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From left: Jackson S., Will A. and Ryan D.

Inspiring Leadership

Three Hopedale Eagle Scouts Make a Lasting Impact in 2023

In 2023, Troop 1 and members of the Hopedale community marked a wonderful achievement with three young men achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Since scouting began in the US in 1911, only 4% of scouts earned eagle rank. These remarkable scouts, each with a unique vision and dedication to service,

have left a mark on the community through their im-

SCOUTS

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Coach Cordani is Retiring



BY CHLOE ZHANG

Coach Anthony Cordani has been working at Hopedale for the past 23 years. Recently, Coach Cordani announced his retirement from teaching Physical Education at Hopedale High School. Throughout his time at Hoped-

ale, he has left a great impact on his students and the teams he has coached.

Coach Cordani shows to his students that teaching is something

CORDANI

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SCOUTS

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pactful projects.

Bringing Trees Back to Hopedale:

Will A., the first of our trio, embarked on a mission to enhance the beauty and environmental health of the Hopedale Parklands. His community service project involved the planning and execution of a tree-planting initiative.

Through the generosity of the Hopedale community, funds were raised to plant nine trees and fifty perennial plants. The project not only added a vibrant touch of greenery to the park but also contributed to the overall well-being of the ecosystem by attracting pollinators and combating erosion.

Will first identified the opportunity to establish more trees in the parklands after noticing that over the years, several trees fallen in storms or died from disease. He had

several meetings with Hopedale Tree Warden to select the trees and plants that would be most beneficial. Hopedale residents can often see Will checking the tree stakes to make sure the young trees are well-supported. Excess funds were donated to the town to support future tree-planting efforts.

Preserving Hopedale Trolley Bridge History with New Signs:

Ryan D., the second Eagle Scout, chose to focus on preserving the history of the Hopedale Trolley Bridge next to the Little Red Shop Museum, part of the greater Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. His project involved the creation and installation of two signs that narrate the history of the bridge, allowing park visitors to learn more about the heritage of the community.

Ryan worked closely with the Little Red Shop Museum and the Town to ensure the signs would be installed in a professional manner, be accessible to all visitors, and include a flower bed around the signs. In prior years, Ryan had recruited friends and scouts to supply service at the Little Red Shop by clearing out invasive plants. Through these activities he learned that the Little Red Shop had a desire to install informative signs about the bridge, and he saw the opportunity to help them do this. His fundraising efforts were successful, and at Ryan's recent Eagle Scout Ceremony, he presented a check to Sue Ciaramicoli of the Little Red Shop Museum to help the museum.



Above, from left: Cam M. (front), Seth L., Jack F., Will A., Jackson S. and Ryan D. Below, from left: Alex F., Cam M., Robby M., Ethan H., Jackson S. and Sally Decelles



Supporting the Friends of Elders:

Jackson Staheli, the third Eagle Scout, took a practical approach to community service by addressing the needs of an essential local resource that supports the Hopedale Friends

of Elders. Jackson dedicated his project to repairing and constructing storage items for the Curiosity Shop found in the Town Hall. This included

SCOUTS

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Advertisement for NOR'EASTER ROOFING INC. featuring a logo with a compass rose and snowflakes, and text: 'Our Roofs will weather the storm!', 'Thank You for making us your #1 choice.', 'Deal directly with the owner Rob Chaille. No outside salesman!', 'ROOFING • VINYL SIDING • WINDOWS CHIMNEY REPAIRS • SEAMLESS GUTTERS SPRAY FOAM INSULATION', '~Over 36 Years Experience~ Residential & Commercial From a hole in your roof...to a whole new roof! 508-NOR-EAST / 508-667-3278 www.NoreasterRoofing.com UXBIDGE, MA Call us for a FREE Estimate CS#69907 HIC#160483' with logos for BBB and Facebook.

Advertisement for Bright Insurance Agency and Jensen Sheehan Insurance Agency. Text: 'When the right coverage counts you can count on our LOCAL, PERSONAL & KNOWLEDGEABLE staff to take care of your Home • Auto • Business • Life'. Includes photos of staff members and logos for both agencies. Address: 6 Congress St, Milford • 54 Central St, Holliston.

Advertisement for MUFFIN HOUSE CAFE. Text: '116 Main Street, Medway (508) 533-6655', '32 Hasting Street, Rte 16. Mendon (508) 381-0249', '43 Main Street, Hopkinton (508) 625-8100', '325 N. Main Street, Natick (508) 647-0500', '296 Washington Street, Westwood (508) 533-6655'. Features a logo with a muffin and text: 'Don't stand in line! ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE! muffinhousecafe.com', 'Open Daily Bakery with Fresh Muffins/Pastries', 'Breakfast and Lunch Sandwiches Best Blueberry Muffins Since Jordan Marsh', 'Receive 10% off any cake with this coupon All our cakes are made from scratch on the premises Expires 1-31-2024', 'FREE SMALL COFFEE with a purchase of a muffin with this coupon Expires 1-31-2024'. Includes a Facebook logo and 'HOP' tags.

CORDANI

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he genuinely enjoys. He has had a great effect on his students, but they also have a great effect on him. Through my interview with Cordani, it is evident that he cares immensely about his students.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Hopedale?

“I think Hopedale is a unique school system, I really enjoy the close-knit community and the fact that I’m able to get to know all the students. Hopedale has a great deal of community and support. We have great support from the administration, and we have outstanding teachers and supportive parents.

What have you taken the most out of teaching here?

“The thing I took away most from teaching is that I got to have a great impact on my students and what they do later in life and who they become in the future. I enjoy day-to-day interaction with the students, it’s my favorite thing about teaching. I also have enough coaching as these things bring me joy, just getting to see

the growth of my students. I think my students affect me just as much as I affect them, I look forward to coming to school every day. I certainly learned



a lot about myself through my experience teaching here.”

Are you sad about not teaching at Hopedale anymore?

“I think I am sad about leaving Hopedale, I will miss being at Hopedale but hopefully I will stay involved with Hopedale for a while in a coaching capacity. I think my years at Hopedale have



been some of the best years of my life. When I made the decision to apply for the opening, it was probably one of the best decisions I made. I consider myself one of the luckiest people on earth, I got to do my dream job in a wonderful town.”

Students are going to miss Cordani.

“Mr. Cordani is an amazing teacher and has made gym so fun. He is genuinely a great person, and also strives to keep everyone involved in class” - Maida H.

“Mr. Cordani is a super funny teacher, and although I have not had him for a few years, I still remember how funny he was in class!” - Maddie D.

“Mr. Cordani is a super enthusiastic teacher and he always has the best humor in class” - Mia C.

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SCOUTS

continued from page 2

building 13 sturdy and functional shelves to replace unstable ones, replacing damaged ceiling tiles, and helping shop volunteers to reorganize the space to address safety needs and be able to navigate the shop more easily.

Jackson first volunteered at the Curiosity Shop in 2022 and met Sally Decelles, President of the Friends of Elders. They discussed improvements that could be made that would improve the shop's appearance and functionality and Jackson created a project plan to achieve this without disrupting normal shop operations. Jackson noted that it was a rewarding experience to have youth members from Troop 1 work side-by-side with volunteers from the Curiosity Shop to complete the project.

These three Eagle Scouts exemplify the values of leader-



Ryan D

ship, service, and community engagement. Their range of projects showcase the breadth of skills and dedication instilled in them through their scouting journey. As we celebrate their achievements, we recognize the lasting impact they have made on our Hopedale community. We are also thankful for the support of our community – with encouragement, funding, or volunteering of time.

About Troop 1

Hopedale's Scouts BSA Troop 1 for boys is chartered through Union Evangelical Church. During the school year, we meet on Tuesdays from 7 – 8:30PM at the Hopedale Community House. If you're a boy between 11-17 and want to be part of Troop 1's adventures, we'd love to meet you! Send us an email at hopedalescouts@gmail.com or register online at beascout.org.

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Openings on Hopedale High Alumni Association Board

The Alumni Association is looking for graduates of Hopedale Jr. Sr. High School to fill two volunteer positions on its Board of Directors.

As an independent, non-profit organization un-

filiated with the Hopedale school system, the Alumni Association oversees the distribution of annual trust fund scholarships awarded to HHS students, as well as academic grants for grades preschool through 12th.

The Board meets in-person quarterly at the Community House. Candidates with a background in finance or investing would be ideal,

but this is not a mandatory requirement for consideration. If interested, please email hopedalealumni@gmail.com

Additional details on the Hopedale High School Alumni Association can be found at: <http://hopedale-alumni.org>

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Hopedale Select Board strategizes next steps regarding BVT

Town officials hope to start with budget cap

By THERESA KNAPP

In October, the Hopedale Select Board led a “BVT Summit” with other member towns of the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. In December, the Board had a follow-up discussion to set next steps.

At its meeting on Dec. 11, Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti said a working group had been formed with “unelected officials” from the 13 towns that feed into the BVT school district.

Select Board member Scott Savage urged the board to create a strategy and provide guidance for Ruscitti while he is in those conversations. He said the town needs to have a clear proposal in the very near future, and said the board was being “lackadaisical” in its approach to the issue.

“We can’t drag our feet, we should have been here, meeting

after the BVT Summit, having these conversations. And, like other things, we’re going to run out of time, and BVT’s going to come forward with a \$10 million capital investment that’s going to pass and now we’re going to be on the hook for it because we dragged out feet.”

Ideally, town officials would like to reopen the BVT charter and make several changes, but that would take the approval of all 13 member towns.

Savage said, “We don’t have a set on a budget gap. We don’t have an agreement that we want to cap enrollment. We don’t have a plan for capital proposals that BVT should be submitting. We don’t have an opinion on whether it should be lottery-based or merit-based. We want to send [Town Administrator] Mitch to do a negotiation with other town administrators of 12

or 13 communities and we have no direction to give him...and it’s not Mitch’s responsibility to come up with what us, as a Select Board, feel like are our goals and desires of what BVT should be operating like.”

Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard said the budget cap should be the town’s highest priority.

Ruscitti said, “The budget is something we can move on now and get a good head start on. The other issues we can work on but we’re not going to have resolution to those immediately...Getting consensus for this is going to be difficult and time-consuming. I think the lowest hanging fruit right now is the budget cap. Some of the other issues that include advocacy, like the lottery proposition - if the board decides to go that route - is going to take a good deal of time

and finagling for communities to sign on and, even then, you have boards that are going to be in favor and boards that are not.”

Savage said, “This board needs to say, ‘These are the five things we want Mitch to talk to everyone else specifically,’ and go get us a response. This is why we’re going to fail at this attempt to get these changes...All I’m asking us to do is present our positions and we won’t do it.”

Stock agreed the board should devise a plan to get BVT to halt or revisit their budget because, in the past, BVT always

receives the budget it requests. “It can’t be that way any more because it’s just not fair to the other communities. We have to make budget decisions that fit their [BVT’s] needs and their requests, instead of the other way around.”

After a lengthy conversation, the board set a meeting for Dec. 20 for the sole purpose of discussing this issue.

For more reporting on the October BVT Summit, visit bit.ly/HopedaleBVTsummit.

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Shrewsbury - Coming Soon!

Winter Stroll, DECA's Raiders Nest

By CHLOE ZHANG

The Winter Stroll was on Dec. 2nd, and it featured many of Hopedale's small businesses and organizations.

Not only was the Winter Stroll accessible to the business of Hopedale, but also allowed the students of Hopedale High School clubs to fundraise for their organizations!

One of these clubs was the DECA, which focuses on the field of business and prepares young entrepreneurs for marketing, finance, hospitality, and management fields.

DECA's entrepreneur team is in charge of the Raider's Nest and selling Hopedale merchandise and accessories. The Raiders Nest is run by Mrs. Oliveri and the officers of the Entrepreneur Team. These students work on designing the merchandise as well as working in cooperation with manufacturers to get merchandise out to the students of Hopedale.

Due to the cancellation of Day in The Park, students had to make up for the loss of profit in the Winter Stroll. These profits are directly used



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to fund DECA trips and the production of more items.

Recently the Raider's Nest had launched a drop of clothes for winter. Although

the Winter Stroll is now over, community members of Hopedale are still able to shop for items through their website, shophopedale.com,

or keep a lookout on social media for future fundraisers and events!

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An update on the Little Red Shop Museum, featuring archival grants and volunteer grit

The multi-faceted Inventory Project currently underway at the Little Red Shop Museum has been fueled by two major forces: two archival grants, and a very dedicated group of volunteers. From Oct. 1, 2022 through Sept. 30, 2023, this crew of volunteers logged almost 1,500 hours. The 2023 hourly rate of \$39.19, set by the state of Massachusetts, is the dollar equivalent to these volunteer hours. The value of those hours is often key to the awarding of private and public grants as in-kind contributions.

The Museum's Inventory Project was the benefactor of the majority of those volunteer hours. Within the last year or so, with a new infusion of additional volunteers, the Museum has been able to begin the critical, but daunting, task of inventorying the many photos, artifacts, documents, and historic town publications housed at the Museum. Some items were already in the Museum's collection, however, most items have been donated since the Museum's reopening [in 2009].

Two different grant awards were made possible through the Massachusetts State Historic Records Advisory Board (MA SHRAB) and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). In 2022, through the SHRAB Roving Archivist Grant and SHRAB Regrant (\$500 for archival supplies), the Museum was privileged to host a visit from a professional archivist, Tom Doyle. These grant programs were developed as part of MA SHRAB's mission to provide leadership, advocacy, and guidance to help ensure the identification, preservation, and use of the Commonwealth's historical resources, both public and private.

Cultural heritage and historical records repositories, like the Little Red Shop Museum, which do not have a professional archivist and have limited resources, are given preference. These grant programs provide vital guidance to assist in the creation and setting of priorities, drafting policies, developing strategies, and establishing procedures and workflows for



Source: www.littleredshopmuseum.org/

processing, preserving, and cataloging an institution's collections. A vital first step in this process is to have a record of the institution's collection. The Little Red Shop Museum has set, as one of its primary goals, to embark on this task of inventorying its collection, never having been done since the Little Red Shop was donated to the Town of Hopedale in 1978. The Museum's ultimate long-term goal is to have internet access to information about, and images of, our collection available to the public through a museum software package known as Past Perfect.

Most notable at this time, is that the Museum recently arranged for the digitization of a complete set of the Town of Hopedale's Annual Reports (1886 - 2022) by Internet Archives through the services of Digital Commonwealth. These reports are now available for viewing on Internet Archive through your browser. This project was completed "free of charge" to the Town. For easy access, visit bit.ly/Internet-ArchiveTheLittleRedShopMuseum

Another major component of the inventory process will be done in conjunction with

the digitization of the Draper Corporation's monthly publication, Cotton Chats. The Cotton Chats was first published in 1901 and was last published in 1958. As part of the inventory process, our volunteers will prepare a metadata sheet for each Cotton Chats. Metadata is needed for the digitization services through Digital Commonwealth. We are also in the process of inventorying the Town's Residential Listings, hoping that a complete set can be assembled for digitization as well. Hopedale's Annual Reports and Residential Listings and the Draper Corporation's

Cotton Chats collection can be helpful resources for those hoping to do local genealogy research on their ancestors or to learn more about the local, regional, national, and international history connected to the Draper Corporation.

Another project that is underway is an inventory of a collection of General Draper's (1842 - 1910) personal papers dating from his years of service to the Draper Corporation, as a U.S. Representative from Massachusetts, and as Ambassador to Italy. Some may not be aware that he was not only a soldier who served in the

Civil War, but also a prominent American businessman, and an industrialist.

Restored in the fall of 2007 and finally reopened in October 2009, volunteers have solely staffed the Museum. Since its reopening, a skeletal all-volunteer staff has kept a regular schedule of visiting hours for the public and has participated in many, many community events since its reopening.

Submitted by The Little Red Shop Museum.

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Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be held Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, through Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, from 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Registration packets will be sent to families of eligible children during the week of Jan. 15, 2024. If you do not receive a packet by Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024,

please call the school office at 508-634-2214x8.

Registration paperwork can be dropped off at the office, emailed to ltuite@hopedaleschools.org or mailed to Hopedale Memorial School, 6 Prospect St., Hopedale, MA 01747.

Please be sure all paperwork is completed and any necessary documents needed

to register are with your packet. This registration is for Hopedale residents only.

Please Note: Your child must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2024, to be eligible for kindergarten this year.

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Glenn Brown, CFP

Making New Year's resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2024?

Do they look familiar to last year's?

As Ben Franklin repeatedly said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail".

Let's help you start by recognizing questionable resolutions, including three destined for failure plus what should be considered for successful planning outcomes.

Bad Resolution: *Need to start buying "X" to grow my money.*

Before buying "X", how does fit into your investment strategy

within your financial plan?

Over the last 4 years, crypto, I bonds, meme stocks and cash have had their shiny object moments with investors chasing.

If to start 2023 one moved their investment strategy to cash based on 2022 performance of stocks and bonds, well... past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Yes, interest rates rose, and one could find ~4-5% CD's. Yet, through December 15, 2023 on Year-To Date returns, several equity indices have significantly outpaced, and certain bond indices have done as well or better.

Recall as treasury yields fall in anticipation of Federal Reserve action and/or economic outlook, bond funds and ETFs participate in this inverse relationship - interest rates fall, bond prices rise. When bond prices rise, this increases the value of bond funds/ETFs. Just like in 2022, when rates rose, value of bond funds/ETFs fell.

Better Resolution: *Need to save ___% and take ___ risk with investments to reach ___ goal.*

To truly build assets, you need to save a specific percentage each year, take opportunistic or measured (less) risks AND invest towards your established goal(s), not performance that occurred the year before or one market benchmark.

Bad Resolution: *Pay down debt.*
Sounds important, but is it? It depends. Tax deductions, interest rates, duration, fixed or variable, inflation, deflation, depreciation, and impact to your future cash flow ensure all debt is not equal.

Better Resolution: *Execute a debt reduction plan.*

Access all debt, then prioritize on high-interest debt, variable rates, and unsecured. If down to a 3% or lower mortgage, 2% auto loans, and a MassSave at 0%, then maintain required payments, reap benefits of low, fixed rates in an inflationary environment and allocate towards investments outpacing those rates over time.

An exception, if not at ~40% home equity ownership, can make a case to get there and

open a HELOC. Beyond flexibility to access equity built and lower total interest paid, can eliminate the opportunity costs of a large cash position for the "what ifs" in life.

Bad Resolution: *Do more for my retirement.*

Buy a lottery ticket, as greater chance of success than this vague "lose weight" resolution tossed by January 10th.

Better Resolution: *How do I retire at 55 or semi-retire in 5 years.*

Now you're analyzing cash flows, balance sheet, contribution rates, investment allocations, taxation, work benefits, college funding, planning for the unexpected and desired lifestyle with expenses in retirement. You'll establish a set of base facts, allowing to then create scenarios, see projections, reverse engineer action steps, and track goals within timelines.

Aggressive timelines create urgency, leading to actions that bring you closer the ultimate retirement accomplishment - choice.

Now ask yourself, are your

resolutions the same as last year?

What different actions are you going to take to make a difference?


Know what Einstein said about doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Maybe it's time to socialize your goals, set monthly action items to create fresh start moments and leverage an accountability partner (i.e. Certified Financial Planner) to make your 2024 resolutions happen.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of Plan-Dynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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Bucket List Workshop



An evening to explore what's truly on your list

Presented by: Rosemary Tsacoyianis RN, MS

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Hopedale senior center Adults of all ages welcome Please register: 508-634-2208 - no charge Coaching by RO LLC

JANUARY 2024 - HOPEDALE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES (508)634-2208

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1</p> <p>CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 9:30 am Grocery Shopping 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge No Dance Class</p> <p>Errand Van Available</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>4</p> <p>No Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi</p> <p>Errand Van Available</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge No Dance Class</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>15</p> <p>CLOSED FOR MLK HOLIDAY</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 9:30 am Grocery Shopping 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge No Dance Class</p> <p>Errand Van Available</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am Knitters' Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi 1:00 pm COA Meeting</p> <p>Errand Van Available</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Pizza Party 12:45 pm BINGO</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge No Dance Class</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 9:30 am Grocery Shopping 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge No Dance Class</p> <p>Errand Van Available</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>		

Hopedale Fire Dept. member Alexander Cappella one of 35 firefighters to graduate from Firefighting Academy

In November, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn announced the graduation of 35 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Fire-

Basic Firefighter Skills
Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students

breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in

public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides re-

cruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridgewater.

Submitted by Massachusetts Dept. of Fire Services



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
Career Recruit Class #315 Graduation • November 3, 2023

fighting Training Program.

Among the graduates was Alexander Cappella of the Hopedale Fire Dept.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,” said Director Winn. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

The graduating firefighters of Class #315 represent the fire departments of Hopedale, Ashland, Attleboro, Beverly, Concord, Fitchburg, Harwich, Haverhill, Hopkinton, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marlborough, Methuen, Orleans, Revere, Seekonk, Tewksbury, and Weston.

must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Today’s Firefighters Do Much More than Fight Fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained

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Living Healthy

The Cataract Surgery Center of Milford

The Gold Standard for Surgical Eyecare

BY: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

The Milford-Franklin Eye Center - Cataract Surgery Center of Milford is pleased to announce our recertification by the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (QUADA). This accreditation authority sets the Gold Standard and certifies thousands of facilities worldwide. We received no deficiencies, achieved full compliance, and earned a perfect score.

An accreditation certification by QUADA provides peace of mind, indicating our surgery center's highest standards in patient safety, surgical results, infectious disease control, and healthcare quality. We take pride in our staff's success in navigating this extremely strict and tedious process.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been delivering excellent eye care to the community for four decades. With offices in Milford, Franklin, and Millis, along with our award-winning surgery center in Milford and a support staff of 60, we stand as the leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care centers in the State. We are also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No longer do you need to travel miles and hours for cataract surgery! Our experienced eye physicians/surgeons, along with four optometrists, provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center acknowledges that you have choices when it comes to eye care. We set ourselves apart by

focusing on excellent and advanced eye care and treating our patients as if each one is family. Our surgical results rival those of major centers in Boston, and we can prove it. We are deeply rooted in the community, most of us living here, and our primary focus is to serve the community. While some competing 'franchise' practices have a satellite office in the area with an occasional ophthalmologist, we are here full-time, five days a week, with an eye surgeon ready to see you in case of an emergency. Did you know that seeing a surgeon from a 'franchise' practice means you are outside their referral network and your expenses may be higher? We are local and in the network of your local primary care physicians. In case there is a surgical emergency after cataract surgery, we see you immediately. With other practices, you may

have to go to Boston to be seen. We are the only dedicated practice taking emergency call responsibilities at Milford Regional Hospital and have been doing the same for decades.

Our surgery center is Medicare-certified, State-licensed, and QUADA accredited. This center stands as a beacon of excellence in ophthalmic care, showcasing a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to restoring vision with precision and innovation. Equipped with cutting-edge technology and staffed by a team of highly skilled and experienced professionals, the center is at the forefront of cataract and glaucoma surgery. From advanced laser systems that enhance surgical accuracy to personalized treatment plans tailored to each patient's unique needs, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford prioritizes both efficacy and patient comfort. The facility's commitment to staying abreast of the latest developments in the field ensures that individuals seeking cataract surgery receive the highest standard of care, making it a trusted destination for those looking to regain clarity of vision in a modern and sophisticated setting.

What about office-based cataract surgery? Some franchise practices are advocating for performing cataract surgery in their office. Unapproved by Medicare and major ophthalmology professional societies, this office-based surgery raises significant concerns about patient safety and the quality of care provided. Performing cataract surgery in an office setting may lack the rigorous standards and sterile environments maintained in dedicated surgical centers. The absence of dedicated anesthesia professionals and comprehensive medical support can compromise patient comfort and safety during surgery. Patients are advised to prioritize their well-being and consider established surgical centers with experienced medical teams and top-notch facilities to ensure optimal outcomes for cataract surgery. For instance, at the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, a dedicated MD anesthesiologist is present full-time for all procedures, and your comfort and safety are titrated by using

an IV line, which is lacking in the office-based surgery model.

With the new year 2024, we are proud to continue to serve our communities as we did for four decades.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an experienced eye physician and surgeon. Dr. Kaldawy, trained at the University of Rochester and the University of Iowa. As Assistant Professor at Boston University, he directed the Cornea and External Disease program, influencing physicians worldwide. A pioneer in DSAEK corneal transplantation, he performed over 30,000 cataract surgeries, introducing advanced implants and bladeless laser assisted Femto cataract surgery at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford, where he also serves as Medical Director.

Dr. Dan Liu earned her medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in 2016. She was elected to the medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. Completing her ophthalmology residency at Albany Medical Center, Dr. Liu received multiple accolades. She pursued fellowship training in Cornea, External Diseases, and Anterior Segment Surgery at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Liu specializes in Cataract surgery, ORA technology, Cornea transplants, and various eye disorders. She is affiliated with several medical associations.

Dr. Arroyo, our vitreoretinal specialist, earned his degrees from Amherst College, Yale, and Duke. With 20+ years of experience, he's published extensively and held leadership roles, including past president of the New England Ophthalmological Society.

Dr. Shalin Zia, O.D., a Purdue and Indiana University graduate, brings extensive private practice experience, excelling in routine eye care, contact lenses, and disease diagnosis.

Dr. Adams, a John Carroll University graduate, has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, ocular disease, and laser refrac-



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MILFORD OFFICE
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508-473-7939

MILLIS OFFICE
730 Main St.
508-528-3344

SURGERY CENTER MILFORD
145 West St.
508-381-6040

EYES

continued on page 13

Bancroft Memorial Library

50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale
 Contact: Tricia Perry, Library Director
 508-634-2209
 tperry@cwmars.org

January Holidays

Monday, January 1 CLOSED
 - New Year's Day (observed)
 Monday, January 15
 CLOSED - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Community Conversations Sponsored by Hopedale For Change

Community Conversations will meet this month on Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30pm. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please sign up at the Circulation Desk or online on our website.

Helen Symonds Book Group

The Helen Symonds Book Group will meet Wednesday, January 3rd at 1:00 pm in the Library meeting room. We will discuss *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff. "A young Indian woman falsely rumored to have killed her husband finds a way to make her unfortunate reputation surprisingly useful--but complications arise when other village women seek her help offing their husbands." - adapted from CW-MARS catalog

Maker Mondays

Join our evening Crafting Workshop for adults at Bancroft

EYES

continued from page 12

tive surgery.

Dr. Purvi Patel, OD, a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, brings teaching and leadership experience from the New England College of Optometry. Her clinical interests include diabetes, glaucoma, and community-based eye care.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center and The Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, our focus is on you, your vision, excellent surgical results without compromising your safety or comfort. You come first. We are available in your backyard and proud to offer world-class cataract surgery

Memorial Library on Monday, January 22 at 6:00pm! This month, we will be joined by Amy Catalogna who will show you ideas and techniques to make simple but beautiful cards using only a few supplies. We will be creating special cards to be shared with residents of the Atria Draper Place in Hopedale as well as creating some for you to share with your friends and family. Registration is required and space is limited. Register online today!

William Franklin Draper Join James Buckley on Monday, January 29 at 6:30pm to learn about late Hopedale native William Franklin Draper, an American painter and a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy. Please stop by the circulation desk to register or visit our online registration on the Library's website.

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room

Registration is encouraged but not required for all events. Please visit our website to register online.

Afternoon Free Play - Ages 3-5 - Fridays (1/12, 26) 1pm

Rhyme Time - Ages 2 - 4 years - Every Tuesday(1/2, 9, 16, 23, 30) 10:00am

Toddler Tunes - Ages 1 - 3 - Every Tuesday(1/2, 9, 16, 23, 30) 11:00am

Teen Advisory - Grades 6 - 12 - 1st Wednesday(1/3) 5pm
 Share pizza and play video

closer to home: Here in Milford! In a surgery center facility, not in an office. Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. All new patients receive a free pair of select glasses. We offer after-hours, same-day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have great management focused on quality customer care. Four decades serving our communities and going strong. In 2024, we remain dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home.

For more details, see our ad on this page 12.

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games! Registration required.

Alpha-nauts! - Ages 4 - 6 - Every Thursday(1/4, 11, 18, 25) 10am

Registration required.

Busy Babies - Ages 0 - 18 mos - Every Thursday(1/4, 11, 18, 25) 11am

Saturday Family Fun - Families- Saturdays(1/6, 20) 11am-1pm

Have some fun at the Library! Drop in. Check the calendar for more information

Elementary Engineers - Ages 5-7 - 2nd Monday(1/8) 1pm
 Registration is required and is limited to 8 attendees.

Neurodivergent Programming - Wednesday(1/10) 1pm

Come to the Library to enjoy some programming for everyone! Today we will be sharing a movie - we can adjust lighting, volume, and seating, as needed. Please let us know what we can do to help

make this experience enjoyable for all attendees.

Book Cubs - Grades 2 - 3 - 2nd Wednesday(1/10) 4pm
 Registration required.

Desserts and Discussions - Wednesday(1/10) 6:30pm presented by the Milford Family & Community Network at the Library.

Ever wish you had a parenting manual? Come connect with other parents to share stories, challenges and triumphs. This is a fun night for parents/caregivers only. This will be a participant led discussion so bring your questions, concerns & advice.

Call to register: 508-277-4981
 The Milford Family & Community Network is a Coordinated Family Community Engagement grant funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and awarded to Milford Public Schools.

Raucous Readers - Grades 4 - 5 - 3rd Wednesday(1/17) 4pm
 Registration required.

Teen Movie Night - Wednesday(1/17) 6pm

This month's movie is about a girl who really likes the color pink! Registration is required.

Neurodivergent Programming - Wednesday(1/24) 1pm

Join us for some art fun! We provide multiple art media and you provide the imagination. Drop in.

Starlight Story Time - 4th Wednesday(1/24) 6pm

For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook and sign up at www.wowbrary.org to discover the Library's newest books, movies and music. Our webpage is <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library>.



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**Welcoming
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Sports

The Last Hurrah?

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Matt Carroll first laced up the skates around the second or third grade, when his mother wanted him to learn how to skate.

Not long after, he was feeling the competitiveness bug and wanted to be part of a hockey team with a bunch of his childhood friends. However, at the time hockey was not something that a lot of people in Hopedale participated in, so Carroll and his friends seeked out of town programs.

Carroll began playing hockey with the Central Mass Outlaws and eventually transferred to the

Franklin Flyers where he would find his home on the ice.

“At a younger age, a lot of the kids were playing for themselves; it was basically a free for all on the ice,” he said. “But as I got older, I grew into the sport and became more of a team player where I learned how to play the game.”

As a seventh grader, Carroll found himself on the junior varsity squad and during his freshman year he was a swing player between the JV and varsity teams. Unfortunately, he did not see the ice as much as he would have liked to because of the Covid pandemic. Teams were not playing as many games as they would



have had it been a normal season.

“That season was definitely weird, and I never really felt right that year,” Carroll said. “Covid didn’t allow us to get a good feeling for the varsity game. The following year I started to become more comfortable with starting on the third line as a wing.”

Hopedale hockey Coach Mike MacQuarrie looks to help his athletes play to their strengths, thus giving the team a much better chance of success as a whole. Playing as a forward, Carroll eventually settled in primarily as a right-winger but would occasionally play on the opposite side if the situation called for it. As a winger for the Blue Raiders, the senior doesn’t really see himself as a scorer.

“I feel that I am more of an assist guy instead of a scorer,” he said. “I’m not that high on that list, but I am definitely a team contributor and that’s just as important making the right choices.”

In the beginning of his high school career Carroll found things to be a little bit intimidating playing with upper classmen as he didn’t want to make a mistake to cost his team. Despite the intimidation factor, the newcomer soon found out that he had nothing to worry about as the seniors were really great and helped the younger players out.

During his sophomore campaign, Carroll and his teammates had a somewhat successful season as the number five seed

in the Division 3 State Tournament. After a handful of wins the Blue Raiders eventually fell in the Round of Eight.

Last winter the squad found themselves in a tougher situation having lost a good number of their productive seniors to graduation. Hopedale went into the tournament as a 13 seed and fell in the Round of 16 to Nauset 3-2 in overtime. While the team wasn’t as successful as the year prior, MacQuarrie relied heavily on Carroll.

“He’s been playing for us since the seventh grade, six years in the program – not too many can say they’ve accomplished this,” the Hopedale Coach said. “During the playoffs last year if we had a defensive draw, he was out there on the ice. He got the puck out of the zone with great defense and hustle. If everyone could do this, we’d be a great team.”

Although the coach spoke highly of his winger, Carroll was not all that thrilled with his play.

“Personally, I didn’t play as well as I wanted to, I was not as confident as I wanted to be,” he said. “I didn’t want to let the team down so I was more cautious than I should have been. I learned that we win or lose as a team, not individually and that it happens to everyone at one point or another.”

Coming into his final high school season Carroll wants to be able to look back at the end of the season and see that he made a difference not only on the ice but by impacting the play of the

younger players.

“I want everyone to know that they belong on this team,” Carroll said. “If we play as a team and give it our all, despite losing another group of strong seniors, we should be able to have a good season. People are already doubting us and not expecting us to do well. I want to go out and be able to prove them all wrong.”

Coach MacQuarrie made it clear that Carroll is one who works his butt off on a consistent basis and will do whatever he asks of him on the ice. If anyone can lead this team to a successful campaign this winter, it’s him.

When his high school season comes to an end, it could very well be the last hurrah for the senior Blue Raider. Although he has not decided where he plans on attending college next fall, there is still a possibility he may lace up the skates again.

“At this point I don’t want to make a commitment to playing sports on the college level,” he said. “Most likely I will play on some type of club or intramural team for hockey and or soccer, but right now it’s all still up in the air.”

For now, Carroll will take to the ice a couple of dozen more times with his Blue Raiders teammates before it all comes to an end. When it does wrap up, he is hoping to look back on yet another productive season, one in which the team went further than it has over the last six years.

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
12/15/2023	18 Ballou Road	\$579,900
12/15/2023	2 Gaskill Circle	\$600,000
12/15/2023	25 Laurelwood Drive	\$437,500

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages



The 3-bed, 3-bath, 2,138 sf house at 25 Laurelwood Drive in Hopedale recently sold for \$437,500. Image credit: www.zillow.com

Hopedale Police Department Receives \$114,000 Grant From Department Of Justice For Accreditation

The Town of Hopedale announced today that the Hopedale Police Department received a \$114,000 grant award from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), housed in the US Department of Justice.

The award will be used by the Hopedale Police Department to continue the Department's pursuit of accreditation through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC).

Law enforcement accreditation is a self-initiated process that allows for the adoption and implementation of high standards, policies, and procedures, and has the benefit of providing the framework to ensure that participating departments continue the high level of service that they provide to their respective communities. MPAC's accreditation process has the following areas

of focus: agency authority, jurisdiction and use of force; selection and promotion of personnel, training, discipline, and internal affairs; patrol, traffic operation criminal investigations, victim/witness assistance, detainee transportation, holding facilities, and emergency response planning; records and communications; collection and preservation of evidence, property and evidence control.

The funding will be used to address physical structural deficiencies within the Hopedale Police Department, to purchase new state-of-the-art policing hardware and software, make improvements to various spaces, and convert all department documentation to digital formats.

The Hopedale Police Department is on pace to be accredited before any of the town's neighboring commu-

nity departments, except for the Upton Police Department which received full accreditation in 2012.

Hopedale Police Chief Mark Giovanella said of the award that "the accreditation process will lead to codifying standards. The process itself will be an affirmation as to the quality of policing we provide for the constituents of Hopedale. Further, this process guarantees that long-term, the Department will continuously meet these standards as personnel are onboarded, retire, and/or cycle out - ensuring that the Town will receive seamless, community-focused, excellent police services well into the future."

Selectboard Chair Glenda Hazard added that "the Town is grateful that the Hopedale Police Department works every day to be the best force possible, and proactively seeks

out these grant opportunities to ensure that despite fiscal constraints and our size, the community will continue to have one of the best and most forward-thinking forces in the region."

Lastly, Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti added, "I'm grateful every day to work with our public safety departments, who are always looking for ways to do more with less given the town's budgetary constraints. Grants like these can really make a difference in a community our size, and it's a credit to the Hopedale Police Department for being proactive in pursuing not only the accreditation, but these grant opportunities that help fund these initiatives that make this community wonderful."

About The Office Of Community Oriented Policing Services, From the

Department of Justice: The COPS Office awarded \$456 million to law enforcement agencies and organizations throughout the United States in 2022, and since 1994 has awarded grants and initiative funding to more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies.

About The Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission: The Commission consists of an eleven-member Board of Directors. Six members are appointed to represent the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, one by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and one by the Massachusetts Police Association. The mission of the Commission is to ensure that delivery of police services within the Commonwealth is at the highest level of professionalism and integrity.

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