The Voice of the Garden Begins to Hum

The Board of Health has ordered that anyone age five and older must wear a cloth face covering – such as a fabric mask, scarf or bandana – over his or her nose and mouth when entering “essential businesses” including grocery stores, pharmacies and home improvement stores.

The board’s order, which took effect at 6 a.m. on April 27 and refers to “essential businesses” as defined by Governor Charles Baker’s executive orders, includes several provisions:

- All members of the public age five years and older entering a restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth.
- All employees of all essential businesses shall wear a face covering over their mouth and nose when interacting with the public and within six feet of a co-worker.
- All grocery stores, retail stores and food service establishment staff must wear a face covering. Gloves must be readily available and used as necessary to avoid touching “ready to eat foods.” Glove use is not a substitution for frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer.
- Any resident or member of the general public age five years and older entering or exiting a residential or commercial building complex of greater than one unit must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth while in common areas and communal spaces and must exercise social distancing in these spaces in accordance with those Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

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Douglas W. Tallamy, award-winning nature writer and a University of Delaware Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, writes that animals need our yards to connect isolated patches of preserved lands. Animals crawl, lope or fly to find shelter, food and mates, but they struggle with a majority of the country in swaths of roads, buildings and disturbed lands. The Monarch Butterfly population has dropped over 90 percent, the US bird population has plummeted 30 percent and extinctions are exponentially exceeding natural fluctuations. Tallamy explains that our yards planted with native plants could provide needed nourishment for migrating birds and create a vibrant mini-ecosystem that animals and you could enjoy. Most of the protected land is in the western US, but the majority of the biodiversity is east of the Mississippi River, with 86 percent in private ownership. We can lend a hand. Unfortunately, 80 percent of the plants in most peoples' yards are non-native and do not benefit, the complex food web required by local critters. Native plants and animals have evolved together over millennia. Our fauna cannot adapt to plants brought in from other countries quickly enough for survival. For example, the ubiquitous ornamental Asian Bradford Pear tree is a food desert to Massachusetts wildlife, whereas native oak trees provide food for 454 species of caterpillars that turn into pollinating moths and butterflies, which in turn feed our birds and other animals. Tallamy's essentials to make a "homegrown national park" is to first shrink the lawn. Use fill and around trees to evaluate them and answer all of your questions. Can be done right in our offices. Before removing a wisdom tooth, we'll thousands of wisdom tooth extractions. It takes less than an hour and takes away for migrating birds and create a vibrant mini-ecosystem that animals and you could enjoy. Most of the protected land is in the western US, but the majority of the biodiversity is east of the Mississippi River, with 86 percent in private ownership. We can lend a hand. Unfortunately, 80 percent of the plants in most peoples' yards are non-native and do not benefit, the complex food web required by local critters. Native plants and animals have evolved together over millennia. Our fauna cannot adapt to plants brought in from other countries quickly enough for survival. For example, the ubiquitous ornamental Asian Bradford Pear tree is a food desert to Massachusetts wildlife, whereas native oak trees provide food for 454 species of caterpillars that turn into pollinating moths and butterflies, which in turn feed our birds and other animals. Tallamy's essentials to make a "homegrown national park" is to first shrink the lawn. Use fill and around trees to create attractive garden beds of natives. This will also protect the native caterpillars. After eating from a host tree, caterpillars often fall to the ground to pupate before unfurling into butterflies and moths. If they land on a lawn they can get mowed over or crushed by foot traffic. Native caterpillars are a superfood for most of our bird species. Note: the majority of infestations are from non-natives, e.g. gypsy moth caterpillar. Tallamy's second recommendation is to remove non-native, invasive plants. For identification and removal techniques, visit MassAudubon.org/Learn/Nature-Wildlife/Invasive-Plants. Next, add native plants such as oaks, birches, hickory and cherry trees that host many species of caterpillars and pollinating bees. This might be a simple matter of not cutting some trees down. Other super pollinator plants include asters, goldenrods and sunflowers. Tallamy points out a misconception; attracting pollinators, does not attract yellow jackets or hornets that can be aggressive and sting multiple times. It invites friendly bees who very rarely sting. They are too busy buzzing around the garden pollinating to bother humans. Hundreds of native plants species can be found at the Native Plant Trust in Framingham. On their website, search by pollinator plants, color, bloom-time etc. and find the perfect plants for your yard. Order online and pick up your order in Framingham. Visit PlantFinder.NativePlantTrust.org/Plant-Search. Tallamy also advises to not use pesticides or fertilizers, instead use compost or leaf litter. Learn much more in his excellent book, Nature's Best Hope.
By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on May 1 to order that the Louisa Lake parking lot on Dilla St. be closed to pedestrians and motorists effective at sunset on May 1 due to public health and public safety concerns. The Upper Charles Trail is still open.

The order will remain in effect until the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency is over. Chairman William Buckley said the town’s COVID-19 Task Force recommended the parking lot closure after numerous coronavirus public health emergency is over. Chairman William Buckley said he would defer to the public safety and public health experts’ recommendations on closing the parking lot, but wanted to keep as many outdoor recreation areas open as possible.

“It’s for the safety of the general public,” commented Selectman Michael Walsh. “This order is to protect everybody in our community.”

Buckley and Walsh urged people not to cause public safety problems by parking on roadways near the lake.

Your Connections While Distancing

ACCOUNTING VULNERABILITY

Open New Account - Personal
Request in person appointment
Request New Co

BANKING (CASH)

Deposits or Withdrawals

CREDIT

Checks

Debit cards

Loans

Auto Loan - Application
Home Equity Loan - Application
Mortgage - Home Equity - Applications

Make a Payment

MOBILE MONEY

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Set up Direct Deposit

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PASSPORT PHOTOS

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$23,229

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$9,000

$19,211

$23,229

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Medway Office

(508) 533-8661

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Bellingham Office: (508) 936-2857
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**An Example of Good Government in Action**

I want to thank the Mendon Board of Health. Almost three months ago, the board passed on a February 6 novel coronavirus fact sheet created by the Massachusetts Department of Health through an email blast. Since, as I, a resident and as a newspaper editor, receive emails for the Mendon Board of Health, this was first local alert I got of the virus. I had realized the virus existed, but thought it was primarily an overseas problem at the time.

The email woke me up. Not only did it start my personal preparations for the virus, but it also started the Town Crier news coverage of the pandemic with our February 17 Upton Mendon issue.

Of course at the time I did not realize how impactful this event would be. I did not realize how much of our everyday lives would be changed by the virus. I wish I had, I would have bought more of the right things at the beginning of this pandemic and been able to cut out many later shopping trips.

In all seriousness, the Mendon Board of Health did just what it was supposed to do. It started warning townpeople of a potential risk to their collective health, gave them specific actions to hopefully mitigate that risk and prepared them to receive future announcements should they come. And come they have.

The Board of Health and local officials have sent townpeople a new update almost every week since then. Those updates outlined how the town was responding to the virus—which buildings were closed, what services were stopped or modified and what actions townpeople needed to take. They also provided links for vetted, trustworthy, scientifically backed information. Residents just had to read what was sent, understand the clearly written text and undertake the actions listed.

For a part-time, elected board with just one full time staff member, a shared health agent, the Mendon Board of Health has done a great job. They have fulfilled their obligation to the voters who elected them and the taxpayers who fund their salaries. We put our trust in them and they repaid that trust with action for the collective good; just what good government should do.

So thank you, Mr. and Mrs. President. So thank you, the Mendon Board of Health members Andy Fiske, Alan Greenberg and Tom Fitchner, Health Agent Larry Izzo, and administrator, Missy Kakela-Bouvet.

**Beat the Boredom**

Maja and Lena Barrett are collecting dandelions to make syrup.

Being on lockdown is so boring! The kids and I agree on that.

But it is a good time to go back to my own childhood and show them what I did at that age. One thing I was very good at was picking dandelions. I don’t think this is being done much nowadays. For a child, it is a great activity, and it is free!

So take a trip to a nearby field, park or wooded area and collect these early spring flowers. Kids of all ages will enjoy this activity.

**Outlook and Reality: How the Pandemic Changed Us**

*By Jane Bigda*

So thank you to Mendon Board of Health members Andy Fiske, Alan Greenberg and Tom Fitchner, Health Agent Larry Izzo, and administrator, Missy Kakela-Bouvet. The numbers of elderly people sick or dying from the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic are a stark reminder of how we treat many of our aged population today.

Putting it bluntly, we all too often put them away in long-term care facilities because we think we can’t care for them.

The numbers of elderly people testing “positive” and dying from COVID-19 are huge, given the concentration of at-risk people in these places. Let’s not forget about the staff working there either.

I’m not talking about just the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke. Look at the numbers in Malden — more than 30 patients and staff testing “positive” in one location alone.

Doesn’t it say something to you that we are sending the National Guard in to look after this or exposing them to pandemics?

The state is now offering these places millions of dollars of assistance — rightly tied to whether they have adequate staff-to-patient ratios and other safeguards in place.

I have personal experience with places like these. No matter how good they are, no matter what they cost, they do not substitute for home care.

And I know that’s a great sacrifice. I grew up in a legal alien family. No male family members were welcome in the house even 50 years after my mother’s mother passed away.

I know society has changed enormously since then. We are a mobile society. Both husbands and wives need to work. We no longer live in multi-generational homes like we used to.

You know, one of the things I love about Milford is that its Irish, Italian, Portuguese and Brazilian cultures stress the importance of families being together. The first question you are usually asked involves who you are related to. Families eat together and party together.

Family gatherings are revered here.

Trust me, that doesn’t happen everywhere. In most suburbs today, people rarely even speak to their neighbors or even know who they are. Social media “friends” replace real-life friends and neighbors.

Perhaps the only benefit from the pandemic is that it’s made us look at and what is important in our lives. As we keep our “social distance,” the emotional distance is being reduced. Lacking the ability to personally touch, I think people are reaching out for emotional touches.

The great singer-songwriter John Prine passed away recently — from COVID-19 complications. One of his greatest songs, often covered by others, is “Hello in There.” The lyrics end with: “So if you’re walking down the street sometimes, / And spot some hollow ancient eyes, / Please don’t just pass ‘em by and stare / As if you don’t know who they are.”

I think people are reaching out for emotional touches.

We may be sequestered or quarantined from visiting the elderly, but we shouldn’t be writing them off – or exposing them to pandemics.

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS**

The March list of confirmed, free, nourishing meals offered monthly to all in the local community:

**Last Wednesday**

4:30-6 p.m. Donor, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmillford.org. April meals are scheduled but subject to change based on Covid-19 directives.

**Last Thursday**

4:30-6 p.m. Donor, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, sponsored by First Methodist Church of Milford volunteers. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmillford.org. April meals are scheduled but subject to change based on Covid-19 directives.

**Last Friday**

4:30-6 p.m. Donor, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford, sponsored by the Hope mdl Church (Unitarian, Sacred Heart and Union Evangelical). 508-473-8464 or offices@trinitychurchmillford.org. April meals are scheduled but subject to change based on Covid-19 directives.

**RUMINATIONS**

*By Kevin Budden*

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We may be sequestered or quarantined from visiting the elderly, but we shouldn’t be writing them off – or exposing them to pandemics.
Opinion

The Town Crier Welcomes Scott Calzolaio

The Town Crier is pleased to welcome Scott Calzolaio as its new education reporter starting with this issue. Growing up in Milford, he said, “has been a privilege. The town definitely has personality, and it should be highlighted.”

A graduate of Framingham State University with a bachelor of arts in English and Literature with minors in journalism and film studies, Calzolaio worked for the Milford Daily News and Metrowest Daily News for a number of years. Noting his来自 a blue-collar, self-employed household, he said, “my parents have put their working lives into improving this community with their services and unique charm.” With that dynamic duo in mind, I intend to do the same and give back to the place that made me who I am.” Glad to be part of the Town Crier, Calzolaio said while journalism is fun. “If I stick to the core mission, which is journalism and as concerned residents, we can inform the public and maybe spread a few smiles while we’re at it. When I do it I am to be a journalist, I want to be an agent for the truth, the best of humanity, and I will do whatever it takes to do the best for the Town.”

Calzolaio will be covering education and writing feature stories for the communities of Mendon, Milford and Upton. Be sure to look for him in this issue. The Town Crier also bids farewell to former education reporter Melissa Orff whose has covered school-related events and provided a variety of feature stories for over a decade. Orff has taken a position and everyone at the paper wishes her well in her new venture.

Letters

LETTERS Letters may be edited for length and clarity and will be published on a space available basis. Maximum 300 words. Must include signature, address & telephone number.

Egregious Vote

To the Editor,

An historian of British followings in America remarked that selectmen were chosen for their maturity, wisdom and experience in local government. In my opinion, those qualities were absent when Chairman William Buckley and Selectman William Kingkade appointed Michael Pighetti as the Chief of Police at the March 23, 2020 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

Buckley and Kingkade are both accomplished individuals. It is a shame to see such a highly accomplished, accomplished pair make such a mistake. It is an unfortunate decision.

Either way, the sewist assessed its “mask worthiness” and thought it be perfect. The sewist who made it is tired. She’s been sewing for days; she tires the monotony. She’s pricked her fingers with pins and sliced her knuckles with rotary cutters. Yet she continues to make masks… for you. It was worth every penny. Whether you bought it for $5 or $15, you paid fair market value for someone’s materials, time and talent. If you received it for free, it has already been paid for with the maker’s charity and it has a will of the people. The sewist made it to help you but it’s helping her too. The sewist made it to help you and it’s helping her too. She’s decided the best way to work through this situation is to help those who protect all of us.

The maker is being flooded with requests. People who haven’t spoken to her in years are calling to chat and “ask for a mask.” She’s been offering money to make more than she can handle. At times, it’s a lot and you know that she’s got too many to make, she won’t turn you down because she really wants to help you. It will make her smile when she sees you wearing it. She’ll remember the fabric, the paint, she may even tell you it was one of her favorites. She’ll smile knowing that she did this small little thing that’s helping you in such a big way. She’ll smile knowing that in the most difficult of times, she was there.

She should give you hope for a better world. In a situation where members of the community are struggling, others have risen up, offered their time and talents to provide what they can. It means there’s hope for an area, not just one another and that people truly do care for one another.

Editor’s note: This item was shared by Joyce Gilmore, an accomplished quilter, who has made over 300 masks. Her Gilmore Girl’s Quilters have made at least 400 more.

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 postponed meetings, including cancelations or other special instructions on agendas for virtual or call in meetings. For additional information needed, contact the appropriate Board or official.

Wednesday, May 13
Central Mass. Mosquito Control Board of Directors, 211 Otis St, Northborough, 11 a.m.

Thursday, May 14
Board of Library Trustees, Town Library, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19
Planning Board, Public Hearing Being Held Remotely, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 21
Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition at Trinity Episcopal Church, 6 p.m.

SHOP LOCAL! BUY LOCAL!

MAY 8, 2020

Milford Town Crier

5
Rate of Fatalities on State Roadways Doubled in April

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) reported the rate of fatalities on state roadways doubled in April. With 50 percent less traffic recorded on major highways, 28 individuals died in crashes, compared with the month of April 2019 when there were 27 deaths. April’s high fatality rate underscores the importance of obeying posted speed limits, wearing a seatbelt, driving sober, and obeying the hands-free law. “Our traffic and safety engineers continuously monitor roadways across the Commonwealth and have identified a dangerous trend that has led to the doubling of the vehicular fatality rate in Massachusetts for the month of April,” said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. “During the pandemic, everyone in the Commonwealth has sacrificed and used their own ingenuity to keep themselves and our community safe. We ask that all residents use this same dedication to safety and reduce their speeds when driving.” Reduced traffic volume is no excuse for excessive speed, said Jeff Larason, Director of Highway Safety for the Executive Office of Safety and Security. “We’re reminding everyone to drive responsibly, wear a seat belt, and watch the road for cyclists and pedestrians.”

Reacting to the significant number of fatalities, police and safety experts agree that public health have unlocked preexisting traffic patterns that caused many deaths. “The Commonwealth has several initiatives which seek to improve road safety, including, The Massachusetts Bicycle Safety Plan, which aims to get Massachusetts closer towards zero fatalities with an intern goal of a 12 percent drop in five-year average fatalities and a 21 percent drop in five-year average serious injuries.

- The 2019 Massachusetts Pedestrian Transportation Plan and 2019 Massachusetts Bicycle Transportation Plan seek to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries for pedestrians, individuals using a wheelchair, cane or other assisted mobility device, and those riding bicycles while increasing the number of trips taken.
- The Commonwealth has also released the Street for Wheels and Feet, underscores the need for greater awareness on the road, noting that one in four deaths involving vehicles are people walking or bicycling.
- In January 2020, the state filed several proposed safety bills, including the hands-free law which became law in February 2020, with fines for violations taking effect April 1.

Dog Licenses Available

The Town Clerk’s office is reminding all dog owners that the deadline to purchase a dog license is Wednesday, May 6. Dog licenses are available at MilfordMA.gov/sites/milfordma/files/upload_dog_license_form_0.pdf. The completed application can be mailed to the Town Clerk’s Office, 52 Main St., Milford MA 01757 or paid online at MilfordMA.gov.

Dog owners also can participate in this year’s Top Dog contest by emailing a picture of their dog to MLAughlin@ town.milford.ma.us.

Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Events

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

Wednesday, June 22, Honors Scholar Night. For the past 2020, dog owners will be notified by email when dog licenses are available at MilfordMA.gov/sites/milfordma/files/upload_dog_license_form_0.pdf. The completed application can be mailed to the Town Clerk’s Office, 52 Main St., Milford MA 01757 or paid online at MilfordMA.gov.

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Wednesday, June 22, Honors Scholar Night. For the past 2020, dog owners will be notified by email when dog licenses are available at MilfordMA.gov/sites/milfordma/files/upload_dog_license_form_0.pdf. The completed application can be mailed to the Town Clerk’s Office, 52 Main St., Milford MA 01757 or paid online at MilfordMA.gov.

Dog owners also can participate in this year’s Top Dog contest by emailing a picture of their dog to MLAughlin@
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Girl Scouts Celebrating Earth Day

Milford Girl Scouts celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day with activities throughout the week to show appreciation of the environment. Earth Day is celebrated in more than 193 countries annually.

Many girls enjoyed the outdoors by riding bikes, hiking, planting flowers, and picking up trash. Others found activities indoors by creating art with recycled materials and painting kindness rocks.

The Kimball family, including Brownie Girl Scout Amelia, had fun on the water at Whitehall State Park. Amelia said “We went bird watching while kayaking and hiking. Seeing the loons was incredible, two just decided to pop up right near us, and hang around for a while”

Several girls completed service projects around town, such as the Stochaj family, who includes Maddie Stochaj a Senior Girl Scout and Kim Stochaj an Ambassador Girl Scout, tided and planted flower beds at Trinity Episcopal Church. Although troops could not get together, Milford Girl Scouts found ways to participate while practicing social distancing. For more pictures, check out Milford (MA) Girl Scouts on Facebook.

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www.nesteakandseafood.com

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We’ve missed you
and hope you have been craving a delicious D’Angelo sandwich.

The ownership has changed in this location and the founder is back.
His passion is for fresh, great tasting sandwiches served to our guests in a clean friendly environment. The General manager is Elizabeth Mastrisanni a Milford resident with over 30 years’ experience running D’Angelo Sandwich Shops.

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Expiration date April 30th

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Download the door dash app and get your food delivered

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Support local businesses by placing phone or online orders
and buy gift cards to use when they reopen.

Brownie Girl Scout Jacque Bennett decorated her driveway with Earth Day art. Bennett Family photo

Senior Girl Scout Maddie Stochaj worked with her family to clean the garden beds and plant flowers at Trinity Episcopal Church. Stochaj Family photo

Milford Town Crier
Early Voting by Mail Option for June 16 Town Election

All active registered voters in Milford will be mailed an application by U.S. Mail to vote early for the June 16 Annual Town Election. Town Clerk Amy Hennessy Neves strongly encourages voters to take advantage of the opportunity of Early Voting by Mail as the easiest and safest way to vote while maintaining social distancing. All “inactive” voters will need to complete additional paperwork before applying for an early Voting ballot and will not be sent an application automatically. If you do not receive an application, you can download one from the town’s website or call the Town Clerk’s office at 508-634-2307.

If you already have for an Early Voting or Absentee Ballot, you do not have to do anything further and you can disregard the mailing.

If you are unsure of your voting status, you can verify it at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm.

Any registered voter can still choose to vote in person on Election Day if they wish to do so. The deadline to register for the June 16 election is 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5. Please register online or by U.S. Mail until Town Hall is available on the town website, MilfordMA.gov/town-clerk/pages/sample-balloots.

Early voting in person is not available at this time.

The deadline to apply to is noon on Monday, June 15. If you need an application and/or Early Voting ballot mailed to you, please request and/or complete an application as soon as possible to expedite the mailing process. Sample ballots – the April 7 ballots will still be used on June 16 are available on the town website, MilfordMA.GA/town-clerk/pages/sample-balloots.

Any registered voter can still choose to vote in person on Election Day if they wish to do so. The deadline to register for the June 16 election is 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5. Please register online or by U.S. Mail until Town Hall is re-opened to the public. Call the Town Clerk’s office to request a voter registration form. Residents may also register to vote or verify voting status at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm.

Online Forum: Library Trustee Candidates

By Kevin Rudden

The Board of Selectmen voted on April 27 to move the Annual Town Meeting to June 29 due to the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency. The meeting originally was scheduled for May 18.

Town Counsel Charles Boddy said the late June date made sense because it would allow the postponed Annual Town Election to be held first on June 16, while still allowing a day to continue the annual meeting before the fiscal year ends on June 30.

The town law passed during the COVID-19 pandemic allows communities to postpone the dates of their town meetings. Because Milford had yet to post a town meeting warrant with a date on it, Milford does not have to open and recess its meeting, Boddy explained.

All current town officials – the Town Moderator, Town Clerk, Board of Registrars and public safety chiefs – were consulted and agree with the June 29 date, Boddy said.

Staff Reporter/Columnist

By Kevin Rudden

The two candidates for the Milford Board of Selectmen – Joshua Lioce and Thomas O’Loughlin – took the gloves of in their April 10 Citizens for Milford web-conferenced forum broadcast on Milford TV. Lioce asked questions he said voters were asking him about O’Loughlin’s departure as police chief and his lawsuits against the town. O’Loughlin went after Lioce regarding land the Greater Milford Soccer Club bought in downtown and what he said was a lack of progress by the Downtown Revitalization Committee.

“I am running for you,” Lioce said in his opening statement. “I am running because I have time for personal agendas and political wars.” If elected, his priorities would be beufing the Task Force investigating blighted properties, revitalizing downtown, keeping the town financial sound and coping with the opioid crisis.

“I believe that, working together, we can find a solution to any problem,” O’Loughlin stated. He noted his 30 years of management experience and working with state and federal officials as assets he would bring to the position. “This is not a time to learn on the job,” he said.

When it came time to ask questions about each other, Lioce asked O’Loughlin about his lawsuits against the town after his contract as police chief was not renewed and questioned if O’Loughlin was on a “vengeance tour”. O’Loughlin responded that he was protecting his legal rights by going to court, and termed it “highly insulting” to think he wanted “retribution” against anyone. “That’s contrary to my being,” he said.

The former chief referred to – “although not naming them – Selectmen William Buckley and William Kingkade as “your friends in this response and several other comments”, he said in his response. Selectmen William Buckley and William Kingkade have both been issued subpoenas by the Selectmen.

The two candidates went on to answer 10 questions submitted by people watching the forum on Milford TV. Twice, O’Loughlin’s connection to the web conference was interrupted, causing him to switch computers in his home to regain his connection.

O’Loughlin’s closing remarks were: “I’m prepared to do that job. I’m prepared to serve as a selectman from Day One.”

Because of the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency. Citizens for Milford changed its usual candidate forum to four separate, web-conferenced events broadcast on Milford TV. The first online forum, held on April 26, involved three of the five candidates running for the two available seats on the Board of Library Trustees.

The former chief attacked Lioce for saying that, in his experience as a realtor, people had a negative impression of Milford. The amount of home sales and increased student population show that people are moving into town, O’Loughlin said. Lioce responded the comments came from people moving out of town.

O’Loughlin stated that he had a record of people watching the forum on Milford TV. Twice, O’Loughlin’s connection to the web conference was interrupted, causing him to switch computers in his home to regain his connection.

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Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
• Approved a request by Massachusetts Electric and Verizon New England to erect two new utility poles on Spruce St. near Princton St. (April 27)
• Continued until May 11 a public hearing on transferring the All-Alcoholic Beverages liquor license and Common Victualler license held by Sky Buffet on East Main St. (Rt. 16). (April 27)
• Approved a five-year renewal of the cable television license with Verizon New England. Andrej Starkis, president and chairman of Milford Community Media Center (Milford TV), told selectmen the terms of the contract will stabilize the state’s Architectural Access Board — including better crosswalk striping, size of handicapped parking spaces, improper rear exit, overgrowth into the fire lane at the rear of the property, trash and debris at the rear of the property. Attorney Brian Murray said the business plans to expand at its new location, including adding a cafe. (April 21)
• Approved an amended site plan for 283 Main St., (Rt. 16) to allow a 12-seat restaurant to replace the former barber shop. Highway Surveyor Scott Crisafulli’s report noted that the forthcoming Rt. 16 paving project will eliminate most of the on-street parking spaces along the roadway. (April 21)
• Approved an amended site plan for 42-46 Main St. (Rt. 16), to allow a grocery shop and gift store to replace the former dentist’s office. The approval is subject to the rear parking lot being striped. (April 21)

Recent Actions by Milford Planning Board
By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
• Voted to allow plans for a 12-unit Planned Residential Development known as “Purchase Commons” off 177 and 179 Purchase St. to be withdrawn without prejudice. This type of withdrawal means the plans can be resubmitted in the future. (April 21)
• Continued until May 5 a special permit request by David Consigli to install projecting signs on the building at 195-199 Main St. (April 21)
• Approved a plan by Evan Murphy to split a lot at 21 Highland St. into a conforming lot with a house on it and a non-buildable lot. (April 21)
• Approved an amended site plan for the shopping plaza at 146 South Main St. (Rt. 140), to allow T.J. Collectibles, Inc. to relocate from its 160 Main St. (Rt. 16) location. The board’s decision is contingent upon the plaza’s owner complying with several recommendations by various town boards and the state’s Architectural Access Board — including better crosswalk striping, size of handicapped parking spaces, improper rear exit, overgrowth into the fire lane at the rear of the property, trash and debris at the rear of the property. Attorney Brian Murray said the business plans to expand at its new location, including adding a cafe. (April 21)
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Natural Drama in Milford

A moody, sky dotted with gray and white clouds and trees swathed with billowing white blossoms framed Sacred Heart of Jesus Church creating a natural drama in Milford. Jane Bigda photo

Now more than ever, I understand that I am the right choice to move Milford forward. I will fight for YOU!

www.LioceForSelectman.com

- I have over 18 years of experience creating revenue streams from scratch and successfully steering my small business through economic downturns and market shifts. Generating revenue and just spending down a budget are very different.

- I will not deny or ignore the real issue of overcrowding that puts an excessive burden on our schools, public health and public services. I will fight to impart real change and be an advocate for our community, not a drain on it.

- I will continue to work towards and support our Downtown Revitalization and its long-term goal of making it thrive again. I will not put down the efforts of so many great people working to make Milford a bustling community where families want to live and work.

- I will work to increase communication and collaboration between departments to foster transparency and a positive culture. I will work to ensure our Town Hall is a place where people are comfortable both interacting with each other while providing the best service to our community.

Milford cannot move forward if we cling to the past. I recognize and acknowledge the challenges facing our town and I want to put my professional experience to work for us.

I ask for your vote on June 16th so we can Move Milford Forward.
ROLEMENT

Grill Safely at Home and Enjoy the Outdoors

Submitted by the Propane Gas Association of New England
While many families are still spending most (if not all) of their time at home, this past weekend saw New Englanders eager to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. While gas grills, portable fire pits, and patio heaters make outdoor spaces a comfortable reprieve from being stuck at home, it's important that they are used properly.

Before bringing out portable appliances and firing up the propane grill, the Propane Gas Association of New England and the New England Propane Foundation offer the following tips to help homeowners get the most from their outdoor appliances safely:

• Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Whether it's assembly, use, maintenance, cleaning or storing, make sure to follow manufacturer's instructions.
• Position the grill in a safe place. Keep the grill outdoors and at least five feet away from the house on a level surface that is clear of outdoor furniture, overhead trees or other potential fire hazards.
• Check for leaks. Use a soapy water solution to check connections for leaks. Expanding bubbles indicate a leak. This should be done every time a tank is replaced.
• Follow proper lighting procedures. Follow the manufacturer's directions, keep the lid open and do not lean over the grill when lighting it.
• Follow proper relighting procedures. Again follow manufacturer's directions, but at a minimum, keep the lid open and wait at least 15 minutes to re-light in order to disperse any accumulated fumes.
• Be present. Stay close, never leave a lit grill unattended. Also, the grilling area should also be designated as a "No Play Zone," keeping kids and pets away from the equipment. To help kids learn about gas grill safety, the Propane Education & Research Council has launched the fun interactive website PropaneKids.com.

For more information on using outdoor living spaces safely, Pgane.org and Propane.com.

SAFET IN YOUR HANDS WITH WI-FI®

To lift a tank horizon, you’re always know your little ones are protected. You can check if the garage door was left open - and close it - right from your smartphone.

LifMaster® 8550W Wi-Fi Garage Door Opener

SAFE IN YOUR HANDS WITH WI-FI®

With a Wi-Fi garage door opener, you’ll always know your little ones are protected. You can check if the garage door was left open - and close it - right from your smartphone.

LiftMaster® 8550W Wi-Fi Garage Door Opener

NO POLITICS, JUST LEADERSHIP!

As Milford and Massachusetts emerge from the Covid-19 health crisis, sound decision making, management and budgetary experience will be of critical importance to our residents. I will bring the experience necessary to meet these expectations, as I have:

• Managed critical public safety issues for 33 years.
• Successfully managed, and carefully spent your tax dollars for 17 years.
• Maintained crucial Public Safety services while adjusting to several economic and budgetary down-turns, always providing the services that the residents and taxpayers deserve.
• Unique experience in working with Local, State, and Federal officials to bring resolution to complex community, public safety, health and budgetary concerns at critical times.
• An independent voice whose only focus is the best interests of the residents of Milford

The challenges we are faced with do not lend themselves "to learning on the job". This is a time to choose the candidate that has the experience and is best prepared to get to work as your Selectman on day one!

ON TUESDAY, JUNE 16th, VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP, VOTE FOR TOM O’LOUGHLIN

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin
Restoring the Economy Will Be a Slow Process

By Jane Bigda
Editor

Speaking Monday, May 4 in his regular COVID-19 update, Governor Charlie Baker said restoring the state’s economy will be done slowly and extend beyond May 18, the date of lifted restrictions. Baker wanted to dispel the notion that “May 18 is some magical date” when everything in the Commonwealth will restart. Instead he stated May 18 is the date when the board’s report recommending how to begin allowing businesses to resume will be released. He added that some of the economy will be naturally more prepared to restart than others.

“It doesn’t mean the economy across our Commonwealth will just reopen,” Polito said. “It’s just not possible, as everyone knows.”

Baker stressed getting the state back to normal operations is data driven. Without a vaccine to stop the virus, officials and experts have consistently stated the only safe way reopen is to see a continuing downward trend in positive coronavirus testing and hospital admissions.

“I don’t want to bring this thing back. You know, whatever we do here, I want to make sure it doesn’t happen again,” Baker said, signaling his worry about an explosion of new infections if the economy reopens too rapidly.

Noting that infectious disease specialists have described the coronavirus as considerably more dangerous than the seasonal flu, since it can easily be spread by asymptomatic carriers, Baker said that state needs to continue increasing the number of COVID-19 tests administered and to ramp up contact tracing to isolate those who have been exposed before transmitting it.

He added the transmission by asymptomatic carriers is the reason why residents need to follow the May 6 state order requiring everyone cover their faces with a mask in public when doing necessary errands, using mass transit or any time they cannot keep six feet away from others. Those exempted from the order are children age two and under and anyone who would have trouble taking off a mask in public when doing necessary errands.

Baker added, “Everyone is anxious to move forward,” but the state will move at the pace that the data indicates. He noted residents should be prepared for extended precautions since the threat of transmission “be with us for a very long time.”

Number of Milford COVID Cases Rises Above 300

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The number of reported cases of COVID-19 in Milford rose to 316 in the April 29 community surveillance data tracking the outbreak, a spurt of more than 200 cases relative to the previous week’s data.

In addition to the increase in the total number of cases, the rate of infection in Milford nearly tripled to 1,078 cases per 100,000 residents. The state has been releasing town-by-town numbers once per week on Wednesday. The latest numbers were scheduled to be posted to the state website on May 6, after the publication deadline for this edition of the Town Crier.

The total number of cases in the state has passed 68,000 and more than 4,000 people have died during the pandemic. The highest number of infections is reported for those age 50 to 59, but the highest number of hospitalizations and deaths are for those 80 and above. Over 315,000 tests have been administered in the Commonwealth.

The April 29 rate of infection in Milford, 1078 per 100,000, is the highest relative to any neighboring town and is above the state average of 865 infections per 100,000 residents.

Hopkinton saw the second highest number of coronavirus cases and the second highest rate in the area, with 1,088 cases and a rate of 662 per 100,000. Medway showed 616 infections and a rate of 466 per 100,000 residents.

Bellingham showed 278 cases, or 436 per 100,000 residents. Hopedale’s 17 cases were 299 per 100,000 and Holliston’s 34 infections is a rate of 247 per 100,000.

Mendon had 14 cases, a rate of 241 per 100,000, and Upton, with the lowest infection rate at 143 cases per 100,000 residents.

About the treatment of people with the disease require hospitalization, a number that has slowly ticked down over the past couple of weeks. As of Sunday, May 3, Milford Regional Medical Center was treating 39 COVID-19 patients, including six in intensive care units.

Massachusetts has seen more than 4,000 people die as a result of COVID-19, more than 59 percent of which were connected to long term care and assisted living facilities.

According to Sunday’s data, both Blair House of Milford, with 73 beds and Milford Center Genesis HealthCare, with 135 beds, had reported more than 30 cases. Countryside Health Care of Milford reported fewer than 10 cases, while Cornerstone at Milford reported between 10 and 30 cases of the virus. No numbers were available from Whitcomb House.

Why Face Coverings Can Help Reduce Spreading the Virus

Can face coverings prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus? According to the milford Board of Health, the mask covering your nose and mouth is that you protect others. While there is still much to be learned about the COVID-19 coronavirus, it appears that many people who are infected are shedding the virus – through coughing, sneezing and respiratory droplets – for 48 hours before they start feeling sick. And others who have the virus – up to 25 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC’s) Director Dr. Robert Redfield – may never feel symptoms, but play a role in transmitting it. That’s why wearing a mask even if you don’t feel sick can be a good idea and necessary. If you cough or sneeze, the mask can catch those respiratory droplets so they don’t land on other people or surfaces. “So it’s not going to protect you, but it is going to protect your neighbor,” says Dr. Daniel Griffin at Columbia University, an expert on infectious diseases. “If your neighbor is wearing a mask and the same thing happens, they’re going to protect you. So masks work properly have the potential to benefit people.”

Key elements to remember when wearing a face covering include:

- It should fit snugly against the side of your face.
- It should be secured with ties or ear loops.
- It should have multiple layers of fabric.
- It should allow for breathing without restriction.
- Fabric face coverings should be cleaned after each use and should be machine washable and dryer safe.
- Always remove the mask directly into the laundry or trash and then immediately wash your hands.
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when removing your mask.

Instructions for how to fashion a homemade face covering with no sewing required can be found at CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html Face coverings can be made of household fabrics and materials and should have multiple layers.

Changes to Milford Regional Urgent Care Locations

Services at several of Milford Regional’s urgent care sites will be adjusted starting Monday, May 4, to meet patient needs as the public health crisis continues. The changes impact services at the Hopkinton, Northbridge and Franklin locations.

Milford Regional Urgent Care, 1 Lumber St., Hopkinton. This location will open as a respiratory care clinic and walk-in x-rays. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. As a respiratory care clinic it treats patients exhibiting respiratory illnesses, such as fever, cough, mild shortness of breath, wheezing, sore throat, muscle aches, or loss of sense of taste or smell. However, patients without those symptoms will also be welcomed if they choose.

Milford Regional Urgent Care, 1280 West Central St. (Rte. 140), Franklin. This location has reverted back to an urgent care facility seeing patients for all health issues not related to COVID-19. Patients in need of diagnostic imaging services with symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19 will be directed to Hopkinton.

Milford Regional Urgent Care in The Blackstone Valley, 100 Commerce Dr., Northbridge. The urgent care location is closed. A respiratory clinic has been opened at 100 Commerce Way in the area previously used as OR/GYN and pediatric offices. This clinic treats patients exhibiting respiratory illnesses, such as fever, cough, mild shortness of breath, wheezing, sore throat, muscle aches, or loss of sense of taste or smell. The clinic is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Diagnostic imaging and lab services is open with new hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on the weekend. Patients with symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19 in need of diagnostic imaging services will be directed to Milford Regional Medical Center or the Hopkinton urgent care site.

Milford Regional Urgent Care, 127-129 South Main St., Milford. This location remains open as an urgent care facility for all health services not related to COVID-19.

The Imaging Center at Milford Regional Medical Center is closed on the weekends. Symptomatic patients or those exposed to COVID-19 should go to the urgent care location in Hopkinton for those services.

Milford Regional encourages everyone to visit MilfordRegional.org to stay up-to-date on the Medical Center’s response to COVID-19.

COVID-19

● An employee of the retailer shall be designated to ensure that members of the public entering the establishment are wearing a cloth face covering and they may request such person either don a face mask, obtain delivery or curbside service where such alternatives exist, and/or leave the facility.
● Per the CDC, face masks should not be placed on young children under two years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
● Establishments must increase employee illness surveillance by: Continuing to ask if staff have been exposed to COVID-19; ensuring employees don’t come to work while sick; and, taking a daily temperature reading of employees at the start of each work shift.
● To the extent necessary, Board of Health officials shall enforce this order. Local businesses not adhering to the requirements will face fines of $100 per incident.
Selectmen Continue Weekly COVID-19 Briefings
Meetings held every Monday at 7 p.m. and aired on Milford TV

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Board of Selectmen continues to hold briefing sessions about the town’s response to the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency at 7 p.m. every Monday night. Updates are provided by Police Chief Michael Pighetti, Fire Chief William Touhey, Health Officer Jacqueline Murphy and other town officials.

The web-conference briefings are available on Milford TV’s channels (Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 38) and its website (milfordtv.net).

The following are updates from the April 20 and April 27 briefings:

• Police continue to recommend people using the Upper Charles Trail park at Fino Field, where more parking is available than at Louisa Lake. “People can spread out a little more and keep their social distance,” Pighetti said.

• “We encourage people to wear masks when they’re going out in public,” Pighetti recommended.

• The Police Department is not allowing any door-to-door solicitations during the public health emergency.

• The state Department of Public Health is providing weekly updates on Wednesday enumerating the numbers of people testing “positive” in each community.

• The Board of Health has reached out to all restaurants to make sure their employees are wearing masks.

• As of April 20, the town had spent about $60,000 coping with the public health emergency. Town Administrator Richard Villani said the town is eligible to be reimbursed by the federal government for those costs.

• The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is assisting funeral directors and long-term care facilities with obtaining personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed.

• Both the Police and Fire departments believe they have adequate staffing to work through the public health emergency.

• Milford Regional Medical Center expressed its thanks to the people who organized the April 17 “Tribute Parade” of public safety vehicles past the hospital.

• Anyone needing meals is urged to contact the Salvation Army. “Nobody’s going to go without food as long as we know about it,” Selectmen Chair William Buckley said.

• Milford Regional Medical Center is making between 100 and 150 PPE gowns per day for its own use. Touhey said the hospital had 36 COVID-19 “positive” patients as of April 27.

• The Police and Fire departments are supplementing long-term care facilities with PPE until those facilities get deliveries.

• The weekend of April 25-26 was busy for both the Police and Fire departments in terms of dealing with potential COVID-19 patients. “It’s very stressful. We’re using a fair amount of PPE. Supplies are sufficient right now,” Touhey said. Pighetti noted his officers face “some stressful conditions at times.”

• As of Tuesday, May 5, the hospital had 25 COVID-19 “positive” patients.

• Responding to inquiries by Selectman William Kingkade on April 27 about long-term care facilities, Murphy said there are less than 10 COVID-19 cases at Blaire House and Countryside Health Care; between 10 and 30 cases at Cornerstone at Milford; and, more than 30 at Genesis of Milford. No current figures were available for Whitcomb House, she said. Kingkade said Murphy’s update provided “the most information we’ve gotten at one of these briefings.”

• Murphy said the long-term care facilities are following the practice of testing, tracing and isolating. “They are following what we’d like to see from a public health standpoint,” she said.

• Exactly how the June 16 town elections will be structured “is still a work in progress,” according to Buckley. The Town Clerk’s office will be mailing 16,000 applications for early voting by mail to Milford’s registered voters, Villani said. Early voting is being encouraged, and different polling places that would allow social distancing are being looked at, he added.

The last few months we have all had to adjust to an ever-changing world. I am confident that we will return from this stronger and more resilient. I also believe that this return will take time and ingenuity.

Money and budgets will be tight. I promise you, the taxpayers of Milford, if elected Highway Surveyor, I will get the most out of every tax dollar for you. My plan to expand a 40-hour operating department to a 50-hour operating department is just one example of how I plan to expand then Highway Department without adding one dollar to the budget.

With the challenging times moving forward, the status quo will not do. I promise, as your Highway Surveyor, to be the available, accountable municipal leader the Town of Milford deserves.

I will bring back the availability and accountability to the leadership of the Highway Department. I will work for you the citizens of Milford. I ask for your vote on June 16th.
State Ramps Up Testing as Pandemic Shows Signs of Slowing

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on April 27 to support Finance Director Zachary Taylor’s plan to use $1.8 million from the town’s Stabilization Fund at the proposed idea of using some of the state’s Stabilization Funds at the legislature heard projections that the state may lose as much as $6 billion to $8 billion in tax revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, designed to mitigate the town’s tax rate to increase. Finance Director Zachary Taylor’s plan also called for a hiring freeze on any new positions. Selectman Michael Walsh said.

Residents Warned about COVID-19 Scams

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Milford Police Department and Board of Health are jointly warning residents about potential COVID-19-related frauds and advising people to never give out personal identifying information.

Several dishonest coronavirus-related schemes are becoming increasingly common as a result of the global COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. They include, but are not limited to, people asking for personal information while impersonating health care professionals, offering coronavirus home inspections, and requiring immediate, up-front payment for at-home test kits that will be mailed to you, among other things, stated Police Chief Michael Pigghetti and Director of Public Health Jacqueline Murphy.

“These are all fake. Never give out personal identifying information – never!” they said.

“In the coming days and weeks, more and more different schemes will likely emerge. Please stay vigilant. Right now, it is impossible to inspect your home for coronavirus and no at-home test kits are approved or proven effective. Remain skeptical of anyone who offers you these services,” Pigghetti and Murphy advised.

To protect yourself and your loved ones, they recommend you:

- Keep your personal information private and protected.
- Do not give out passwords, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, or any other personal information.
- Do not reveal banking or credit card information.
- Do not pay for at-home test kits or any other items or services. Most are fraudulent scams.
- Do not allow coronavirus inspectors or anyone who contacts you about similar services into your home.

To notify town officials about anyone trying to perform these or other suspicious activities, please contact the Police Department at 508-473-1113 or the Board of Health at 508-634-2115.
Governor Charlie Baker made the decision to close school for the remainder of the academic year on April 21, but the district will continue its remote learning program through the last day of school on Wednesday, June 17. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education continues to update superintendents with remote learning guidance and school year requirements during this unprecedented time. Relationship building, staying connected, and wellness are some of the focus points the district will stay focused on during school closure.

Administrators say it is very important for students to remain engaged and connected to the remote learning program through the end of the school year. Milford Public Schools launched a site which will serve as a repository for all information and resources related to the current school closure and remote learning. Check sites.google.com/milfordma.com/mpsschoolclosuresources for frequent updates.

Grab and Go Lunch and Breakfast program will be provided at Memorial Elementary School every weekday while Milford Public Schools are closed. Breakfast is from 8 to 10 a.m. with lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families can pick up both meals at the same time.

Milford Public Schools thanks the Greater Milford Social Club for another successful food drive supporting the Grab and Go Meal program. Club representatives Jamie Luchini, Paul Pellgrina, Rudy Lioce, Joshua Lioce, and Matthew Marcotte delivered four trunkloads of food in late April.

Milford Public Schools is partnering with Milford TV to offer weekly educational updates for the school community. In addition, Milford TV is inviting select administrators and staff and students from Woodland Elementary School to virtually meet an accomplished endurance athlete from Belmont, Rebecca Pizzir, a record breaking marathon runner and accomplished children’s author. Tune into Milford TV on Thursday, May 14 at 1 p.m. to watch the interview, or download the Milford TV app.

Brookside Elementary School
Brookside is using Learning Calendars through the end of the school year. Learning Calendars are communicated weekly on Sunday or Monday morning by teachers. These and other resources are posted on the school website. Hard-copies are available on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon and Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Alterations to the schedule will happen as the school year progresses. Changes will be shared electronically.

Memorial Elementary School
Memorial is also using Learning Calendars through the end of the school year. Learning Calendars are communicated weekly on Sunday evening or Monday morning by teachers. Calendars and other resources are posted on the school website. Hard-copies are available on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday’s from 2 to 4 p.m. Alterations to the schedule will happen as the school year progresses. Changes will be shared electronically.

Woodland Elementary School
Woodland staff continue to personalize connections with students and provide meaningful learning experiences to engage them.

Teachers are using Google Classroom, supporting applications, and hard copy packets as needed.

Principal Tim Kearney is focused on two guiding principles during school closure - flexibility and compassion. Families are encouraged to reference Grade Level Learning Guides posted on the website as a resource as they work to develop daily learning schedules within the home.

Families can get a copy of the week’s schoolwork each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon or 4 to 6 p.m. at the school.

Stacy Middle School
Stacy staff continue to personalize connections with students and to provide meaningful learning experiences to engage them.

Staff are using Google Classroom, preparing applications, and hard copy packets as needed.

Grade level weekly learning plans are sent to families Sunday evenings or on Monday mornings via Blackboard Alert. Hard-copies of the week’s schoolwork are available on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon or Tuesdays 12 to 2 p.m. at the bus loop. Principal Tahon Ross continues to encourage students to stay strong and to stay connected.

Milford High School
Milford High staff continues to engage students in grade level content in preparation for the demands of college and career.

Staff are using Google Classroom, supporting applications, and communication tools to engage students in meaningful learning experiences.

Seniors will finish academics on Monday, May 18 and students in grades 9-11 will finish the 2019-2020 school year on Wednesday, June 17.

Building based administrators are working closely with staff, advisors, Board of Health, and student leaders to explore ways to explore celebrating milestones for students.

Plans will continue to be developed over the next few weeks as more guidance is shared by the state and the Department of Secondary and Elementary Schools.

Valley Tech Student Council

The Blackstone Valley Tech Student Council is recognized as a 2020 National Gold Council of Excellence by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Student Council for its exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that serves to improve their school and community. This national recognition marks the second consecutive year that the student council at BVT has earned this distinction.

To receive the award, the student council had to meet a variety of criteria - crafting a written constitution, conducting regular meetings, and adopting a democratic election process. Additionally, they demonstrated successful sponsorship and participation in leadership development programs. As a result of the high level of excellence award, the BVT Student Council, has successfully displayed the highest standards of leadership, and beyond.

“"It is an honor for our student council to receive this national recognition consecutively,” said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “It certainly reflects the passion, dedication, and determination of our student council and their advisors, Danielle Cann, and Megan Potenti. They effectively guide council the members on their path to exceptional student leadership by empowering them to better serve our school and community through our robust and well-rounded student council program.”

“Year after year, our students continue to amaze me,” said Cann. “As an advisor, I am lucky to spend so much time with this incredible group of students. The board comes together with ideas, creates a plan, and works together to accomplish their goals. They excel at creating an atmosphere that unifies the school and focuses on all the highlights that make Mondays so incredible. The student council has continued to work since our March 13 closure, which speaks volumes to how dedicated our students are to their school and its mission. I love advising this club.”

“"Our students work very hard to create meaningful, exciting events for their classmates and community,” said Logan Keefe, Student Council President. “They put forth a lot of effort and continue to work hard during the current school closure to keep the community connected. I am incredibly proud of our students for achieving this accolade for the second year in a row.”

“"Earning the 2020 National Gold Council of Excellence Award was a group effort,” said Logan Keefe, Student Council President. “This award means the world to the BVT Student Council, and I am incredibly proud of the hard work of our students, Executive Board, and the General Council throughout this tremendous school year.”

The 2019-2020 Student Council Executive Board Members were:

• Logan Keefe, President, a Multimedia Communications senior, Milford
• Isabella Caccavelli, Co-Vice President, a Health Services junior, Uxbridge
• George Alexandropoulos, Co-Vice President, a Dental Assisting junior, Blackstone
• Skylar Morrisset, Secretary, a Health Services senior, Millbury
• Victoria Lemeux, Fundraising Chair, a Health Services junior, Blackstone
• Samantha Stephens, Community Service Chair, a Culinary Arts sophomore, Mendon
• Paige Marquez, Communications Chair, a Culinary Arts senior, Bellingham
• Brandon Kee, Excellence Chair, an Engineering & Robotics senior, Milford
• Kaitlyn Osborne, Excellence Chair, a Dental Assisting junior, Blackstone
• Haley Moore, Fall Conference Chair, a Multimedia Communications junior, Blackstone
• Carrie Brown, Advisor Elect, a Health Services senior, Mendon
• Abigail Cook, Advisor Elect, a Health Services senior, Blackstone

Cristiely Cabral De Almeida

Cristiely Cabral De Almeida of Milford earned a degree in Human Services in February 2020 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
Valley Tech Nursing Program Ranked Fourth in the State

The Practical Nursing (Post-Secondary) Program at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School was recently ranked fourth in the state by Nursing Schools Almanac. Nursing Schools Almanac annually ranks the best nursing schools in Massachusetts to assist aspiring nurses with a resource for selecting their future nursing school. For the 2020 rankings, the research team at Nursing Schools Almanac compiled an extensive database of student performance on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). Aspiring practical nurses must pass this examination before commencing practice. Student performance on the exam provides an excellent benchmark for comparing the relative quality of programs.

The Nursing Schools Almanac ranking methodology focused on the NCLEX-PN pass rates among first-time test-takers. As well as the average number of annual graduates, and previous calendar years, 2011 through 2018 were analyzed, weighted by year, and averaged together. They used this metric to rank the LPN programs in each state accordingly.

The Practical Nursing Program at BVT received an overall score of 91.7 percent to secure number four rank. That was based on analysis of the 2011 through 2018 during which the NCLEX-PN pass rate among first-time test-takers was 95.7 percent and having on average 17 LPN students graduate annually.

“It’s an honor to be included in the Nursing Schools Almanacs 2020 rankings of the best nursing programs in Massachusetts,” said Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA. “This is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders all working together in support of our program that promotes the growth of nursing professionals through education.”

The Blackstone Valley Tech Practical Nursing program, which serves adult learners in District, out of District, and out of state, is accepting applications for August 2020. For more information, visit ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing.

Valley Tech Nutritionist Receives National Recognition

Nourishing Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High school students is a priority for Martha Pellegrino, the school’s Nutrition Educator. Passionate about food, nutrition, and the health and well-being of the school community, her contributions are receiving national attention from the national non-profit, School Nutrition Association (SNA), as the recipient of their National Employee of the Year Award.

The award recognizes the valuable contributions of a nutrition employee who has exhibited a remarkable commitment to both their school meal program and the students they serve. Her recipients have influenced the quality of meals served through customer service, an interest in young people, cooperation, work attendance, creativity, participation in professional development, and their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. While the nomination process began before widespread COVID-19 school closures, SNA and BVT recognize the efforts of school nutrition employees as frontline heroes, ensuring students continue to have access to healthy meals.

“Receiving the School Nutrition Association’s Employee of the Year award on the National level in addition to the State, and Northeast Regional level, speaks to the passion and dedication that Martha Pellegrino brings to her position,” said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “It is considered the highest honor a school nutritionist can earn. We are proud of Martha and her accomplishments in her position, we are all healthier, having a passionate and dedicated school nutritionist on our team.”

Pellegrino prioritizes food safety and the health of her students by providing them with nutrition counseling. She also serves as a liaison for parents, nurses, school counselors, and food service staff who coordinate students’ dietary needs. Pellegrino provides alternative forms of physical and nutrition education, working with students to teach them how to prepare healthy meals and snacks. She guides students in their food choices, using daily lunch menus to explain the nutrient analysis, and seeks their feedback and suggestions to make meals more appealing. She has created a wellness blog as a free resource for students, parents, and the community, providing information on nutrition, fitness, and other health-related topics. Pellegrino also co-chairs the Wellness Committee at BVT.

Collaborating with her district director, she plans and executes the annual Wellness Fair, writes grants to cover costs of new equipment and initiatives such as the funding for mobile food carts and the breakfast cart program, as well as exploring new avenues to engage students. Pellegrino oversees the daily activity of the school food service program, from compliance to participation, and monitors regulatory changes that can impact operations. Taking pride in the BVT program, during her off time, she applied for the USDA Healthier US School Challenge Silver Award, which Valley Tech won, the first for Massachusetts high school.

“Martha Pellegrino has shown a dedication to her students, their health and happiness while demonstrating excellence in school nutrition as an SNA Employee of the Year,” said SNA President Gay Anderson. “The unique health and fitness knowledge she brings to her job is invaluable to her district and community as a whole.” The School Nutrition Association will honor Pellegrino in July at their 74th Annual National Conference.

For information about health & wellness ideas, fun tips to get moving, visit the BVT Wellness Blog: ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/healthwellsblog.

Milford Schools Focus on Health, Fitness amid Isolation

By Scott Calzolario
Staff Reporter

School or no school, Milford is still doing everything they can to promote healthy minds and bodies amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Wellness Week has been an annual spring tradition for the district in recent years; a week devoted to giving students some tips and tools for living a healthy life. Every day during the week different events are scheduled that focus on wellness for both students and teachers.

This year the event had to be celebrated remotely, of course due to the coronavirus school closing, but the message remained the same. From April 27 to May 1, students took time to consider, and reward themselves. The idea is to help students practice mindfulness, stay in motion, and make healthy food choices.

“Things happen and we have to adapt to them,” said Nancy Angelini, Director of Grants, Technology, and Media for the Milford Public School District. “We’re doing things like that to keep the kids engaged.”

Each day of the week had a theme – Mindful Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Wellness Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday, and Fitness Friday. Though the week dedicated to self-care and awareness had to be adjusted to fit the COVID-19 agenda, with students doing the activities at home, it was still deemed a success.

In addition, Peter Boucher, Director of Athletics for Milford schools, developed a new contest for students to keep their competitive edge. The first ever Spring Scarlet Hawk Fitness Challenge was created to ensure student athletes remain active and keep on striving to reach higher goals.

Competing students kept track of their own personal records, accomplishments, and stats related to each challenge. Athletes faced trials of endurance and agility like longest plank and most burpees. To honor the cancellation of the Boston Marathon the week-long competition started on Patriot’s Day, April 20. Each school team at Milford High School competed against another team with the challenges completed during a two-hour window every afternoon during what would have been April Vacation week. Students enjoyed the challenge of competition.

Angelini said that comradery keeps these programs alive. Sticking together, she said, is more important than ever. “When people band together to try to create engaging activities that lift the spirits of these students, it reminds them how much their coaches and teachers care,” Angelini said.

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STAY SAFE, STAY HOME
Two years ago, the Scarlet Hawks struggled in a 5-15 campaign. Last year, Milford won a share of the league title, returned to the postseason and won a district tournament game. Dion said he was looking to build on that success this spring with three-year starters Luke Rosa and Colby Pires leading the way.

Nick Wimette was also slated to return after starting last season. Griffin Reisman, Nick Patterson, Jayden Fernandez and Jason Luchini round out the deep and talented group.

“I thought with the depth of our pitching and our leadership, we had the chance to be really good,” Dion said. “I was excited about this team.”

Dion said conversations with players have been difficult and there isn’t much anyone can say that will make any senior feel better about losing out on a final chance to compete. The talks have been filled with a great deal of disappointment and sadness, but the players are doing their best to take a challenging set of circumstances in stride.

“One of the things that has come out of this is I know there are seven guys who are going to be successful and hopefully their time in the Milford baseball program has helped mold some of the characteristics they show,” Dion said. “You see their maturity during something like this. It’s not something I’m sure I would have been able to handle this well at 18 years old.

That level of leadership is what has helped this class grasp the culture of Milford High baseball and hopefully set the stage for future success.

“We have been talking a lot about what they have done for the program,” Dion said. “The junior class and the guys following them need to uphold their end of the bargain and keep pushing things forward.”

The seven players leaving the team this spring, Dion said, “all stand for what I want to send that message.”

Some are participating in sports. It’s hard to see at that age what’s ahead of you, but we want our kids to the opportunity to appreciate what they had and get excited for what the future holds,” Schmidt said. “Most of them are headed to college and the fans and everyone, but it was always in the back of my mind that they were going to shut it down,” said Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher.

Boucher said the MIAA’s announcement was not surprising but was “incredibly disappointing.”

“It’s one of those things that was looming and you hope and hope and hope it’s not going to happen,” he said. “But you know it’s a possibility and then, bam, it happens.”

The seniors are bearing the brunt of the pandemic’s effects, Boucher said. “I just can’t wrap my head around what they are going through,” he said.

In a statement on its web site, Blackstone Valley Tech announced the cancelation of spring sports “with a heavy heart.”

“We understand this news is devastating for all our student-athletes who have worked all year to prepare for their sports season,” the school said. “It is especially heartbreaking for our senior athletes who were looking forward to their final season as a BVT athlete. We are working on alternative ways in which to honor our senior athletes and will provide additional communication in the coming weeks.”

The MIAA had already taken steps to shorten the regular season and canceled state tournaments in an effort to maximize competition had students been permitted to return to campus this spring.

Nipmuc Athletic Director Chris Schmidt praised his coaches for the way they handled the challenging times hoped the seniors would take the time to appreciate what they have been able to accomplish, even though they will be denied a chance to compete this spring.

“We want our kids to the opportunity to appreciate what they had and get excited for what the future holds,” Schmidt said. “Most of them are headed to college and some are participating in sports. It’s hard to see at that age what’s ahead of you, but we are trying to send that message.”

The MIAA Board of Directors was described as “disappointed,” but came as little surprised after the governor’s announcement.

“Despite this disheartening but unavoidable action, it is paramount to applaud our constituents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and student-athletes for their positive power of example and cooperation during this unprecedented crisis,” the MIAA said in a statement.

“I’ve tried really hard to keep a positive outlook for the coaches and the student athletes and the fans and everyone, but it was always in the back of my mind that they were going to shut it down,” said Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher.

MAYS 8, 2020
Milford Town Crier
Milford High softball team slated to be led by four players their head coach described as outstanding leaders both on and off the field, and the hope is to provide them with another chance to have some sort of closure before officially ending their high school careers.

“It’s horrible, we feel for all of the seniors,” MHS head coach Steve DiVitto said. “It’s an unthinknable thing, the tragedy of the pandemic is unthinknable but the seniors not being able to compete in their sports this year is brutal.”

DiVitto added, “they worked so hard, they had a good offseason, and they were really looking forward to making a leap from last year.”

April Swan, Meghan Hart, Amanda WENCUS and Taylor Woldrup were slated to lead the Scarlet Hawks on the softball diamond this spring.

“They are four outstanding leaders, not only in athletics but also walking through the halls of MHS,” DiVitto said. “They do things the right way, they are great ambassadors on and off the field and they lead by example. They let their work do the talking.”

The conversations between coaches and player have been difficult, DiVitto said, and as a former Milford High athlete himself, he has struggled to put himself in their shoes and imagine what it would be like to have a final sports season. He said the four seniors have handled the difficult situation “incredibly well.”

Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher has said that the school will try to provide some way for the teams, particularly the seniors, to put on their uniforms and compete one more time this summer if it is possible to do so safely. DiVitto said he has begun to think about how it might be possible for the softball players.

“We want to try to do something for them this summer,” he said. “We have talked with our alumni and some members of the youth softball programs around what we can try to do to lift the spirits of the community and do something for our seniors and our team.”

As disappointed as all the players and coaches are about the pandemic meaning the end of their season, they were not caught by surprise, given the seriousness of the situation.

“I think deep down we all knew this was coming,” DiVitto said. “I think where was some hope, but deep down, unfortunately, we saw the writing on the wall.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Milford Town Crier

Four Milford Softball Seniors Denied Last Campaign

Muscatell Hopes to Play Hoops at Worcester State

Gabrielle Muscatell is determined to pursue an aggressive academic career at Worcester State, studying both biotechnology and criminal justice. But she also wants to be part of the Lancers’ basketball program, and will make that happen in any way that also allows her to balance sports and her coursework.

“I wound up at Worcester State because I used to do camps there when I was younger,” Muscatell said. “I grew up with the team and the coach and I figured with the majors they offer, the cost, and how close it is, it would be the best fit for me.”

The Blackstone Valley Tech senior said she plans to try out for the basketball team when she arrives on campus, but the coaching staff told her she could join the program as a team manager at first if it ended up being a better fit and allowed her to pursue her double major.

“I love the game of basketball and I want to be a part of it in any way I can,” Muscatell said.

Muscatell, who played basketball, volleyball and lacrosse with the Beavers, has not ruled out the possibility of joining the team as a player. She cited her leadership and communication on the court as strengths that she could bring to the Worcester State team.

Muscatell also wants to bring her high school experience into her studies and professional aspirations. She has spent time working in a nursing home as a certified nursing assistant. Long term care facilities have been hit especially hard by the coronavirus, which led Muscatell to pursue a career that will serve the public good.

“I am really drawn to sciences and especially now with the pandemic going on, the people who are behind the scenes working on vaccines, it’s drawn me to trying to help people in a different way,” she said.

Working collaboratively has been important for Muscatell during her high school sports career. In basketball, she was part of teams that won the state championship and played for the district title.

“We had great outcomes and great wins and I feel like the wins and even some of the losses shaped us into the team we were,” she said. “We had talent and we were a force to be reckoned with, it was remarkable.”

Her family, including her parents Amy and Jimmy and her sisters Olivia and Grace, have also been a big part of her team, as has the larger Valley Tech community.

“They’ve been amazing,” Muscatell said. “It’s great to have your family and friends and alumni at BVT going to games and supporting us.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

BVT’s Johnson Taking Jay Skills to Merrimack

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

BVT’s Gabrielle Muscatell hopes to play basketball at Worcester State in the fall. BVT photo

Blackstone Valley Tech senior Alana Johnson was looking, first and foremost, for a college that would help her pursue a career in athletic training. She found both that and the ability to continue being part of a track and field program when she landed at Merrimack College.

Johnson said she first decided to pursue being an athletic trainer due to the bond she developed with the training staff at BVT, which helped her through injuries during her athletic career. The Northbridge resident said she was won over by the opportunities Merrimack could provide, as well as the North Andover campus.

“When I saw the school for the first time, I thought it was beautiful,” she said.

“Knowing they had the major I wanted, looking at the school and loving it, it was kind of surreal when I stepped on that campus for the first time,” Johnson said.

Johnson also received a great deal of positive feedback from the Merrimack coaching staff when she reached out about joining the team. The coaches helped her through the application process and her future teammates were welcoming.

“I am just hoping to be part of the team and work every day and be better than I was the day before,” Johnson said. “Being a part of a team is something I have always loved.”

As a member of the Valley Tech track program, Johnson enjoyed a considerable amount of individual success. During her junior year, she won both the state vocational championship as well as the Colonial Athletic League title. She topped 101 feet with each of those throws. Last June, she set a personal record with a 115 foot throw in the MIAA All State Championships, good enough for an eighth place finish and enough to qualify for the New Balance National meet.

“Going to nationals was a crazy experience,” Johnson said. “The experience of being there was overwhelming from all over the country. It was amazing and being able to talk to people and learn about the differences in how we train was the coolest thing.”

Johnson had high praise for the staff at BVT, including head coach Barry Cooman, for helping her through the recruiting and college search process.

“Coach has been there for me and my team,” Johnson said. “He helped push me and show me that I can be a college athlete. He pushed me to be better every day in practice.

Her parents, Jennifer and Paul, have also provided unconditional love and guidance. “They’ve supported me and want to see me happy,” Johnson said.
The Cape Cod Baseball League and the New England Collegiate Baseball League have already announced that their 2020 seasons will be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But the Futures Collegiate Baseball League (FCBL), a seven-team summer collegiate league with teams in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, is still planning to take the field.

“Our league met last week and the owners agreed to commit to playing baseball this summer,” said Alex Dion, the Milford High head baseball coach and the manager of the FCBL’s Worcester Bravehearts. “It’s probably going to look a lot different than people have become accustomed to in the past.”

The season was scheduled to begin on May 27, but that has been delayed to an undetermined date. While the schedule usually consists of 56 games, that will likely be condensed this year. The owners, Dion said, have stressed that the decision to play is about “baseball, not business.”

It may be easier to take them at their word when considering how unlikely it is that they will be able to see the same kind of gate revenue they typically enjoy.

“We are used to having 2,500 people in the stands every night,” Dion said. “The way things have been going with social distancing, I don’t expect when we open up a baseball season that 2,500 people are going to be allowed in any area.”

The bigger concern may be allowing enough people to be together that it is possible to actually play the game.

“One hundred is our magic number,” Dion said. “With players, coaches, umpires, just to play the game in front of no fans, we would need that number to be 100.”

There are other logistics to figure out, including the fact that the three states that field teams may have different rules and restrictions on gatherings and travel.

If the team is able to play, Milford High graduate Aidan Wilde is planning to return to the Bravehearts’ roster this summer after a strong start to his season at Stonehill College.

“It’s probably going to look a lot different than people have been going with social distancing, I don’t expect when we open up a baseball season that 2,500 people are going to be allowed in any area.”

“We are local, there isn’t a ton of travel involved and we are not asking kids to stay with host families,” he said. “If we have to way to play and start in the month of July into August, that’s another advantage, we have time.”

Of course, significant questions remain. Perhaps the biggest unknown, other than whether the season can happen at all, is whether fans will be allowed to watch the games if they do resume.

“I would love to have fans, that would be amazing,” DiVitto said. “I think it would be awesome for the community as a whole to be able to get out and look forward to something, to get out of the house end enjoy something.”

DiVitto said that social distancing at Fino Field is “doable,” given the size of the ballpark.

“Those are details that we would have to figure out down the road,” he said.

The legion baseball season typically spans around 22 games before going to the postseason, which includes zone, state, regional and national tournaments. The regional and national tournaments have been canceled this year and the state tournament has been pushed back, giving teams extra time to play a regular season if the opportunity arises.

“Our main focus is to have a season and, even more importantly, to make whatever we do is done in the safest way possible,” DiVitto said.

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Jeffrey Mushnick President
Golf a Focal Point in the Debate Over Reopening

By Chris Villani

With nonessential businesses shut down in Massachusetts during the pandemic, nearly a quarter of the state's workforce is unemployed and numerous industries are suffering. But Bay State golfers have become increasingly vocal as the weather improves and their activity remains shuttered.

A glance at the replies to any of Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker's tweets about the COVID-19 crisis includes any number of angry golfers, pleading with the governor to let them get back out on the course.

As of Monday, Massachusetts was one of only three states in the country, along with Vermont and Maryland, that was not playing golf and had not stated plans to resume the sport.

The state's golf association has come under fire from some of its members for not doing enough to lobby on golf’s behalf. When Gov. Baker first shut down nonessential businesses, Mass. Golf tried to get the sport on the list of industries deemed “essential” and failed. Representatives from that group and the Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations met with Baker's reopening advisory council Saturday morning.

"We hope to hear soon that golf can resume in the Commonwealth under the established guidelines presented," the groups said in a statement. "We appreciate the work being done by the advisory board and we look forward to working with them to keep the golf community safe.”

In back-to-back press briefings, Baker received questions about golf. He said the presentation made by golfing leaders is under consideration, but stressed that this industry is not the only one suffering.

Golfers have tried to make their case that protocols can be put in place to keep the sport safe. They would have closed clubhouses, strict protocols submitted online and no bunker rakes or water jugs on the course. Cups can be raised or inserted, so golfers do not need to reach into the hole. A recent rule change allows for the pin to be left in, so touching the flagstick isn't necessary either. Carts would be limited to one person only, or eliminated altogether.

Having a plan in place may not be enough. As a judge made clear after recreational cannabis shops sued to reopen, the governor is not required to open any business just because it has suggested good ways to keep employees and customers safe. And the golf lobby, unlike the noisy social media crowd, has to tread carefully as Massachusetts continues to be a hotspot nationally in terms of both COVID-19 infections and deaths.

But the sport does lend itself to social distancing, something I remind my dad every time I knock it 50 yards past him. And with so many other states playing, Massachusetts continues to be a hotspot nationally in terms of both COVID-19 infections and deaths. But the sport does lend itself to social distancing, something I remind my dad every time I knock it 50 yards past him. And with so many other states playing, Massachusetts continues to be a hotspot nationally in terms of both COVID-19 infections and deaths.

The sports themselves create new sets of variables.

"Golf and cross country is one extreme where you can pretty much guarantee social distancing and then there is football where, eventually, a Milford kid has to tackle a King Phillip kid," Boucher said.

Volleyball is another variable as a fall sport played indoors. And the biggest looming question that few ADs want to consider: will there be a fall sports season at all?

"There was a lot of discussion," Boucher said. "We need to explore all of these..."