Virtual Police Memorial Sunday

By Kevin Rudden

This year’s Police Memorial Sunday was celebrated differently than the usual ceremony at the Milford Police Department. Because of the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency, the memorial was conducted via a video posted on the Milford Police Association's Facebook page. “In a sense, we’re all victims of the COVID-19 virus,” said Sergeant Kara Maguire, president of the Milford Police Association, remarking on the video presentation she produced. It included many photos of current and retired police officers.

She honored the Milford officers who retired over the past year: David Villani, Paul Parisi, Paul Moffi, Paul Castiglione and Robert Bacchiocchi.

“We honor Patrolman Harry Butler and Sergeant Walter “Moose” Connolly, both of who devoted their lives to a cause greater than themselves, and, in doing so, died for us in the line of duty,” Selectmen Chair William Buckley said. Police officers “put their lives on the line every day,” she said. “You have the thanks of a very grateful community.”

Honoring Those Who Gave Their Lives

By Kevin Rudden

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

This year’s Police Memorial Sunday was celebrated differently than the usual ceremony at the Milford Police Department. Because of the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency, the memorial was conducted via a video posted on the Milford Police Association's Facebook page. “In a sense, we’re all victims of the COVID-19 virus,” said Sergeant Kara Maguire, president of the Milford Police Association, remarking on the video presentation she produced. It included many photos of current and retired police officers.

Remembering Milford’s two officers killed in the line of duty – Patrolman Harry Butler in 1916 and Sergeant Walter “Moose” Connolly in 1980 – Police Chief Michael Pighetti noted, “We’ve come here today, virtually, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our community.”

Pighetti said that Connolly’s death had a personal meaning to him. The young bank employee whom Connolly shoved out of harm’s way during a bank robbery later became Pighetti’s brother-in-law and uncle to his children. Maguire said that 82 police officers have died from the COVID-19 virus in America, with 28 of them alone in New York City. Police officers face the same issues about the pandemic as the great community does, she continued. “We have the same concerns and fears that you have,” Maguire said.

Draper Memorial Park at the intersection of Congress and Main Street. In Milford contains the town’s War Memorial honoring all the residents who fought in World War I and II. The names of those who died in the conflicts are marked with a star. Granite curbing through the park list the names of Milford residents who have fought in the nation’s conflict from that time until today. Memorial Day, May 25, might be a good time to stop by and honor those who gave their all. Jane Bigda photo

June 16 Annual Town Election Location, Voting Hours Changed

By Kevin Rudden

Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Board of Selectmen voted to change the location of the June 16 Annual Town Election from the traditional three polling places to the Milford High School gymnasium. The hours for voting also were changed to be 12 noon to 8 p.m.

Town Clerk Amy Hennessy Neves said she plans to send postcards to all registered voters notifying them of the change. She and other town officials are urging voters to take advantage of the “Early Voting by Mail” application sent to them. Selectmen discussed changing the election location during their May 4 and May 11 meetings due to concerns about providing a safe location for both voters and election workers during the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency. "Everyone wants to move democracy forward. Everybody wants an election,” Selectmen Chair William Buckley said on May 4. But, he added a week later, “Nobody’s ever had an election during a pandemic.” Buckley and Town Administrator Richard Villani identified many of the factors considered in changing the location:

• Providing adequate parking to practice “social distancing”
• Locating a space big enough to accommodate all eight precints
• Locating a space where there can be separate entrances and exits
• Providing handicapped access
• Providing adequate space so that people don’t have to wait outside if it’s raining or if there is excessive heat
• Providing enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for election workers
• Having PPE available for voters, if needed
• Disinfecting the space and building after the voting

“We’re really doing our best to come up with a plan for this,” Hennessy told the board on May 11. “The attempt is to make it as safe as reasonable possible,” Buckley said. One of the things Hennessy plans to do is issue each voter his or her own pencil to mark their ballot, so that writing instruments are not shared.

“I think this makes sense,” Selectman William Kingkade said. “It’s a lot of logistics.” “Let’s hope the majority of the people use the mail and vote by mail,” Selectman Michael Walsh said.

The board made two unanimous votes on May 11: one to change the polling location and one to change the hours it would be open.

Thru Out Crier Publications

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NO POLITICS, JUST LEADERSHIP!

Tom O’Loughlin

Selectman

Please stay safe and consider voting early by mail. Otherwise I’ll see you at the voting polls on June 16th. Thank you for your support.

To contact me or our campaign: Facebook: Tom O’Loughlin Selectman 2020. Call (508) 773-6331 or E-Mail at tjo@hornlaw.org. Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin.
Revitalizing Draper Memorial Park

Town workers have been busy this month completing the next steps in the Draper Memorial Park Revitalization project. The War Memorial Revitalization Committee and Parks and Recreation Administrator James Asam hope to revitalize both Draper Memorial Park and Calzone Park, which hold the town’s war memorials. In this photo, stumpings of removed tree trunks in early May is shown. Jim Asam Milford Parks and Recreation Administrator photo

New trees were planted in Draper Memorial Park on May 18 as part of a revitalization project. Other tasks being planned by the War Memorial Revitalization Committee and Parks and Recreation Administrator James Asam include lawn restoration, irrigation system upgrades, repairing brick walkways and stonework, re-scribing veterans’ names on monuments and improving electrical infrastructure. Similar work is planned for the site of the town’s other War Memorial the Doughboy statue in Calzone Park. Kim Trettel Smith photo

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 Hemmesky 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 or receiving 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/elidx.htm.

Because Town Hall is closed to the public, application can be returned by:

- Mailing it to the Town Clerk’s office at 52 Main St., Milford, MA 01757;
- Faxing it to 508-634-2324;
- Emailing it to aneves@townofmilford.com; or
- Placing it in the “drop box” located on the North Bow St. side of Town Hall. A ballot will be mailed to you as soon as the Town Clerk’s office receives your signed application.

The deadline to apply 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.gov/town-clerk/pages/sample-ballots. Early voting in person is not available at this time.

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/elidx.htm.

The Job of a Mask Maker, Helping Others Stay Safe

Retired nurse, Patricia Platcow wanted to do something to help keep others safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her washable masks adorn the faces of family, friends, neighbors and those who simply need one. She's inundated with requests and hopefully will soon stop as science figures a way to deal with the novel coronavirus and life becomes more normal. Harry Platcow photo
Beekeeping, A Lifelong Hobby

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Upton resident Ewan McCulloch says his goal is to try two new things each year. Five years ago, he decided to learn how to play the French horn and how to keep bees. The French horn lasted three months, but the beekeeping has grown into a full blown passion.

“It’s a fascinating process, looking after these creatures,” McCulloch said. “I have three hives in my backyard. The bees can flourish, we get some honey and we do good for pollination in this area.”

McCulloch researched beekeeping when he first became interested in it and found a local “bee school.” He signed up for the program, which only cost around $40, and was surprised to find more than 400 other bee enthusiasts had also signed up. “We had two auditoriums filled with the widest spectrum of socioeconomic groups,” he said.

The Worcester County Beekeepers Association, founded in 1900, is the oldest U.S. beekeeper organization. McCulloch said there are dozens of other beekeepers in the area who tend to their hives. Each hive, at the height of the summer, has around 75,000 bees living inside. There is a single queen, female worker bees who make up more than 95 percent of the bee population, and a handful of male drones.

McCulloch has been able to bottle the honey his hives produce and use it as a fundraising tool for the Pan-Mass Challenge, the annual two-day bike ride that supports the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

It was through the Worcester association that McCulloch met Ken Warchol, a sixth generation beekeeper living in Northbridge. Warchol’s family started keeping bees in the 1840s. His first experience with bees was when he was three. He was near the beehive and, with his mother and father watching from inside, started collecting bees in a jar.

“My dad said ‘he will learn a lesson,’” Warchol said. “I squeezed one a little too hard and I got stung and came into the house crying.” Warchol had a hive of his own by age five and has been keeping bees for 70 years. He has over 100 hives in numerous area towns, including at the Red Rock restaurant, which uses his honey in some of their dishes. His daughters, Keri and Lindsay, have hives of their own, the family’s seventh beekeeping generation.

“I have always found it so relaxing,” he said. “You have a good day at work and you go to the beehive and forget about everything. You watch the housecleaning bees polishing the wax cells and the queen laying the eggs, it’s just so fascinating.” His wife Deborah of 48 years has also married into the beekeeping tradition. “My father warned her before we got married, he said ‘he’s a beekeeper you know,’” Warchol said, laughing. “She knew what she was getting into.”

Ed. Note: In the next Town Crier, learn about beekeepers’ efforts to protect honeybees and how bees benefit the world.
Moving Milford forward is a community effort.

"A genuine person speaks their mind, takes time to figure out their own opinions and perspectives on things. They forge their own paths and are not threatened by failure. They can admit their faults and are not judgmental of others and has a solid self-esteem. I have known this type of genuine person for many years as a father, a husband, a coach, a Realtor, a business owner, a mentor, and a friend. Josh Lioce is that genuine person I am speaking of and I endorse him whole-heartedly for the Milford Board of Selectman."

Amy Leone
CEO of Community Impact

"As a Milford resident for over 45 years, I believe Josh's strong business experience and family values makes him the right candidate for the position of Selectman. Josh will fight to improve our community and will make Milford a proud place to call home."

Manny Borges,
Former Mayor of Prospect Heights

"For almost 20 years, Josh has exhibited qualities which have allowed him to build an extraordinary successful business and provide employment in the Milford community. The Town of Milford will benefit greatly from those same qualities of hard work, determination, persistence and boundless energy that he will bring to our community as our next Selectman."

Mike and Josephine Diorio,
Former Member, Milford Housing Authority

"I am a proud Milford resident for 45 years and have had the pleasure of knowing Josh for many years. Josh is a genuine person who is committed to the community and is anxious to do what is best for Milford. Please join me in voting for Josh Lioce as our next Selectman."

Francis "Andy" Anderson,
Dean of Students at Woodland School

"I have the pleasure of working with Josh professionally. His dedication and professionalism is exactly what Milford needs right now. He is the right person to lead us into the future."

George V. Holland,
Milford Resident, Attorney at Law

"I have had the pleasure to volunteer in Milford and raise funds for many community organizations over the past 50 years. Josh Lioce has spent many years and countless hours working with me on different committees and advising me on others. His interest in making Milford better has been constant for years and remains consistent. He is a genuine, honest man, whose character and integrity will move Milford forward." 

Allan Alves,
Former Mayor of Prospect Heights
Retired Business Owner
Retired Milford Firefighter

"I have known Josh for many years as a wonderful friend, family man and honest and successful businessman. I know he will continue to be his own man as Selectman and will always put the good of Milford residents first in all his decisions he will make on the Board."

Mary Martin,
Retired Town of Milford employee

"Since 19 years of age, I have watched Josh work passionately to contribute to the Milford Community. I first met Josh when he was the Director of the Youth Center and have watched him work tirelessly ever since, in all his town positions, as well as Friends of the Milford Area Special Athletes and many other Boards. I cares about making a difference for all citizens."

Jennifer Walsh,
Milford Youth Special Olympics Director

"If you are looking for a serious, hard-working candidate with great potential, experience and fresh innovative ideas who can gracefully lead this community, then Josh Lioce is the man. As a Senior Pastor of thriving multi-cultural church in Milford, I am endorsing Josh because he is a genuine person who has proven to me that he cares about the community, works with an unrelenting passion to help others and makes himself easily accessible to all walks of life in Milford. I respect him. Vote for Josh Lioce... he is the difference maker."

Keith Nelson
Pastor, Inglesia Cristiana Juan 3:16

"I am looking for someone who will take the necessary steps in making Milford’s downtown a vibrant and bustling epicenter for the community. I believe Josh Lioce has the vision to make it happen!"

Joe Callery,
Milford School Committee Member

"Josh Lioce is a man of integrity. He is honest, hard-working, and a well respected leader. Those qualities shine through in everything he does, not only in his business, but also in his volunteer and advocacy work in the community. Josh is a doer, deeply committed to making our town a better place to live and work. His recent efforts leading multiple food drives to benefit the Milford Public Schools demonstrate just one example of his volunteer spirit and care for the community. Please join me in voting for Josh Lioce, the candidate who is committed to doing what is best for Milford."

Donna Niro,
Milford Resident & Town Meeting Member

"Josh is engaged within our community in numerous ways. He is caring and devoted to his family, friends, and fellow residents. As a selectman, Josh will provide thoughtful and meaningful decisions for the Town of Milford and its citizens. Please vote for Josh Lioce for Selectman."

Christopher Wilson,
Milford School Committee

"Josh exhibits the fundamental qualities necessary to move this town forward. He is genuine, hard working, committed to any task he takes on, and is his own person. He is a unifier that the Town of Milford needs right now."

Paul Pellegrini,
Milford Parks Commissioner; President - Milford Youth Baseball and Softball

"I am looking for a candidate who is involved in our community. A leader. A listener. A person who answers questions and questions answers. A partner in the preservation and continued growth of our the community I live in and where my children are being raised in. I believe strongly that Josh Lioce is that candidate... my candidate."

Ray Auger,
Milford Resident and local Radio Personality

"I have had much interaction with Josh as a member on the Board of Assessors for the past several years and have found him to be a great asset to our Board, with his vast knowledge of properties here in Milford. He would be a valuable member of the Board of Selectman."

Joseph Arcudi Sr.,
Retired Milford Town Clerk

Josh Lioce has a true vision for what Milford can and will become under his leadership. Josh has a clear understanding what this town and community need to move forward. He exemplifies what hard work, passion, determination and true leadership are all about. I am proud to endorse Josh Lioce for the next Selectman of Milford."

Chris Bums,
Town of Milford employee

"As a successful Milford business owner, Josh has demonstrated a history of conducting himself ethically and respectfully. He will bring these necessary character traits to serve the Town of Milford and will be a unifying presence for the Board. For these reasons, we endorse Josh Lioce for Selectman."

Jeremy and Carly Kearnam,
Town Meeting Members, Precinct 5

"I have known Josh Lioce for 14 years and have always considered him a leader in the community and a man of his word. He knows and understands the needs of Milford residents very well. He has many close ties in the community and has grown a successful business in town all while serving others. Josh always goes above and beyond to ensure he succeeds in accomplishing all tasks he takes on. I know that Josh would be the best fit to serve Milford as a Selectman."

Matthew Pica,
Milford Resident, US Army Combat Veteran

"As a Milford area Special Olympics Athlete and many other organizations, Josh Lioce is that genuine person who has proven to me that he cares about the community, works with an unrelenting passion to help others and makes himself easily accessible to all walks of life in Milford. I respect him. Vote for Josh Lioce... he is the difference maker."
New Teen COVID-19 Resource Available from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

The family and child life specialists at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital have developed a new resource geared specifically for teenagers to better understand the novel coronavirus and how to stay healthy this summer. The new teen resource provides accurate, scientific and illustrative explanations in age-appropriate language about the virus, how it spreads, symptoms, protective measures for both physical and mental health/self-care.

The new teen resource joins a suite of age-appropriate tools for parents and children of all ages from teens, pre-teens and younger children available in multiple languages (currently in English, Spanish, French and Arabic). The suite of tools was designed by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital’s child and family experts for utilization by parents and caregivers to help children better understand the current COVID-19 pandemic.

St. Jude Together at Together.SJude.org has an entire set of resources for parents, including information developed by the St. Jude experts on “how to talk to your children about coronavirus and COVID-19” to tips and frequently asked questions children may ask about the virus.

General Resources: for general information on the coronavirus and children, St. Jude has developed a general resource page about the pandemic for parents, children and families to consult, which includes how to talk to children, music therapy and educational resources.

Teen Resources: for teenagers, St. Jude has developed illustrative explainers – “the story on the coronavirus” about the

Chalk the Walk

In an effort to boost morale and spread community spirit in these difficult times, the Milford Cultural Council is sponsoring a “Chalk the Walk” event through May 25.

Milford residents are encouraged to create a fun or inspirational message or image on their driveway or sidewalk, then share their image by uploading it to social media or by submitting it to CulturalCouncil@townofmilford.com. To help as many families as possible participate, the council has purchased sidewalk chalk and will be distributing it at Memorial Elementary School’s free lunch pick-up hours, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday in the school parking lot, 12 Walnut St. Sidewalk chalk distribution started May 15.

The Milford Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Democratic Town Committee Elects New Officers

The Milford Democratic Town Committee elected the following members to its executive board on April 27: Chair – Bryan Cole, Vice Chair – R.J. Shoedy, Treasurer – John Crean and Secretary – Kathryn Mastrossianni.

“I want to thank Christine Crean and the rest of the outgoing executive board for their leadership in rebuilding this committee into an active force in our community,” Cole said.

The committee’s chief focus in the coming months will be ramping up the group’s get-out-the-vote efforts for the June 16 Annual Town Election, State Primary Election on September 1 and the general election on November 3, he said.

Membership in the Democratic Town Committee is open to any Milford resident who is registered as a Democrat. Anyone interested in joining can find out about upcoming meetings and events through the committee’s Facebook page and its Twitter page @MilfordMA_DT.

Cooking for Kids Virtual Benefit

A Cooking for Kids Virtual Benefit will be held Sunday, May 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Facebook @RayAuger64 and @MyFM1013 to raise funding for the Milford Summer Lunch Program.

When COVID-19 shut down local businesses and left many jobless, the Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition and Hocksmonk YMCA sprang into action and began feeding those in need. Moving to a new normal and a new season, these organizations are planning their annual Milford Summer Lunch Program which feeds local students throughout the summer months. Due to the recent crisis, and their generous head-start on serving the public, more funds are needed to get through the summer.

Join local professional chefs and home-kitchen culinary artists as they share their favorite quick dishes with viewers who draw awareness to, and raise money for, the Milford Area Summer Lunch Program. There will be some laughs, recipes to be shared and an opportunity to those who have been volunteering to assist those in need.

Dog Licenses Available

The Town Clerk’s office is reminding all dog owners that 2020 dog licenses are now available. Applications are available at MilfordMA.gov/sites/milfordma/files/uploads/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@townofmilford.com.

Simple Recycling Service Has Resumed

Carbide textiles recycling has resumed in Milford. Simple Recycling is now collecting packages of used clothing, shoes and other items on residents’ regular recycling days. Residents are encouraged to contact Simple Recycling at 866-835-5066 or info@simplerecycling.com with any questions they may have about the program.

The Advertiser’s Club Directory

The Advertiser’s Club Directory is a listing of those businesses that have contracted to advertising at least 12 times a year in The Milford Town Crier. Features include a listing in this directory, discounts and a feature article about your business (size and frequency requirements apply).
Memorial Day will be different this year. No parades on Main St. or large ceremonies in town parks. No long weekend travel, no spoons at the beach. The new normal of the COVID-19 panic has changed even these rituals that have traditionally marked the beginning of summer.

But the real focus of Memorial Day, honoring those men and women, who gave their lives defending the country while serving in the nation’s armed forces can still go on.

The origins of Memorial Day come from an ancient custom of grief. The carnage of the Civil War, when 620,000 soldiers from the North and rebels from the South were killed, created the need to remember those whose lives were lost. As communities in all corners of the nation dealt with this death of so many men, there was an urge to memorialize the sacrifice made by those soldiers and their families. From its start in Waterloo, New York in 1866 Memorial Day ceremonies spread across the country. As time moved on, Decoration Day, as it was first called since the main activity was decorating graves, was expanded to honor all those who gave their lives in service to the country.

The monuments that rise in Draper Memorial, the cemeteries in town and their names are listed among all the veterans who served on this country.

This year despite the novel coronavirus, Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday. Some of those soldiers who gave their lives came from Milford. According to former Milford historian, Paul Curran, 20 residents died serving in World War I, 55 in World War II, five during the Korean War and six during Vietnam. Their graves can be found in the cemeteries in town and their names are listed among the veterans who served on the monuments that rise in Draper Memorial and Calzone Parks. Brief biographies of close to 60 Milford men who lost their lives while serving during conflicts fought by the nation from World War II to today can be found at CitizensforMilford.com/veterans.medal-of- liberty/recipients.

This year despite the novel coronavirus, their graves will still be decorated with flags, the monuments listing their names will still be open to the public, and the biographies of some are still available to be read.

So on this quieter Memorial Day, it might be a fitting tribute to take a few minutes to stop, take a breath, by a monument or go online to read their names, to think about what each has done, and to honor in a personal way the individuals who personally sacrificed so much for the nation and for us.

Opinion
Murphy's Law Came Knocking

Murphy's Law came knocking at my door this week.

In the middle of a pandemic, one of my daughters twisted her ankle playing basketball in our back yard and we were convinced it was broken.

In my panic, a million thoughts rushed through my head. We can't go to the ER because we could catch coronavirus, what if she needs surgery, or worst of all, what if they come out in hazmat suits and whisk her away and we can't go inside too? Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed (our pediatrician's office during an after-hours call) and we were able to bring her to a "non-Covid" walk-in clinic for x-rays for what ended up being just a badly sprained ankle.

But this incident made me realize how much I take two things for granted.

First off, I have no idea how easily accessible doctors are in this country.

Years ago, doctor's offices were open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you were sick at night or on a weekend, you would have to go to the ER or pop two Advil and wait until the morning.

Then doctor's offices started to think of patients as customers too and many opened their offices during night and weekend hours for the working crowd.

Fast forward a few more years when walk-in clinics popped up all over the place, and you could virtually get in to see a doctor pretty much all waking hours.

But in my moment of panic, I honestly didn't know if we were going to have access to a doctor. Many doctor's offices are closed and only taking appointments virtually. Many doctors are busy risking their lives in Covid-19 units at the hospital or working long hours helping very sick patients and not easily available. I have been getting numerous calls rescheduling annual exams or routine tests out months from now.

Even the thought of not being able to get to a doctor quickly and without them telling us we need to go through now, makes me realize how lucky we once were.

The second thing I won't take for granted again is my freedom.

Not being able to bundle my injured kid immediately into a car and head out the door made me feel a trapped. Although I know we are in a stay-at-home advisory and not an "order," there is still that feeling that you are really supposed to stay put.

I was a lot of back and forth on social media about people protesting these government shut-downs, and although I disagree with their methods, I understand their feelings. I too, want to be able to travel, eat in restaurants, and shop (boy, do I miss shopping!). I want to see my doctor in person and not, in the Zoom meetings.

But the less we learn about this virus, is how we can never take any of these things for granted... especially for the next time I hear the words "mom, come quick!"

Is Milford trying to muzzle public comment at its board meetings? If you read only the second half of a recent headline in the local daily a newspaper (To Prevent "Zoom Bombing", Milford Seeks to Limit Public Access to Remote Meetings), you might think so. But, heres the back story: The discussion on this topic at the Board of Selectmen’s May 11 meeting centered around because one person commented that the “Invitation to Speak” portion on the board’s agenda has not been there since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the town to adopt web conferencing based meetings and if they would like to participate, they must do so by writing to the chair in advance, and having that communication immediately read into the record, particularly if the individual or the public finds inflammatory speech, illegal expressions, and speech with certain adult content are regulated, and have no part in public meetings or government.

Because meetings are now held remotely, the constraints against unlawful speech are necessarily limited to whatever protections are afforded by our remote access technology, and by our ability to master the use of the technology.

Technology supporting remote meetings, such as Zoom, provides “waiting rooms”, muting, controlled screen-sharing, and some ability to disconnect callers, however such meetings have been intruded upon by anonymous individuals who promote offensive language and conduct. So-called Zoom bombing recently occurred on the Milford Public Schools. The technology is not fool-proof.

The FBD provided guidelines to communities that, when implemented, would prevent unwanted access through invitation to speak while in a remote meeting. Milford boards and commissions should protect the public and the integrity of their meetings by following the FBI guidelines, including not sharing or publishing teleconference numbers for public meetings to prevent unintended dissemination of unlawful speech or content.

But, a public meeting is required, teleconference numbers should be published only for use during the hearing portion of the meeting, and must be monitored closely by a third party (IT professional) to allow immediate interruption of the broadcast if illegal speech is submitted.

The public should also be encouraged to participate in public hearings by writing to the chair in advance, and having that communication read into the record, particularly if the individual or the public finds the technology daunting. Callers to public hearings are closely monitored by Town Staff. This method complies with the legal need to solicit public input, while preserving, as much as possible, the proceedings from illegal content. The monitoring of such hearings by IT employees is taxing on the Town’s scant resources, and is also not foolproof.

As a staunch defender of First Amendment Right and Open Meeting laws, Boddy makes sense to me. As Selectman Will Kingkade said at his May 4 Town Meeting, “All normal-thinking people in the Town of Milford understand what we’re with.”

For now, if you want to be heard, do it in the old-fashioned way and write ‘em a letter.
Join a winning team and work for a company that didn’t lay off any staff during the recent health crisis, paid all of their employees, plus paid their benefits whether they worked or not. We are committed to our employees and customers’ safety throughout this difficult time. Imperial Cars has been dedicated to our communities for over 30 years and our business continues to grow.

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A CHALLENGING AND MEANINGFUL CAREER

WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- **AUTO SALES AND LEASING ASSOCIATES**
  - For all of our brands.

- **AUTO SERVICE TECHNICIANS**
  - Certified flat rate techs, hourly techs, and lube techs.

- **SERVICE WRITERS**
  - For all of our brands.

- **FINANCE MANAGERS**

- **SALES MANAGERS**

- **AUTO RECONDITIONERS/DETAILERS**
  - For all of our brands.

- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
  - Join our internet team and book customer sales appointments using our proven phone, email and texting tools.

- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST**
  - Assist executive in all aspects of new opportunities by data gathering and analysis, report generation, office management, as well as marketing and digital materials.

- **LOT ATTENDANTS**
  - Keep our lots and showrooms pristine, take photos/videos of our cars to display on our websites and marketing outlets.

- **OFFICE STAFF**
  - Office manager, title clerks, cashier/receptionist, registration clerks.

- **RESTAURANT/DINER MANAGER**

- **CDL CERTIFIED TRUCK DRIVERS**

- **LICENSED HYDRAULICS OPERATORS**

- **MAINTENANCE FACILITIES DIRECTOR**

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**LOCATIONS ON RTE. 16 IN MENDON AND MILFORD, MASS.**

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By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board this month continued its review of 815 parking spaces for Amazon vans and their drivers' cars proposed to be created on two opposite sites on Beaver St. near Medway Rd. (Rt. 109), and also began its initial review of a 177-space "queuing" lot proposed to be built at 3 Industrial Rd. adjacent the Internet retail giant's distribution facility.

Most of the May 5 meeting's review of the 21 and 26 Beaver St. sites consisted of walking through a traffic study prepared by the consulting engineering firm, Tetra Tech, Inc. The study, presented by Robert Woodland, included looking at existing and projected future traffic flows at the intersections of Beaver St. and Medway Rd. and Beaver St. and Birch St., and included traffic projected from the as-yet-unopened van parking area in the "Platinum Park" parking lot off East Main St. (Rt. 16).

Proposed remedies for increased traffic flows were: changing the one-way section of Beaver St. to a two-way traffic flow from the driveways of the two new proposed lots to Birch St.; restriping the end of Beaver St. at Medway Rd. and changing the timing of the traffic signal there; speed up turns from Beaver onto Medway; and, having a police officer direct traffic at the intersection of Beaver St. and Birch St. until traffic flow makes a traffic light necessary at that intersection. The changes at Medway Rd. would require a permit from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation due to their proximity to Interstate Rt. 495.

"Our mitigation is based on the maximum build-out of the parking lots," said Woodland. The original plans submitted were for 420 spaces at 21 Beaver St. (reduced to 408) and 424 spaces at 26 Beaver St. (reduced to 415), according to Town Planner Larry Dunkin. Civil Engineer John Nenart of the Meehan Group said the 26 Beaver St. parking count could be reduced further by adopting an alternative plan to park tractor-trailers there.

Board member Joseph Calagione said any approvals would have the same condition as the board placed on the Platinum Park site – specifically, that traffic counts must be done when the two lots become operational to verify Tetra Tech's assumptions were correct.

Calagione said Tetra Tech traffic study needed to be revised to include the Amazon vans parked at the Imperial Toyota dealership on Fortune Rd. Woodland responded that such parking would be eliminated if the two Beaver St. lots were approved. "That's good because we have them in court for a zoning violation," Dunkin commented.

Milford also would like to see whatever Mass Highway's comments on the proposal are before the board renders its decision, Calagione said. Woodland noted Mass Highway needs the board's approval before it can decide, but added the state agency's comments could be forwarded back to the board. Calagione said the board will want to comment on any changes made by Mass Highway.

"If this development doesn't move forward, then some other development will," Woodland said. Nenart added that the two lots would probably support retail stores.

Nenart said the version of the two plans being considered on May 5 had been revised to address past comments by the board and various other town departments. Calagione voiced concerns about regulating a proposed public address system for the two parking lots to mitigate its effect on nearby residential neighborhoods, especially on weekends. Board members also briefly discussed the number of electric vehicles that might be parked at the two lots.

Although the two sites are being designed with Amazon in mind, the Meehan Group has no signed contract with Amazon, Nenart said. The board continued the two site plan reviews until its second meeting in June.

Queuing Lot Proposed on Industrial Way

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Planning Board took its initial look on May 5 at a proposed parking lot at 3 Industrial Rd. where up to 177 Amazon vans would "queue up" before entering the nearby Amazon distribution facility to pick up their loads for daily delivery. Property owner Corner Brook, LLC is seeking site plan approval from the board for a transportation terminal on the parking lot.

"This site has grown out of the existing problems" with Amazon's facility – which led to delivery vans blocking parts of Industrial Rd. and the adjacent Commercial Way – explained attorney Joseph Antonellis, who represented property owner Corner Brook, LLC. "The site will be used on an interim basis as a 'holding lot' for Amazon vehicles. The vehicles using the site will come from other locations and be bound for the existing Amazon warehouse and the adjacent Commercial Way – explained attorney Joseph Antonellis, who represented property owner Corner Brook, LLC. "The site will be used on an interim basis as a 'holding lot' for Amazon vehicles. The vehicles using the site will come from other locations and be bound for the existing Amazon warehouse to deliver to the site," he wrote in a memo to the board.

"The Industrial Rd. site will serve as a holding lot where the vans can be parked on a short-term basis and held by Amazon employees until there is sufficient room for them at the warehouse to park and be loaded," Antonellis' memo continued. "By providing this alternative site to park on a temporary basis, there will be no need for the vans to queue along Birch St., Industrial Rd. and Commercial Way."

Corner Brook requested a waiver from the Town's Traffic Engineer John Nenart of the Meehan Group explained that up to 80 vans could line up on the lot, and would be released in groups of two to four at a time to go to the Amazon facility. The lot also could accommodate parking spaces for 89 Amazon employees' personal vehicles, he said.

Board member Calagione said any approval would be restricted to queuing vehicles only, with no overnight parking allowed. "To me, this has to be paved," he added.

Antonellis stressed that the property owner has no signed agreement with Amazon but, instead, was seeking the approval on a speculative basis.

Calagione said the town's engineering and planning staff needs time to review the proposal, and the board continued the discussion until its scheduled May 19 meeting.
Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

• Voted unanimously to reverse a pre-pandemic decision to approve raises for salaried elected officials in Fiscal Year 2021, which begins on July 1. “We’re talking about belt-tightening like we’ve never seen before,” Selectmen Chair William Buckley said. He called the move to have no raises “an opportunity to lead by example.” Added Selectman Michael Walsh, “Now is not the time for us as elected officials to grant ourselves any increase.”

• Approved an easement allowing Massachusetts Electric Company to install six utility poles near the former Farrar & Carr building and former dump of South Main St. (Rt. 140) in Hopedale in an area on which the Town of Milford has a right-of-way easement for the Sewer Department’s wastewater treatment plant. (May 4)

• Granted a Retail Package Wine and Malt Beverage license to Central Gas & Market, Inc. at 186 Central St. Attorney Suzyette Ferreira told board member that Town Meeting had approved asking the state legislature to grant this license, which it subsequently did. (May 11)

• Continued a public hearing until June 1 on transferring the All-Alcoholic Beverages liquor license and Common Victualler license held by Sky Buffet on East Main St. (Rt. 16). (May 11)

• Voted to send letters voicing opposition to any increase in the state’s gasoline tax to State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford. (May 11)

• Approved a preliminary subdivision plan for “109 Depot Street,” a four-lot subdivision proposed to be closed up to prevent traffic problems at that intersection. A previous continuance was allowed to give the station owner time to review Dean’s request to the ZBA, he said. (May 5)

• Continued until a future meeting a site plan request by F&D Central Realty Corp., asking the ZBA to suspend a special permit for and received, and whether to spend money now for and received, and whether to spend money now on a community garden that is not exact. Luchini disagreed, saying the Milford’s cost has grown, and he’s never seen before, “Selectmen Chair William Buckley said. ‘Now is not the time to do it,’ Selectman William Kingkade said. ‘Now is not the time to further burden them [taxpayers],’ Selectman Michael Walsh said. (May 11)

• Approved a 23-article warrant for the June 29 Annual Town Meeting warrant. Finance Director Zachary Taylor said six other articles were removed from the warrant after he discussed with them sponsoring postponing them until next fall. (May 11)

• Discussed with Town Counsel Charles Boddy the extent to which town government meetings are “open” during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given Governor Charlie Baker’s executive orders and the type of technology available today, the town is doing the best it can to air its web-based meetings on Milford TV, which then makes them available as on-demand videos, Boddy said. The town also is following the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) guidelines on how to conduct secure and safe web-based meetings without being “zoom-bombed,” he explained. Noting that only one resident had complained, Kingkade said, “Normal-thinking people in the Town of Milford understand what we’re dealing with.” Buckley asked Boddy to make a copy of his memo to the board on this topic available to the public. The memo is now available at: MilfordMA.gov/home/pages/public-participation-remote-meetings] (May 11)

School Committee Debate

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Because of the COVID-19 coronavirus emergency, Citizens for Milford changed its usual candidate forum to four separate web-conferenced events broadcast on Milford TV. The third online forum, May 5, involved all four candidates running for the two available seats on the School Committee. Here is a summary of their comments:

Michael Aghajanian

“I will demand responsible management.”

“We will develop a measurable plan to help disadvantaged students.”

“My wife is teacher at Milford High School.”

“If elected, will create a working group and advocate for funds to prepare a feasibility study on the replacement or renovation of Milford High School.”

Jennifer Parson (incumbent)

“Already served on the School Committee for six years.”

“Has been an educator for 26 years, starting as a teacher and now an administrator in the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals.”

“If work on a facilities plan studying Stacy Middle School and whether to renovate or replace Milford High School.”

Brendan Rickert

“A new plan for everything in life is good, solid education.”

“As a relative newcomer to Milford, he will bring an ‘outside’ viewpoint.”

Frederick Crisafulli

“The children are our future.”

“Every child matters, no matter their religion, color, or socioeconomic background.”

Crisafulli, Luchini Face Off Online in Highway Surveyor Debate

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The two candidates for Highway Surveyor — incumbent Scott Crisafulli and Jamie Luchini — debated various issues to manage the Highway Department in their May 7 Citizens for Milford web-conferenced forum broadcast on Milford TV. Voters also listened to the candidates’ opinions on whether “in place,” “cold in place” or “cold planning” was the best way to resurface a road.

Challenges were made by each candidate to the other about the amounts of grants they applied for and received, and whether to spend money now on a community garden that is not exact. Luchini said, adding he responded to all emails and phone calls. In turn, he pressed Luchini for what major knowledge about the EPA’s stormwater mandates.

Questions from residents posed to each candidate ranged from why pave a certain road now, when would a certain road be paved, when the leaf and brush dump should be opened, and why roads were plowed on an April day when all the snow melted away later. To that last question, Crisafulli said having six inches of snow on certain roads posed a public safety issue.

Luchini advocated changing the work schedule for Highway Department staff so that it would stretch out to a 50-hour work week and enable more tasks to be accomplished. Such a system is working very well in Norridge, he said.

Both candidates said they have good relationships with the people they oversee.

Luchini talked about his 15 years with the Milford Highway Department, serving as its head for the past dozen or so years. “The town has grown, the job has grown and I’ve grown with it,” he said.

Crisafulli emphasized his 30 years with the Highway Department, serving as its head for the past six or so years. “The town has grown, it has been very dynamic over the past dozen or so years. “The town has grown, the job has grown and I’ve grown with it,” he said.

Crisafulli said, “You can’t run the highway term that is not exact. Luchini disagreed, saying the Milford’s cost has grown, and he’s never seen before, “Selectmen Chair William Buckley said. ‘Now is not the time to do it,’ Selectman William Kingkade said. ‘Now is not the time to further burden them [taxpayers],’ Selectman Michael Walsh said. (May 11)

The candidates disagreed on almost every question put to them, including what major challenge they would face if elected. For Crisafulli, the biggest challenge was to keep the EPA’s stormwater mandates will have on the town. For Luchini, it was how to get more out of the tax dollar in challenging fiscal times.

Recent Actions by Milford Planning Board

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

• Approved a special permit allowing David Consigl to erect two hanging “precasting signs” on his office building at 195-199 Main St. (Route 16). Town Planner Larry Dunkin said the signs will be in addition to one allowed “by right” in the Zoning By-laws. “The exterior of the building will be upgraded as well,” Consigl told board members. (May 5)

• Approved a request by F&H Central Realty Corp. to change the existing lot lines for 5 Gordon Dr. Civil Engineer Robert Poxon of Guerriere and Halnon, Inc. said part of the lot will be combined with another land the developer is purchasing to create new building lots. (May 5)

• Approved a preliminary subdivision plan for “109 Depot Street,” a four-lot subdivision proposed to be built on a 3.43-acre site. Civil engineer Dan Hazen of Guerriere and Halnon, Inc. said an existing house at 109 Depot St. would be torn down and a variance will be sought from the Zoning Board of Appeals for the existing house at 79 Fruit St. A 436-foot-long cul-de-sac is proposed to be built, Hazen said. Board member Patrick Kenny questioned if the homes to be built would be duplexes. “It’s a possibility,” Hazen replied. (May 5)

• Approved a site plan allowing the Milford Water Company to construct a 55-foot by 80-foot wellfield water treatment plant. Senior Project Engineer Matthew Morganelli of Marlborough-based Tate & Howard, Inc. said the existing building for reconditioning vehicles. Dunkin said the building would be built on the northern building for reconditioning vehicles. Dunkin said the building would be built on the northern

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**ELECT**

Tom O’LOUGHLIN
Selectman

Sound Financial Management and Proven Decision Making

This a time of economic and financial uncertainty, local aid from the State, and local revenues to the Town, are projecting significant reductions. Although I am an optimistic person by nature, I believe that it is critical that while we hope for the best, we prepare for any and all situations.

While Milford is in an enviable financial position with a solid stabilization fund to address the proverbial “rainy day”, we must manage your tax dollars wisely.

These times make it even more important to preserve the dual Business/Residential tax rate to protect the residential taxpayer from large tax increases. As your Selectman I pledge to vote to maintain the dual tax rate.

I have the experience and leadership needed to help guide us during the difficult financial times ahead and I have the unique experience in working with Local, State, and Federal officials to bring resolution to complex budgetary needs at times such as these.

This is a time to choose the candidate that has PROVEN EXPERIENCE and is best prepared to get to work as your Selectman ON DAY ONE!

On Tuesday, June 16th, I ask you to VOTE FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP, VOTE FOR TOM O’LOUGHLIN

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Tom O’Loughlin
A New Home for the Wall of Heroes

A memorial honoring the lives of 66 men from Milford who gave their lives in service of their country will be receiving a new home. Members of the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty Committee of Milford have been working with town officials to move the Wall of Heroes from Memorial Elementary School to Town Hall. The wall consists of 66 plaques, which were hanging on the wall in the main lobby of the school. Each plaque provides a photo and the story of 66 Milford residents who died during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The wall was created in 2000, when Memorial Elementary School was being rededicated to all of the Veterans in Milford. At that time, the second-grade students researched the lives of the 66 men who were killed in action, working the whole year to write biographies of the heroes to hang with their pictures. Since access to public schools, is restricted the Medal of Liberty committee felt the wall would be more accessible to residents if it was placed in Town Hall. School committee members and selectmen agreed. The committee is working with Town Administrator Richard Villani to find a new home for the display.

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 hbailey@milfordchamber.org, call 508-478-6700 or stop by the offices, 258 Main Street, Suite 306, Milford.

Dude, Where’s My Buyers? How to effectively reach your customers online through digital marketing Zoom event, Wednesday, June 10, 9 a.m.

DigiMarCon America 2020 online from Tuesday, June 16 through Thursday, June 18 via live stream or on-demand. Learn about the digital marketing industry from thought-provoking speakers and gain insight into emerging strategies, the latest innovative technologies, and best practices to move a business to the next level. Visit MilfordChamber.org for more information.

Monday, June 22, Honors Scholar Night. For the past 31 years, the Milford Area Chamber of Commerce and businesses across our community have honored the academic success of the top 10 percent high school seniors from area high schools. Although the live event is cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Milford Area Chamber of Commerce is honoring the scholars with a commemorative Honors Scholars Keepsake Book. All 300 students will receive this Keepsake Book, along with a citation of merit from their elected official. To help sponsor the book visit MilfordChamber.org.

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Unmatched Experience!

Stormwater Management is Critical to Milford’s Future and Our Environment

The MS4 Stormwater Permit is a Federal EPA mandate to prevent harmful phosphorus and pollutants from entering our waterways nationwide. With Milford at the head of the impaired Charles River, this is a serious environmental problem, and we are required to maintain compliance.

Simply put ... This will be the biggest financial burden the residents of Milford will face over the next 20 years, and must continue to be properly managed.

In my 13 years as your Highway Surveyor, I have completed Phase 1 of the Permit, and have budgeted and developed our Phase 2 Stormwater Management Plan. Continuing with sound planning and experienced management is critical to a successful administration of this Permit.

The estimated $45 million cost to Milford tax payers will increase significantly if our developing plan does not continue, or is abandoned.

On Tuesday June 16th vote for real experience and a real plan for Stormwater Management.

Vote to re-elect Scott Crisafulli as our Highway Surveyor.

Committee to Re-elect Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor

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

On June 16th, the Committee to Re-Elect Scott Crisafulli respectfully requests that you support Scott and allow him to continue these efforts.

Committee to Re-elect Scott Crisafulli, Highway Surveyor
Board of Health Discusses COVID-19 Cases

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Health Officer Jacqulyn Murphy reported to the Board of Health on May 4 that the number of people in Milford testing “positive” for the COVID-19 coronavirus was continuing to rise, jumping by 114 to 316 between April 22 and April 29.

“We continue to see an increase in the cases in Milford,” she said. The best methods to prevent the virus from spreading are to maintain social distancing and to wear a mask, she told board members. While a person may seem healthy, they might be spreading the virus by being too close to other people and not wearing a mask, she explained.

“The primary benefit of wearing a mask is people are protecting others,” board member Paul Mazzuchelli said. He noted he had received positive feedback about the board’s April 21 order to wear masks when entering any “essential” businesses. A few people did call the Health Department office to complain that the board had overstepped its bounds with that order, he added.

Mazzuchelli noted people can be infected with COVID-19 for up to 48 hours without feeling any symptoms. “It’s a sneaky, nasty endurable virus,” he said. The purpose of wearing a mask “is to protect other people. No one has the right to affect other people’s health,” Mazzuchelli said. “We did it [the order] because we care,” he said.

Murphy said the National Guard had conducted COVID-19 testing of the patients and staff who were willing to be tested at four of the five long-term care facilities in Milford and the state Department of Public Health would include any “positive” results in its ongoing reporting of COVID-19 cases. “An idea put forward by Milford Regional Medical Center’s Donna Auger to hold a webinar for the hospital, Police, Fire and Health departments, and long-term care facilities to share best practices and procedures was to be held on May 6, Murphy noted. The idea was “to work together the best that we can,” she explained.

Mazzuchelli termed the webinar “a great idea. No one person or one department can do it alone,” he said.

Murphy also said she and her staff were making a focused effort to educate the non-English speaking population in town about COVID-19 by working with the school system and area churches.

That population “needs a lot of attention,” Mazzuchelli said, noting it is important to make people realize the efforts did not delve into people’s immigration status. When he held Murphy’s position, similar efforts were made during a 2005 spike in tuberculosis cases and during the 2009 H1N1 flu outbreak, he said. Mazzuchelli suggested Murphy reach out to her counterparts in Marlborough, Framingham and Worcester to learn how they reaching non-English speaking residents in those communities.

“I haven’t reached out to those folks, but I will,” she said. “We’re hitting public health from all angles, just like a natural disaster,” Mazzuchelli said.

Wilford’s COVID-19 Numbers

Continue to Rise

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The number of “positive” COVID-19 coronavirus cases in Milford reported to the Board of Health on May 4 has risen to 316, up from 202 on April 22.

“It’s obviously not what we want to see,” said Health Officer Jacqulyn Murphy. She noted that Milford’s numbers are similar to those in other towns with the same socio-economic makeup, but explained that Milford’s numbers are not due to “one thing or another. It’s a variety.”

Part of Milford is densely populated and the denser a neighborhood is, the higher its numbers could be, Murphy explained. Milford has five assisted care and long-term care facilities, and most of the patients and staff at them recently were tested; the more people who are tested, the higher the number could be. Milford also has many retail stores patronized by people from surrounding towns where store employees “encounter 100 percent of those people every day,” she explained.

Having Milford Regional Medical Center located in town is “a huge asset,” Murphy noted. For example, she joined its Infection Control Group when she assumed her position last fall. That group, she said, was able to check the health of Milford High School students returning from a trip to Italy just when that country began to see the number of “positive” COVID-19 cases start to surge.

Although neighboring Hopkinton has released very specific details about the types of COVID-19-related cases there – numbers of positives cases, numbers of recovered, and numbers of deaths, Murphy said the Milford Health Department and Board of Health are following DPH guidelines by only releasing the total number of “positive” cases in Milford and no further details. For example, on May 13, the DPH reported there were 39 suspected or identified “positive” COVID-19 cases in Milford and no further details.

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• Must be able to take direction and work alone.

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COVID-19 Cancellations

HOPEDALE

The Hopedale Cultural Council has announced the cancelation of the summer band concert series and the Hopedale Day in the Park that was scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2020. This decision was made out of concern for the health and safety of participants and attendees.

MILFORD

Memorial Day

Veteran’s Agent John A. Pilla has announced that due to the current restrictions regarding “social distancing,” the annual Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled for this year.

The local scouts along with their leaders and parents, however, will still be honoring our deceased veterans by the “Bagging of graves,” that will take place during the Memorial Day weekend.

July 4th

The Milford Fourth of July Parade Committee has cancelled the 2020 July 4th Parade due to social distancing concerns caused by COVID-19. Planning will now continue for a bigger and better celebration in 2020. Questions or concerns can be messaged to the committee on their Facebook page @MilfordFourthOfJulyParade.

No New Prospect Heights Mayor

Due to concerns about exposing members of the Prospect Heights Mayors Association and the general public to the COVID-19 coronavirus, the annual ceremonial of naming a “mayor” to represent one of the six nationalities which originally settled in Prospect Heights will not be held this year.

Current Mayor Jamie Luchini said the association decided that he will remain mayor for an unprecedented two-year term, with a new mayor to be chosen in the spring of 2021. This year would have marked the installation of the sixtieth mayor. The only other year when no new mayor was chosen was during the association’s fiftieth anniversary in 2010, when all living mayors representing six nationalities – Armenian, Greek, Irish, Italian, Polish and Portuguese – served as co-mayors, Luchini said. “Everything’s canceled this year. We’ll pick right up next year,” Luchini said.

SHOP LOCAL
Weekly Monday Night COVID-19 Briefings Continue

Available on Milford TV, Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 38 plus MilfordTV.net

By Kevin Rudden

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 Jacquelyn 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).

Following are updates from the May 4 and May 11 briefings:

• The National Guard delivered 4,000 protective gowns to the Milford Regional Medical Center during the weekend of May 2-3.
• The Fire, Health and Police departments used the school system’s Blackboard Connect system to send educational messages out to the town’s non-English-speaking communities. Also, an educational flyer was prepared for distribution to people participating in the schools’ free breakfast/lunch program.
• Selectmen Chair William Buckley said efforts are being made to reach out to the town’s Ecuadorian population, which has seen an increase in the number of “positive” COVID-19 cases.
• The Police Department has been receiving calls complaining that people using the Upper Charles Trail are not practicing “social distancing.”
• After the Louisa Lake parking lot on Dilla St. was closed, police were dealing with complaints about people parking at the businesses located on nearby Sumner St.
• The Health Department reminded people to wear masks to protect other people. “You could be a carrier and feel perfectly healthy,” Health Officer Jacquelyn Murphy said.
• If people want to help out during the pandemic, they can volunteer to help trace people who came into contact with those tested “positive” for COVID-19. “As you can imagine, that takes a lot of phone calls,” Murphy said. In particular, people who speak Portuguese and Spanish are being sought to do phone tracing, he said.
• If you are called by the contact tracing program, do not hesitate to respond, Murphy advised. “They’re only going to ask about your symptoms and whom you’ve been with,” she said.
• Buckley asked Murphy if better numbers than “more than 30” could be provided about the assisted living and long-term care facilities in town. “They could have 100 percent of this population with COVID” he said, and the town would not know.
• “Every week we meet, you guys are adding more and more information,” Selectman William Kingkade said.
• Selectman Michael Walsh asked what precautions first responders are taking when responding to calls. Fire Chief William Touhey said dispatchers have a list of every person who has tested “positive” and relay that to responding public safety personnel. In addition, people calling 911 are asked a series of questions to determine what medical symptoms they have, he added.
• Buckley said that, when the pandemic is over, the town should do a retrospective look at how it could have done things better or differently.
• Kingkade said the pandemic demonstrated the need for the town to have some type of “public information officer.” Walsh added, “You can never be too transparent.”
• The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) delivered protective masks to the town during the weekend of May 8-9.
• Milford Regional Medical Center is still making its own protective gowns.
• With the Louisa Lake parking lot closed, more people are using the Fino Field parking lot to access the Upper Charles Trail. “People are spreading out a little bit,” Police Chief Michael Pighetti said.
• The Cedar St. (Route # 85) parking lot for the trail is starting to get crowded, he noted.
• In terms of wearing masks, “We’ve had really good compliance from the community,” Pighetti said. He urged people not to “shame” people who are not wearing masks in public because they may have a legitimate medical reason for not doing so. Murphy added that people with serious respiratory illnesses may find it harder to breathe when wearing a mask and other people may lack the physical ability to put on or remove a mask. “It’s not as simple as wear one or don’t,” she said.
• Town Administrator Richard Villani said the town’s COVID-19-related spending as of May 11 is $89,875.

The Candidate with the credentials, experience and professionalism.

Background
• Highway Superintendent for the Town of Northbridge
• Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official
• Construction Supervisor’s License
• Chairman of Vernon Grove Cemetery Board of Trustees
• 2019 Mayor of Prospect Heights
• Milford Youth Softball Board Member and Coach
• Town Meeting Member- Precinct 1
• Member of the John Warren Masonic Lodge

As Northbridge Highway Superintendent I worked to:
• Pave over 19 miles of main roads in 5 years
• Create a year-round asphalt pot hole repair policy
• Establish a sidewalk removal and replacement program
• Institute an ADA crosswalk ramp installation program surrounding schools and churches
• Overseer the construction of a new $2.5 million DPW garage
• Clean up the DPW site by auctioning off, trading in or removing over 18 pieces of heavy equipment and trucks
• Secure funding and purchase 7 pieces of heavy equipment and trucks
• Coordinate the removal of over 160 hazard public shade trees

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.

MAY 22, 2020
Milford Town Crier 13

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My priorities if elected:
• I will increase the Availability and Accountability
• Introduce a year-round asphalt pothole repair with online pothole reporting
• Modernize how road work is bid and completed
• Cleanup existing Highway facilities
• Implement a vegetative maintenance program
• Join a salt purchasing consortium to greatly reduce the cost of salt for the Town
• Restructure the annual leaf pick up program, to better achieve completion on time
• Introduce new scheduling to achieve a 50 hour operating week, with no increase to the budget

The on-set of COVID-19 has caused worry and disruption worldwide and locally. Now, more than ever, our community needs to assess our challenges and plan for the future. As the current chair of the Milford School Committee, and with 26 years of experience as a public school admin-

ister and teacher, I have the knowledge and skills to support the Milford Public Schools as we address this unprecedented situation.

Our students’ health and safety, along with access to excellent learning opportunities will continue to serve as my compass, as will my commitment to the educators and residents of this amazing town.

I respectfully ask for your vote as I seek re-election to the Milford School Committee this spring.
**RMV Cautions Customers of Unofficial Third-Party Websites**

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is cautioning customers to use only Mass.Gov/RMV when they are trying to renew a license or registration or process any business transactions online. Customers may inadvertently come across unofficial third-party websites or “mimic sites” that advertise similar services but have no affiliation with the RMV.

Customers need to ensure that they are using the official Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles website Mass.Gov/RMV to conduct their business transactions, said Acting Registrar of Motor Vehicles Jamey Tesler. “Customers should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites that are offering RMV services to ensure that their personal and financial information is protected.”

Customers can use the helpful hints listed below to determine whether the website they are using is the official site for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

- Make sure the website’s URL is located somewhere on the page. This will help ensure that it is an official government website. If it cannot be found, customers should leave the site immediately.
- Always read the fine print and look for key phrases such as “for-profit” or “privately owned” at the top or bottom of the third-party websites which may note that they are not affiliated with the Commonwealth.
- The Registry will never charge a customer to check the status of a license, registration, or title. If the site requires payment to access this information, it is an unsecured mimic site.
- At Mass.Gov/RMV, a customer will never be charged to access Registry forms and information, but unofficial third-party sites may charge for this service. Their information is also not guaranteed to be accurate.
- The Registry never charges for address changes. If a customer uses a mimic site, the change cannot be guaranteed to have actually gone through.
- Any information on these third-party websites may not be accurate, and any details or payments that customers submit may not be secure.
- The RMV is not responsible for the content or actions taken by these sites. For more information on the dangers of third-party services, visit the Mass.Gov/RMV.

Customers with additional questions can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation by calling the Consumer Hotline at 888-397-8787, or toll free in MA at 888-283-3757.

For the latest Registry updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

**Milford COVID-19 Cases Exceed 500**

By Chris Villani

Staff Reporter/Columnist

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Milford rose to 525 for a rate of 1,762 cases per 100,000 residents. The new figures, released in the Department of Public Health’s town-by-town breakdown for May 13, represent an uptick from the 470 cases of COVID-19 reported and the rate of 1,363 cases per 100,000 people in the previous week.

The state is releasing breakdowns by municipality each Wednesday. The most recent, from May 20, was set to go out after the publication deadline for the Town Crier. Locally Milford remains the town with the highest number and rate of cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

Hopkinton reported 27 cases, a rate of 475 per 100,000 residents. Upton showed 17 cases for a rate of 188 per 100,000 and Mendon had 22 cases, or 380 per 100,000 people. The number of cases for each of those towns rose by single digits.

In Hopkinton, 104 cases were reported for a rate of 637 and in Medway, 99 cases were reported, though that equals a rate of 757 per 100,000 residents. Holliston reported 48 cases, while Medlington 107 for a rate of just under 599 per 100,000 residents

While the number of new cases reported in the state each day has routinely topped 1,000, the rate of infection in Massachusetts has steadily ticked downward in recent weeks. On Sunday, just eight percent of those tested for the virus came back positive. The average number of tests that come back positive has hovered around 12 percent since early May.

The number of hospitalizations for the virus has also declined. As of Sunday, May 17, only three percent of COVID-19 patients were being treated in hospitals around the state. Milford Regional Medical Center was treating 37 COVID-19 patients, including four in intensive care, both numbers were down over the past two weeks.

According to Sunday’s data, Bilir House of Milford, with 73 beds, had reported more than 30 cases, as had Milford Center. Countryside Health Care of Milford and Cornerstone at Milford reported between 10 and 30 cases of the virus.

Through Sunday, more than 86,000 Massachusetts residents had been infected with COVID-19 and nearly 5,800 had died as a result of the virus, according to the state’s data. Total tests performed as of May 17 were 460,826, number that officials expect to ramp up significantly as the Commonwealth focuses on increasing screenings significantly.

**Massachusetts Unveils COVID-19 Reopening Plan**

By Chris Villani

Staff Reporter/Columnist

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker unveiled the state’s long-awaited plan to reopen the economy that had been shuttered due to the COVID-19 pandemic on Monday, May 18, outlining a four phase path to what he has described as “the new normal.”

Phase One of the plan began Monday with the return of construction, manufacturing and the opening of places of worship with certain guidelines and restrictions in place. The second part of the first phase is set to begin Monday, when lab space and office space will open, except in Boston, on a limited basis. Monday will also allow for hair and pet grooming services and the opening of parks, beaches and outdoor activities like fishing, hunting and boating.

Each phase will last at least three weeks, but there is a chance the phases could last longer.

“At least three weeks between phases but it could be more and that is going to be a function of the data,” Baker said during Monday’s press conference. “The move to the next phase is going to be a review of how we are doing in the phase that we are in.”

The indicators include the COVID-19 positive test rate, the state’s testing and contact tracing capabilities, the readiness of the healthcare system, the number of patients who test positive for the virus and the number of individuals who die as a result of the virus.

“This effort will hinge on personal responsibility,” Baker said.

The state also updated its stay at home advisory to a “safer at home” advisory. Under this guidance, people over 65 or who have underlying health conditions are urged to stay home except for procuring essential needs. All others are advised to stay home except for the essentials and any other permitted work, shopping, or activities.

Gatherings will still be limited to fewer than 10 people during Phase One and it was unclear how many would be allowed to gather in the subsequent phases.

Phase Two, which could start in June, includes dine in restaurants, retail, hotels, nail salons, spas, campgrounds, playgrounds and athletic fields. Phase Three, which could begin in July if the health data trends in a positive direction, includes bars, gyms, casinos and museums.

“People need to understand, we are playing this game, and it’s a real one, with the virus and the economy at the same time,” Baker said. “It’s important for people to step up and realize, the game’s not over.”
QCC Helps More Students Focus on Their Future with $450,000 Grant

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has awarded Quinsigamond Community College’s Future Focus program an Adult Education Transition to Community College Grant. The $450,000 grant is divided into three yearly allotments of $150,000, and is the maximum amount awarded. QCC’s Future Focus program is designed specifically for adult learners from adult basic education programs and creates a direct pathway to degree and certificate programs. Since 2010, Future Focus has significantly increased its student enrollment, and to date, over 300 nontraditional students have been through the program.

Future Focus students are non-traditional students who have gone through the traditional U.S. education system, but did not complete their school requirements and instead earned their GED or HiSET high school equivalency. Future Focus students are also English as a Second Language (ESOL/ESL) participants, who already have their high school diploma, as well as students who graduated from high school years ago and went directly into the workforce. Participants receive comprehensive support in order to help them succeed as they transition into higher education. The program covers all tuition and fees, books, school supplies (and bus passes if needed), in addition to career and academic advising.

“The program has a rotation of students, made up of first-semester students and second-semester students. The goal is to have 15 new students each semester, and students stay with the program for one year (two semesters),” said QCC’s Future Focus Coordinator, Gilmarie Vongbahakdi, adding that there are 30 students participating for the Spring 2020 semester. QCC Future Focus students come from all areas in the community, and includes CNAs, police officers, grocery clerks, PCAs, a phlebotomist, caseworkers with Worcester youth, medical assistants, dental receptionists, factory workers, forklift drivers, bank tellers, parents, and many more.

“We have two students graduating this May and two more finishing up at the end of the Summer II semester,” Vongbahakdi continued, noting most of the students have been accepted at four year universities. To learn more about QCC’s Future Focus program, QCC.edu/services/future-focus-program
Milford Town Crier

Valley Tech Instructor Receives MVA's New Teacher Award

Submitted by Elise Bogdan

Tom Lamont, Painting & Design Instructor at BVT, is the recipient of the Massachusetts Vocational Association’s New Teacher Award. BVT photo

By Scott Calzolario
Staff Reporter

In the last few weeks, Milford Public Schools have implemented phase three of their remote learning plan, and started to teach some new material in a more structured way as the school year rides out.

Assistant Superintendent, Craig Consigli said that the first two phases were more of an adjustment period in reaction to the abrupt change in learning due to COVID-19, including schools closing in March.

At first, he said, some families felt overloaded with the amount of information and resources designed to aid their children. Following guidance from Massachusetts Education Commissioner Jeffery Riley in March, teachers were beginning to record lessons while also conducting live classroom time online.

“Remote learning is never going to replace the student experience at school, and that’s (true) for teachers, administrators, and also for families,” Consigli said. “Once we realize that, then it’s time to try to uphold our obligation to engage students in meaningful learning opportunities.”

Initially, the effort was made to ensure teachers were working together to create half of a normal day in lesson plans for students. Consigli also said in the first two phases it was important to focus on reinforcing skills that students had already learned. Phase three, he said, is to introduce a trickle of new material in order to meet state guidelines.

Revised guidelines were put in place by the state in order to set a standard for what students should be taught before moving up to the next grade level. The problem, noted Consigli, is making sure every student has the same opportunities.

“We are struggling with equity,” Consigli said. “We have students that are not able to access some of our digital content. They have access to some of our activities, but it’s not the same as working online.”

Hard-copies of the school work are available, but a lot is lost without the Zoom lectures and interactive activities. Despite grappling with an uneven playing field, Consigli said he is happy with how Milford has handled this epidemic so far.

“I’m very proud of the way that the district has stepped up,” he said.

Milford Schools Move to Phase Three Remote Learning

School Committee Braces for Change

FY21 Budget of $53.5 million Proposed

By Scott Calzolario
Staff Reporter

Planning Milford Public School’s budget for Fiscal Year 2021 is going to be a rocky road amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Confident, yet wary of imminent changes, the school committee believes they might be able to escape these uncertain times with just a few bumps and bruises.

The committee met on Zoom for an hour-long discussion on Wednesday, May 13. The entire meeting can be viewed on MilfordTV.com.

A proposed 4.8 percent increase over the 2019-2020 budget of $50,550,305 is being considered. This would bring the 2020-2021 school budget request to $53,530,594. However, this is just a plan, officials are not sure if or how much funding they will be allowed by the Commonwealth.

The plan also provides options that can be adjusted until the fall when it becomes more clear what they’ll be dealing with, said School Superintendent Kevin McIntyre.

One thing that seems clear is that new initiatives and programs will likely be postponed until 2022, unless Chapter 70 funding increases go ahead as planned.

“This are unprecedented times, and the pandemic has negatively affected local, state, national, and world economies,” McIntyre said.

“The town is committed to not laying anybody off in 2020-2021 school year,” he said. “The focus is also on providing level service, but again there are still so many unknowns.”

This is McIntyre’s eighth budget cycle with Milford schools, and the uncertainty is higher than ever before, but he is committed to those expectations. He said that the Chapter 70, or state education funding, will ultimately be put under serious pressure, but no one is sure exactly what areas will be hurt the most.

Though some money is planned to be saved in budget items such as transportation and summer school staffing, there are still so many questions and uncertainties.

“This is a good, least-bad option, compared to some other communities across the Commonwealth,” McIntyre said. “A lot of districts are renegotiating contracts, laying people off, and cutting essential programs and service. We’re going to be able to maintain that (contract staffing and programs) during this year.”

Another challenge, he said, is dealing with an increased enrollment, he said. It’s hard to predict, he said, but he hopes that the student population won’t fluctuate too much.

Celebrating Local Graduates

Although graduations are different this year, the Town Crier will be honoring graduates in its June editions. We are accepting brief graduation announcements, 50 words or less, and photos for all area high school and college graduates except for those graduating from Nipmuc Regional High School, Blackstone Valley Tech High School, and Milford High School. Our reporters will be covering those graduations.

Announcements, submitted as a Word Document, should include the graduate’s name, parents’ names, hometown, school name and location, major and degree for the Commonwealth,” McIntyre said. “A lot of districts are renegotiating contracts, laying people off, and cutting essential programs and service. We’re going to be able to maintain that (contract staffing and programs) during this year.”

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Photo by: Courtesy

May 2020

Milford School News

Milford Public Schools Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration

Registration for new shining Star Early Childhood students and for Kindergarten students for the 2020-21 school year is as follows:

Packet pick-up for families, who have not do so before, is Tuesday, May 26, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Shining Star Early Childhood Center, Door 19 A.

Drop-off of the completed Kindergarten packet is Monday, June 2, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Wednesday, June 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Shining Star Early Childhood Education Center, Door 19 A.

Drop off the completed Pre-K packet is Monday, June 8, from 8 to 10 a.m. and Tuesday, June 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Make sure to include copies of all required documents in the completed registration packet, there is no access to a copier at the drop off site.

For both pickup and drop off, please stay in the line of cars and pull forward as far as you can to the designated stop spot, or the car in front of you. Remain in your car; staff will come to you to distribute and retrieve the registration packet through the car window. Do not pass cars. Please be patient.

Families of Pre-K students will be notified of their classroom placement by Friday, June 12.

School News

Valley Tech Instructor Receives MVA’s New Teacher Award

Tom Lamont, Painting & Design Instructor at BVT, is the recipient of the Massachusetts Vocational Association’s New Teacher Award. BVT photo

By Scott Calzolario
Staff Reporter

During his relatively short time at BVT, Lamont has volunteered to help with the Environmental Club’s recycling efforts, helping students with their recycling drive.

The team recycles 650 pounds of single-use plastic bags, which earned our students an invitation to participate in the Massachusetts High School Nationals in Louisville win gold. As the Environmental Club Advisor, we collected and recycled large amounts of single-use plastic bags. Lamont said he has been, “rewarded with amazing students, opportunities and recognition at the State House. Multiple national trade magazines have published his accomplishments, having a talented vocational-technical education at BVT. My son Chad graduated in 2018 and is now an Assistant Superintendent, Craig Consigli said that the first two phases were more of an adjustment period in reaction to the abrupt change in learning due to COVID-19, including schools closing in March. At first, he said, some families felt overloaded with the amount of information and resources designed to aid their children. Following guidance from Massachusetts Education Commissioner Jeffery Riley in March, teachers were beginning to record lessons while also conducting live classroom time online.

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Photo by: Courtesy

May 2020

Milford School News
BVT’s Allegrezza Eyes D1 Soccer Program

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Blackstone Valley Tech senior Michael Boone is heading across the pond for college and to continue playing soccer at a high level to attend the University of Northumbria in northern England.

The process that lead him to the United Kingdom started a couple of years ago when he looked into an English soccer program. He has since visited the country twice and after a trip to the Newcastle campus last fall, decided it was where he wanted to spend his college career.

“It’s definitely a new experience and I’m nervous but also extremely excited,” Boone said. Boone is planning to earn a degree in business and will play for the I21 Soccer Academy. There are multiple teams that play in Newcastle, so Boone said he is not sure exactly where he will fit in on the roster. But he knows that soccer, or football, is much different in England. “One of the reasons I chose Newcastle is because it’s known for how seriously the people there take the sport,” he said. “The whole city revolves around soccer. It will be amazing to live and play in an environment like that.”

The game itself is different in the U.K., Boone said. When he visited last summer, he had the chance to compete against some of the teams he will see with I21 and the game was more physical.

“It’s going to take some getting used to,” he said. “The hardest thing is how intense it is. You have to compete against some of the teams he will see with I21 and the game was more physical. "It’s going to take some getting used to, " he said. "The hardest thing is how

The highlight, he said, came last fall in the district title game against Blackstone Valley Technical (BVT), a team that has beaten the Wolverines often in their careers.

“In one of my senior games, he said, “I finally beating them and winning one for BVT, that was probably the biggest highlight for me,” he said. "I am very thankful to be a part of that team and for giving me the opportunity to play at a high level to attend the University of Northumbria in northern England.”

The chance to study at a top-notch business program and on a beautiful, right sized campus is what drew Blackstone Valley Tech senior Dominic Allegrezza to Coastal Carolina University, but he hasn’t given up on his goal to continue playing soccer at the collegiate level.

Allegrezza plans to walk on to the Division I school, located in Conway, S.C. He said he first heard about the school a few years ago from a cousin who suggested it might be somewhere he’d want to look into.

“I went down last year and toured it and I really liked the campus,” Allegrezza said. “It wasn’t too big, it was a good size for me and everyone seemed really positive and loved being there.”

Allegrezza looked into the business finance program and ultimately decided that was what he wanted to study, saying a business degree would give him a “good head start” as he looks ahead to his career. He has also been in touch with the soccer team coaching staff.

He first reached out last year and went down to the school for a camp. BVT head coach Khalid Al-Haza has also been in touch with CBU and sent Allegrezza’s highlight tape.

“I am hopefully going to get the chance to play center back again,” Allegrezza said. “That’s the position I feel most comfortable with.”

The schedule for tryouts is a bit uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, though Allegrezza said the university recently announced that classes would be resuming in the fall and students would be able to be on campus. In the meantime, Allegrezza is working out and preparing for the chance to play college soccer.

“I’ve been trying to get ready for it and running as much as I can,” he said. “I try to spend some time working on skills and practicing my juggling and control.”

Allegrezza will head south after a strong career at Valley Tech, anchored by the support of his parents Beth and Greg. He said they have been in his corner throughout his athletic career, and saw a number of achievements while Allegrezza was in a BVT uniform.

The highlight, he said, came last fall in the district title game when BVT knocked off Nipmuc to claim the championship. “Finally beating them and winning one for BVT, that was probably the biggest highlight for me,” he said.

Boone Heading to England for School & Soccer

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
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The game

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He first reached out last year and went down to the school for a camp. BVT head coach Khalid Al-Haza has also been in touch with CBU and sent Allegrezza’s highlight tape.

“I am hopefully going to get the chance to play center back again,” Allegrezza said. “That’s the position I feel most comfortable with.”

The schedule for tryouts is a bit uncertain due to the COVID-19 pandemic, though Allegrezza said the university recently announced that classes would be resuming in the fall and students would be able to be on campus. In the meantime, Allegrezza is working out and preparing for the chance to play college soccer.

“I’ve been trying to get ready for it and running as much as I can,” he said. “I try to spend some time working on skills and practicing my juggling and control.”

Allegrezza will head south after a strong career at Valley Tech, anchored by the support of his parents Beth and Greg. He said they have been in his corner throughout his athletic career, and saw a number of achievements while Allegrezza was in a BVT uniform.

The highlight, he said, came last fall in the district title game when BVT knocked off Nipmuc to claim the championship. “Finally beating them and winning one for BVT, that was probably the biggest highlight for me,” he said.
Austin Misses Out on Senior Tennis Season

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford High senior Zach Austin was poised to earn one of the top spots on the Scarlet Hawks' tennis roster this spring before the COVID-19 pandemic brought the season to an end before it began. But Austin is not hanging his head. Instead, he is focusing on appreciating what he had.

"It was pretty disappointing, I was expecting to be able to play the last year and have an opportunity to lead the team," Austin said. "But I've had some time to reflect on the three years I did play and they were pretty great!"

Austin said he thought back to some of the best matches over the past few years and the fun bus rides bonding with his Milford High teammates.

"Being able to make friends and get close with guys who love playing the same sport that you love, that's been my favorite thing," he said.

Milford High head coach Lisa Caruso described Austin as a "natural leader" who not only helped the squad on the court, but also worked hard volunteering at a fundraising camp last fall to raise money for the program.

"He has been instrumental," Caruso said. "His father helped coach for the past few years and he just know the game so well. He is a gentleman and a sportsman and he has a good attitude, win or lose."

Caruso said Austin pulled out some thrilling three-set victories last year. During the offseason, he worked out frequently with his father in an effort to get to the top of his game by the time spring came around.

"We play in a tough division and we lost our top three singles players from last year, so he would have jumped into the number one singles spot and had some tough matches," Caruso said. "He was ready; he was looking forward to that challenge!"

Austin is going to attend the University of Rhode Island next year and plans to try out for the club tennis team. He has not been able to play because the parks and courts in town have been closed. He's gone on some walks and tried to get some exercise in, but said he has spent most of his time focusing on school work and making sure he is set to graduate.

"I made a lot of great memories in high school in general and I'm happy to be moving on and starting a new chapter soon," Austin said. "And I'll be playing as soon as the courts open up!"

Fitness Classes at Home

The Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center staff has put together exercise classes that everyone can do at home. Milford TV will be broadcasting the classes Monday through Friday at 10:30 am. on Channel 8 for Comcast Xfinity or Channel 38 for Verizon FiOS. The classes include Zumba with Rebecca Tredrea, Yoga with Johnna O’Leighughn, Safe Exercise with Stan Parker, Express Muscle & Mat with Robin Thompson, and Line Dancing with Alice Kinahan.

Several exercise classes and challenges are also broadcast on the Milford AAA Senior Center YouTube channel, available online or on a TV. Additionally, the videos can be accessed by visiting MilfordMASeniorCenter.com.

Post 59 Season Scrapped for 2020

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The 2020 American Legion baseball season has been canceled nationwide due to concerns arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, marking just the second time since 1926 that there will not be legion baseball over the summer.

"It's heartbreaking," said Milford Manager Steve DiVitto. "We want to play, we want to be on the field because we want to have some sense of normalcy and I think a lot of us who were involved in legion baseball and around the town were vexing legion as the thing to give us a sense of normalcy heading into the summer".

Post 59 taking the field at Fine Point has been a summer tradition since the late 1920s. The only other time the legion season was canceled was in 1944, during World War II.

"This is a sad day in deed for American Legion Baseball in Massachusetts," said state chairman Dick Paster in an email to teams. "Let's hope life returns to normal in time for the 2021 season."

DiVitto said he feels especially bad for players who were slated to be competing in legion baseball for the final time and will not be able to. "This has been a part of my life since I was growing up," he added. "To think a summer may go by and there is the potential for no season at all, it's a tough thing to try and grasp."

DiVitto said there are discussions being had about fielding a team and playing as an "independent" league without any sponsorship from the American Legion. He has spoken with other teams in Milford's zone and some of the neighboring zones about what that type of a season might entail. South Dakota has already signaled plans to move ahead with that type of a season, DiVitto said.

"We are away from even being able to think about this based on the governor's reopening plans, but we are going to work with our club, our zone, and other zones to see whether, if we reopen and there is a window sometime this summer, we could do something so the kid can get out on the field."

Many potential hurdles would need to be cleared, including getting the green light from the state and figuring out what safety protocols need to be put in place. Waivers from the towns and families would be needed, as well as insurance to make sure players are covered when they participate. DiVitto said Monday he is collaborating with the Futures League and other leagues to see whether fielding a team would be possible.

"It's going to be a long process in a short amount of time, but we are not closed to the idea," DiVitto said. "It's going to be something that is unprecedented, but we all already know this is an unprecedented situation."
Reopening Plan Leaves Summer Sports in Limbo

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The summer sports season remains a question mark after Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker on May 18 unveiled his four phase plan to reopen the state's economy after it was largely shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the reopening plan's first phase, dubbed "start," outdoor activities including "some athletic fields and courts" will be allowed to open May 25 along with fishing, hunting, boating, beaches and parks. But organized youth sports are left to Phase Two. In that part of the plan, all athletic fields and courts would be able to open in Massachusetts with guidelines and youth sports could resume in a "limited" fashion.

In Phase Three, youth sports would expand to include games and tournaments with limited crowd sizes. The final phase of the plan, called "the new normal," brings back all outdoor recreational activities and sports.

Following an announcement from the state that students would not be returning to their public or private school campuses this year, the MIAA canceled the spring sports season. Milford High Athletic Director Peter Boucher has discussed a tentative plan to allow seniors and other spring sports athletes the chance to compete, even if it's for a few games, if health guidelines allow for it at some point over the summer.

Milford Legion Post 59 has a similar plan in mind following the cancellation of its summer baseball season, but the guidelines leave plenty of ambiguity as to whether such plans could come to fruition.

Under the guidance, there will be at least three weeks between phases and that duration could be longer if public health data does not show the kind of improvement needed to advance to the next stage. If all goes well, games and tournaments could not get underway in Massachusetts until shortly after July 4, the earliest date Phase Three could begin.

Whether that would leave enough time for either high school or legion to put together some semblance of a season is unclear. The limit on gatherings, which remains in the single digits through Phase One, is also left unspecified for the subsequent stages.

Baker said no decision has been made about when Massachusetts' professional sports teams might be able to play games in the state. He said that process is being run "through a different channel" than the one used to determine the immediate fate of summer sports.

2020 Class Brought Joy to MHS Girls LAX

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Although they did not get to take the field this spring, the eight seniors on the Milford High girls' lacrosse team established themselves as a special group.

"I am really, really, really going to miss them," said head coach Nicole Culhane. "I can't believe we missed the season when them because last year I saw so much growth in every single one of them. So this year, I was so excited about them and the different things we were going to try on the field."

Culhane said the players were sad about the season being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but they took it in stride and most of them are excited about going to college and moving forward to happier stages of their lives.

The coach and her seniors were able to get on a Zoom call together recently. They talked about what they had done last season and things they were looking forward to and excited about for this coming spring. "It was nice to reminisce about what would have been and talk about it," Culhane said.

Culhane took over the team last year. The impact of the 2020 class, then juniors, was palpable.

"They were the real energy of the team," she said. "They were always very supportive of each other and supportive of the rest of the team and they were always willing to help other girls out."

On the field, the group followed instructions well and improved greatly throughout the season, Culhane added.

The senior class consisted of Elena BonTempo, Anne Flanagan, Julia Kidman, Hannah Severyn, Sophie Smith, Rosie Trainor, Kristina Tschida, and Jeni Tusa.

"These girls have been a bright light to the program, they are a true joy," Culhane said. "Ultimately they really brought a lot of compassion and energy and it was evident how much fun they were having."

Culhane said the group brought a "bright light" to the program and their level of caring and commitment stood out, as did their leadership. She said the example said. "Ultimately they really brought a lot of compassion and energy and it was palpable."

"I am really excited," Culhane said. "I was plagued by injuries as a player and I talked to coach and we both knew I would be more on the court than on the court. I was very ready to fill that role."

Since he became the Scarlet Hawks' manager, Culhane has had a range of responsibilities. During practices, he helps keep stats and run the clock.

On game days, he is responsible for tracking fouls and timeouts, among other in-game numbers. Seaver said those duties will increase with Oliva's new role.

"He's older, he's more mature, and he's been very good with everything he's done so far, so now he can take on more," Seaver said. "I am going to have him be more involved in drills at practice."

Along with assistant coach Chris Tracente and JV coach Matt Cooper, Culhane has become an important part of the MHS program. "He fits into the locker room to perfection," Seaver said. "He is a voice in that locker room as well. Oliva plans on going to culinary school and continuing in the family business that bears his name. But over the past three years, he said the door to pursuing coaching has "swung wide open."

"I absolutely love being involved in basketball and now I am one step closer to that goal of being a coach," Oliva said. "I like being in the high school environment and forming a relationship with players. I feel like that's something you can really get at the high school level."

Oliva said he has also enjoyed working with Seaver at camps and clinics for some of the younger players in town, getting a sense of which classes might produce some special players as they work toward their high school.

His own class is particularly deep. Having the chance to experience high school basketball with so many of his classmates has made Oliva's time with the team even more special. "It's been everything to me," he said. "I've played with them since we were in the fifth grade, through travel basketball, AAI, in-town, summer league, to be able to be around them is something you don't get to do twice so I'm glad I get to experience it."

Massachusetts Golf Courses Open with Restrictions

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Massachusetts golfers returned to the course mid May for the first time since nonessential businesses were closed with a series of rules and restrictions in place to try to make the sport safer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The state put forward 19 rules to govern golf during the emergency. Golf carts were initially banned altogether, but the governor's council added supplemental guidance allowing carts to be used if a golfer can provide documentation that she or he has a disability."

"Caddies are not allowed, golfers must maintain social distancing of at least a six feet at all times, and the staff and personnel on site at courses must wear masks or face coverings. There are no bunker rakes, ball washers, or water jugs out on the courses and tee times are supposed to be spaced at least 15 minutes apart. Practice greens and driving ranges are closed and the flag stick must remain in the hole during play."

While there are 19 rules, there is no 19th hole. Clubhouses, restaurants, locker rooms, and other indoor facilities typically associated with golf are to remain closed.

In addition to having a starter or a golf professional at the course, the grounds crews are permitted to keep working. Landscaping has been considered an essential business and golf course maintenance crews have been working during the nonessential business closure to keep courses looking lush.

"The Massachusetts golf industry welcomed the return of the sport after having lobbied the state to reopen the courses, arguing golf is an activity that can be played while adhering to social distancing guidelines and provides players a way to get outside and get some exercise."

"The Alliance of Massachusetts Golf Organizations would like to thank the re-opening advisory board for their hard work and diligence during this process to resume play in Massachusetts," the organization said in a statement. "AMGO is continuing to work with the governor's administration to identify and develop additional solutions in the golf industry and keep them informed on the needs of our communities."

One issue raised immediately was the initial ban on carts, which was quickly changed to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Many private clubs, and some semi-private courses, are only open to members as the industry slowly reopen.
Navigating New Unwritten Rules of Golf

Golf is a game built around etiquette. You don’t step on the line of someone else’s putt. You’re supposed to quiet when another player is standing over the ball and getting ready to swing. And then there are the half-hearted canned lines we all spew when a player we just met on the first tee hits a shot that doesn’t go quite right.

“Get up, get up!”
“Tough break!”
“You know, I’m surprised too, I really thought the ball could go through that tree.”

But golfing during a pandemic is a little different. When a buddy of mine and I decided to tee it up for the first time since courses reopened, we had other etiquette questions on our minds.

“Do we wear a mask?”
“What if someone we are playing with wears a mask? Should we put on one too?”

I had a birdie putt (humble brag) on a hole and a playing partner I had not met prior to the round blasted an impressive bunker shot from about 50 yards out to within eight feet and directly in the line of my putt. Without thinking, and wanting to keep things moving, I marked his ball and moved it for him. But now, that helpful gesture is a COVID-19 faux pas.

There is no longer a real “hole,” per se. Foam or sand inserts have made the concept of a traditional hole obsolete. A ball that gently rolls into the raised cup and bounces softly around the cup and flies two fairways away probably would not have dropped into the hole.

“Aforementioned random playing partner hit a putt that trickled over the foam insert before popping out. Does that count? Should it count?”

While I haven’t touched this personally, a cup that is below the putting surface creates even more gray area. A ball that gently rolls into the raised cup and bounces off the cup and flies two fairways away probably would not have dropped into the hole.

“But what about the grass that lines the side of the raised cup? Might the golfing gods have allowed gravity to take over and bring the dimpled orb to its natural resting place? Or would it have rolled around the lip and spun out, leaving a knee-knocking three footer?”

I would say, in the spirit of coming together and being kind to one another during a difficult time, if someone hits a putt within a few feet, just utter the words that are music to any golfer’s ear.

“Pick it up.”

MHS Boys LAX Seniors Lay Foundation for Program

By Chris Villani

Sports Roundup/Columnist

The Milford High boys’ lacrosse team was poised for a strong season with nine seniors leading the way this spring. The COVID-19 pandemic ended their campaign before it began, but head coach Jacob Scordato said this group of seniors will leave a lasting impact on the program, even if they were denied one more chance to suit up.

“The class of 2020 might not have any titles to show for themselves, but what they do have is much greater,” Scordato said. “They created a culture that will have ripple effects for generations to come. They showed that, if you work hard, you can accomplish anything.”

The group of CJ Cerrella, Dan Santos, Danny Farrel, Dominic Rango, Eddie Madden, Jeremy Sherer, Josh Sherer, Michael McGuire, Ryan Cenedella and Ryan Donelan came into the year determined to change the way people look at the Milford lacrosse program, their coach said.

“A common phrase was ‘leave the program better than the way you found it,’” Scordato said.

That process began shortly after the 2019 season. The rising seniors and the underclassmen did not take their foot off the pedal, Scordato said. They worked hard during captains’ practices and always showed up early, focusing on pushing one another to be the best players they could be.

Scordato said the best part about the group was the tight bond they all formed. No matter what class a player was in or what they did outside of lacrosse, they were a brotherhood, Scordato said.

“Every hard win, every tough loss, that’s where that brotherhood was born but not where it ended,” he said.

Scordato said his players took the lost season in stride, though it was obviously very disappointing. He felt that they would appreciate their experience even more with time to reflect.

“I think this class worked their butts off every day,” the coach said. “From where they started their freshman years to where they are now, they are completely different people. You can barely recognize them with their helmets on.”

That work ethic rubbed off on the rest of the team, Scordato said, and that’s why the 2020 class’ impact will be felt for years to come.

“All the underclassmen, they looked up to the older guys because they showed how hard they worked and how much they care,” he said. “We are going to see a lot of the younger guys follow in their footsteps.”

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