Celebrating Our Graduates

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Town Crier is celebrating the Class of 2022 graduates from Milford High School with a special feature in this issue highlighting their academic achievements and personal accomplishments. The feature includes photos of select students, quotes from their teachers and friends, and a list of all the graduates in alphabetical order. The coverage aims to acknowledge and honor the hard work and dedication of these young people as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.

Selectmen Cut Quorum for Annual Town Meeting

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

How do you ensure that enough Town Meeting Members are present to conduct business and make decisions? This is a question that Selectmen Chief Jeffrey Niro and the Finance Committee faced during the budget deliberations. The town is considering lowering the quorum to 62 members, down from the current 80, to ensure a quorum is reached.

According to Selectman Frank Cullotta, the decision to cut the quorum was made after consulting with local government experts and reviewing similar practices in other towns. The Finance Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and approving the annual town budget, supported the move to lower the quorum.

During the budget discussions, Selectman Niro emphasized the need for a balanced budget that meets the needs of the community while being mindful of the town's financial constraints. He noted that the town had recently approved a $111 million budget for FY21, which includes a 3.8 percent increase in spending compared to the previous year.

Finance Committee Approves $111 Million Budget for FY21

The Finance Committee has approved the annual town budget for fiscal year 2021, which totals $111 million. The budget includes funding for various departments and programs, including education, public safety, and public works.

The education budget for FY21 is $54,348,498, an increase of 3.6 percent from the previous year. This increase is due to the town's commitment to providing high-quality education for its students.

The public safety budget is $52,476,720, an increase of 3.8 percent from the previous year. This increase is due to the town's commitment to maintaining a safe and secure community.

The public works budget is $4,928,930, a decrease of 3.8 percent from the previous year. This decrease is due to the town's commitment to maintaining a clean and well-maintained community.

Overall, the new budget represents a 3.5 percent increase in spending compared to the previous year. The Finance Committee believes that this budget meets the needs of the community while being mindful of the town's financial constraints.
Milford Town Library

The Milford Town Library is still closed to the public but Curbside Pick-up of library materials is in full swing. System-wide holds (or Inter-library loan) is still suspended. Availability is limited to items in our collection.

How Curbside Pickup works.

Patron library card must be current and in good standing to use Curbside Pickup.

Visit MilfordTownLibrary.org and click on the Library Account Login icon to search our online catalog, limiting the search to Milford, to find items you want.

A limit of 20 holds may be picked up at a time, with only one pickup per day allowed.

Patrons may call the library to have items placed on hold, limit five per day. Librarians are available to assist you Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We are happy to select books, DVDs, etc., for you based on interest and availability.

Feel free to inquire about items that are in our collection but currently unavailable. If the item is in Milford, we can try to retrieve it.

• Library staff will collect your items, bag them up and call to schedule an appointment for pickup.

• Curbside Pickup times are Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

• Patrons must have received a call with an appointment time to pick up their items before coming to the library.

• When you arrive at the library, please call 508-473-2145, ext. 0 to let staff know you are here and the make and color of your car.

• Please have your trunk or hatch open before staff approach your car or you may have your bag of items left near your car.

• If you have items to return, please put them in the outside book drop. All fines are suspended until further notice.

The Milford Town Library is happy to be able to serve patrons again, if only in a limited capacity.

Curbside Pick-up at Milford Town Library

SHINE - Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone

SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) provides free and unbiased health insurance counseling information and assistance to Massachusetts residents with Medicare, their caregivers and those approaching Medicare eligibility.

The region office is located at the Milford Senior Center on 60 North Bow St., Milford. SHINE provides services to more than 60 cities and towns in Central Massachusetts. Statewide, there are more than 600 certified volunteer counselors trained to assist residents with Medicare.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic questions and consultations are held remotely. Please visit SHINE.org for more information or call 1-800-243-4636 to speak with a counselor.

One of the newest programs offered by the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center staff is Lunch with the Senior Center. Thanks to Milford TV, the Center is airing educational and fun programs on the community’s local station Tuesday through Friday at 12:30 p.m.

Tune into to Milford TV, channel 38-Verizon or channel 8-Comcast to see what is being shown. The Friday, June 26 program is Floral Arrangements presented by the Greenleaf Garden Club. Elaine McNanna is the host. Check out future listings for Lunch with the Senior Center at MilfordMASeniorCenter.com.

Lunch with the Senior Center

SHINE is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Executive Affairs under a grant from the Administration for Community Living. The Central Region office partners with Council on Aging, Elder and Disability Service providers and other public and private community-based organizations.

TRAUMA INTERVENTION SERVICES

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Happy 101st Birthday!

Even though people have to stay apart due to the pandemic that did not stop the friends and relatives of Georgia Deane from celebrating her 101st birthday on June 9. About 45 to 50 cars decorated with homemade signs and balloons full of smiling people drove by her Mendon home with music playing and horns tooting expressing their love, energy and birthday wishes. Miss Georgia, as she is known to the thousands of dance students she has taught, stood at a picture window and waved to everyone who stopped and sang Happy Birthday. Later Miss Georgia sang on a microphone to the crowd. She was surprised by the birthday parade and really loved the whole thing. It was like a great reunion. As Mendon’s oldest resident, Miss Georgia still has the town’s Golden Card. Contributed photos.

Sick of your kids? Done with homeschooling and dreading a long summer??!! Send them to art camp at Christin’s Gallery in Mendon! Safely sticking to COVID guidelines at camp! WWW.CHristinGALLERY.COM

We are stronger together.

As your local community bank, we know we play a vital role in the livelihood of many individuals, families, and businesses.

We’re your neighbor and we’re here for you. Please reach out to your local UniBank branch, visit unibank.com, or call us at 800.578.4270. Member FDIC/Member DIF
recent actions by milford selectmen

by kevin rudden
staff reporter/columnist

• held a moment of silence in memory of former police chief vincent liberto, who recently passed away. (june 8)

• recognized retiring board member william buckley for his 15 years as a selectman and three years on the school committee. buckley also received citations from state representative brian murray, d. milford and state senator ryan fattman, r. sutton. “i’ve been fortunate, over the years, to work with an incredibly talented group of people,” buckley said. (june 8)

• approved national grid’s request to install a new utility pole on industrial rd., 25 feet north of the existing utility pole located at the corner of birch st. and industrial rd. (june 8)

• town administrator richard villani reported the town’s covid-19 pandemic-related expenses now total about $124,000. (june 8)

• voted unanimously to re-open the louisa lake parking lot on dilla st. (june 8)

• villani reported that the dance room in the milford youth center has been completed, including a dehumidifier system being installed, flooring installed by consigli construction co. inc., donating 75 hours of labor and benjamin moore & co. donating paint and labor. (june 8)

• approved a request by the tradesman at 284 west st. for two, one-day all alcoholic beverage licenses and two outdoor entertainment licenses to hold its annual labor day outdoor music party from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on friday, september 5, and sunday, september 6. the approval is subject to covid-19 coronavirus pandemic public health regulations, board of health approvals for food trucks, and police and fire department approvals for traffic and rod control. (june 8)

• appointed christopher george as the town government’s information technology (it) director, with an annual salary of $95,797, beginning on july 1, subject to the proposed fiscal year 20-21 budget being passed at the annual town meeting. george has been doing the job on a consulting basis over the past few months. (june 8)

• accepted villani’s proposed process for granting outdoor liquor licenses to milford’s restaurants as they re-open with outdoor seating after being closed except for take-out service due to the covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. the process includes an online license application, inspections by the building, police and fire departments and board of health, public hearings held by villani twice each week, then villani’s approval allowing the license and, finally, subsequent ratification of villani’s decision at a later date by the board of selectmen. (june 8)

• accepted the resignation of personnel board member dennis carroll. (june 8)

• appointed jodie nosiglia, most recently a member of the police chief search committee and who has 37 years’ human resources experience, to the personnel board. (june 8)

• chairman william kingkade thanked the organizers of the june 7 remembrance board member denis carroll. (june 8)

• accepted villa’s approval allowing the license and, finally, subsequent ratification of villani’s decision at a later date by the board of selectmen. (june 8)

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• accepted villani’s approval allowing the license and, finally, subsequent ratification of villani’s decision at a later date by the board of selectmen. (june 8)

• voted unanimously on o’loughlin’s motion to elect kingkade chairman of the board, following the annual town election. (june 18)

• as a new selectman, o’loughlin requested a list of the departments and employees who report to villani and to the board, copies of their job descriptions and any employment contracts, and a list of town hall employees who answer to other boards. (june 18)

• selectman michael walsh thanked all candidates who ran in the annual town election, noting they had long and difficult campaigns during the covid-19 pandemic. (june 18)

• kingkade read a letter from a resident requesting 30 miles per hour speed limit signs on dilla street, with the board referring the request to police chief michael pighetti for his recommendation. (june 18)
Milford Regional Reopens All Services

As Milford Regional Medical Center (MRMC) reopens all services to the community, safety for patients, visitors and staff is a top priority with the hospital following all state and federal guidelines. All MRMC employees are screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms. Those with symptoms are not allowed to work until they are free of all symptoms based upon pre-established guidelines. All wear masks and other appropriate personal protective equipment.

Patient companions are allowed in Maternity, parents or guardians for patients under 18, attorneys and for those with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. Admitted patients, except those with COVID-19, may have one visitor from 7 to 9 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. A visitor must be screened, sanitize and wear a face mask and visitor’s tag. Emergency Room patients may have one companion and companion care patients may receive visitors depending on the decision made by the care team and family. All visitors should enter and exit through the Emergency Department Entrance behind the hospital under the parking garage. The Hill Center Entrance is used by admitted, outpatient and day surgery patients. The Imaging Entrance is open for outpatient imaging appointments. The Main Entrance is closed. No companions are allowed for Outpatient Services and Day Surgery patients for OB appointments, when one support partner may accompany the patient.

COVID-19 patients are cared for in separate areas. Social distancing and sanitizing is practiced by everyone in the hospital. Patients scheduled for surgery will need to follow specific procedures for screenings and tests including a COVID-19 test. Surgery patients should be dropped off for their procedure and pick up in the same manner they were dropped off when it is open. Visit MilfordRegional.org for more details.

The hospital hopes that outlining current safety measures will provide an added layer of reassurance and comfort. As a community hospital, MRMC takes its role as the local healthcare provider very seriously.

For the most up-to-date information on hospital services, visit MilfordRegional.org.

Area COVID-19 Numbers Continue to Plateau

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The number and rate of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the greater Milford area continued to show very little growth in the third week of June, according to information released by public health officials in June. As of June 17, Milford had reported 636 positive cases of the disease caused by the new coronavirus for a rate of 1,270 infections per 100,000 residents. While those numbers are, by far, the highest of any neighboring towns, they represent only five new positive cases relative to the previous week. Milford had reported 44 new infections between June 3 and June 10. Other towns showed little or no growth in positive cases as the statewide numbers continue to suggest that the virus is waning in Massachusetts.

For the third week in a row, Upton did not have a new positive COVID-19 case, holding at 24. Mendon also reported no new cases over the previous week after reporting three new infections between June 3 and June 10 for a total of 30. Hopkinton each reported just one new case between June 10 and June 17. Hopedale’s total number of COVID-19 cases was 41 through June 17, for a rate of 722 infections per 100,000 people. Hopkinton’s rate of infection is slightly higher, with its 121 cases representing 742 cases for every 100,000 residents. Bellington has reported a total of 124 COVID-19 cases, Medway has 117 and Holliston has reported 56 cases. One of the nation’s hardest hit states amid the pandemic, Massachusetts has seen more than 100,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 7,000 deaths. But the key metrics state officials are closely monitoring as they make decisions about reopening the state’s economy have trended in a positive direction. The seven-day weighted average of the percentage of COVID-19 tests to come back positive has decreased 92 percent since April 15. The three-day average of COVID-19 deaths is down by 82 percent from April high. The number of hospitals in the state using surge capacity and the three-day average of COVID-19 patients being hospitalized have also shown steep declines from their mid-April peaks of 71 and 90 percent, respectively. As of June 17, the number of people with COVID-19 being treated in Massachusetts hospitals had dropped below 1,000 to 998.

Massachusetts RMV New Initiatives

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) announces new initiatives for customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiatives are:

Additional Appointment Capacity at Open Service Centers: customers will now be able to make appointment-only reservations between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Service Centers currently open to the general public. The RMV anticipates reopening the South Yarmouth Service Center on Monday, June 22.

Learner’s Permit Tests Restart Online with Exclusive Permit Only Center: hours. Customers are now able to make an appointment to take their Learner’s Permit exam. Applicants will be required to take their Learner’s Permit test online at home up to 60 days after completing their appointment in a Service Center. Appointment times will be available and appointments for teens turning 16 between March and June 2020 and whose permit test was delayed. Effective Monday, June 15, the RMV will expand the number of Service Centers that will open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. strictly for Learner’s Permit appointment transactions. Fifteen Service Centers will be available at open locations. The RMV also anticipates opening the Danvers Service Center on Monday, June 29, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. strictly for Learner’s Permit appointment transactions.

New Protocols for Resuming RMV Road Tests: the RMV resumed public road tests, with preference initially for individuals who had their road test appointment in March, April, and May cancelled. Road tests for new applicants will begin after those whose appointments were postponed. Customers who have a road test rescheduled are being contacted directly by the RMV with a new appointment. The RMV is implementing new road test protocols, including the exclusive use of specific state or driving school vehicles, which will be cleaned after each test. Only the customer and the testing official will be inside the vehicle during the test.

Supervised Driving Privileges Prior to Learner’s Permit: eligible teenagers turning 16 between March 1 and June 30, 2020, may be able to apply for a new “Supervised Driving Receipt” (or SDR) prior to their valid to obtain an appointment to their Learner’s Permit. Eligible teenagers will be required to have parental / guardian consent to apply and to complete their permit test online. Printed at home following successfully passing the learner’s permit test, an SDR will carry strict requirements. The SDR will also allow an eligible teenager to enroll in a certified driving education and training course and begin their required observation hours but will not count towards a junior operator’s required six month clean driving record. SDRs will be valid 90 days from the date of issuance and will only be issued through August 12, 2020. Eligible customers applying for an SDR should continue to check Mass.Gov/RMV as the RMV for application availability. Learner’s Permit applications will continue to be processed by appointment only at a Service Center when identity, lawful presence, residency and vision have been verified.

$25 REAL ID Upgrade Fee Waiver: over 500,000 Massachusetts residents will need to renew a driver’s license this summer, and will not need a REAL ID – which requires an in-person visit to verify lawful presence – for at least another year due to the federal government’s new deadline, October 1, 2021. The RMV is not currently accepting appointments for REAL ID renewal, upgrades or amendments. Customers who renew for a standard Massachusetts driver’s license or ID card online through August 12, 2020, will be able to upgrade to a REAL ID if they need it in 2021 at no additional charge. The cost of a license or ID renewal is $50 for a ‘standard’ or REAL ID, while the amendment or upgrade fee waived by this Executive Order is $25.

In-Car Observation Hours for Junior Operators: an Executive Order will allow for 46 hours of supervised driving hours to be completed with a parent, guardian or other adult over 21 with a valid license for over 45 hours of supervised driving. In addition, participants are allowed and customers without an appointment will be added to and make reservation online to return at a future date.
Milford Town Crier

Correction

Due to a communication error, the list of organizations of the Black Lives Matter demonstration in Milford covered in our June 14 article "Not Understanding, But Standing Against Inequality" was incomplete. The primary organizer was Victoria Williams. She was assisted by Aaron Anniballi, Kevin Wheeler and Sabrina Flores.

Blackstone Heritage

Corridor 2021 Calendar Contest

One thing not canceled this summer is the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor 2021 Calendar Photo Contest. Current social distancing guidelines still allow photographers to grab a camera and explore the Blackstone Valley, capturing some great images for this year's theme: Historical Landmarks & Artifacts. While many of the museums and historical buildings may remain closed, their outer features provide endless opportunity for taking creative shots. But don't stop there. Let the theme be an inspiration to search for the not-so-famous landmarks and artifacts. Share what you find by entering the discoveries into the Blackstone Heritage Corridor’s 2021 calendar photo contest.

The annual calendar photo contest receives hundreds of entries, but only 15 images will be selected for the 2021 calendar to illustrate the cover and each of the 12 months. Submitted images not selected for the calendar are used throughout the year for the Corridor's various promotional materials, including its website, annual report, brochures, and much more.

To be considered for the 2021 Calendar Contest, photos must focus on historical landmarks and artifacts in the 25 communities of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and must be original digital photography. Photos must be submitted in high resolution (300 dpi minimum), horizontal JPG format. No black and white or altered images, please.

Contest deadline is Friday, August 14. Submit photos to Blackstone Heritage Corridor at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org, and use the online calendar contest submission form.

For more information, contact Christie Barnett at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org. There is no limit on the number of entries. Each photo must be submitted separately with the description, etc. Winners will be notified in early September.

Cancellations

Hopedale

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Twice Blessed Thrift Shop at Sacred Heart Church Hopedale, will remain closed for the summer until further notice.

Fun Free Fridays

Free Fun Fridays, which allows dozens of cultural institutions in Massachusetts to admit visitors free of charge on a summer Friday, thanks to funding from the Highland Street Foundation has been cancelled this summer due to the many closings caused by COVID-19. But the Foundation is still supporting attractions in the Commonwealth by donating the $750,000 from the program to its 100 participating institutions to ease their financial stress.

The summer of 2020 would have been the 12th summer the Highland Street Foundation funded the program, founded to provide parents and children access to museums and other educational venues across the state. Since its start in 2009, more than 14 million visitors have enjoyed the program, including 162,000 people in 2019.

The institutions are allowed to use the Foundation money as they please. Many are opting to support staff wages, maintenance, or online content.

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Zoning Board Approves Chickens on Emmons St.

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted unanimously to grant a special permit allowing Andrew Verdura of 44 Emmons St. to have four chickens at his quarter-acre property for a nine-month trial period. The ZBA approval came with three conditions: Verdura could not have a rooster, and his proposed 10-foot by five-foot combined chicken coop and enclosed run cannot be located within 20 feet from his rear lot line or within 15 feet of the side lot line opposite his garage. Verdura’s neighbor living behind him, Dr. Richard Heller of Congress St., objected to removing, citing potential noise and the density of the neighborhood. “Chickens are not that quiet,” Heller said. “We’re a small neighborhood and things are very close.” Verdura originally asked for six chickens, saying he wanted their eggs for his family. Having chickens would teach his children to be responsible, he added.

“One thing that lot is plenty big enough,” said ZBA member Christopher Burns, who said he grew up on Emmons St. Board member David Pyne suggested approving the request on a trial period and Chairman David Consigli suggested reducing the number from six to four and adding the setbacks.

One Step Closer for “Rail Trail” on Main St.

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The Rail Trail Flatbread Company’s downtown Hudson location.

The Rail Trail Flatbread Co. of Hudson came one step closer to opening its second location – at the 221 Main St. long-time home of the former Home National Bank of Milford and, most recently, a Rockland Trust branch office – when the Board of Selectmen transferred liquor and food licenses to Rail Trail on June 8.

“We think you’ve a huge key” to revitalizing the downtown business area, Chair William Kingkade told owners Michael Kasseris and Jason Kleinerman. The most frequent question he is asked as a selectman, Kingkade added, is, “Where are they?”

The restaurant’s path to Milford goes back a few years, when Ronald Pagnini, chair of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, personally solicited Kasseris to duplicate his successful Hudson business in downtown Milford. Subsequently, Kasseris and his father, Theodore Kasseris, met with the committee and were courted by Kingkade and former Selectman William Buckley.

Then, in April of 2019, Theodore Kasseris and his wife Anna bought the 223 Main St. building for $966,855. Over the past year progress on the Milford location was delayed when the elder Kasseris passed away and Rail Trail had to search for an available liquor license. The All-Alcoholic Beverages and Common Victualler licenses it secured were available when the elder Kasseris passed away and Rail Trail had to search for an available liquor license.

The All-Alcoholic Beverages and Common Victualler licenses it secured were available as a by-product of the redevelopment of the Milford Crossing shopping plaza on Medway Rd. (Rt. 109). The plaza’s then owners were able to secure a liquor license transfer from the former Truffles on East Main St., intending to use it for the Red Heat Tavern. However, Red Heat secured its license during bankruptcy proceedings for the former Bugaboo Creek Steakhouse, leaving the former Truffles’ license available for Rail Trail.

Rail Trail still has to renovate the former bank into its new restaurant. Its license application stated the restaurant will be able to seat 290 people. Michael Kasseris said the team of himself, Kleinerman and manager Richard Birdoff are “eager to be part of the community.” Buckley called Rail Trail “perfect for Milford” and commented, “I saw what you did to Hudson and the impact that you’ve had on that community.”

“Thank you very, much, for choosing Milford,” Selectman Michael Walsh said. When they were building Rail Trail’s Hudson location, Michael Kasseris said, people would stop in and make suggestions about the décor and the menu – many of which they incorporated. He invited Milford residents to do the same thing when they begin to build out the Main Street location.

The Mendon Upton Town Crier was established over 25 years ago. We are the good news newspaper. We know our readers and advertisers. Advertising with us means supporting the community and recognizing the strength of a smalltown USA.
**O’Loughlin Elected Selectman**

**Crisafulli Re-elected Highway Surveyor**

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Former Police Chief Thomas O’Loughlin is the town's newest selectman, winning decisive, 3,666 (62.4 percent) to 2,143 (36.5 percent) victory over Joshua Lioce in the June 16 Annual Town Election. In other contested races, Scott Crisafulli was re-elected as Highway Surveyor and Jennifer Parson was re-elected to the School Committee, joined by Edward Bertorelli re-elected to the Board of Library Trustees, joined by Ann Ragosta.

Voter turnout was 5,877, or 32.7 percent of the 17,966 registered voters, compares to last year's 13 percent voter turnout. Town Clerk Amy Hennessy Neves said that 4,360 absentee and "vote by mail" ballots were received by her office as of the Friday night before the election, meaning roughly 1,500 people voted at the single Milford High School polling place.

"I do believe people want change in government," O’Loughlin said after the polls closed. "I'm grateful for the support that I received from a broad base of support in the community." He added, "If I'm elected, I'm sitting in their seat."

Commenting on what it was like to campaigning during the COVID-19 pandemic, O’Loughlin noted, "To say it was difficult was an understatement." He spoke of adapting his campaign from going door-to-door and in-person debates to primarily using social media and advertisements in the Town Crier to get his message out to voters. And, moving the election date from early April to mid-June made it "a long campaign," O’Loughlin said.

"I would like to congratulate my opponent on his successful campaign. I wish him the very best and hope that he can do great things for Milford over the next several years," Lioce said.

Results of the other contested races are:

- Highway Surveyor: Crisafulli – 3,303 (56.2 percent) and Jamie Luchini – 2,353 (40.0 percent).
- School Committee: Parson – 3,882; Aghanjanian – 2,613; Brendan Rickert – 1,183; and, Frederick Steinmann – 1,019.
- Board of Library Trustees: Bertorelli – 3,585; Ragosta – 1,873; Scott Vecchiolla – 1,495; David Probert – 933; and, Alfred Spittler – 650.

Candidates running unopposed re-elected are:

- Town Moderator: Michael Noferi
- Town Clerk: Neves
- Assessors: Joseph J. Niro
- Board of Health: Leonard Izzo
- Housing Authority (four-year term): Patrick Holland
- Housing Authority (five-year term): Jennifer Walsh
- Park Commissioner: Paul Braza
- Planning Board: Marble Mainini
- Sewer Commissioner: Thomas Morelli
- Trustee of Vernon Grove Cemetery: Henry Shahnamian

By Kevin Budden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

The ballot question about allowing the spouse of a current or retired town employee who passes away, to stay on the employee's medical insurance plan at the same partial share that their deceased spouse was paying passed by a 2,974 (50.1 percent) to 2,153 (36.6 percent) vote, with the examining percentage being 'blank' ballots.

The names of people elected as Town Meeting Members will appear in the July 10 issue of the **Town Crier**.

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**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY**

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**Thank you!**

I wish to thank my family, friends, supporters and voters for their overwhelming vote of confidence.

Your kindness will always be remembered and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Scott

Paid for by the committee to elect Scott Crisafulli. Laura Crisafulli, Treasurer, 52 Harding St. Milford, MA.

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**Thank you!**

THANK YOU, to the Voters and Residents of Milford!

THANK YOU, for the support that so many showed and provided to my campaign to serve You and the Town of Milford.

THANK YOU, for your confidence in me to serve as Your Selectman!

THANK YOU, for Your Vote!

I look forward to working for and with ALL of Milford.

Tom
Antonio Armata

Antonio Armata of Milford, was among the over 5,000 students who graduated with bachelor’s or doctorate degrees from Ohio University, Athens Ohio this spring. He earned a Master of Business Administration.

Assumption College

On May 10, Assumption College, Worcester conferred degrees to 522 that was live streamed. It is hoped an in person commencement ceremony will be held on August 23. Milford awarded degrees are:

- Gabriela O’Neil, who received a bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences; Brianna Rondeau, who received a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Sociology; Jenna Smith, who received a bachelor’s degree in History and Political Science and Olivia Solitro, who received a bachelor’s degree in Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies.

Maeghan Vasile

Maeghan Vasile of Milford graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Castleton University, Castleton, Vt. on Saturday, May 16 a virtual celebration. The an in-person Class of 2022 commencement ceremony is scheduled for the spring of 2023.

Christopher Vine

Becker College, Worcester, announces the graduation of more than 430 students at a virtual commencement celebration, including Christopher Vine, of Milford, who has graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Management Concentration.

Amanda Hyden

Amanda Hyden of Milford has been named a May 2020 graduating Honors Scholar at Dean College, Dean College. This recognition, developed by the College in 2010, is designed to acknowledge those students who taken honors courses throughout their degree program and excelled in them. They have participated in honors program activities and have earned outstanding grades overall. These students have challenged themselves academically by enrolling in the most rigorous courses on campus.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Milford high schoolClass of 2020 graduates, Colby Pires and Lucas Rosa were each awarded a $1,500 scholarship from Celebrate Milford. They were chosen because of their academic excellence and for being community service leaders amongst their classmates. Celebrate Milford congratulated both recipients and hopes to continue providing scholarships to graduating seniors for years to come.

The best way to predict your future is to create it.

-- Abraham Lincoln

Your Connections While Distancing

To reach our Customer Care Team during business hours

*Contact our Customer Care Team to request authorization

Facebook page. Troop leader, Lisa Blackwell, stated it perfectly, “You each have your own unique talents, interests, and passions. You will do amazing things when you put your mind to it. You are all leaders in your own way. Keep moving forward and doing good. This world needs you. Congratulations and best wishes.” The graduating Girl Scouts and the college they will attend are: Liz Baza (Salve Regina), Michaela Blackwell (University of Southern Maine), Sara Comisky (Merrimack College), Angelique Hanna, Julia Kidman (Springfield College), Iliamn Paccito (Endicott College), Bruna Costa and Maggie Raleigh (UMASS Amherst), Julia Rojdan (University of Florida), Betsey Scrimgeour (University of Vermont), and Ma Skiba and Katy Watson (Worcester State University).

Lasell University

Lasell University, Newton, congratulates the graduates of its Class of 2020. They include three Milford residents: Cecelia Costa, who graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Management; Erin Fleming of Milford, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science; and Hannah Rich, who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

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Celebrate Milford Scholarship Winners

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Nadiah Hamid of Milford graduated in May from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

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Congratulations to the Milford High School Class of 2020
CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE TOWN CRIER TEAM

Emily Parke is the Milford High School Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Anne Flanagan is the Salutatorian.

Emily, the daughter of Machiko and Douglas Parke, achieved many academic honors while in high school. She is a James Otis Scholar and received the Spanish Seal of Biliteracy and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Certificate of Academic Excellence. She was a member of the National Honor Society.

Emily will be attending Harvard University in the fall, where she intends to study biomedical engineering.

Anne, the daughter of Deborah and Todd Flanagan, held many positions while in high school. She was Drum Major of Scarlet Hawks Marching Band, Captain of Girls Varsity Soccer and Lacrosse teams, Treasurer of the Tri-M Music Society, a National Honor Society officer and MA Hoby Leadership Ambassador.

Anne plans to pursue a double major in Public Health - Nutrition and Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a pre-med track.

Tops in their Class: Milford’s Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Emily Park

Anne Flannagan
In the little Town of Mendon
WE ARE OPEN
Sponsored by ImperialCars.com

Lowells Restaurant
Route 140 on the Mendon/Bellingham Line
75 Cape Road, Mendon, MA 01756
www.lowellrestaurant.com

We will be open for take out only
from 11:00 am to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
Please check out website for updates.

We would like to thank all of our loyal customers for your support and patronage during this difficult time. We take every precaution to ensure that our product is of the highest quality and safety standards. We know how important it is to keep your families and our staff safe, while providing the same comfort you have grown to love here at Lowell's Restaurant.

We would also like to thank Kevin Meehan for his generosity with advertising for local businesses that had been hindered by the forced closures. Although we have been here to provide take out, we wanted to reassure everyone that we are preparing for dine in service.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Lowells Restaurant

Deluxe House Of Pizza
Open every day! Mon-Sat 11am - 10pm, Sun 12pm - 10pm

A family-owned business that has been serving the community for over 30 years.
We’re still here serving you during this difficult time for pick up orders.
We are taking the necessary precautions to keep our loyal, wonderful customers and our family staff healthy during this crisis.
We are looking forward to see when we are able to re open the dining area to have our customers enjoy there food on site.

Thank you all for your support!
The Deluxe Pizza Family
(508) 478-4501, (508) 478-4502
32 HASTINGS STREET, MENDON, MA 01756
WWW.DELUXEHOUSEPIZZA.COM

Alicante
MEDITERRANEAN GRILL - RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

We would like to thank everyone for the support during this time!
Take-Out
Tue-Sat 4-8 PM
online ordering or Call 508-634-8188
• Beer & Wine
• Sangria Togo
• Pre-prepped Items
• other Essentials Now Available

84 Uxbridge Rd, Mendon, MA 01756
www.alicantema.com

THE BARK ARK
PROFESSIONAL DOG AND CAT GROOMING
32 Hastings Street Route 16
Mendon, MA
(508) 473-4744
CLOSED WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY

BETTY FERRUCCI
PROPRIETOR
We wish to thank all our clients for their devotion and understanding.
We are happy to be back servicing our furry friends.

Stardust Jewelers
"Your Friends in the Diamond Business"
Issue 1978

We are looking forward to reopen!

Stardust Jewelers

Boarding, Doggie Daycare & Training
VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED
PAWS is OPEN
During these difficult times we can run your Furry Kid Back-and-Forth To Your Car
www.PawsBedandBiscuit.com

THE PAWS
BED & BISCUIT

First Responders, Please Contact Us
For Our Special Offer

Pet Spa Services, Behavior Consults & Training available

Doggie Daycare where your furry kid can relax & have fun

Luxury Modern Dog Boarding at our Doggie Chalet

Lowells Restaurant

Outdoor Restaurant Service Approved by Selectmen

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist
The Milford Board of Selectmen has approved the following restaurants to provide outdoor service of food and alcoholic beverages under Governor Charlie’s Baker’s June 1 Executive Order, provided they meet all Building Department, Police and Fire department, and Board of Health regulations:

• PINZ, 110 S. Main St. (Approved on June 11)
• Prezo Grille & Bar, 229 ½ East Main St. (Approved on June 11)
• 99 Restaurant & Pub, 196B East Main St. (Approved on June 11)
• Pepperoncinis, 201 East Main St. (Approved on June 11)
• Depot Street Tavern, 45 Depot St. (Approved on June 11)
• Viana Bar, 119 East Main St. (Approved on June 11)
• The Tradesman, 284 West St. (Approved on June 11)
• Craft Roots Brewing, 4 Industrial Rd. (Approved on June 11)
• Acapulco’s Mexican Family Restaurant, 231 East Main St. (Approved on June 17)

1 Cape Rd, Mendon, MA 01756
(508) 634-3133
www.liquorworldma.com

Pop N Kork is now Fine Wine, Spirits & Beer since 1986

12 Uxbridge Road, Mendon, MA 01756
(508) 478-6390
www.stardustmendon.com

Lowells Restaurant
WE ARE OPEN
for limited classes and hope to get back to full speed soon. Sign up online, no walk-ins at this point. Please check out MindBody for our current schedule.
See you soon!
28 Hastings Street, Mendon, MA 01756
(774) 573-4356
www.bstmmaandfitness.com

Thank you to all our loyal customers!

2A Maple St., Mendon
Across from Town Hall
508-826-9625

COLLECTIVE HOME DECOR
Primitive, Country
French Country, and Antiques
STAY SAFE
AND HEALTHY.

Thank you
to all our loyal customers!

We are continuing to advertise through Facebook and Instagram.

Beautiful Americana decor in stock now

We are hoping to open in the next few weeks. Our business hours will be 10 to 5 Wednesday through Sunday.

Country Bumpkins Mendon
508-826-9625

Thank you to everyone who supported us through this time.

Thank you to all essential workers!

152 Uxbridge Road, Mendon, MA
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

WE ARE OPEN
Opening On June 8th
Check our Facebook for questions and updates.

All of our nail technicians have completed the Barbicide COVID-19 Certification training in part of our ongoing effort to keep our employees and customers healthy.

Contact us via Facebook Messenger or call:
508-478-4360
32 Hastings St., Mendon, MA 01756
appointments only - no walk-ins

Thank you to our amazing customers for your support!

We hope to see you (and your cuticles) soon!

JUNE 26, 2020
Milford Town Crier

See more on the next page
We are open for business as usual, by appointment. We are happy to take a look at any of your kitchen or bath remodels as well as new construction.

Wendy Beltramini  
Office: 508-478-8885  
Cell: 508-291-7616  
Fontanakitchens@live.com  
2B Maple Street, P.O. Box 305  
Mendon, MA 01756

Deane School of Dance  
Official School of the Greater Milford Ballet  
Ballet • Tap • Jazz • Lyrical • All Boys Tap

We are hoping to open for our Summer Program with Master Classes and look forward to seeing you all in the Fall.

Call for updates and information.  
Call 508-473-2105  
508-473-3354  
28 Bellingham St, Mendon  
Deaneschoolofdanceandtheater.com

Southwick’s Zoo  
Thank you for your support!  
Now open for the 2020 season! Learn more at:  
WWW.SOUTHWICKSZOO.COM

We would like to thank our friends and customers from the town of Mendon and surrounding towns for all their help and support during this trying time. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon. Thank you again and stay healthy. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Green House staff.

Located in the Willow Brook Plaza at 14 Hastings St (RT 16) in Mendon.

Located in the Willow Brook Plaza at 14 Hastings St (RT 16) in Mendon.
**Drivers Wanted**

"We Are Expanding"

50 Immediate Positions To Start In August

**Call Mark’s Transportation**

508-473-3600

Office is located at 51 East Main St. Milford, MA

Office hours are Mon – Fri 9:00 – 5:00

*New applicants only: restrictions apply

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**Stacy Middle School Student Receives Presidential Award**

Cee-Cee Deslaurier-Tate, an 8th grade student at Stacy Middle School, received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA), Gold Level, for 115 hours of volunteer service dedicated to her community, completed the prior year, at age 13.

The PVSA is an official Presidential recognition bestowed upon exceptional volunteers, in appreciation of their commitment to strengthen the nation and communities by taking action and having an impact, to make the world a better place through service.

The Award recognizes and honors citizens of distinction who have achieved the required number of hours of service over the prior 12-month period. Category levels of the PVSA Award include Bronze, Silver and Gold, based upon the number of hours served, for the appropriate age category.

Cee-Cee’s service and programs benefited Milford children, through various Girl Scout activities, as well as her primary project of creating, implementing and leading an after-school club at Stacy. The Harry Potter Club, a passion shared by youngsters and teachers, matched new, incoming students with older “ambassador” students, forming social, friendship bonds in an effort to aid the younger peers in the difficult transition from elementary school. The club has officially been added to the school budget assuring its sustainability.

At the PVSA ceremony in Worcester earlier this year, Cee-Cee received an official pin, as well as a Certificate of Achievement and congratulatory letter signed by President Donald Trump. The letter expressed thanks on behalf of the nation, for her serving as a model of the American spirit and for her dedicated service to ensure the continuation of America’s unparalleled commitment to improving the lives of others.

Awards are approved by certifying organizations which includes schools, Scouting and other non-profit organizations.

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**A Virtual Wave Goodbye at Valley Tech**

At BVT, seeing teachers and the school staff waving goodbye on the last day of the school year is an annual tradition, marking the official start of summer vacation. This year the custom continued virtually, socially distanced, and with a much different look.

On Tuesday, June 16, there were no school buses lined up in front of the school for the final bus ride of the 2019 - 2020 school year. With students learning from home, there were no in-person celebrations or honking horns. But there was excitement in the air as masked teachers and staff got ready to wave anyway, before sending virtual air hugs, smiling eyes, and well-wishes for a safe and happy summer and embarking on their sabbatical.

Students are encouraged to keep reading over their summer vacation. While it won’t look like other summers, especially when it comes to finding the next great book to read, consider supporting the local town library and independent bookstore with curbside pickup and online ordering. The required summer reading lists are on the school website, ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/summerreading. While students and teachers enjoy their well-deserved downtime with a good book, administrators, support staff, and facilities team remain busy — the final phase of construction is underway on the self-funded roof repair project. In addition to their annual top-to-bottom cleaning and routine maintenance of the entire facility and campus, summer projects include planning and preparing for reopening and returning to school based on forthcoming guidance.

Please check the school’s website throughout the summer for updates on the reopening of school this fall.

---

**With smiling eyes, masked teachers and staff send their wave virtually with well-wishes for a safe and happy summer to their students before embarking on their sabbatical. BVT photo**

---

**Available for both regular transportation drivers (no special license) and 7D drivers.**

To transport students to and from school in minivans and sedans. Applicant must be 21 years or older and have a valid driver’s license for 3 or more consecutive years.

20 – 35 hours per week: Split shift.

$15.00 per hour base pay

After 1 yr., $1.00 PER HOUR PERFECT ATTENDANCE = $16.00

$1,000 Bonus if you hold a 7D License *

---

**Monitors also needed**

**Call Mark’s Transportation**

508-473-3600

Office is located at 51 East Main St. Milford, MA

Office hours are Mon – Fri 9:00 – 5:00

*New applicants only: restrictions apply
School News

**BVT Again Earns National Distinguished School Recognition**

For the third consecutive year, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is recognized as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for increasing access, engagement, and achievement in the PLTW Computer Science and Engineering pathway.

The national nonprofit organization PLTW serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in over 12,200 schools across the country. BVT is one of 149 high schools to receive this designation for the 2019-2020 school year and the only high school in the state to do so consecutively.

"It's always an honor for our school system to be recognized by Project Lead the Way as a Distinguished School," said Vocational Director Dr. Matthew Connors. "This accolade is a testament to BVT's sustained approach in delivering quality vocational instruction and the willingness of the students to constantly go the extra mile."

To be eligible for this designation, BVT had to offer at least three PLTW courses; of the students participating, at least a third took two or more PLTW courses during their high school tenure with at least 95 per of students completing the PLTW End-of-Course assessments; and have strategies and procedures in place to support reasonably proportional representation regarding race, ethnicity, poverty, gender.

BVT currently offers six PLTW courses in the Engineering Pathway and has implemented the Computer Science Pathway in its Information Technology program. The second of four courses in the Computer Science Pathway was provided in the fall with the other two classes to roll out in consecutive school years. BVT also plans to move forward with an academic set of courses in the PLTW Biomedical Science Pathway this fall.

The PLTW Biomedical Science introduces high school students to medicine and human body systems and a wide array of biomedical science careers. Throughout the program, students take on the same real-world challenges as biomedical science professionals, preparing them for careers in medical and health-related fields.

The PLTW Computer Science interdisciplinary courses engage students in compelling, real-world computer science challenges. As students work together to design solutions, they learn more than just how to code, developing computational thinking, and communication skills for our increasingly technology-based economy.

The PLTW Engineering empowers high school students to step into the role of an engineer and adopt a problem-solving mindset. Students engage in collaborative, real-life activities like working with a client to design a home, programming electronic devices, or robotic arms and exploring algae as a biofuel source.

"Creating a positive learning community that prepares our students for success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of vocational, technical, and academic skills is all part of our mission in transforming education," said Superintendent Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "Being consecutively recognized for the success of our PLTW curriculum is an honor."

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**School Committee Ends Year with So Many Questions**

By Scott Calzolaio

Staff Reporter

The 2019-2020 school year ended with so much uncertainty about the future, but Superintendent Kevin McIntyre said a lot of options are still on the table, and planning for the 2020-2021 year will continue through the summer.

During a June 18 School Committee meeting, McIntyre discussed what has already been done to prepare for reopening in the Fall, and what needs to still be settled.

"We've done a great deal in terms of preparation for the Fall," he said. The district is currently scheduled to start classes on Wednesday, August 26 for students in grades one through 12, while kindergarten students would start on Tuesday, September 1.

Shipments of personal protective equipment and disinfectant have already been ordered, while educators focus on the logistics of their classrooms.

"A lot of this is in a holding pattern as we await guidance from the state," McIntyre said.

The school committee discussed many of the measures that might need to be implemented to protect students, faculty and staff from the virus. One topic was the potential need for bus registration because of seating is now limited. Another discussion was the possibility of a fully-remote learning option. Everything is still a work in progress, said the superintendent, and parameters need to be set. He noted that factors that will help determine how the 2020-2021 school year is handled will be guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the feedback on how remote learning went during the spring of 2020.

"We want to hit the ground running in the fall," McIntyre said. "We have some room to plan."

School administrators will be sending regular updates that will highlight any potential changes during the summer months. The updates will include the reasons behind any proposed actions. McIntyre emphasized how these plans are all fluid, and could change at any time with the circumstances.

"The calendar will be in flux just like everything else," he said about the potential changes that could occur to the current school schedule.

Updates will also be published in the media.

**School Committee Membership and Budget**

On June 18, the School Committee welcomed new member, Michael Aghajanian. The committee was also rearranged. John Erickson elected as chairperson, and Meghan Hornberger as Vice Chairperson.

The committee approved the 2020-2021 school budget at $53,676,720. The number will be forwarded to the Milford Board of Selectmen and included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget that will be voted on by Town Meeting members on June 29.

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**Milford School Committee Urges State to Take Action**

By Scott Calzolaio

Staff Reporter

Milford has joined dozens of communities, which are asking the Commonwealth to stand together in the face of the pandemic and to abolish racism for the students of Massachusetts.

During their June 18 meeting, the Milford School Committee heard a motion to accept two mandates put out by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). The duo of diplomatic demands asks the Commonwealth to reimburse districts in full for safety measures put into place because of COVID-19 pandemic, and to further emphasize racial inclusion.

The extra measures needed to help prevent further spread of the novel coronavirus that districts will be forced to adhere to when school is back in session are estimated to be very expensive. Milford schools added their voice to the chorus of over 40 others districts requesting state funds to pay for those measures.

The same goes for the mandate on racism. Milford schools agree that every student has a right to a free education in a welcoming place. The mandate also promises to fight for policy changes on a state level to change systemically racist decisions and methods.

“I agree with the sentiments of both, and I think as district leaders, here is where we have influence," said School Committee member, Jen Parsons. “I am certainly in favor of passing these resolutions.

With so much uncertainty about the 2020-2021 school year, the one thing that is certain is that school leaders care about the students in the community, she said. Amidst racial unrest, the Anti-Racism mandate asks the state to require more professional development on equality and inclusion, as well as demonstrating a culturally responsible work force. The mandate clearly states that these voices “can no longer be silent.”

Voting to support these mandates does not guarantee compensation, rather “formalizing our position on these issues,” said newly elected school committee chairperson John Erickson.

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**Dean's List**

The following Milford students were named to the Dean’s List at their respective schools for the spring 2020 semester.

**Beaver Falls, Penn.**
- Abigail Curran

**Beverly, Mass.**
- Hannah Carrie, Hotel Management; Pernell Robinson majoring in Software Development.

**Beverly, Mass.**
- Hotel Management; Megan Larouco, Pernell Robinson majoring in Software Development.

**Boston, Mass.**
- Business, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality & Tourism Management; Ellie Grevers, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; Luizad Ocasio, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and Cody Silverman, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science.

**Geneva College**
- Asia Burnside, Hotel Management; Megan Larouco, Pernell Robinson majoring in Software Development.

**Lasell University**
- Newton: Cecilia Costa, Hannah Rich and Iztil Torres

**Southern New Hampshire University**
- Manchester, N.H.: Alexandria Atherton, University of New Haven, West Haven, Conn.: Britannia Braza, Pompea College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Hospitality & Tourism Management; Ella Grevers, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; Luizad Ocasio, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and Cody Silverman, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science.

**University of Rhode Island**

**ADVERTISING IN THE TOWN CRIER MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE ... WE DIRECT MAIL TO OVER 20,000 ADDRESSES !!!**
The United States Postal Service asks citizens to restrain their pets to make sure a postal carrier does not get bitten. Last year 120 postal carriers were bit by a dog in Massachusetts. USPS photo

Can you picture a member of your family attacking a mail carrier? Of course not, but it happened 3,803 times last year across the nation, with 120 of those in Massachusetts.

One of those was Beverly Letter Carrier Alfonse Jahaj. “The customer didn’t realize the dog was behind her and, as soon as she opened the screen door, he flew out,” Jahaj reported. “I’m constantly aware now of where the dogs are when I’m delivering,” said Jahaj. He’ll ask the customer, “can you please keep the dog indoors?” And, while many reply “don’t worry, he won’t bite,” he realizes now that any dog, even the tamer ones, will bite if they believe their turf or family is threatened.

When a dog attacks a letter carrier, the dog owner could be held liable for all medical expenses, replacement of the uniform and other costs, which can run into thousands of dollars. The Postal Service places the safety of its employees as a top priority and dedicates a week each year to Dog Bite Awareness.

Here are a four simple tips to prevent dog bite injuries that should be enforced all year round:

Dog in Yard: Make sure your dog is properly restrained on a leash away from where your mail carrier is delivering the mail. Mail delivery service can be interrupted at an address or neighborhood the carrier deems unsafe because of an unrestrained dog. When service is interrupted at an address or neighborhood, all parties involved will have to pick up mail at their local Post Office. Service will be restored once assurance has been given that the animal will be confined during regular delivery hours.

Tracking: Dog owners who have access to postal features such as Informed Delivery notifications (InformedDelivery.usps.com) for letter mail and package tracking are urged to use this as a way to gauge whether the carrier is on their way and to ensure dogs are properly restrained. Expecting a postal package delivery on Sunday? Postal Service officials urge dog owners to restrain their animals on Sundays as well, as more residences are receiving deliveries throughout the weekend.

Door Delivery: If a carrier delivers mail or packages to the front door, place your dog in a separate room and close that door before opening the front door. Some dogs burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to attack visitors. Dog owners should keep the family pet secured. Parents should remind their children and other family members not to take mail directly from carriers in the presence of the family pet, as the dog may view the person handling mail to a family member as a threatening gesture.

Electronic Fencing: Carriers may assume, when they see no physical fence around a property, the property is animal-free. This can be a dangerous mistake. Postal Service officials request that you keep your dog restrained or inside when the mail is delivered. Although the electronic fence may keep your dog from wandering, it does not protect your Postal Service carrier, who must enter your property to deliver the mail. Even homes with curbside mailboxes may have oversized packages or signature-needed items that require the carrier to approach a doorstep and cross the boundaries of the electronic fence. This poses a serious risk to carrier safety.

Animals at Play

Baby bears, or kits, like to wrestle and play with each other. Join us to enjoy the wildlife and beauty being on the water at the Ironman Pond in Mendon’s Meadow Brook Woods Conservation Area. There will be a volunteer day in July. solitude Lake Management will provide boats and instruct volunteers how to pull invasive, non-native water chestnut weeds. For more information email landusecomm@medonndua.gov. Cheryl Reynolds photo
**Reimagined PMC Can Foster Sense of Community**

As is the case with pretty much every major 2020 event, the Pan-Mass Challenge has shifted to a virtual “reimagined” format for this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of having a sea of bikes numbering into the thousands gathering in Sturbridge and Wellesley, the event will take place in cities and towns across the state and around the country.

I’ve been a part of eight PMCs — the bike rides that raise money for the Dana-Farber Institute — and there is simply nothing like the bond that is created with fellow cyclists and volunteers coming together for a common goal. I had planned to take this year off because my wedding was scheduled for the Saturday before the ride. Like the PMC itself, the nuptials have been “reimagined,” aka rescheduled for 2021. With every cancelation or change or “reimagining” of special moments unspended by the coronavirus comes an opportunity to capture something different, special, or unique.

Even without the ride, there is still a need for the PMC and the dollars it raises to aid the Jimmy Fund in the fight against cancer. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it’s how valuable our front-line medical professionals really are.

Sure, COVID is dominating the headlines, but cancer has not stopped its indiscriminate effect on our loved ones. So for those who typically support riders, please consider doing so if finances permit.

For those who are planning to ride, this is the chance to do something different within your own community. Reach out to fellow riders in the area. Put an informal team together. Map out a route to cover the distance you had planned to ride, as many as 192 miles, in and around the greater Milford area. Maybe you can cobble together some team jerseys or tee shirts or a stylist and practical PMC team mask. You’ll see you multiple times on your route.

And, most of all, remember the PMC is all about community and how powerful a group of people can be when they work together.

That spirit can still live on in 2020, even if the ride isn’t along the usual route. And it can all happen a little closer to home.

For information about the reimagined 2020 PMC visit PMC.org.

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**Gray Starting Summer Strength Program for MHS Athletes**

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Newly-hired Milford strength coach Ryan Gray has been eager to get his summer fitness program to help MHS athletes start and hopes to finally have the green light on Monday.

With the entire conglomerate of things going on right now, it’s a vulnerable time for young people to have something to do and something to rally around,” Gray said. “We are going to get together and work out and focus on aspirations and goals.”

He added, “I want to provide a positive experience this summer for kids who may be lacking positive experiences.”

Gray, a former standout football player and state champion wrestler at Milford High, is a rising senior at Assumption College, a private Catholic university outside of Boston.

“I think we are going to play, a lot of people around the state think we are going to play,” Boucher said. “We just don’t know what that looks like right now.”

Gray called it a win for everyone. He has the chance to train the kids with smaller classes and more distancing, games and practices would likely take place with full rosters on hand, Boucher said.

“Gray said Boucher believes in the vision he has set forth for the strength training program and the backing of the MHS athletic community has been palpable. “I like what we are at an advantage because Milford has an unbelievable athletic support,” Gray said. “People support it, they fund it, and they want to see our high school teams succeed.”

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**Sports**

**Boucher Confident Fall High School Sports Will Happen**

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

While many of the details are still to be determined, Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher said he is confident the Scarlet Hawks and their hundreds of thousands of fellow fall sports athletes around the state will be able to resume competition in the fall after the spring season was wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Boucher, who sits on the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association COVID-19 task force, stressed that additional guidance from the state and a continued downward trend in positive cases of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus will be needed before sports can happen.

But if schools go back to in-classroom learning, even in a “hybrid model” with half the students learning from home each week, the consensus is that after school activities and sports will also be green light.

“I think we are going to play, a lot of people around the state think we are going to play,” Boucher said. “We just don’t know what that looks like right now.”

More than 450,000 students participate in high school sports during the fall season. With the summer having just begun and the school year now official over, Boucher said most of the planning for the fall has been built around examining possible scenarios and figuring out the most appropriate response. Discussions like “what happens if an athlete tests positive?” or “will fans need to socially distance?” are among those that have yet to be answered.

Even if schools are back in a modified format that alternates when students can be in the building to allow for smaller classes and more distancing, games and practices would likely take place with full rosters on hand, Boucher said.

“How do you coach a football team if 50 percent of your kids are not there?” he said. “You just can’t do it.”

With the number of fields in town, including multiple turf fields, Boucher said Milford will be able to host practices and games and keep social distancing protocols in mind. He is already planning for a resurgence of another virus, eastern equine encephalitis, which could limit the use of fields at night when mosquitoes are out.

“in Milford, we have enough field space and we are already planning for EEE,” Boucher said. “We are going to make it work and get our kids home by 6 o’clock.”

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**Milford Planning**

**Summer Baseball & Softball Clinics**

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancelation of both the spring and summer youth baseball and softball seasons, board president Paul Pellegrini said he is still hopeful that the town will be able to resume competition in the fall after the winter season was wiped out by the weather.

Sports Reporter/Columnist

Gray said Boucher believes in the vision he has set forth for the strength training program and the backing of the MHS athletic community has been palpable. “I like what we are at an advantage because Milford has an unbelievable athletic support,” Gray said. “People support it, they fund it, and they want to see our high school teams succeed.”
Record-Setting Boys Track Misses 2020 Season

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

A group of Milford High seniors who revrote part of the program's track and field record book had been planning to leave an even more indelible mark this spring before the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out the season. But head coach Glenn O'Connor said the group still left quite an impression on MHS track.

"This group was the first group that had middle school experience," O'Connor said. "They were in eighth grade when the middle school track and field program started and they all got a taste of what it's all about and the different things you can do." That experience made a big difference when they reached the high school level. "They had some idea of what this is all about," O'Connor said.

Max Manor graduates after serving as a three sport captain and becoming one of the top distance runners in the area. He earned Hockomock League All-Star recognition and set the MHS indoor track record for the mile and was part of record-setting relay teams last spring in the 4x400 and 4x800.

Anthony GalaBounis is another three sport athlete, playing football in the fall and serving as captain of the indoor and outdoor track teams during the other two seasons. He was ranked third in the Hockomock in the 600-meters and qualified for the national meet as part of a coed 4x400 relay team.

Rafael Feliciano also qualified for nationals on that team and was part of multiple record-setting relays. Liam Bennett was primed for a strong spring season, O'Connor said, after successful swimming and cross country seasons. Sam Vilt is another four-year competitor who focused on mid-distance and qualified for states at the Division III meet.

Many other members of the class of 2020 brought depth and versatility to the MHS roster. Rushad Duruwalla competed in track all four years, running everything from the 55 to 600 meters and competing in the shot put. Tyler Giouras has been a point scorer in the 400, 110, 400 meter hurdles, discuss and javelin. Gabe Pardo Cota found his way in the distance races, qualifying for the state meet and running a wide range of races. Ted Stearns focused on the 200 and 400, while Benjamin Boyer ran the 100 to 600 meters and both set numerous personal bests.

"They were crushed to not have a season," O'Connor said. "But this was a great group. They worked hard and took it upon themselves to just keep getting better."

Micros Season Canceled Even as League Plans to Play

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Milford's Senior Babe Ruth team, the Micros, will not take the field this summer despite the fact that the rest of the teams in its league plan to play their season if regulations stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic ease.

Youth baseball director Paul Pellegrini said the board did not think it would be fair to let the Micros play when the rest of the youth and summer seasons had been called off. Head coach Jason Barney said he understood the decision but it's still disappointing for the older players and the program as a whole.

"We had some seniors from Milford High and maybe one or two 19-year-olds who were eligible to come back," Barney said. "They didn't have a spring season and now they find out they won't have a summer season, it's tough." Barney hoped that the disruption this year doesn't send Micros' hopes off to other destinations to play in 2021.

"I hope enough stick it out through next year so we can field a team, the numbers are there," he said. "I hope we can keep it all Milford going down every year, " he said. "Every year it's in the back of my mind 'how many kids will be operational?'"

Those concerns will be addressed next year. This summer, Barney said he is focused on the veteran players who did not get one final opportunity to suit up. Justin Applebee would have been a fifth-year player for the Micros this summer.

"He brought a lot of intensity," Barney said. "He could have an off night but he is a tough guy, encouraging his teammates and showing his leadership." Other seniors like Nick Winnette, Jayden Fernandes, and Jason Lucchini were quieter by comparison but "worked their butts off," Barney said.

"Just to have them around for the past couple of years was a real help for me in getting the kids to play hard," he said.

Milford advanced to the championship series last summer before falling to Marlboro. Barney said the rest of the league's teams are planning to play starting in July if the guidance from state health officials allows for competition. Every team other than Milford will play, Barney said, and Hopkinton will join the Central Mass. league as a new team.
Summer Sports Continue to Prep for Return

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

As summer leagues continue to prepare to play baseball or basketball, Gov. Charlie Baker’s recent announcement that the third phase of Massachusetts’ reopening plan will not be until at least July 6, will have them waiting a bit longer.

The Worcester County Baseball League, which is essentially replacing American Legion baseball this summer, had already planned for a July start to games. Central Mass. Senior Babe Ruth, which will not include a Milford entry this year, penciled in a late June start for games but will have to hold off until July.

Under the guidelines set forth by the state, youth sports games cannot resume until the third phase. In phase two, which the state began nearly three weeks ago, amateur sports could begin their return to the fields and courts but only for practices and training and with a maximum of 10 people participating.

If all goes according to plan, Milford’s entry in the Worcester County league would host Sturbridge at Fino Field on July 6 in the first organized baseball of the summer. The team would play nearly every week night against other teams in the newly-formed league.

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Milford’s Glenn O’Connor, the team’s massage therapist, the return to competition is anything but normal.

“We are getting tested three times per week right now, all the staff that’s here,” O’Connor said. “We are wearing masks, anyone who is on the table or getting treatment is wearing a mask. We are all walking around with masks on.”

The COVID-19 test is self-administered. O’Connor said. While not painful, the nasal swab is not entirely pleasant either. “It’s uncomfortable,” he said. “It’s not something you look forward to.”

All of the testing is in preparation for a tournament at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at the Walt Disney Resort in Florida. Competition begins on July 7 and the Revs are slated for group stage play on July 9, 15, and 24. If they are one of the top two teams in the group, they would move on to the knockout stage. The final game is scheduled for Saturday, August 1.

With a July 2 departure date, O’Connor will be away from his family for anywhere from a few weeks to a little more than a month after several months of being together during the stay at home advisory.

“It’s usually not too bad when we go away, even if it’s for a week, but being away this long is something I have been thinking about,” he said. “We can get on the phone and FaceTime but it’s not the same. We will figure it out as we go along.”

While he and the rest of the travel party arrive in Florida, it will be anything but a normal trip to Disney World. O’Connor said he expects he will be able to get outside to a bit of exercise, but otherwise he and his colleagues will be sticking close to each other in a state that has been its number of COVID-19 cases increase in recent weeks. “When we get there we are going to be tested and we need to stay in our rooms until the test comes back,” he said. “We are all going to be on the same floor and kind of doing what we are doing now. We are going to be tested three times per week and no one is going to be allowed to go out on their own and do anything.” He said the whole endeavor will be a strange experience. “It’ll be difficult,” O’Connor said. “But it’ll be one of those things you get through and a couple of years from now you’ll be saying I’m kind of glad I did it.”