Milford Special Ed Teacher Recognized

By Scott Calzolato
Staff Reporter

Alexis Forgett, special education teacher at Milford High School, has been chosen by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women as one of the Commonwealth Heroines of 2020.

State Representative Brian Murray, D. Milford, was the Massachusetts legislator who nominated Forgett for this honor.

The honor goes to “incredible women” who have been recommended by legislators from their districts and selected for their contributions to their community and Massachusetts.

“Commonwealth Heroines are women who don’t always make the news, but truly make the difference in their communities, businesses, or volunteer endeavors,” the recognition reads.

Forgett, who has worked in Milford since 2011, was selected because she is, “a woman who, without fanfare or recognition, uses [her] time, talent, spirit, and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others,” Superintendent Kevin Hall said.

Town Hall, Library Re-open to Public

Milford Town Hall and the Milford Town Library re-opened to the general public this week after being closed for several months due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

There are restrictions at each building.

At Town Hall, although all departments will be open, residents are encouraged to continue to conduct business remotely whenever possible. All in-person business or meetings must be by appointment with individual Town Hall departments.

To ensure the safety of all employees and visitors to the Town Hall, a number of measures are being enforced, including social distancing and personal protective equipment requirements, enhanced cleaning protocols, and capacity limitations. Please plan to wear a face mask or face covering when entering and conducting business.

The only Town Hall entrance that is open is the handicapped-accessible one located on the Court Street side of the building. Upon entering, a receptionist will greet you at the entrance, inquire about the business you need to conduct, and connect you with your scheduled appointment.

The Milford Town Library currently is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays. Face masks or face coverings must be worn when entering the building. The library has seating restrictions, no food will be allowed in the building, and computer use is limited to one hour per person.

Town Meeting Restores $200K School Budget Cut

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

One week before the town’s Annual Town Meeting, while discussing a $200,000 budget difference between what the Finance Committee recommended and the School Committee wanted, Selectmen Chair William Kingkade said he hoped that the dispute didn’t turn into “an old fashioned street fight” on the Town Meeting floor. He said Visconti and Selectman Thomas O'Loughlin, the town’s former police chief, argued for the $200,000, with Parson countering, “This is less than a half-percent of their overall budget.”

David Consigli, chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, chastised both sides of the dispute, saying the Finance Committee needed more transparency in their dealings with each other, but that they didn’t have it.

Town Meeting Member Michael Visconti spoke against the proposal, as did Visconti and Selectman Thomas O’Loughlin, the town’s former police chief, whatever is happening in other parts of the country, “You’re not seeing these issues here in Milford,” Hiatt said.

Milford residents celebrated Independence Day, July 4th, in a variety of personal ways this year. Traditional celebrations like the town’s fireworks and parade were cancelled. But nevertheless, the country celebrated its 244 birthday, the day it declared its independence from Great Britain.

Jane Bigda photo
Milford Reports Small COVID-19 Uptick

By Chris Villani
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Milford saw its total number of COVID-19 cases rise slightly to 646 in the July 1 town-by-town breakdown, an increase of five cases relative to the previous week and a continuation of what has been a leveling off of the spread of the virus both in the area and around the state.

The town’s number of positive COVID-19 cases and the rate of infection, 2,204 positives for every 100,000 residents, remain the highest in the area and on the higher end statewide.

Mendon and Upton once again reported no new COVID-19 infections. Mendon has had 30 total cases for three straight weeks and Upton has not reported a new infection in more than a month.

As of Monday, nearly 105,000 cases of the disease caused by the novel coronavirus had been reported in the state. A new set of town-by-town data is released by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health every Wednesday afternoon. The newest set, released on July 8, came out after the publication deadline for this edition of the Town Crier.

Even as cases surged nationwide and in nearly every state, Massachusetts remains an outlier with numbers suggesting the crisis is waning. The seven-day weighted average of tests that come back positive has been below two percent for more than a week, representing a 94 percent decline from mid-April peaks.

The three-day average of COVID-19 deaths has also dipped 89 percent since April. A total of 7,983 deaths had been reported among confirmed cases as of Monday’s data.

Many of the key indicators being watched by officials as they reopen businesses in the state have shown progress. Testing capacity continues to rise while the number of individuals hospitalized for COVID-19 cases continues to drop. Massachusetts reported 663 people being treated for COVID-19 in hospitals around the state and, since May 22, the net number of hospitalizations has increased on just seven days.

The data has consistently shown that the virus is most dangerous for the elderly and those with preexisting conditions. The average age of a person who has died from COVID-19 in Massachusetts is 82, a number that has been largely the same throughout the crisis.

More than 53 percent of the state’s COVID-19 deaths have been women. Among the 3,992 deaths in which a complete investigation was done, 98.3 percent had some sort of underlying condition.

CMRPC Grants for Small Businesses

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is administering a grant assistance program to small businesses in Central Massachusetts impacted by the closure and losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant program is funded by the Massachusetts Office of Attorney General Maura Healey, through the Small Business Relief Partnership Grant Program. CMRPC was awarded $4,500,000 to distribute funds to small businesses in Central Massachusetts.

Applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis through the Central Massachusetts Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program, administered by CMRPC. For the purposes of this grant, a “small business” shall mean any for-profit business or non-profit organization with a physical place of business within one of the 40 communities within the CMRPC service area with 20 or fewer employees prior to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker’s state of emergency declaration (on or about March 10, 2020). All applicants will be required to demonstrate a direct or indirect financial hardship resulting from COVID-19. For more information on eligibility and the application itself, CMRPCRegionalServices.org/grant.

Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance Announced

On June 30, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a new $20 million, statewide fund to assist low-income households facing difficulty making rent and mortgage payments. The Emergency Rental and Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) program will provide direct funding to eligible households who have suffered financial hardship during the State of Emergency put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19.

ERMA will expand eligibility for rental and mortgage assistance to more low-income households who have been impacted by the crisis by adjusting the income threshold below the state’s traditional Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program. This includes households within the 50-80 percent range of Area Median Income (AMI). Like the RAFT program, ERMA will provide up to $4,000 for eligible households to pay rent or mortgage payments in arrears going back to payments due as of April 1, 2020. Beginning July 1, applicants can reach out to the eleven agencies that administer RAFT on the state’s behalf, this includes the nine Housing Consumer Education Centers, as well as LHAND and the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA).

Funding for the new program includes $10 million from the supplemental CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) fund, part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), in addition to other federal resources. This new funding will serve twice as many households as the traditional RAFT program by greatly expanding eligibility to families who would otherwise not qualify for RAFT.

For more information about the program visit the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) web page, MASS.gov/orgs/housing-and-community-development and follow the COVID-19 Updates link or the CMHA website, CMHAAonline.org.

Registering Vehicles without Visiting the RMV

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) announced that in partnership with Boston Software Corporation, a new online service is now available which enables independent insurance agents to renew and reinstate passenger and commercial vehicle registrations on behalf of their customers. This eliminates the need for eligible vehicle owners and drivers to visit an RMV customer service center to renew or reinstate their registration.

“The RMV is committed to working with partners like Boston Software to provide additional flexible online options for our customers that allow them to skip the in-person trip to an RMV Service Center,” said Jamey Tesler, Registrar of the Massachusetts RMV.

Boston Software has been an RMV business partner for more than 20 years. The company’s software platform, known as SinglePoint, is used by the majority of Massachusetts insurance agents and carriers, and is integrated with the RMV’s new ATLAS system to perform various functions including inquiries and preparing RMV paperwork. This latest functional update is especially important to ensuring ‘social-distancing’ during the COVID-19 pandemic within RMV Service Centers, by helping drivers get their vehicles properly registered without the need to physically visit the RMV in-person. The new online service is now available.

Using the new feature in SinglePoint, insurance agents can seamlessly access the RMV’s ATLAS system to confirm that the reinstatement or renewal transaction is eligible to be completed online, and attest that a vehicle is properly insured. Owners or drivers will then get an email instructing them to pay for the transaction and, once payment is provided, the registration will be reinstated or renewed immediately. This process works for registration renewals and reinstatements that require proof of insurance.

For information about RMV transactions, visit MA Mass.gov/RMV.

Milford’s COVID-19 Cases Stabilize

The number of new COVID-19 coronavirus cases in Milford has dropped fairly steadily throughout May and June stabilizing at just five new cases per week over the past several weeks, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Kevin Ruddin chart

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Milford Town Crier
JULY 10, 2020

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With the official Milford July 4 town parade cancelled, a group of Milford residents including Brad Kaye and Mike Sham got together to create this traveling tribute to celebrate Independence Day. Contributed photo

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Respecting the Flag

Celebrating July 4th, I tried to find a holiday picture during this year of COVID-19 dictated celebrations. Immediately I thought of a photo of the U.S. Flag. Created during the Revolution, the Stars and Stripes was adopted by the Continental Congress as the American flag on June 14, 1777. Colonial troops began the Revolution with different flags, but the Declaration of Independence made the creation of a symbol of the new nation necessary.

As a 243-year-old national symbol, I am not sure we are treating the flag with the respect it deserves. We feel free to use for our own purposes—an advertising logo, waving it like a team banner, reimaging it for political messages or as a decoration left outside at all times, in all weather.

As every Scout, and military member knows, the Stars and Stripes have a strict list of regulations, the U.S. Flag Code, passed by Congress in 1942. The code clearly states how to handle the flag, the symbol of our sovereign nation.

Starting with a description of the flag’s appearance and the language for the Pledge of Allegiance, it goes on to how it should be displayed.

“The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement. The custom is to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on flagstaffs in the open, but it may be displayed at night—if illuminated... In a procession, the American flag should be to the right (the flag’s own right) of any other flag or, if in a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. When displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff. When the flag is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall as freely as though the flag were staffed”.

Additionally, it states display rules for in auditoriums, churches, when hanging above a street, behind a speaker, among other flags, on a casket and at half mast. Regarding vehicle displays, it states, “The flag should not be displayed on a float except from a staff, not draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle. When the flag is displayed on a vehicle, the staff should be fixed firmly to the chassis.”

The Code also lists how the flag should not be displayed. “The flag and its likeness should be treated with respect. Its impressions should not be used for advertising or made to order for improper use. It should not be dipped to any person or thing...even the President!” It is never displayed with union side (stars) underneath it; never carried horizontally, but always aloft; the President. “It is never displayed with union side (stars) underneath it; never carried horizontally, but always aloft; the President. It should not be dipped to any person or thing...even the President!”

Second, the new majority on the Board of Selectmen – Mike Walsh and Tom O’Leuighlin – replaced Niro with O’Leuighlin supporter David Levine. Niro – the single FinCom member with the most knowledge about school spending – was completely neutralized.

Third, new School Committee Chair John Erickson convinced a majority of Town Meeting Members to restore the $200,000 back – along with outgoing chair Jen Parson and Superintendent Kevin McIntyre – by reminding everyone how devastating a cut that minuscule amount would be in a $54 million budget. Once again, the Schools Committee has the power and the watchdog Finance Committee lost its effort to gain some accountability over school spending.

Left unanswered were questions such as: If school funds were so tight, how did the School Department find enough money to circumvent the town’s capital spending process in the last fiscal year by buying four student vans and hiring drivers for them? And again circumvent the capital spending process by buying an HVAC repair project in this new fiscal year’s operating budget?

Those questions fell to the wayside as – to quote Town Meeting Member Mike Visconti – the school folks played on people’s emotions. Just mention little Johnny or Janie might somehow be deprived and nothing else matters. The Police and Fire departments are holding the line on their budgets by not filling vacant positions right now, but the thought of reducing a fraction of a percent in the school budget brought the earth to a standstill.

Several years ago, then FinCom member Marc Shan – at the time chair of the subcommittee on school spending – tried to do the same thing as Niro by making a symbolic cut in the school budget. But, he was not backed by the full FinCom membership. Shanen then resigned from the Finance Committee because he felt that vote undercut his ability to properly monitor school spending.

Niro had no intention of resigning. Instead, he was not reappointed with no explanation given. Funny, the last time a majority of selectmen didn’t reappoint a committee member without explanation – as in Steve Manguso and the Youth Commission – there was a huge outcry. Where’s the outrage now? And the ultimate message? Don’t ever question school spending. Not even when Chromebooks are lost or the lunch program is run at a deficit. After all, those are just “process” problems, according to one School Committee member. There is a total lack of accountability, but no one seems to care.

Like I said, were back to politics as usual.

Politics as Usual in Milford

Due to the coronavirus, Milford’s Town Hall is closed. Residents are encouraged to check the town’s Web site concerning the latest status on posted meetings, including cancellations or other special instructions on agendas for virtual or call-in meetings. For additional information needed, contact the appropriate Board or official.

Wednesday, July 8
Central Mass Mosquito Control Board of Commission, 111 Otis St., Northborough, 11 a.m.

Monday, July 13
Milford Youth Commission, Remote Meeting, 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14
Planning Board, Public Hearing, Remote Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 16
Milford Area Humanitarian Coalition, Trinity Episcopal Church, 6 p.m.

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On July 23, Riverside Community Care, a community-based non-profit behavioral health and human services organization, held a virtual celebration to honor Frank and Wendy Saba, and to launch the public campaign for a new Behavioral Healthcare Center on West Street, Milford. The Sabas have been lifelong advocates of behavioral health and human services. Frank served for 25 years as CEO of Milford Regional Medical Center. Wendy was the longtime president of Stepping Stone Community Theater, Inc., a nonprofit community theater group that includes developmentally and physically challenged youth.

In his retirement Frank turned his attention to a gap in local healthcare he had long observed: the hardships that families and individuals, particularly adolescents, experience finding behavioral health services when and where they needed them. With the support of the local community, Riverside Community Care — the largest community-based provider of outpatient mental health and substance use services in the area — is working to move to a larger Behavioral Healthcare Center at 176 West St. Milford. The new center will greatly improve local access to mental health and substance use services for children and adolescents and also expand services for adults.

The community is invited to view the celebration which can be found at RiversideCC.org.

The Milford Town Crier.

When 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).
By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter

As the coronavirus has persisted throughout the months, the quarantine has left many feeling uneasy, trapped, and just plain miserable at times. That’s when two friends got together and decided to do something to help put smiles back on people’s faces once again. And that’s how the Winey Friends Baskets Quarantined group came about.

The invite only Facebook group provides no contact deliveries of baskets of wine and other goodies to members who request to be “wined” or sometimes baskets are delivered as a surprise gesture for someone. The group began when Stephanie MacNeill saw a story about a group on the south shore doing something similar. MacNeill called her friend Amanda Milhomme and together the two began the group. “It’s done so much to make people happy through all this,” said MacNeill of the virus. “People are sad, depressed, and confused about the virus. They don’t know what’s going on; they feel stuck. I found myself in the same boat,” she said.

MacNeill said she noticed how her boyfriend began building a greenhouse to take his mind off things. “I needed something like similar. MacNeill called her friend Amanda Milhomme and Quarantined group came about. The invite only Facebook group provides no contact deliveries of baskets of wine and other goodies to members who request to be “wined” or sometimes baskets are delivered as a surprise gesture for someone. The group began when Stephanie MacNeill saw a story about a group on the south shore doing something similar. MacNeill called her friend Amanda Milhomme and together the two began the group. “It’s done so much to make people happy through all this,” said MacNeill of the virus. “People are sad, depressed, and confused about the virus. They don’t know what’s going on; they feel stuck. I found myself in the same boat,” she said.

MacNeill said she noticed how her boyfriend began building a greenhouse to take his mind off things. “I needed something like that to keep busy, so I ran the basket idea by Amanda and within a few weeks we had 1,200 members on Facebook.”

The group currently delivers baskets to members in Milford, Franklin, Bellingham, Blackstone, and Medway but would be open to other communities.

Once a member has been “wined,” the idea is to then pay the gesture forward if possible. Doreen Trottier of Milford has done just that—a number of times. “It just makes someone’s day. It’s the nicest, nicest thing to do for someone during such a tough time,” said Trottier. "The baskets are not only helping to bring joy to so many, but they are also helping out small businesses which are also struggling due to the pandemic. Members are filling baskets with such things as glasses, t-shirts, chocolates and other items from local merchants. "It’s doesn’t have to be expensive items. You can even find a ton of stuff at the Dollar Store," said MacNeill.

Local liquor stores, Denny’s Liquors in Bellingham and Franklin Liquors in Franklin, are helping out by providing Winey Friends members discounts for their baskets.

Even when the virus is behind us, MacNeill and Milhomme hope the baskets continue on and are already thinking about Halloween and Christmas baskets. “This is really about giving. It just makes you feel good to do something for someone else,” said MacNeill.
### Summary of Town Meeting Actions

**By Kevin Rudden**
**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

The following is a summary of actions taken by Town Meeting Members at the June 29 Annual Town Meeting:

- **Article 1:** Hear reports of town officers and committees – the Finance Committee gave its report.
- **Article 2:** Amend the Salary and Wage Schedule to set non-union employee salaries and hourly pay rates for Fiscal Year 2021. No increases except top step getting a 2.5 percent increase – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 3:** Set the compensation for elected officials for Fiscal Year 2021. No increases – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 4:** Raise and appropriate the $111,399,158 operating budget for Fiscal Year 2021, a 3.5 percent increase – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 5:** Approve seven annual financial "housekeeping" articles voted on annually – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 6:** A citizens’ petition to raise and appropriate money for a pedestrian crossing on Cedar St. (Rt. 85) from near the northern entrance to the Walden Woods condominium complex to the Upper Charles Trail – passed over (no action taken) by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 7:** Transfer $45,875 from free cash funds to fund retroactive pay for due to Milford Town Library union employees under a collective bargaining agreement – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 8:** Raise and appropriate or transfer $25,000 to buy a new LifePack 15 monitor/defibrillator for the Police Department’s mobile paramedic unit – passed over (no action taken) by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 9:** Amend the town’s By-laws to change "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" – passed over (no action taken) by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 10:** A citizens’ petition to the state legislature to enact legislation renaming the "Board of Selectmen" the "Select Board" – passed over (no action taken) by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 11:** Amend the town’s General By-laws to change "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board" – passed over (no action taken) by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 12:** Transfer $140,000 from free cash to demolish an abandoned building at 72 Depot St. – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 13:** Close out various Special Article accounts and transfer $115,453.09 to the General Fund – approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Article 14:** Transfer funds for 15 budgetary lines items so that budgets were sufficiently funded through the June 30 end of Fiscal Year 2020 – approved by a unanimous voice vote.

### Recent Actions by Milford Selectmen

**By Kevin Rudden**
**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

- Heard Jamie Wheelock of Cuniff Ave. recommend the board check the attendance of board and committee members before reappointing them to new terms. Wheelock also said committee chairs should be rotated among members each year. (June 22)
- Approved transferring the All Alcoholic Beverages Package Store liquor license from JP Wine & Spirits at 124 South Main St. to YUGD, LLC with Kailashaben Patel as manager. The board also approved a pledge of the license. (June 22)
- Approved National Grufs request to install a new utility pole on Taylor St., about 55 feet southwest of an existing pole, to provide electrical service to 25 Taylor St. (June 23)
- Town Administrator Richard Villani reported updates from the town’s COVID-19 Task Force. (June 23)
- At Finance Director Zachary Taylor’s request, approved a “one-twelfth budget” of $12,094,294 for the month of July in case something happened to prevent a full Fiscal Year 2021 budget from being approved at the scheduled June 29 Annual Town Meeting. (June 22)
- Chairman William Kingkade reported he had been receiving phone calls about a disagreement between the Finance Committee and School Committee over the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 school budget, and Taylor replied that he expected the School Committee would seek to amend the budget on the Town Meeting floor. Kingkade said he hoped the two sides could reach a "reasonable agreement" rather than see an "old fashioned street fight." "There has to be open lines of communication," Selectman Michael Walsh commented. Selectman Thomas O’Loughlin said he heard the difference was due to "inconsistent communication." Taylor noted the Fiscal Year 2021 operating budget was balanced prior to the Finance Committee’s decision to remove $200,000 from the school budget. (June 22)
- Ratified Villani’s decision to grant licenses for outdoor alcohol sales to Acapulco’s at 231 East Main St. and Red Heat Tavern at 124 Medway Rd. (June 22)
- O’Loughlin requested that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health receive notifications about overdoses as they used to before the COVID-19 pandemic – so that the two boards can know the numbers and locations of opioid overdoses throughout the community. (June 22)
- At Villani’s request, the board re-voted a previous decision and set IT Director Chris George’s Fiscal Year 2021 salary Level 5 Step 5 ($114,091) pending Personnel Board approval. (June 22)
- Accepted, with regret, a letter from Francis Small asking that he not be reappointed to the Geriatric Authority of Milford when his term expired on June 30. (June 22)
- Agreed with a letter from Geri Eddins, chair of the Milford Cultural Council, by voting not to reappoint members Meghan Oliveira and Christopher Vendetti and to appoint Sandra Buckley. (June 22)
- Received a notice from the Milford Permanent Firefighters Association that the annual Firefighters Memorial Sunday is being postponed until either September or October. (June 22)
- Awarded a $18,996.95 contract for providing audio and video services at the Annual Town Meeting to low-bidder Boston Light & Sound, Inc. of Boston. Villani said three vendors received qualifications and two responded.
- Took under advisement a draft policy on “electioneering” near Town Hall during the Annual Town Election, and during early and absentee voting periods prepared by Town Counsel Charles Boddy and Town Clerk Amy Neves. O’Loughlin said the 150 feet specified in the draft would prevent a large number of homeowners and businesses from exercising their constitutional rights, and suggested using the town’s geographic information system (GIS) to “give a clear picture to all of us” how far the non-campaigning zone should be. “I think that’s a commonsensical approach,” Kingkade said.

### Outdoor Restaurant Service Approved by Selectmen

**By Kevin Rudden**
**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

The Board of Selectmen has approved the following restaurants to provide outdoor service and 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:

- TDS Pub, 68 Water St. (Approved on June 17)
- Hoboken Club, 252 Central St. (Approved on June 25)
- Greater Milford Social Club, 28 Granite St. (Approved on June 25)
- Isabel’s, 335 ½ Main St. (Approved on June 29)

### Second 40B Apartment Complex Proposed for Stone Ridge

**By Kevin Rudden**
**Staff Reporter/Columnist**

The Gutierrez Company of Burlington – already permitted to build a 242-unit apartment complex on Deer St. in its Stone Ridge Center off Cedar St. (Rt. 85) under the state’s Chapter 40B affordable housing laws – is now applying to build a second, 296-unit affordable apartment complex within the Stone Ridge Center.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), which issues the Comprehensive Permit to approve a proposed project, is expected to begin hearings on the new proposal, called “The Residences at Stone Ridge – Phase II,” sometime next month. The proposal was submitted to the town on June 5.

Already, the Fire Department has expressed concern about whether its ladder truck can reach units above the first floor, and the Milford Water Company said it will be unable to supply water to the complex until both its Godfrey Brook and Dilla St. wellfields are fully back online in the 2022-2023 timeframe.

In 2018, the ZBA granted Comprehensive Permits for the 268-unit “Brookview” affordable apartment complex off East Main St., the 242-unit “Residences at Stone Ridge” and the 162-unit “Birch Street Place” off Birch Street. As a result, all units – whether designated as “affordable” or market rate – in an apartment complex built under Chapter 40B count toward a community’s state-mandated goal of having 10 percent of its housing stock being “affordable,” those three projects put Milford over that percentage threshold. However, the “Brookview” land subsequently was sold to developer Kevin Meehan, who said he would not build that development. The loss of those 268 units put Milford below the 10 percent level and opened the door for The Gutierrez Company to propose the second complex.

Originally, Stone Ridge Center was supposed to be developed as a corporate office park. With the real estate market evolving, the development now houses a Restaurant Depot not build that development. The loss of those 268 units put Milford below the 10 percent level and opened the door for the Gutierrez Company to propose the second complex.

**Outdoor Restaurant Service Approved by Selectmen**

**Second 40B Apartment Complex Proposed for Stone Ridge**
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Wayside does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, class or disability. Funding by MA Dept. of Public Health and Office of Violence Against Women.

Recent Actions by the Milford Planning Board

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

- Following the June 16 Annual Town Election, the board re-organized, naming Lena McCarthy as Chair and John Cook as Vice Chair. (June 23)
- Voted 3-1-1 to approve a site plan allowing an unpaved gravel lot at 3 Industrial Rd. to be used for one year as a temporary “holding lot” for delivery vans before they go to the adjacent Amazon.com warehouse to pick up packages for delivery. Conditions included in the approval include that there will be no increase in traffic trips per day since this is only a queuing lot and that there will be no overnight storage of vehicles. Board member Joseph Calagione voted against the approval and board member Patrick Kennelly abstained. (June 23)
- Continued until July 14 an amended site plan review of converting the former glass bottle manufacturing plant at 1 National St. into a warehouse. Traffic consultant W. Wong of Westford-based Green International Affiliates, Inc. presented his peer review conducted for the town of the traffic study previously presented to the board by property owner Milford National, LLC. Wong recommended no parking of any vehicles on National St., traffic signal timing improvements at the intersection of Cape Rd. (Rt. 140) and South Main St. if needed after the warehouse opens, and possible widening of the intersection of Depot St. and South Main St. within the town’s existing right-of-way. Attorney Joseph Antennelli said his clients would pay for the traffic signal timing and intersection improvements within the right-of-way, but not for any intersection improvements on private land. Board member Martin Mannini had noted to approve the site plan, but it failed to gain a second. “We’ve got enough information to take care of approving the site plan,” he said. Instead, the board voted unanimously to defer action until July 14 so that Milford National’s traffic engineers could study whether the Depot St./South Main St. intersection merited widening. (June 23)
- Continued until July 14 a discussion on whether retaining walls at the Sanylah Crossing subdivision, which extended Field Pond Rd., are completed and remaining bond monies should be released. Civil engineer Elizabeth Mainini-Sanchioni of Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. – who told the board on June 2 that all the walls had been built – said she had since learned that three of them had not been built. (June 23)
- Approved an amended site plan for a building at 100 Central St., which is being renovated from housing the former Jean’s Catering business into office and warehousing space. The approval was conditioned on the board receiving a copy of a letter from the state’s Architectural Access Board (AAB) granting owner David Walch a waiver from having to install an elevator in the building. (June 23)
- Approved an amended site plan for 10-12 Beach St., allowing James and Crystal Lonzon approval to convert a former spa to a restaurant serving nutritional smoothie drinks. The board allowed the Lonzo to erect three “Reserved Parking” signs for sparsely attended store due to intense parking lot use by customers of the adjacent Registry of Motor Vehicles office. (June 23)
- Approved a “certificate of no change on the board’s previous decision to rescind approval for the “Platinum Park” subdivision off East Main St. Instead of a two-lot industrial subdivision, the site is now a parking lot for Amazon.com delivery vans. (June 23)
- Voted to recommend unfavorable action to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on a variance request by Robert DeVita to build an attached two-car garage to an existing single-family house at 34 Fountain St. The proposed garage would be 2.3 feet away from a side line lot instead of the required 15 feet. (June 23)
- Voted to recommend unfavorable action to the ZBA on a variance request by Brandon Blassidell to divide an existing, non-conforming 13,095-square foot lot at 19 North St. into two substantial lots that both would require variances for area, width, frontage, and front and side yard setbacks. The proposed lot with the existing house on it would be 7,936 square feet and a new second lot would be 5,158 square feet in size. (June 23)

Niro Removed from Finance Committee

By Kevin Rudden
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Jeffrey Niro, a member of the Finance Committee subcommittee that monitors School Department spending, was not reappointed at the Board of Selectmen’s June 22 votes to make annual reappointments to town boards and committees. By a 2-1-2 vote, with Chair William Kingkade dissenting, David Levine was appointed to the Finance Committee in Niro’s stead.

Reappointments made on June 22 were:
- Rochelle Thomson as Animal Control Officer and Keith Haynes as Assistant Animal Control Officer until April 30, 2023.
- Leonard Oliveri as Fair Housing Director until June 30, 2021.
- Mark Nelson as Emergency Management Director and George Cleveland as Deputy Director until June 30, 2021.
- Jennifer Walsh, Margaret Myatt and Alexis Forget as members of the Commission on Disability until June 30, 2023.
- Noel BonTempo, Michael Giampietro and Derek Atherton as members of the Conservation Commission until June 30, 2023.
- Noel BonTempo, Michael Giampietro and Derek Atherton as members of the Council on Aging until June 30, 2022.

Late Fees for Dog Licenses Waived

The Town Clerk’s office is waiving all late fees for dog licenses this year, and asks people to license their dogs before March 31, 2021. Licenses can be obtained by sending mail to the Town Clerk’s Office at 50 Main St., Milford, MA 01757, by using the “drop box” outside the Town Hall, and, by applying online. If paying online, please email a current rabies certificate and spayed or neutered certificate to Melanie Laughlin at milfordma@townofmilford.com. Dog license forms can be downloaded at MilfordMA.gov/rates/files/whd/0466/6/6v8wc/dog_license_form.pdf

For more information, please call the Town Clerk’s office at 508-634-2300.
Milford Youth Center July and August Programming

Since the Milford Youth Center (MYC) is not able to have a Summer Camp this year, it will be offering some small group on-site programs and one virtual program a day starting July 13. Programs are Martial Arts with Anthony Miele every Monday, July 13 to August 17; Crafts with Joanna Abrantes every Wednesday, July 15 to August 19; and Ultimate Frisbee with Elizabeth Siber every Thursday July 16 to August 20. To sign up, email kirwin@townofmilford.com or call 508-473-1756. If the courses fill up, there will be a Zoom link for anyone who would like to sign up and participate at home. MYC is also offering Virtual Fishing with Nick Harkins on Fridays at 2 p.m. Keep checking MYC social media, website and Milford TV’s local access channels for a list of all programs. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped continue the MYC mission to provide a safe environment that promotes self-esteem, builds character, and fosters the notion of community and the importance of respecting and serving others.

Milford Youth Center Community Involvement

Although MYC had to close the doors to the public three months ago due to COVID-19, it never stopped connecting and helping the community. The Center adapted, living up to its mission and vision and be a resource to the community as a whole.

In collaboration with the Milford Board of Health and Milford TV, the Center started making mask kits for the community. Over 600 masks kits were made for the free breakfast and lunch program at Memorial School, 125 mask kits for the Senior Center’s Meals on Wheels participants and more to other town departments, organizations and individuals for a total of over 1,000!

Due to the generosity of Amazon, which drops off weekly carloads of returned items, MYC has been able to deliver an estimated $15,000 worth of food, toiletry and pet food donations to community organizations, which are distributing emergency and weekly care packages. MYC has become the liaison between Amazon and the community to get these items to those who are most in need and vulnerable.

With the help of the Milford Police and Highway Departments, MYC is delivering donated gifts from Amazon, and the United Way of Tri-County and their “Project Toy Box” Campaign. Amazon items are used for Birthday deliveries and United Way gifts are delivered to MYC youth who are most in need. Gifts have been delivered to over 100 youth since the program started in April!

With the goal of keeping town youth active, MYC has also been hosting virtual programs on its social media/website and on all Milford TV platforms. One to two programs are available each day with over 90 now listed online, accessible at home.

MYC has worked with teachers and youth members to create messages of gratitude to Milford Regional medical staff, senior citizens and first responders.

Finally, MYC has have been working with Milford and the Federal Census Bureau emphasize the importance of completing the 2020 Census. Materials have been included with mask kits and gift deliveries.

MYC will provide services and work with community partners help local youth and families as best as it can. Together, as a community, we will get through this and hope and believe that we will be back stronger and more collaborative that ever!
Milford Girl Scouts Earn Highest Award

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts honored its highest achievers with the Gold Award Ceremony held at the Northfield Drive-In on June 16. The Girl Scout Gold Award, which dates to 1916, is the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting and requires high school Girl Scouts complete years of prerequisites along with a service project for their community totaling more than 80 hours. Among the recipients at this year’s outdoor ceremony were Milford’s Molly Bogner and Julia Riordan. Bogner partnered with her church to expand their weekly community meals to reach patrons and organize the food inventory. As a longtime volunteer for Food with Friends, she recognized the need to recruit additional volunteers and donations, which are essential to offering meals. Bogner created an online signup for volunteers’ shifts and mailed personalized letters to local businesses asking for support. She then designed and installed a permanent shelving system to organize the donated food items. Bogner recently finished her freshman year at the University of Maine and is pursuing a degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism with a minor in Studio Art and Outdoor Leadership. Her advice to younger scouts, “Sometimes you need to jump into the deep end, and you may accomplish or learn something you didn’t think was possible.” Recognizing the need to bridge the gap between different language speakers, Riordan created a multilingual town resource guide to serve Milford’s diverse community. She worked with numerous town leaders, teachers, and school administration to identify content and translate the guide to provide vital information, locations, and phone numbers of essential town services. The guide also contains health and safety guidelines, social services, education resources, grocery stores, pharmacies, and places of worship. Riordan then created English as a Second Language Tool Kits for Spanish and Portuguese speakers, which are available at the town library and community center. Riordan recently graduated from Milford High School and will attend the University of Florida to study Nursing. Looking back, she said, “Growing up in Girl Scouting, I have learned how to not only advocate for myself but also others who might feel as though they do not have a voice.” Milford Girl Scouts are proud of these two young women and wish them the greatest success as they continue to make a difference in our community and beyond.

Milford Community Telethon

Milford TV reached out to help the Milford Area Humane Coalition, the Friends of the Milford Town Library and the Milford Youth Center to put on a Community Virtual Telethon to help reduce the negative financial impact that COVID-19 has created for these community organizations. Join the event on Friday, July 10 from 3 to 8 p.m. on MilfordTV.net, the Milford TV app and/or on Comcast CH.11, and Verizon CH.40. Each organization will have raffle/auction prizes available to help raise funds for their individual organizations. There is also an opportunity to become a sponsor of the event, and those funds will be divided equally among the three organizations. Thank you for your support!

Greenleaf Garden Club Continues Civic Projects

The Greenleaf Garden Club (GGC) continues its downtown civic projects despite COVID-19. Wearing masks and social distancing, club members began summer by creating and placing eight wreaths in Milford’s town squares. With the help of the Parks Department, they replaced the downtown pots with 17 new self-watering containers. GGC members planted them with summer annuals to show splashes of color Hakoneschia macra, All Gold Grass, coleus, fuscia colored Grape punch calibrachoa purple ovails and Labrolois, a white trailer. These will grow and provide beauty around town throughout the summer and into fall. The GGC is also maintaining the sidewalk garden at the library as it continues its seasonal displays of color.

Daniels Farmstead

The Daniels Farm Farmers’ Market, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, will be open every Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., through October 4. Doris’s Kitchen is open 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. serving grilled franks, burgers (both Angus beef and veggie) Italian sausage with peppers & onions, cold beverages and all the fixins. The following vendors will be participating: Oakdale Farms (Quality Produce), B Food (beautiful artisan breads), Three Sisters Farm and Ellenis Hooked Rugs (Goat’s Milk Soap, handmade rugs, crafts), BV Cats, The Fudge Lady, Vantage Orchard & Aparay/Three Little Wrens, and Overpass Farmers. Chaos Farm (alpaca products) begins September 6. Customers are asked to practice social distancing and where a mask when in close contact with others. Indoor tours have been suspended but guests are encouraged to walk the property and view the historical structures. The list of current special events includes: July 12, wildlife walk with naturalists Kathy Barton and Beth Milk; July 19, Blackstone Valley Concert Band, and July 26, Boston Mycological Club. Volunteers are always welcome at Daniels Farmstead. For more information about volunteering or visiting, go to Facebook.com/DanielsFarmstead.

Parents for Music

Honey Dew Donuts Fundraiser

Visit Honey Dew Donuts in Milford on Saturday, July 25 between 8 a.m. and 12 to support the music program in Milford Public Schools. This fundraiser, sponsored by the MHS Parents for Music will be offered at Honey Dew Donuts at 118 Prospect St. and 140 South Main St. Ten percent of the sales will be donated to MHS Parents for Music.
Superintendent Remains Confident among Back to School Uncertainties

By Scott Calzolaio
Staff Reporter

As Phase Three of the Massachusetts re-opening plan rolls on, Milford schools are preparing for their own reopening in August.

Superintendent of Milford Schools, Kevin McIntyre, said that the school year will likely be a mixture of three education methods which have been suggested by the state for the fall – remote learning, half-remote learning, or full in session. The idea is for educators to be ready to accommodate any of these possibilities as the year progresses.

“We’ve been working with a great advisory committee with stakeholders from all over the community,” he said. “It looks promising that we will be able to get most if not all of the students back into the classroom.”

There are about 50 people engaged in the reopening process, McIntyre said. And while they are planning for all of the options offered by the state, he noted parents, who are uncomfortable sending their children back to school, will have the alternative of remote learning at home.

Facilitating transportation, he said looks daunting, but McIntyre hopes a lot more details about bussing to school, will have the alternative of remote learning at home.

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Facilitating transportation, he said looks daunting, but McIntyre hopes a lot more details about bussing students and how education will be offered under the options will be clarified in the next few weeks.

“I don’t want to say that this is completely new because of the remote transition in the spring,” he said. “But we’re looking forward to providing a much more robust program.”

McIntyre said the only thing that really worries him is all of the unknowns. With school scheduled to be back in session at the end of August, he said, there is a lot of work to be done.

“That uncertainty weighs on our teachers and our families,” McIntyre said.

Especially as more and more folks are going back to work.”

The silver lining of this entire experience, he said, has been a higher level of communication and collaboration between educators. The comradery, McIntyre said, has been vital and has faith that his team will pull through this on the upside.

“I think that we created some really great lessons and projects and it really lays the groundwork for meaningful connections,” he said. “We’ll be taking everything we’ve learned to make for a better education experience.”

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Visit CharlesRiverBank.com/COVID-19 for important updates and current hours.
Valley Tech to Destroy Class of 2013 Records

In accordance with state and federal regulations, special education (IEP) and 504 student records shall be destroyed seven years after the student leaves the school. For the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 2013, this date is August 1, 2020. Members of the Class of 2013 may request special-education and 504 records before the August 1 shred date by written request. Be sure to indicate year of graduation, and name while attending school, to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Student Services Record Dept., 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568. Student transcripts (a record of their grades) shall be destroyed 60 years after the student leaves the school. For the Class of 2013, this date is August 1, 2073. Alumni may request a transcript any time from the date of graduation, May 2013 through August 1, 2017.

Learn how to retain records at ValleyTech.k12.ma.us/studentrecords.

GRADUATES

Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. announces its list for graduates for the spring of 2020. Among those receiving degrees are Milford residents, Jennifer Chiarello, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Kayla Thongpul, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Late this spring, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester celebrated the Class of 2020 with a socially distanced commencement season in place of its traditional 152nd Commencement exercises. Among the graduates were Milford residents: Aleeye Okhipo, who was awarded a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering with distinction and Megan Pinette, who was awarded a bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering with high distinction.

Emerson College

On Sunday, May 10, Emerson College, Boston, awarded 959 undergraduate degrees for the Class of 2020. Among the graduates are Milford residents Samantha Branch of Milford, who was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts Production, and Liliana Schmalenberger, who was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies. The College launched the Emerson 2020 Celebration to honor the graduates’ achievements and is committed to holding a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020 in person when it is safe to do so, at a to be determined date.

Thomas Shain

Nichols College, Dudley, graduated over 300 students this spring. Virtual celebrations were held for both undergraduate and graduate recipients on May 2, 2020 with an in person commencement ceremony promised for a date to be determined. Thomas Shain of Milford was among the graduates and was awarded a Master of Business Administration.

Dean's List

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

American International College, Springfield: Shannon Cormier
Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio: Deborah Curran
Dean College, Franklin: Matthew Corsi, Armanda Hyden, Ethan Moeller, Valerie Rossacci, Eva Klima, Joaquim Moreira, Fabio Santos and Tyana Vaz. Christopher Carpanado was named to the President’s List.
Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Conn.: Josh Sobchak, majoring in English.
Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg: Hannah R. Ramuta, Rebecca A. Weisenhorn and T.J. A. Y.adoernia. Victoria L. Weisenhorn, President’s List, a 3.75 GPA or more in each of three successive semesters.
Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn.: Jennifer Chiarello, Kate Lobisser and Kayla Thongpul.
Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N. Y.: Malcolm Zale in the motion picture science program and Erin Mastaj in the biomedical engineering program.
Saint Anselm, Manchester, N. H.: Olivia M. Maier, Class of 2022, Undeclared
Savannah College of Arts and Design, Savannah, Ga.: Adriana Dezi, a sophomore majoring in Animation
University of Delaware, Newark, Del.: Amber Kinser.
University of New Hampshire, Durham: Highest honors GPA of 3.85 or better, High Honors GPA of 3.65 to 3.84, and Honors, 3.5 through 3.64. Brianna West, High Honors, Undeclared, Jack Windus, High Honors, majoring in Business Administration: Finance, Joseph DeMarco, Honors, majoring in Business Administration: Finance, Victoria Fledstrom, High Honors, majoring in Nursing, Christopher Berthrong, Highest Honors, Estuarine & Freshwater Biology; Rayanne Pereira, High Honors, majoring in Nursing; Lauryn Tomaso, Honors, majoring in Biomedical Science; Medical and Veterinary Science; Cameron Hakesley, Highest Honors, majoring in Homeland Security; Noah Butensky, Honors, majoring in RMP: Program & Event Management, Barbara Silva, High Honors, majoring in Political Science; Alexander Klosen, Honors, majoring in Business Administration; Angela Tomaso, High Honors; majoring in Communication; Kayte Rosenblatt, Highest Honors, majoring in Hotel & Hospitality Management; Kautil Hartman, Highest Honors, majoring in Nursing; Jessica Boroscky, Highest Honors, majoring in Biomedical Science; Medical and Veterinary Science; Eric Buckenmaier, Honors, majoring in Business Administration: Finance; and Sydney Morrison, High Honors, majoring in Occupational Therapy.
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester: Aleeye Okhipo Class of 2020 majoring in aerospace engineering; Gabriela Cheng Class of 2022 majoring in chemical engineering; Christopher Watson Class of 2021 majoring in chemical engineering, and Cameron Pelletier Class of 2023 majoring in electrical and computer engineering.

Bertonazzi Foundation Donation

The Bertonazzi Foundation made a $1,000 donation to Milford Regional Medical Center’s front-line nurses on behalf of the Milford Teachers Association late this spring. The award was made in lieu of the Annual Teacher of the Year Award which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Shown is MRMC CEO Ed Kelly, center, with the check that was presented by Attorney David Bertonazzi, Clerk for the Bertonazzi Foundation, on the left, and Nick Molinars, President of the Milford Teachers Association. Contributed photo.
By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter
Ever since David Pickering and his son Andrew purchased Upton’s only funeral home more than two years ago, the father and son have been incredibly proud to own the longest, continuously operating business in Upton. However, the Pickering’s recently decided it was time for some changes to their enduring business.

subsequently making some of its old appearances new again.

As the only funeral home in town, the two owners believed it was important to incorporate the name of the community into their business’s designation, therefore renaming it Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home. “We feel like it belongs to the town, so we wanted to add Upton to the name,” explained David. And now, a new sign reflects that change and was recently installed in front of the Main St. building. Furthermore, the grounds have been freshly landscaped to make the outside look more pleasing and attractive.

Besides the new exterior changes, the interior of the funeral home has been updated to reflect a more contemporary look and feel. “We painted, added new décor and furnishings, and put up new window treatments, “ said Andrew. The new appearance provides a warm and comforting setting for families and friends to gather.

The Pickering’s, both licensed funeral directors and embalmers, have been in the funeral industry for years and also own a funeral home in Westborough, where David resides. Andrew has been living in Upton for the past two and a half years and is beginning to immerse himself into the community he now calls home.

Ever since David purchased Pickering and his son Andrew’s thriving business, the two owners believed it was important to incorporate the name of the community into their business’s designation, therefore renaming it Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home. “We feel like it belongs to the town, so we wanted to add Upton to the name,” explained David. And now, a new sign reflects that change and was recently installed in front of the Main St. building. Furthermore, the grounds have been freshly landscaped to make the outside look more pleasing and attractive.

With that in mind, Marshall shares the following tips:

Fuel Storage
1. Seek out containers with a user-controlled flow valve, child safety features and a flame mitigation device (FMD) for safety. Never remove or alter the FMD.
2. Only purchase fuel containers approved by federal or state authorities. For example, the Scepter SmartControl fuel containers for gasoline, kerosene and diesel, are designed to substantially exceed standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
3. Store fuel containers in a secure, dry location away from furnaces, hot water tanks and any other potential source of heat.

Fueling Up at the Pump
4. Never allow children to operate pumps or fill fuel containers.
5. Never smoke when filling a gas tank or fuel container.
6. Remove fuel containers from vehicles before refilling, and turn off your vehicle's engine. Place containers on the ground a safe distance from vehicles when refilling.
7. Never fill past the “fuel fill line” on your container. Leaving space allows for expansion.
8. If a static-caused fire occurs, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe. Immediately move away from the vehicle and notify the station attendant.
9. Secure filled fuel containers in your vehicle against tipping and sliding.
10. Never leave filled containers in car trunks or the flat bed of pickup trucks, and keep out of direct sunlight.

Outdoor Chores
11. Use fuel outside only, in well-ventilated areas where you will not breathe in the fumes.
12. Gasoline is a fluid with fumes that can generate dangerous explosive power. Keep gasoline away from ignition sources and hot or running equipment.
13. If you run out of fuel during a project, let the hot motor cool down before adding more. This eliminates the risk that fuel is accidentally spilled on a hot surface. If this happens, the fuel or fumes could ignite and potentially explode.
14. Should a flammable liquid spill, immediately contact your fire department or local authorities for cleaning instructions and restrict access to the area from children and pets.

Outdoor Activities
15. Gasoline is not a lighter fluid. Never try to start or accelerate a bonfire, barbeque or grill with gasoline.
16. Never allow children near fuel containers or running equipment.
17. Don't guess. Check which fuel type is recommended for your outdoor lawn and sports equipment. Follow all manufacturer safety recommendations.
18. Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent, or to wash hands.
19. Choose the right container.
20. To help get you ready for fuel-related tasks, review safety videos online by visiting Scepter.com.

This summer, don’t fuel up without first reviewing how to do so safely and properly.

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Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home

Andrew Pickering (left) and David Pickering stand before the Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home’s new sign on Main St.

Convenience in the community

Andrew has been living in Upton for the past two and a half years and is beginning to immerse himself into the community he now calls home.

While the Pickering’s have been providing funeral services to families and individuals for years, they have also been in the funeral industry for years and own a funeral home in Westborough, where David resides. Andrew has been living in Upton for the past two and a half years and is beginning to immerse himself into the community he now calls home.

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Drivers Wanted

“WE ARE EXPANDING”
50 IMMEDIATE POSITIONS

TO START IN AUGUST

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:

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Metcalf Making His Pitch at Framingham State

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Justin Metcalf has had the chance to pitch in big games for Blackstone Valley Tech and for the Milford Post 59 American Legion program and he hopes that experience will help him as he ascends to the collegiate level to play at Framingham State.

"The intensity will definitely help me," Metcalf said. "I am used to intense games and being fully involved in it."

Metcalf has regularly taken the ball for BVT and Milford in high stakes situations, including during the legion state tournament last summer. While he does plan to suit up for Milford again this year if the Worcester County summer baseball league is allowed to take the field, Metcalf was frustrated to not have a senior baseball season with the Beavers.

"It was wicked disappointing. I definitely wanted to play and I think we would have had a good team," he said. "A lot of us got together in the offseason and we worked hard."

The hard work has continued for Metcalf, even without an organized season. He has a net in his backyard in Mendon and has been throwing regularly, taking swings, and trying to stay in the best shape possible. Metcalf said he hopes to improve his velocity and his breaking pitches by the time he joins the Framingham program.

Metcalf toured several schools before deciding Framingham State was the place for him. He said he enjoyed the campus and liked the fact that it is close to home and also bigger than his high school, but not so big that he feels like he'd get lost.

Metcalf said he plans to study business management. He was most impressed by the experience of Framingham State.

"I liked the coach and I think it will be a good place for me," he said. "My role will depend on how I prove myself in the fall, but coach said he wanted me to be used more as a starting pitcher than in relief. We will see how it goes down the road."

The coach is Rams' head coach, Sean Callahan.

"I play with and against, " she said. A member of the Shrewsbury ice-hockey co-op, Bennett was thrilled to receive a shout-out from hockey legend Wayne Gretzky.

"It was nice because it was like all the hard work had paid off to hear someone so great recognize all of the talented players that I play with and against," she said. A member of the Shrewsbury ice-hockey co-op, Bennett helped her team earn a spot in the postseason this past winter. She saw time on the Colonial's blue line and on the power play unit, where she was able to pick up a number of assists. "It was fun to play with such a talented group of girls, because I found myself getting better every game and every practice," Bennett said. "I thought I had a pretty good season and I think I helped contribute a lot."

Metcalf credited the coaching staff with aiding in her development as a player. She said she is hoping to be able to take the ice this fall with her club team, the Lady Flames out of Marlboro. Whether she is able to play club hockey in the fall or remain Shrewsbury in the winter will be determined by how things unfold amid the ongoing pandemic. Ultimately, Bennett hopes to play collegiate hockey and has begun the process of contacting coaches with schools which she is interested.

"I am not sure what's going to happen going forward," she said, referring to postponed summer tournaments and her fall club season. "I don't know when things are going to open up but I'm hoping I can get some exposure because I'm definitely looking forward to playing hockey in college."

BVT Boys LAX Had Title Hopes in 2020

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Blackstone Valley Tech boys’ lacrosse team captured a state vocational title and advanced deep into the Central-Western Mass. tournament last year, accomplishments they hoped to repeat and build upon before seeing the COVID-19 pandemic end their season before it began.

"This group brought hard work and definitely heart," said head coach Andrew Barksdale of the team’s seniors, many of whom were driving forces on last year’s squad. That heart was on display in the tournament a year ago when the Beavers erased a six-goal deficit to come back and beat Walpole. "They really brought a confidence to the team and they were just good teammates," Barksdale added.

One of the things they tried to do over the past couple of years is turn the attitude of the team around and they were a huge part of that.

Some of the key cogs that were members of the 2020 class included J.D. Antaya, Adam Kammal, Miller, Jack Barksdale, Brady Murray and Sawyer Allen, who Barksdale called one of the program’s “biggest losses.”

"Last year we lost a lot of our offense but we still had a solid defense and a great opportunity this year," Allen said. "We really think we had a shot, if not almost a guarantee, to go back-to-back in the state championship for the vocational league."

In addition to the team goals, Allen was primed to take a run at the state career record for face-offs won and, after coming up three short, had hoped to break the single-season face-off record as well. "There is a lot of stuff we left on the table with all of this going down," Allen said. "It's something I wish we would have been able to capitalize on."

Barksdale said the team kept in touch through the spring, taking about how they thought certain games that were on the schedule might have played out.

"It was kind of depressing, there were some beautiful days and we couldn't do anything," the coach said.

"To see them still want to be in it, even though there wasn't going to be a season, it was special," Barksdale added. "This group proved they care about the team and the season. Even when we had nothing to look forward to, they still wanted it."

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The first set of summer youth sports guidelines did little to answer the questions of how high school summer sports can safely compete and parents but it did make clear what was probably already apparent: just like businesses, all sports are not created equal when it comes to competing in a COVID-19 world.

If the fall season were to begin today, golf course country, volleyball and field hockey teams would be able to take part in practices, games and matches. Football, soccer, and competitive cheerleading would be sidelined for another three months or more than three decades.

The guidelines break sports up into three different categories: those that pose a low risk of transmission of the virus, those that pose a moderate risk and those in the “higher risk” category. There are also four types of “seasonal sports” that can be competitive: level one allows for individual or small, socially distanced non-contact activities or conditioning drills. Level two includes intra-squad games and scrimmages, level three allows for regular games or matches, and level four allows outdoor tournaments.

Football, soccer and competitive cheerleading would be sidelined for another three months or more than three decades. Milford will not host a summer basketball league at Town Park as the planned season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 25-player roster will feature five players from Milford this summer. The team will also not call Worcester its home this season due to the ongoing health crisis. Instead, the Bravehearts will play their home games at Lexington’s Doyle Field. Doins club will play its first home game Saturday after outlasting several road contests. But just getting back on the field has been the biggest step towards our goal, said Sterrett. The Bravehearts will play their home games at Lexington’s Doyle Field. Doins club will play its first home game Saturday after outlasting several road contests. But just getting back on the field has been the biggest step towards our goal, said Sterrett.
Lake Crescent is the only place in the world where the fish is found.

The Zacchillis have documented their travels on social media, posting breathtaking pictures of the nearly 14,800-foot Grant Tetons in Wyoming and South Dakota’s Black Hills. It was in the Black Hills that they found themselves just feet away from wild buffalos roaming the plains. “My dad was encouraging me to pet it,” Pete said, adding that he passed on touching the massive animal.

They went white water rafting, took in endless mustard colored fields in Idaho and Washington, and made stops in Seattle and at the University of Notre Dame — and all within the first two weeks of their trip.

Both Nick and Pete said it’s impossible to pick out a favorite spot they’ve visited or one they’re looking forward to the most as they crisscross the country over the rest of July and into August. Nick said they are excited to see Yosemite National Park, one of a dozen they’ll hit on the trip.

The Zacchillis family made a cross country trip years ago when Peter was only 10, so he said he doesn’t recall most of the sights they were able to take in. “I have been wanting to check out a lot of places out West that I either haven’t seen or haven’t seen since I was little,” Pete said. “I’m a big road trip guy.”

One highlight came when they went off road down to a homestead cabin. “I got a picture of my dad’s truck covered in mud with the Grand Tetons in the background,” Pete said. “That was an unbelievable moment in general.”

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16