have a record on file. These school health records dated prior to 2013. Please contact the school nurse at the last school you attended to see if you have a record on file. These records will be shredded after May 15, 2020.

Massachusetts US Veterans Motorcycle Club Scholarships

The Massachusetts Chapter of the US Veterans Motorcycle Club annually awards at least one $500 scholarship to a local high school student who will be continuing their education and who are related to veterans. Each year we have been awarding Scholarships to students in local schools that are related to veterans. The number of scholarships awarded and the dollar amount are based on funds at hand. Last year five, $500 scholarships were awarded. A candidate must be a relative of an active or honorably discharged military member or a relative of a member of the US Veterans Motorcycle Club. Applications are available at the guidance departments at Uxbridge, Valley Tech and Nipmuc Regional High Schools.

Dean's List

The following Milford students were named to the Dean's List at their respective schools for the fall 2019 semester:
Saint Anselm College, Manchester, N.H.: Olivia Maier, Undeclared major, Class of 2022.

Some Companies Are Hiring

While many businesses have had to lay off workers due to the novel coronavirus, a few are hiring.

Domino's Pizza has posted an announcement that it is seeking 500 new team members across more than 100 stores throughout the Greater Boston area. The positions include delivery drivers, customer service representatives, assistant managers and managers. Anyone interested should visit Jobs.Dominos.com.

Amazon and Walmart are hiring a combined 250,000 workers nationwide. Amazon is looking about 100,000 warehouse and delivery workers while Walmart needs about 150,000 in the next month or so to staff stores, clubs, warehouses and fulfillment centers. Visit AmazonDelivers.com for jobs with that company while Walmart information is available at Careers.Walmart.com.

Some supermarkets are also looking for additional help. Visit the corporate websites of local markets to see if they are hiring.

Many of the positions that are now be advertised as a result of COVID-19 will be temporary but a few could turn into more full-time positions depending on how the economy works following the end of coronavirus restrictions.

HELP WANTED

Town Crier Reporter Needed

The Town Crier is looking for a part-time, freelance reporter to cover education in Mendon, Milford and Upton, Massachusetts. A typical assignment might include covering a school committee meeting or event in the evening or afternoon, following up on a news tip, or interviewing and writing a profile of a local resident. Strong writing and research skills, computer access (including Internet) and ability to file stories by weekly deadline required. The ability to take and send photos from an event is also needed. Familiarity with the communities of Mendon, Milford and Upton preferred. Submit writing samples and resumes to Jane Bigda, Town Crier Editor, via email TownCrierEditor@gmail.com.
End Vaping in the Valley

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is well-prepared with cleaning and medical supplies. With school closed, the District wants to ensure that these essential items are available to the medical staff and healthcare providers at Milford Regional Medical Center in Milford, who are on the front line caring for those in the Blackstone Valley.

"Given the current need for certain items, we looked to see what supplies we could donate to Milford Hospital," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "Given our advanced preparation, we were in a position to assist others. Our Facilities Manager, James Brochu, places orders well in advance to ensure that our school does not run short."

BVT Donates Supplies to Milford Regional Medical Center

The team will ultimately bring their End Vaping in the Valley campaign to the SkillsUSA State Competition with their students at Miscoe Hill Middle School in Mendon, serving students Pre-K-grade 8 (ages 2 years and nine months to 15 years olds) from Worcester and Middlesex community. The BVT photo

On Line Learning at Touchstone

Touchstone teacher Matt Schiffbauer teaches an online Zoom class to his students. Touchstone implemented virtual classrooms and learning following the school closure due to COVID-19. Touchstone photo

At Touchstone Community School, Sally Kent the Head of School, was preparing for virtual learning since March 2 when the first COVID19 cases came to Massachusetts. Her goal from the beginning was: "if we have to close school, I want our children to stay engaged with one another and to continue to learn." In their planning, a parent trained teachers on using Zoom, and the teachers and staff created an inventory of at home technology needs to support online learning. Touchstone Tech integrator, Mary Brochu, ensured that we had a device for every child.

Kent notified parents on March 12 that it would be happening, and on March 16 they rolled out a three-day plan: Day-1, teachers report without students and created packets and kits for children; Day-2 the teachers stayed home and a limited administrative staff came to school so that parents could pick up their child's kits and their zoom schedule at any time during normal school hours. Also on Day-2, teachers had their first short introduction with Zoom and their classes. On Day-3 teachers began with a virtual morning meeting, attendance, and classes. It has been a huge learning curve for everyone. Touchstone regularly holds formative assessments. This is a process that teachers reflect on how their lessons are maximizing learning experiences for each of their students and adjusting the lesson to improve. Teaching virtually is one more example of how these teachers are learning, reflecting, and collaborating with one another.

"I am so proud of the work our teachers are doing and the support from the families. It has been and will be a difficult time, we want to keep our children connected and to keep school a reality," said Kent. Touchstone is an independent, not-for-profit school in Grafton, serving students Pre-K-grade 8 (ages 2 years and nine months to 15 years olds) from Worcester and Middlesex community.

End Vaping in the Valley

One of the many ways young people learn is often through conversation, whether it is a discussion with their peers or older students. The sixth-grade students at Miscoe Hill Middle School in Mendon recently had an opportunity to converse with the BVT SkillsUSA Community Service Team about the harmfulness of vaping, and the importance of making healthy choices.

Carissa and Kyle Penta of Blackstone, and Renata Santiago of Milford, members of the BVT SkillsUSA Community Service Team, will represent their high school, Blackstone Valley Tech, at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State Competition with their community service project titled, "End Vaping in the Valley." The team hopes to put an end to vaping through their awareness campaign, which includes interactive presentations with local sixth-graders about how vaping negatively impacts teenagers and ends with students signing a No Smoking/Vaping Pledge.

"We decided to present to sixth-graders because we want to bring our message to that age group. If young people are informed with the facts and made aware of the harmful effects of vaping at an earlier age, they will be less likely to try vaping," explained Renata Santiago.

In addition to presenting at local middle schools, the team plans to attend area Home & Community Expos. Carissa Penta said, "We’ve created posters and made labels for water bottles that have anti-vaping facts that we sold in our school cafeteria to promote and share our message to curb vaping within the Blackstone Valley.”

"Through this community service project, I have learned skills like how to network and other communication skills," said Kyle Penta. "It is great to be able to give back to my community in such an impactful way."

The team will ultimately bring their End Vaping in the Valley campaign to the SkillsUSA State Competition with the hope of advancing on to the national competition held in Louisville, Ky.

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APRIL VACATION ART CAMP FOR KIDS

Join us for a fun-filled week of art and fun! You will learn about some famous artists and their way of seeing the world, create your own projects using different mediums, and have time to play in between.

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Check out my website and facebook.
Enjoy a Walk, but Keep Your Distance
By Jane Bigda
Editor
Want to take some exercise during the current stay-at-home, social distancing advisories that have resulted from the novel coronavirus? Lace up a pair of sneakers or grab a bike for a walk or ride on local trails and paths. Just remember your six-foot distance from others.
Milford offers the always-popular Upper Charles Trail, an almost seven-mile long paved walking and biking trail that goes through the Hopkinton to Holliston town lines. Access is available from Rt. 85, Dilla St., Finnfield, East Main St. and Veterans Dr. Visit Milfordtrail.org for a map.
For those who want to walk around town, try any of the 10 to a walking routes ranging from a half mile to three miles prepared by walkBoston and found at walkBoston.org/2012/03/01/milford-walking-maps/. The most recognizable is the Little Engine that Could Historic Walk (1.5 miles) that is marked on the sidewalk with images of the train engine and encompasses historic sites.
In Mendon, hike through the Mendon Town Forest on Tower Road near the Milville-Mendon town line. On walk the trails through the Meadow Brook Woods Conservation Area & Inman Pond, via the southern entrance off Chapin St. Uxbridge. Inman Hill Wildlife Conservation Area, access via Inman Hill Road, or the Quissett Wildlife Management Area, access via Quissett Rd. Trail maps for each site are available online at Mendonma.gov/parks-recreation/pages/trails-and-passive-recreation.
Upton has many open spaces and forests for exploring. Two are the Stevens Farm, a 116-acre property with access from Mechanic St. near the power lines, and the Upton State Forest, which encompasses over 1,200 acres and can be accessed from Westboro Rd. Heritage Park, off Elm St., offers 7.5 acres with walking trails and a magnificent ancient stone chamber. Upton Conservation Areas, many of which are interlinked by trails off North St. or from the Upton State Forest, include the Whitney Conservation Area, part of a historic once owned by the Eli Whitney family; the Warren Brook Watershed, plus the Richard and Naomi Howarth and the Eleanor T. Howarth Glen Conservation Areas.
The Peppercomb Hill Conservation Area has streams, wetlands, scenic vistas and trails on 283 acres and the Snow Family Conservation Area can be accessed via Crockett St. or Taft St. Maps for Upton's trails are available at UptonMA.gov/land-stewardship-committee/pages/upton-conservation-land-and-trail-maps.
Uxbridge has a number of natural areas. West Hill Dam offers wonderful views and a variety of hiking experiences or off-road biking. Access is off of Hartford Ave East, Uxbridge. The Blackstone Canal Towpath follows the canal for about four miles from Plummer's Landing in Northbridge to the Stanley Woolen Mill, Rte. 16, Uxbridge. Parking is available at Plummer's Landing, Hartford Ave. East, River Bend Farm on Oak St. and Cross St. The trail also offers off-road biking. A side trail leads to Lookout Point with spectacular views of the valley. Parking for Lookout Point is off Quaker St. Visit Mass.gov/locations/Blackstone-Canal-and-Canal-Heritage-State-Park to download the trail map. Further afield, enjoy the views from the Uxbridge to Blackstone portion of the Blackstone River Bikeway. The 3.5-mile segment of the much larger trail from Worcester to Cumberland, R.I. has parking at 1 Adams St., Uxbridge, at 44 Hope St. Millville and 93 Canal St., Blackstone. Visit BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/exploring-the-blackstone-river-valley/maps-tours-guides/blackstone-river-bikeway/ for a map.

Sports
Boyle Joining Her Sister at Smith Soccer
By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Madde Boyle kept looking around at different colleges to continue her education and her soccer career, but every time the Milford High senior looked at a new school, she compared it to Smith College.
“At a certain point I thought, ‘if I am comparing them all to Smith, then Smith is where I want to go,’” Boyle said. “It’s such an empowering environment. There is something special about it and I smile when I think about it.”
Boyle will have a helping hand in making the transition from high school to all the women’s college. Her older sister, Maggie, is a sophomore at Smith and a member of the soccer team.
“It’s going to be so much fun to be on the same team as her,” the younger Boyle said. “She said it’s different playing college soccer, it’s much more serious. You had a strict schedule and you are very busy all the time, but she said it’s nice.”
Boyle also received a great deal of help from her parents John and Christine, who said she has always been willing to take her to games and tournaments, no matter where she happened to be playing.
“They’ve literally done everything for me,” she said. Boyle said the environment on campus appealed to her right away. Her future teammates were all warm and welcoming and being a part of the team will make the shift to college life easier, she said.
“There are not many colleges left that are all-women,” she said. “There is a lot of women there who will support you and who have achieved great things in their lives. There is always someone willing to help you.”
Boyle said she is not certain what her role will be on the team next year. She played center back for the Scarlet Hawks, but may make a shift to the defensive midfield. She is also not certain what she wants to

‘The Jungle’ Boosts MHS Boys Hoops

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By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
The impressive run for the Milford High boys basketball team this winter was aided by the support of a strong student section dubbed “the jungle” and the groups’ leaders said the impact they had was palpable.
“We were very excited to get to lead it this year, especially with the team doing so well,” said MHS senior Anthony Ghalbouni.
The Jungle has been around for a few years and some of the basic tenets have remained the same. The students pack one full section of the gym and get as loud as possible. They cheer, they chant, and they try to make life as tough as possible for the visiting team.
Ghalbouni said this year’s crew leading the way, which also included seniors Nick Wimette, Dan Santos, Ryan Donelan and Jack Selander, tried to put their spin on The Jungle.
One of the new twists was instituting a “Marco Polo” chant during opposing team’s free throws. A senior or two would go over to the other side of the gym and scream “Marco Polo” to get the call-and-response “Polo” from the student section on the other side. Ghalbouni credited the chant with rattling an opponent into missing a pair of crucial free throws.
The Jungle also celebrated when Milford drew

Members of the Milford High School jungle dressed as Greeks helped cheer on the Boys Basketball team this season. Contributed photo.

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Cerrella Tackling College Football Challenge at FPU

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Cerrella has a pretty good role model for what he wants to accomplish when he starts his college football career at Franklin Pierce University (FPU) in Ridgefield, N.H. His father, Chris, played college football at Quinnipiac in Connecticut when it was a new program and went on to become an All-American and play in the NFL. The younger Cerrella is hoping he can help elevate another fledgling program at FPU. He drew some interest from Division I football teams, but received more generous financial assistance from the Division II program. "It was the perfect combination of money, good coaches, and a new program is attractive for a player," Cerrella said. "It was the perfect fit for me." The MHS senior is heading to the New Hampshire school after a standout four-year career for the Scarlet Hawks. A linebacker, Cerrella said he hopes to be part of a rotation at that position next year and see significant time during his freshman year. "I fit into their scheme pretty well," he said. "I'm hoping I will be playing a lot as a freshman." Franklin Pierce is recruiting heavily on the defensive side of the ball, Cerrella said. He said he will have to work hard throughout the offseason in order to be ready to compete at a higher level next year and in a deep group of linebackers. One goal of his is to get faster. "Speed is always a factor in college football, you can't go anywhere if you don't have speed," Cerrella said. Another goal is to work on his weight training and developing upper body strength. "Linemen in college football are big," Cerrella said. "You really have to have the strength to out-leverage them in those opportunities." Cerrella is also working on technique, pass rushing and coverage skills in order to become a complete linebacker. In the classroom, Cerrella said he is still deciding on a major, but he wants to minor in security and intelligence studies, a longtime interest. In addition to his father setting an example for him to follow, Cerrella said his stepfather, Mike Hafner, has also been instrumental in Reisman's success. "Westfield has a great program," Reisman said. "Their athletics are great, the coaching staff was amazing and the girls all made me feel like I would fit in."

The Milford High senior has come a long way from those early days when she first tried the position. "I was really bad at playing in the field," she recalled, laughing. "I would say my personality is to try new things. It started off as a funny thing and it turned into a great opportunity." Over the past several years, Reisman, 17, worked hard to become more flexible and more athletic when donning the bulky field hockey pads. But she still said she has a lot she can improve on, especially in a 6-foot, 2-inch, 165-pound package.

"I want to get stronger with my kicks, I want to be better with communication in net and making sure the defense and I are in the right place," she said. "I am also trying to get better athletically, getting faster and lifting more weights." Reisman said choosing part of the field hockey program at MHS has been a great experience. During her junior season, she earned Hockomock League All-Star recognition and was teamed the teams MVP, dropping more than 80 percent of the shots the goal. Reisman has also enjoyed the close bond she has formed with her fellow Scarlet Hawk teammates. "The girls are amazing and field hockey has always been different compared to a lot of other sports," she said. "We come together and we hope it off and on the field. It's been nice to have another support system and group of friends." Her team is not the only support system Reisman has enjoyed. Her parents, Robin and Harold and her brothers Nyleon, 19, Griffin, 17, and Caden, 14, have also been instrumental in Reisman's career. "They were so helpful, my mom and dad come to every single game and my brothers come to a lot of games," Reisman said. "The boys all play basketball and baseball and soccer, so it's been cool to do something different than the boys had never done before."
Neiva Makes MHS History with Wrestling Title

By Chris Villani

SPORTS FLASH

Sports Reporter/Columnist

At the beginning of the season, Milford’s Joao Neiva wrote on a piece of paper that his goal for the winter was to become a state champion in wrestling. He was able to accomplish that goal and take it one step further, becoming the first MHS wrestler to win an All-State title. “I just couldn’t believe it,” Neiva said, describing the moments after he took home the title in the 220lb division. “I had butterflies in my stomach. I felt amazing, it was like all of my hard work paid off.”

Neiva’s journey to becoming Milford’s first All-State champion was not an easy one. He began wrestling during his junior year as a way to stay in shape for soccer. “In the beginning, I thought I was not that good at it,” he said. “I thought, ‘this is not my sport!’ But I decided I was going to stick with it and work hard and I did.”

Neiva has become a student of a sport that is both highly athletic and highly technical. He and his teammates run a lot in order to build up their cardio endurance and he said he is constantly asking questions and looking to learn everything he can about wrestling and improving his technique on the mat. “I dedicated myself to wrestling. Sometimes I would come home after practice, take a shower, and watch college wrestlers to learn,” Neiva said. “I ask a lot of questions, how to do this, how to do that. I am always curious about it; I want to learn something new.”

Neiva has studied jujitsu in the past, something that helped him learn the types of moves needed to succeed in wrestling. During state meet, Neiva was able to earn some revenge, beating a competitor in the final match who had gotten the better of him a couple weeks before. As a state champion, he earned a spot in the All-State meet. Every match was a challenge, he said. “Every single match was a hard match, for sure,” Neiva said. “I never imagined I could be at All-States and I ended up winning, that was crazy.”

The senior finished his career with wins in the sectional, Division 2 state and All-State meets and a 6th place finish in the New England meet. Neiva said he is looking into his college options and is not sure whether he is going to wrestle, but he plans to continue to practice martial arts and stay active. A native of Brazil, Neiva moved to Milford four years ago and has come to enjoy his new home. “If you are unable to visit our dealerships, you can purchase your vehicle right from your living room! Call us at 800-526-AUTO.”

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Statewide HS Tourney Format Earns Local ADs’ Backing

By Chris Villani

Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, which governs high school tournaments in the Bay State, overwhelmingly approved a switch to a statewide tournament format.

The change, which will go into effect for the 2020-2021 academic year, effectively eliminates geographic sections and seeds teams in a statewide bracket according to their division. Schools from Cape Cod to the Berkshires who have similar enrolments could find themselves squaring off in the postseason.

“We are in uncharted territory here in my 50 years on the planet,” said Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher. “To my recollection, there has always been sectionals.”

Boucher supported the statewide tournament and said most of the athletic directors in Milford’s league, the Hockomock, were as well. Among the benefits, league ADs see is the chance to avoid playing each other in the early rounds of postseason tournaments.

“We felt that the Hockomock League was cannibalizing itself,” said Boucher, who has seen Milford teams travel the vast South Region and play teams on Cape Cod in the tournament, even under the current format.

“We are OK if we have to travel East, West, North, or South,” he said.

“The reality is the traditional sections were changing as it was,” added Nipmuc AD Christopher Schmidt, who also voted in favor of the change. “If you look at lacrosse, for example, we were getting pushed west and it’s possible we would have to travel two hours to play Mt. Greylock or some of these schools that have traveled to play us the past four or five years.”

Schmidt said he did not see a lot of difference between the shifting sectional demographics and the statewide proposal. Nipmuc schools traditionally play in Central Mass.

Those schools, since the current format came into being in the late 1970s, play Western Mass. schools after the district tournament is over, with the winner to play an Eastern Mass. team in the title games. The sections and formats are different, however, for some sports that are not as prevalent statewide.

Schmidt agreed that it would be nice not to play some of the local rivals in the first or second round of the playoffs.

“If you look at our boys basketball tournament this past winter, I would make an argument that three or four of the best teams in the state were in Central Mass.,” Schmidt said. “We had to see them earlier than we could have with a statewide format.”