

## BVT celebrates 15 graduates at pinning ceremony



The PN Class of 2025. Back (L-R): Adriana Luz Rivera, Nickesha Palmer, Lynnette Cruz, Zoe Lynn Ragno, and Thomas James Mirabile. Middle (L-R): Matilda Baah, Xivanna Karelys Millin, Cassie Erin Fitzpatrick, and Phiona Sebutinde. Front (L-R): Joel Njifua Njemfoa, Samantha Marie Tavarez, Wilder Ruben Poma, Shyala Morgan Medeiros, Sarah Orenberg, and Junior Anuju Atabong. Photo/ Courtesy of Blackstone Valley Tech

UPTON – The Moonlight Program in Practical Nursing (PN) at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) is a 60-week program that prepares its adult students with

foundational skills essential to a nursing career. Non-traditional students navigate challenging coursework, develop hands-on skills, and cultivate compassion and empathy to care for patients with family

and work commitments.

The Practical Nursing Graduation for the Class

### BVT PINNING

*continued on page 4*

## Upton's oldest resident talks life at age 102

By Scott Calzolaio

On a recent sunny afternoon, a seemingly infinite rainbow blanket pooled on the floor from the lap of Upton's oldest resident, Olive Aldrich, 102, where her hands nimbly worked the yarn into a new, colorful zig-zag.

"This town has grown a lot," Olive said, eyes fixed on the television screen across the room, hands still working away.

"When I first came here," she said, turning and still never looking at her hands. "There were no houses really. Now, I can't even tell you how many are up there," she smiled, using her crochet needle to gesture towards the Prospect Street area through her living room wall.

Olive has the type of smile that only comes after decades of perfecting the art. Upturned eyes that glisten with 100 years of conversations, and a slight smile that peeks out from time to time.



Upton's oldest resident, Olive Aldrich, 102, and her son Fred, 73. Photo credit: Scott Calzolaio

Olive was born on Dec. 1, 1922. A new pope was elected, Prohibition was in full swing, and Mussolini was marching on Rome.

### AGE 102

*continued on page 4*

Let Us Help You **SELL** or **FIND** Your Perfect **HOME!**

**Robyn Nasuti & Sean Terrell**  
ABR, ASP, SRS, GREEN, SRES, MBA  
Home & Land Specialists

**Robyn & Sean**  
SOLD MY HOUSE  
Helping families buy & sell homes for 23 years

ROBYN: 774-573-1336 • RobynAndSeanSoldMyHouse.com • SEAN: 774-696-6402

**AMSTUTZ LLC**  
LANDSCAPING  
"Dressing and Keeping the Earth"  
UXBRIDGE, MA

**FREE ESTIMATES!**

Spring & Fall Cleanups • Mowing & Trimming  
Shrub Trimming • Mulching & Bed Maintenance

508.377.2672 • amstutzlandscapingllc@norcell.us

**WE'LL MATCH YOUR TAX REFUND UP TO \$1,000**  
SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

**SEVEN BRANDS // BEST VEHICLE SELECTION IN NEW ENGLAND**  
**SHOP AND COMPARE - SAVE THOUSANDS ON OVER 2,000 VEHICLES IN ONE LOCATION!**  
8-18 UXBRIDGE ROAD (RTE. 16) MENDON, MA | 300 FORTUNE BLVD, MILFORD, MA

**HUGE SELECTION OF TARIFF FREE NEW AND USED VEHICLES**  
On Our Lots Ready for Delivery!

**DISCOUNTS UP TO \$15,000 OR AS MUCH AS 15% OFF!**  
WE WORK WITH OVER 60 BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS TO GET YOU THE LOWEST RATE POSSIBLE!

**IMPERIAL CARS.COM**  
Ford Chevrolet Chrysler Dodge RAM Jeep Toyota



# Mendon safety log includes structure and brush fires, stolen vehicle, chemical spill

Between Feb. 26, the Mendon Police Department and Fire Department responded to hundreds of calls, most of which were related to motor vehicles including traffic stops, crashes, erratic operators, disabled motor vehicles, traffic hazards, parking complaints, 911 calls (accidental, hang up, open line), alarms (fire, burglar, carbon monoxide), suspicious activity, document/paperwork service, welfare checks, animal complaints, found property, general assistance to citizens, and medical emergencies.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Entries of note include:  
**Feb. 26** at 5:36 a.m., Providence St., burglar alarm  
**Feb. 27** at 2:20 p.m., Bicknell Dr., welfare check



**Feb. 28** at 7:17 a.m., Northbridge St., threats  
**Feb. 28** at 4:13 p.m., Main St., stolen vehicle  
**March 2** at 12:08 p.m., Millville St., suspicious activity  
**March 2** at 1:55 p.m., Hopedale St., suspicious activity  
**March 3** at 3:47 p.m., Vincent Rd., fire alarm  
**March 5** at 8:02 p.m., Hartford Ave. E, motor vehicle crash  
**March 6** at 12:49 p.m., Millville St., chemical spill  
**March 7** at 4:11 p.m., Park

St., larceny  
**March 8** at 11:47 p.m., Gaskill St., structure fire  
**March 10** at 6:37 a.m., North Ave., animal complaint  
**March 10** at 4:08 p.m., North Ave., fraud  
**March 11** at 8:33 a.m., Milford St., smoke investigation  
**March 13** at 8:32 a.m., Park St., brush fire  
**March 14** at 11:25 a.m., North Ave., fraud  
**March 17** at 6:49 p.m., Pleasant St., fraud  
**March 19** at 9:27 a.m., Milford St., brush fire  
**March 20** at 11:42 a.m., Hastings St., larceny  
**March 22** at 11:02 a.m., Crestview Dr., brush fire  
**March 23** at 10:28 a.m., Cape Rd., vehicle lockout  
Source: [www.mendonpolice.com](http://www.mendonpolice.com)

# Michael J. Bradford, Sr., retired Upton Fire Chief and lifelong Upton resident, dies peacefully

Chief Michael J. Bradford, Sr., 78, retired Upton Fire Chief and lifelong Upton resident, passed away on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at the UMass Memorial University Hospital in Worcester. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones. He was the beloved husband of 51 years to Mary (Megerdichian) Bradford.

He was raised and educated in Upton, where he graduated from NIPMUC High School. Michael proudly served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War Era, achieving the rank of CTSN. Chief Bradford's professional journey began at Bay State Abrasives in Westborough, followed by a decade-long tenure as the Town of Upton Highway Supervisor. During this time, he also served as a call firefighter for the Upton Fire Department, where he rose through the ranks to become Deputy Chief and, ultimately, Fire Chief for the



**Retired Upton Fire Chief and lifelong Upton resident Michael J. Bradford, Sr. (1946-2025).** Source: [www.uptonfunerals.com](http://www.uptonfunerals.com)

final 10 years of his career. After retiring from the fire department, Michael continued to share his passion for firefighting as a part-time instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow for 10 years. He also worked part-time at the Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home as a Funeral Assistant. For the full obituary, visit [www.uptonfunerals.com](http://www.uptonfunerals.com) Source: Facebook @uptonfire

Spring/Fall CLEAN UP

Weekly/Bi-Weekly MOWING

Edging & Mulch Installation

FERTILIZATION PROGRAMS

Weed Prevention

Insect & Grub Control

LAWN REPAIR

De-Thatching

Core Aeration

Over Seeding

Trimming Shrubs

Shrub & Tree

Planting or Removal

CARLINO LANDSCAPING

Full Service Lawn Maintenance



Residential & Commercial

Awesome Services & Great Rates

FREE Estimates • Licensed • Insured

For details call Tony

(508) 234-6227

www.CarlinoLandscaping.com





# Ready for your next ride?

See how much money Central One can help you save on your next vehicle! We make car buying quick and efficient, and offer the same great rate for new, used, or refinanced vehicles.

Apply online or at our Milford branch  
conveniently located at 82 Prospect Street

RATES AS LOW AS

4.62%

APR\*



[centralfcu.com](http://centralfcu.com) • 508-482-5371

\*Annual Percentage Rate. Rates effective as of 1/10/25. Rates are subject to change. Please visit [www.centralfcu.com/loans/auto-loans](http://www.centralfcu.com/loans/auto-loans) for more information. Federally insured by NCUA.



# 'Their eyes light up!'

See how Toshiba Grant funding enhances skill development at BVT

UPTON – Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has received a \$3,390 STEM grant from the Toshiba America Foundation. The school has used the supplemental funds to purchase an oscilloscope training board and ten oscilloscopes for its Engineering and Robotics program. The equipment is necessary to enhance students' understanding of circuit board functions and teach them how to adjust waveforms to produce desired outcomes.

Recently, sophomore students in Mr. Timothy Oliveira's digital electronics course used the grant-acquired equipment in a fun and engaging assignment. Using the instructor training board, Mr. Oliveira demonstrated how students should use an oscilloscope, a diagnostic in-

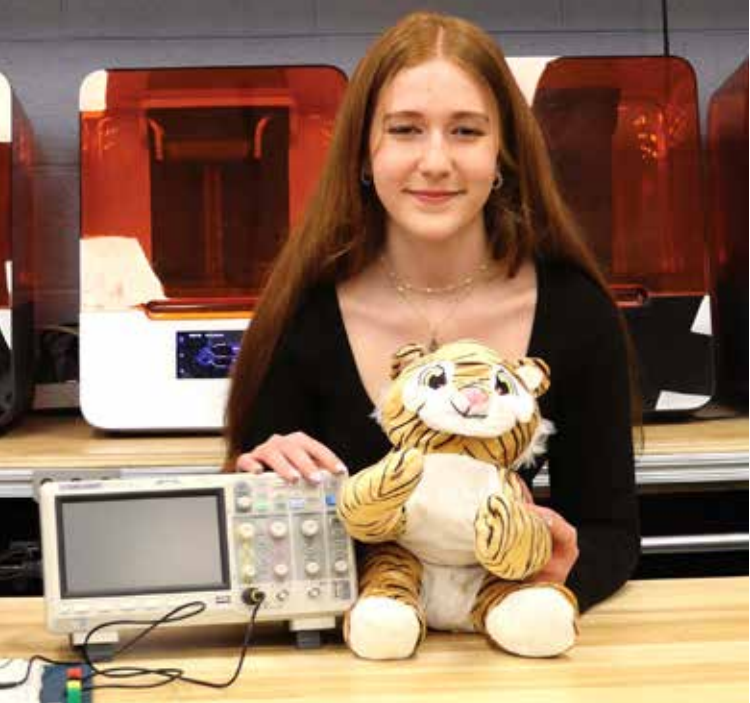
strument, to draw a graph of an electrical signal and create a circuit board to illuminate the eyes of a stuffed animal to complete the critter project successfully.

"Learning how to use the equipment properly was important to me," said Charlotte Lewis of Uxbridge, a sophomore in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT. "I enjoyed creating a circuit board and adjusting waveforms to produce a pulsing light in the eyes of the plush tiger. I'm confident that the skills learned through this project will continue to help me in the future."

"Understanding how to use an oscilloscope is crucial for troubleshooting, designing, and maintaining electronic circuits. Our students need oscilloscope skills to prepare for and pass certification examinations that

assist with employment," explained Mr. Oliveira. "With an increasing demand for skilled technicians, preparing our students with in-demand skills to meet employer needs and expectations increases their employability."

"As a grant recipient, we are proud to provide our students and teachers with the tools and equipment they need without impacting our tax-payers," said BVT's Superintendent-Director, Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick. "Increased access to modern industry equipment paired with inquiry-based approaches to our curriculum makes learning here interesting and fun while preparing our students for success in STEM-related careers. It is exciting to see the moment they grasp the subject matter, and their eyes light up!"



Charlotte Lewis of Uxbridge, a sophomore in the Engineering & Robotics program at BVT, has completed the critter project and holds a plush tiger with pulsing eyes. Image credit Charlotte Lewis Critter Project

Brand Spankin' New  
2025 TOYOTA

RAV4 XLE SUV  
ADV AWD - 2.5L

• 27/33 MPG City/Hwy • Lane Departure

MSRP: \$36,319

BUY FOR AS LOW AS: **\$34,419<sup>+</sup>**

LEASE FOR AS LOW AS: **\$339<sup>\*</sup>**  
PER MONTH • PLUS TAX

SAVE \$1900  
42 RAV4s AVAILABLE

\*New 2025 RAV4 XLE AWD with MSRP: \$36,319. Lease requires approved credit; based on 10,000 miles per year. \$0.15 per mile excess. Lease for \$339 per month for 36 months with \$4,439 due at signing (including \$3,450 cash or trade down, first month's payment of \$339, and acquisition of \$650). Tax, title, registration, and inspection fees are additional. \$0 Security deposit. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, excess wear/tear, and \$350 disposition fee where permitted by law. Example Stk# SW531907. Offer ends 04/30/2025.

Brand Spankin' New  
2025 TOYOTA

TACOMA SR5  
4x4 - i-FORCE 2.4L

• Double Cab • Alloys • Lane Departure • 5-ft bed

MSRP: \$43,434

BUY FOR AS LOW AS: **\$42,934<sup>+</sup>**

LEASE FOR AS LOW AS: **\$549<sup>\*</sup>**  
PER MONTH • PLUS TAX

SAVE \$500  
40 TACOMAs AVAILABLE

\*New 2025 Tacoma SR5 2.4L Double Cab with MSRP: \$43,434. Lease requires approved credit; based on 10,000 miles per year. \$0.15 per mile excess. Lease for \$549 per month for 36 months with \$4,198 due at signing (including \$2,999 cash or trade down, first month's payment of \$549, and acquisition of \$650). Tax, title, registration, and inspection fees are additional. \$0 Security deposit. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, excess wear/tear, and \$350 disposition fee where permitted by law. Example Stk# SM118748. Offer ends 04/30/2025.

GO THE  
DISTANCE

300 FORTUNE BOULEVARD | MILFORD, MA 01757

508-488-2382 • [IMPERIALTOYOTAMA.COM](http://IMPERIALTOYOTAMA.COM)

NOW SERVICING ALL MAKES AND MODELS | MON-TH 9-9, FRI & SAT 9-6, SUN 12-6

IMPERIAL TOYOTA

TOYOTA

TOYOTA

\*SALE ENDS 04/30/2025. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION OR DISCOUNTS. PRICES NOT VALID WITH PRIOR SALES. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. PRICE INCLUDES ALL APPLICABLE REBATES AND INCENTIVES INCLUDING \$1,000 IMPERIAL TRADE ASSIST. SEE US FOR DETAILS. DELIVERY MUST BE TAKEN FROM DEALER STOCK. CUSTOMER'S FINAL PAYMENT MAY BE HIGHER OR LOWER DEPENDING ON FINAL TRANSACTION PRICE. ADVERTISED PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE TAX, TITLE, REGISTRATION AND \$595 DOCUMENTATION FEE. THE BUY FOR PRICE REQUIRES DEALERSHIP SOURCE FINANCING. 7 DAY OR 200 MILE RETURN EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR YOUR TOTAL CONFIDENCE - IF YOU'RE NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR IMPERIAL CERTIFIED USED VEHICLE, BRING IT BACK WITHIN 7 DAYS OR 200 MILES AND WE WILL GIVE YOU A CREDIT OF YOUR FULL PURCHASE PRICE TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF ANOTHER IN STOCK VEHICLE. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. PHOTOS ARE FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. CALL 1-508-488-2382 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT TO TEST DRIVE.

FREE PRESS



Scan this QR CODE to visit our Facebook Page



BVT PINNING

continued from page 1

of 2025 was held at BVT on January 27. The ceremony, which signifies a rite of passage from nursing student to nurse, began with welcoming remarks from PN Coordinator Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA. Monks spoke highly of the program, stakeholders, and the fifteen new nurses, who have proven they're ready to take the National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nurses exam.

In his remarks, BVT's Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal, Mr. Anthony Steele

II, spoke about the essence of nursing. He said, "As you enter this next chapter, remember that nursing is about more than just what you do; it's about how you do it. It's about making a difference in the lives of your patients, their families, and the communities you serve. Your presence, your empathy, your kindness - these qualities are every bit as important as the technical skills you've learned in the classroom."

Class President Xivanna Millin gave the class address. The guest speaker, Melissa Ferguson, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing at Bethany Nursing Center, spoke about the dire need for more nurses. In closing, she said, "Tonight, we witness these

graduates dedicate themselves to the nursing profession. I would be honored to work alongside any of you."

The fifteen graduates proudly received their nursing certificates and were pinned. BVT's Superintendent-Director, Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, was recognized for his years of service and continued support of the nursing program. Dr. Fitzpatrick could not attend; his sister, Nancy Holland, proudly accepted a pin to honor their mother, Helen Fitzpatrick, a nurse and an inspiration for this Moonlight Program.

In addition to the presentation of certificates and pins, Senator Fattman provided a citation for each graduate.

Representative Murray provided a citation for the Milford graduates. Representative Muradian provided a citation for the Northbridge graduates. Xivanna Karelys Millin received the Faculty Recognition Award. Phiona Sebutinde received an Outstanding Academic Achievement award.

If you're ready to take that next step toward a new and exciting career, one of the Moonlight Programs might be for you. The Practical Nursing program accepts in-district and out-of-district applicants. For more information, visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/practical-nursing](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/practical-nursing).

Submitted by BVT

FREE PRESS

Published Monthly on the 2nd Thursday Mailed FREE to the Communities of Upton & Mendon Circulation: 6000 households & businesses

**Publisher**  
Chuck Tashjian

**Editor**  
Theresa Knapp

**Send Editorial to:**  
[editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com](mailto:editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com)

**Advertising Sales**  
Susanne Odell Farber  
508-954-8148  
[sue@odellconsult.com](mailto:sue@odellconsult.com)

**Advertising Sales Manager**  
Jen Schofield  
508-570-6544  
[jenschofield@localtownpages.com](mailto:jenschofield@localtownpages.com)

**Creative Design & Layout**  
Michelle McSherry  
Kim Vasseur  
Wendy Watkins

**Ad Space Deadline** is the Friday 13 days prior to publication date.

**Ad Artwork Deadline** is the Wednesday 8 days prior to publication date.

**Reader Submission Deadline** is the 25th day of the month preceding the publication date. For example, items should be submitted by Feb. 25 to be included in the March issue.

**Please submit to:**  
[editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com](mailto:editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com)

Free Press assumes no financial liability for errors or omissions in printed advertising and reserves the right to reject/edit advertising or editorial submissions.

© Copyright 2025 Free Press

AGE 102

continued from page 1

Olive was born on Dec. 1, 1922. A new pope was elected, Prohibition was in full swing, and Mussolini was marching on Rome.

Snap back to 2025 – On the TV, a documentary about WWII played at a high volume on the History Channel, highlighting an event she watched develop in her life.

Her son, Fred, age 73, sat in a recliner next to his mother, leav-

ing only enough room between them to walk, and for their dog Remy, a tiny blonde Chiweenie, to flit excitedly back and forth.

"Oh god, I can only imagine the things she's seen, you know?," Fred said, scratching behind Remy's ears.

Fred lives with his mother and acts as her primary caretaker.

Olive spent the first eight years of her life in Upton, until her father passed.

"I left Upton to live in Auburn when my father died, back in 1930, to live with my grandmother," she said. "I didn't really know my father well. I don't remember a whole lot from when he was around." Olive was just eight at the time of her father's passing. Needing the help, her mother packed up and moved Olive and her three brothers to a small house in Au-

burn where their grandmother lived.

In 1947, Olive married a firefighter named Francis Aldrich. She then moved back to Upton, where she remained, working as a cafeteria worker and a clerk at a local store.

After 45 years of marriage and three children, Francis passed away in 1988.

Olive said her longevity has been a blessing, but it also comes at a price, she said.

Olive has been blessed with three children, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and so far, two great-great-grandchildren.

The price, however, has been watching the family she grew up with pass away. "It has been [heartbreaking], yes," she said solemnly.

One thing is certain, Fred

said, their family tree has deep, American roots.

"Someone at Town Hall told me once that we have relatives that came over on the Mayflower," he piped in. "I wouldn't doubt if we were Colonists, but I haven't been bragging about it because I ain't sure," he said, letting out a hearty laugh.

Olive said she's ultimately unsure of when her family made their way to America. According to Olive, her grandparents were born Americans, but she's unsure how far back it goes.

In the last 102 years, humanity has seen its largest advancements. From the automobile to the personal computer, Olive has witnessed what only a few remaining can claim.

Despite all that, Olive says she's lived a quiet, simple life, and that's just fine with her.

Happy Spring!

FROM YOUR LOCAL FAVORITE GROOMER

Dog Grooming Services

The Bark ARK

Family Owned & Operated For Over 50 Years!

COUNTRY HILLS PLAZA Rt. 16, MENDON • 508-473-4744




3 YEARS in a ROW!




*You are Welcome Here*


# HOLY WEEK SERVICES




**PALM SUNDAY**  
**Service:**  
 4/13 at 9:30am



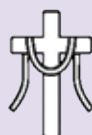
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**TENEBRAE Service:**  
 4/17 at 7pm




**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Service:**  
 4/18 at 3-7pm  
 Private Reflection




**EASTER SUNRISE**  
**Service:**  
 4/20 at 6am  
 Kiwanis Beach



**EASTER FAMILY Service:**  
 4/20 at 9:30am Followed by Egg Hunt




**1 CHURCH STREET**  
**UCC/UMC**  
[UnitedParishUpton.org](http://UnitedParishUpton.org)



## UNITED PARISH OF UPTON

*Where Heart, Soul and Body Come Together*





## Taft Public Library Calendar of Events

29 North Avenue, Mendon • 508-473-3259 • TaftPublicLibrary.org • HOURS: Tues. & Wed. 10-7 • Thurs. 3-7 • Fri. 12-5 • Sat. 9-12 • Sun. & Mon. CLOSED

### ADULT PROGRAMS APRIL 2025

**Upcoming Events:**  
To register for an event, click on the Library Event Calendar & Registration link at the top of the library's homepage (www.taftpubliclibrary.org).

**Adult Handcrafting Group**  
Let's get crafty! Join us on Wednesday, April 16 at 2 p.m. downstairs in the library and get your craft on! Bring your own craft project, whatever it might be, to work on while you visit. Intended for adults. No registration is required. Crafts are NOT supplied.

**Adult Book Club**  
The Adult Book Club will meet next on Monday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the library to discuss *Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper. For upcoming book clubs contact the library at 508-473-3259

to request copies of the books or log in to your account from our website to request them through interlibrary loan. Upcoming books for the Adult Book Club in May are as follows:

Monday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m.: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and the poetry of Atticus  
Monday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m.: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus

**Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club**  
The Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club typically meets downstairs in the library on a quarterly basis. This year the group will read and discuss five nonfiction titles. Those interested are asked to stop at the downstairs desk to sign the Footnotes registration sheet and pick up a copy of the latest book.

Upcoming books in the Footnotes series:  
June (date TBD): *How the Word*

*is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith

**Awards Book Club**  
New to our slate of adult book clubs is Awards Book Club! Hosted by Taft Library Assistant Jane Blackwood, the Awards Book Club meets on a quarterly basis to discuss fiction and nonfiction award winners of the year. Jane selects from the books that took home the coveted Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Booker Prize and more! Stop at the downstairs circulation desk to pick up the latest Awards book for discussion. The book club will be discussing the 2025 National Book Award winner for Fiction *James* by Percival Everett on Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m.

**Ellen Henry Presents The Spring Floral Basket Workshop**  
Join the Friends of the Taft



Public Library for a fun evening at Lucille's Floral Designs, 146 Mendon Street, Uxbridge, MA. We will create a beautiful spring floral basket as instructed by Kate Viera, the owner of Lucille's. Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m. All materials will be supplied. Preregistration and payment are required. Register at taftpubliclibrary.org \$30 per person (no refunds). Make checks out to the "Friends of the Taft Public Library." Sponsored in part by the Friends of the Taft Public Library.

**A Tea-tasting and Reenactment of the Fourth First Lady Dolley Madison**  
The Friends of the Taft Public Library present a tea-tasting followed by a visit from First Lady Dolley Madison on Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p.m. The tea-tasting will run from 6 - 6:30 p.m. and will feature three teas from the period served by HMS Tea. Then at 6:30 p.m. sit back as Dolley Madison

**TAFT LIBRARY**  
*continued on page 10*

SALMON

HEALTH & RETIREMENT

Spring into Comfort, Care & Community

Experience the perfect blend of independence, support, and community at SALMON at Medway. With exceptional amenities, engaging activities, and specialized care, including assisted living and memory care, we're here to meet your needs at every stage.

Call 508-533-3300 today to learn more — we can't wait to welcome you home.

SALMON at Medway

– 44 Willow Pond Circle

Medway, MA 02053

Templeman

TREE SERVICE, INC.

Serving the Community since 1980

WE PLANT TREES & SHRUBS!

Expert Hand Climbing Crews

Removals • Pruning

Stump Grinding • Cabling

FAST FREE ESTIMATES

Fully Insured • Workman's Comp

HELP WANTED

Climber • Bucket Operator • Groundsman

VALID DL/CDL | CALL or EMAIL

CONTACT US TODAY!

508-366-7693 • sales@templemantree.com

MAA & TCIA Member



# Donor-advised funds: A smart way to give



Mark Freeman, CEPA

## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Provided by Edward Jones

You can find several ways to make charitable gifts — but if you're looking for a method that can provide multiple tax benefits, along with an efficient platform for giving year after year, you might want to consider a donor-advised fund.

Once you open a donor-advised fund (DAF), you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded

stocks, bonds, CDs or non-cash items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. You can then decide how to invest the money, possibly following a strategy suggested by the DAF sponsor organization you've selected. The next step involves choosing which charities to support, how often to provide support (such as once a year) and how much to give each time. You're essentially free to direct the money to any charities you like, provided they're IRS-approved charitable organizations.

Now, let's look at the possible tax advantages offered by a DAF:

• **Immediate tax deduction** — A few years ago, changes in tax laws resulted in a vastly increased standard deduction, which, in turn, led to far fewer people itemizing on their tax returns and having less incentive, at least from a tax standpoint, to contribute to charities. But if you don't typically give enough each year to itemize deductions, you could combine several

years' worth of giving into one contribution to a DAF and take a larger deduction in that tax year. And you can claim that deduction, even though the DAF may distribute funds to charities over several years.

• **Tax-free growth of earnings** — Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or the charitable groups that receive grants from the DAF.

• **Avoidance of capital gains taxes** — When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or for that matter, virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid paying the capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due if you were to simply sell the asset and then donate the proceeds to charitable organizations. Plus, by receiving the appreciated asset, rather than the proceeds from a sale, the charitable groups can gain more from your contribution. And you can also take a tax deduction for your donation.

While these potential tax benefits can certainly make a DAF an attractive method of charitable giving, you should be aware of some potential tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable, and you can't access the money for any reason other than charitable giving. Also, your investment options are limited to what's available in the DAF program you've chosen. And DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to the fees charged on the underlying investments.

You may want to consult with your financial professional about other potential benefits and tradeoffs of DAFs and whether a DAF can help you with your charitable giving goals. Also, different DAF sponsors offer different features, so you will want to do some comparisons. And because DAFs can have such significant implications for your tax situation, you should consult with your tax professional before taking action.

If a DAF is appropriate for your situation, though, consider it carefully — it might be a good way to support your charitable giving efforts for years to come.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

Mark Freeman, CEPA  
Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
77 West Main Street,  
Hopkinton, MA  
508-293-4017  
[Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com](mailto:Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com)

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY EDWARD JONES FOR USE BY YOUR LOCAL EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

**FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS**

**CALL TODAY!**  
**508-918-4648**

Gerald Moran, Owner  
License # PL36504-J  
Insured



PLEASE RECYCLE ME!

**METROWEST EMS EDUCATORS**  
Accredited Training Institute

**EMT Technician Courses\***  
**HYBRID CLASSES STARTING IN JUNE AT**  
**Blackstone Valley Technical High School**

\*Required Course to become EMT Certified

**Register today at [mwemse.com](http://mwemse.com)**  
**[info@mwemse.com](mailto:info@mwemse.com) | 508.397.1437**

**REGISTRATION OPEN**

**UptonRec.com**

**KIWANIS BEACH, UPTON**

**KIDS @PLAY**

- **Grade K-6**
- **Leader in Training Program Grade 7-8**

**OUR ACTIVITIES:**  
**Swimming, Kayaking, Field Games, Arts & Crafts, Weekly Field Trips including Breezy Waterslides, Southwick's Zoo, Urban Air and more!**



# Pet of the Month: Meet Matt



Matt is a lovely young tiger tux who resides in our Special Needs Room. He's quite shy initially but warms up to people quickly. Once he's comfortable with you, all he wants is your attention. He loves to be by your side. When Matt first came to our shelter he was terrified of people. Nowadays Matt is the first cat to scamper down to the floor and wait quietly for pets when we walk into the room.

Matt would do best in a calm home as sudden movements still make him nervous. If you get down to his level and interact with him gently, you will be rewarded with his eager affection.

Matt enjoys spending time with his friends in the Special Needs room, so we could see him enjoying a home with another FIV+ cat companion. Cats with FIV can lead normal lives, both in quality and duration. They should be monitored closely for infections and dental issues. Like all cats, regular veterinary checkups and a high-quality diet are recommended to ensure that Matt remains happy and healthy.

Matt will be waiting patiently for his forever family to come and take him home.



To meet Matt, please visit the Milford Humane Society at [milfordhumane.org](http://milfordhumane.org) or call 508-473-7008 for more information.

## FRAME Sale!

IN-STOCK ITEMS ONLY

50% OFF

30% OFF

- Carolina Herrera
- Gant
- MaxMara
- Adrienne Vittadini Mens
- Marc Jacobs
- Cosmopolitan

- Tom Ford
- Vera Wang
- Coach
- Kate Spade Sun
- Lilly Pulitzer Sun
- Ray Ban

IN-HOUSE LAB

Dr. Steven Perryman, O.D.

HOPKINTON VISION CENTER

508.435.4711

10 Cedar Street, Hopkinton • [HopkintonVision.com](http://HopkintonVision.com)

OPEN 8am - 4pm MON through FRI • Appointment preferred but not required

Scan this QR CODE to visit our Website

[FREE PRESS](#)

## POWERED BY PROPANE

### TAKE LIFE OUTDOORS

Fireplaces & Fire Pits • Grilling • Generators  
Pool & Spa Heating • Outdoor Kitchens  
Patio Heating & Lighting • Home Heating

#### MEDWAY OIL & PROPANE

"Your Total Home Comfort Company"

Call today to make your life better with propane & ask about our NEW Customer Programs!

508.533.6561

[info@medwayoilpropane.com](mailto:info@medwayoilpropane.com)  
[medwayoilpropane.com](http://medwayoilpropane.com)



## Upton Town Library Calendar of Events

9 Milford Street, Upton • 508-529-6272 • [UptonLibrary.org](http://UptonLibrary.org) • HOURS: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9-8 • Mon., Fri. & Sat. 9-4 • Sun. CLOSED

By Matthew Bachtold, Library Director and Lee Ann Murphy, Children's Librarian

### All Fun and Games!

Come to one of our gaming events in April:

*Tabletop Game Night for Adults* – Thursday, April 17

Join our tabletop game series for adults! New games are featured each month such as 7 Wonders, Mysterium, and Azul. Meets every third Thursday of the month from 5:15 - 7:30 p.m. Beginners and experienced players both welcome! Register at [uptonlibrary.org](http://uptonlibrary.org).

*Gaming Club* – Tuesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 17, 2 - 5 p.m.

We've got a Play Station 5 and tons of board games and we'd love to have tweens and teens join us! New games each session! On the 3rd Tuesday/Thursday each month, 2 - 5 p.m.

For ages 8 to 16. No registration required.

*Magic the Gathering introduction* –

Tuesday, April 22, 4 - 6 p.m.

Join us for an introduction to the popular card game, Magic the Gathering - Commander format. If you have a Commander deck, please bring it to play. Extra decks will be available to borrow if you've never played before, or don't have a deck ready.

### New Tween Programs Ages 8-16!

*Chess Club* – 1st Tuesday/Thursday each month, 2 - 5 p.m. - NEW!

Learn to play chess or just play with new players. We will have a student from BVT to help teach those new to the game. For ages 8 to 16. No registration required.

*Crafting Club* – 2nd Tuesday/Thursday each month, 2 - 5 p.m. - NEW!

Feeling crafty? Join us as we create new projects each month. Beading, crochet, painting – the possibilities are endless! For ages 8 to 16. No

registration required.

### Adult Events

*Yarn Bird Craft* - Wednesday, April 16, 6 - 7 p.m. Ages 12 - Adult

Join us in making cute decorative birds out of yarn! This program is free and all materials are provided. Register online at [uptonlibrary.org](http://uptonlibrary.org).

*Virtual Program: No More Curse! A History of the Red Sox with Author and Historian David Kruh.* Monday, April 28, 7 - 8 p.m.

David takes us to the roots of Boston baseball. Relive the (sometimes frustrating) saga of the Boston Red Sox and their ultimately successful struggle for a World Series championship.

Registration required to receive the Zoom link. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library and is offered in collaboration with a multitude of MA Libraries.

*Drum Circle with Dave Curry* - Saturday, May 3, 7 - 9 p.m.

Ages 8 - Adult

Join facilitator Dave Curry for an evening of freestyle drumming. Instruction and extra drums are provided, but you can also bring your own drums and percussion instruments. No prior experience is necessary, so the circle is suitable for beginners on up to experienced drummers. Registration is requested. \*Now a monthly program, sponsored by Friends of the Upton Library\*

*Virtual Author Talk Series*

View free online author talks, either live or recorded. Register and get more information at the library website, or at <https://library.org/uptontownlibrary>

Author Talk with **Gregg Hurwitz**: The Thrill of Writing Action, Adventure, and Suspense - Thursday, April 24

at 7 p.m.

Author Talk with **Dr. David H. Rosmarin**: How to Use Anxiety to Thrive - Wednesday, May 7, at 2 p.m.

### Children's & Young Adult Events

*Movie Event* – Friday, April 18 at 1 p.m.

Check the Upton library website for details about our monthly movie events! No registration required. For ages 5+. Snacks will be available from the Friends of the Upton Town Library and monetary donations are welcomed.

*Cartoon Drawing & Inking* – April 23 at 5:30 p.m.

**UPTON LIBRARY**  
*continued on page 12*

# Hopkinton Center for the Arts

## Sunday, April 13 2 to 5 p.m.

Ceramics | Dance | Music  
Theater | Visual Arts | Filmmaking  
*All the arts under one roof*

Stop by and visit with all departments and learn about adult and youth summer programming.

- Craft activities for kids
- Face painting
- Ice cream
- Free gift for attending

98 Hayden Rowe Street | Hopkinton  
RSVP: [www.HopArtsCenter.org](http://www.HopArtsCenter.org)





**NOW REGISTERING**  
for  
**2025 - 2026**  
School Year

### PRESCHOOL

**NOW OFFERING**  
**2 DAY or 3 DAY PROGRAMS**  
Children 2 years  
9 months thru 4 years

### PRE-K

**5 DAY PROGRAM**  
Children  
4 years  
by Sept. 1

A play-based preschool where children play, learn and grow in a warm, nurturing environment. We are not a religious based program.

**Please check us out at [UnitedParishELC.org](http://UnitedParishELC.org)**

### BEFORE School Program

Monday thru Friday  
7- 9 am  
Open to Upton Memorial Elementary Students

### AFTER School Program

Monday thru Friday  
3:15 - 6 pm  
Open to Upton Memorial Elementary Students

Official Upton School Bus Stop for Memorial Students

**Contact Robin Jokela for a Personal Tour**  
508.529.6382 • [UnitedParishSchool@gmail.com](mailto:UnitedParishSchool@gmail.com)  
[unitedparishelc.org](http://unitedparishelc.org) • 1 Church Street, Upton



## TAFT LIBRARY

*continued from page 6*

(portrayed by reenactor Lady J/Janet Parnes) visits with program participants to discuss her life in Colonial America as an early feminist, champion for women, and First Lady to James Madison. Registration for this free program is required as space is limited. Visit [www.taftpubliclibrary.org](http://www.taftpubliclibrary.org) and click on the Library Event Calendar & Registration link to register.

### German Conversation Club

Are you looking for a place to practice what German you remember or to improve your German vocabulary? Conversations in German is no pressure, just fun! Lead by Library Assistant (and Mendon resident) Monika Schmid, the group typically meets the last Monday of each month. Registration is required. To register, visit our website!

Next club date: Monday, April 21 at 6 p.m.

### Check out Mango Languages at Taft Library!

Visit the Taft Public Library website for access to the Mango Languages platform. If you have an interest in

learning a language, Mango provides lessons in over 70 languages. Children can try their hand at language learning with Mango Little PIM, a platform designed just for them, and for those interested in learning American sign language we provide access to Mango ASL. Mango's Intuitive Language Construction methodology helps build skills in vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, culture, comprehension, and retention. To see all of the Mango options the Taft Library offers scroll down the left-hand side of our webpage to the Databases section.

### Friends of the Taft Public Library Meeting

The Friends of the Library meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. downstairs in the Art Holmes Community Room, unless it falls on a holiday or during a school vacation. All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend! If you plan on attending, it's always a good idea to call the library at 508-473-3259 or email the Friends at [friendsoftaftlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftaftlibrary@gmail.com) to confirm the date and time of the meeting. The group will do its best to post any meeting changes on the Taft Library website.



## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS APRIL 2025

Registration is required for all programs. Please log onto our website: [www.taftpubliclibrary.org](http://www.taftpubliclibrary.org) and find the events page to register along with more information for the programs.

### Itty Bitty Story Time

Itty Bitty Storytime is designed for our youngest patrons birth to 3 years old. Join us for a lot of fun on Tuesdays and select Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

### Story & Craft Time

Join us for Story and Craft Time! Perfect for the preschool-aged child! All sessions take place on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

### Alphabet Storytime

It's all about the alphabet! Each week we will focus on a different letter. We will read a couple of books, sing songs, and learn about the letter of the week! Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Please note there is no Alphabet Storytime the last Wednesday of the month.

### Coffee and Conversations & Puppet Storytime

Dates: Wednesday: 4/30, 5/14 and 6/25 Coffee & Conversations is from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Join us for an informal playtime where families will be able to build social connections and learn about early childhood development and family-friendly resources. The library will supply Muffin House Muffins!

Please stay for the 10:30 a.m. Puppet Storytime. Join Newton & Friends of Through Me to You Puppetry for songs and stories. At the end of the 30-minute show, children can greet the puppets. Geared for children 2 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome!

### Lego Club

Back by popular demand! During this one-hour building session we will be led by the "Lego Lady" Kim Steadman. No need to bring any Legos! This program is great for all ages ... as long as they don't eat the Legos! Tuesday: 5/13 and 6/10 at 4:30 p.m.

### Puppet Storytime with Leigh Baltzer

Join Newton & Friends of Through Me to You Puppetry for songs and stories. At the end of the 30-minute show, children can greet the puppets.

Geared for children 2 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome! Register today for Newton's visit back to the Taft on Tuesday 4/15, 5/20 and 6/17 at 4:30 p.m.

### Preschool Kidding Around Yoga with Meredith Daelhousen

We will learn yoga poses, dance, sing, and meditate. This class is all about fun. All abilities are welcome! Mats are available, or feel free to bring your own. Wednesday, May 28 and June 11 at 9:30 a.m.

### Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins

Join Deb Hudgins for a 30-minute music and movement theme-based program which features singing and guitar music for young children (infants & preschool). Join us on Tuesdays: April 29, and May 27. The program starts promptly at 10:30 a.m.

### Tutors with Tails

Meet Sprite! Sprite is a therapy dog who loves children and love books. Sprite and her owner Janet will visit the Taft on the last Tuesday of each month. Register today for the opportunity to read to Sprite! Spots are limited.

### Book Clubs

**8-12 Book Club:** We will be reading *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. The book club discussion will be held downstairs in the library on Tuesday, April 15 at 5 p.m. The book club will include a discussion, pizza, and refreshments.

**Graphic Novel Book Club:** This month we will be reading *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier. Join us on Tuesday, April 29 at 5 p.m. to discuss this month's book pick! Pizza and refreshments will be served.

**6-9 Book Club:** We will be reading *Hero Dog! Hilde Cracks the Case* by Hilde Lysiak. The book club discussion will be held downstairs in the library on Tuesday, May 6 at 5 p.m. The 45-minute book club will include a discussion, pizza and an activity. Books are available at the upstairs circulation desk.



**With our *YOU*nique mortgage options, your dreams can come true.**

If you're looking to refinance or buy a home, we offer mortgage solutions that are *YOU*nique. At Charles River Bank, our Mortgage Consultants will provide the expertise you need and a truly *YOU*nique banking experience.

Talk with a Charles River Bank Mortgage Consultant today, or visit our online Mortgage Center anytime. We'll show you why Charles River Bank is *YOU*nique.



**Charles River Bank**  
Personal Connections. Powerful Solutions.

**CharlesRiverBank.com**  
508-533-8661  
70 Main Street • Medway  
2 South Maple Street • Bellingham  
1 Hastings Street • Mendon



Equal Housing Lender

NMLS# 743045  
Member FDIC, Member DIF



# Upton Senior Center April events

**Mindful Meditation**  
*Friday, April 11 at 1 p.m.*  
Calm your mind and body so you can acknowledge & accept your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgment through Mindful Meditation with Robin Natanel. FREE!

**Intergenerational Music & Movement**  
*Monday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m.*  
Join us for Intergenerational Music & Movement program featuring performer Deb Hudgins. This interactive program, perfect for children and adults to enjoy together. Deb plays guitar and sings, and is sure to incorporate stories, dancing, fingerplays, games and more at each of her fun, themed performances. Limited Space.

**Breakfast Trip**  
*Wednesday, April 16 at 10 a.m.*  
Enjoy breakfast with your friends at the Senior Center! We'll be dining at Upton's own Cote's Kitchen this month. RSVP by April 11.

**Upton Memory Café**  
*Wednesday, April 16 at 2:30 p.m.*  
The Upton Memory Café was designed by Nipmuc High

School volunteers to meet the needs of individuals affected by Alzheimer's and dementia in Upton surrounding communities. If you or your loved one are experiencing problems with memory or thinking, we encourage you to attend the Memory Café. It is a great opportunity for engagement, socialization & support.

**Trader Joe's - Shopping Trip**  
*Friday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m.*  
Haven't been to the new Trader Joe's in Milford? Now's your chance! Join us for a special trip to see what all the hype is about. Limited space available.

**Upton Police Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner**  
*Wednesday, April 30 at 4:30 p.m.*  
The Upton Police are back to protect and serve... Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner! Join us for the Upton Police Department's Annual Spaghetti & Meatball Supper. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal and meet the newly appointed Chief Palmieri! RSVP by April 23 to save your spot. Shuttle Service Available. Free for Upton seniors!



**Tech Support is back!**  
Welcome, Ayden! Ayden is a BVT student with a strong passion for Information Technology. He will be hosting office hours at the center to offer tech support to seniors. If you're looking for assistance, please contact the office for upcoming dates and to schedule an appointment.

# Kids@Play program registration now open

The Upton Recreation Commission is excited to offer our summer Kids@Play (grades K-6) and Leader In Training (L.I.T.; grades 7, 8) programs for 2025! These programs are open to residents of Upton and surrounding towns and run weekdays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. with drop-off from 8 - 9 a.m. and pickup from 4 - 5 p.m. Extended day options are available for a small additional fee and allow drop-off as early as 7:30 a.m. and pickup as late as 5:30 p.m.

When Kids@Play participants arrive in the morning, they will be presented with a schedule of activities for the day. These include all the favorites such as kayaking, swimming, arts and crafts, sports, and all sorts of games. Kids@Play is excited to

continue offering theme weeks/activities, dress up days, and much more this summer! The goal is that your kids have the freedom to choose the activities that they will have the most fun with! The Kids@Play program also takes suggestions from kids (and parents) for these activities. Staffing is at a 6:1 ratio (vs industry standard of 10:1).

Optional field trips are also offered, with a full day of activities still happening at Kiwanis Beach for those who do not participate in the field trips. Field trip prices are dependent on costs for each venue. This year, field trips include PinZ bowling, Southwick's Zoo, Urban Air, and a Bravehearts Game, among others.

For more information, visit Uptonrec.com.

HOPKINTON  
VISION CENTER

Welcoming New Patients

Dr. Steven Perryman & Office Team

• Quality/Detailed Eye Exams

• Contact Lens Fitting

• Optical Lab and Repairs

• Extensive Frame Selection

• Dry Eye Specialist

• LASIK Consultations

• IPL and MiBoFlo

• Emergency Eye Care

Schedule an Appointment Today!

10 Cedar Street, Hopkinton  
HopkintonVision.com | 508.435.4711

SOUTHWICK'S  
ZOO 60<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

1965 - 2025

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE!  
SOUTHWICKSZOO.COM



UPTON LIBRARY

continued from page 9

Patrons ages 8+ can join author/illustrator Jonathan Todd, creator of the preteen graphic novel *Timid*, for a special 2-hour workshop! He will teach how to draw cartoon figures and have participants practice using a brush, ink, and felt-tip pens to create finished comic art. For ages 8-16. Pre-registration required.

*Building with Magic Nuudles* – April 25 at 1 p.m.

Elementary aged students can join us for a special building event using magic Nuudles! We will share a story, learn about basic building terminology, and build with these fun packing peanut type materials. For ages 5+. Pre-registration required.

Monthly Library Events – Register now!

All programs and events require pre-registration at [uptonlibrary.org](http://uptonlibrary.org) or call 508-529-6272. Registrations open the month prior to events.

*Baby Storytime* – Fridays at 9:30

and 10:30 a.m.

Baby Storytime is for ages birth to 3 and is held on Fridays. This is a 20-30-minute lapsit program featuring stories, songs, and nursery rhymes. Pre-registration required.

*Preschool Storytime* –Thursdays at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime is for ages 3 to 5 and is held on Thursdays. This is a 45-minute program featuring stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Pre-registration required.

*Drop-In Storytime* – April 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Children’s Department offers a Drop-In Storytime session, once a month. No registration required! This is a blend of our Baby and Preschool Storytimes; however, no craft will be provided. We will feature stories, songs, rhymes, and fun! This will be held in the Greatroom and will be a larger group size. For ages 0 to 5.

*Saturday Storytime* – April 26 at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month we offer a 30-45-minute Saturday Storytime, blending Baby and Preschool storytimes featur-

ing stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Can’t join us for our weekday programs? This event is just for you! For ages 0-5. Pre-registration required.

*Music & Movement* – May 5 and May 12 at 9:30 a.m.

This program features Deb Hudgins and her Pre-K Sing and Swing. It is an interactive program, perfect for children and their caregivers to enjoy together. This program is partially funded through a grant with Beginning Bridges CFCE in Uxbridge. For ages 1 to 5. Pre-registration is required.

*LEGO Club* – April 16 and May 7 at 4 p.m.

This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m. This group is led by Library Director, Matthew Bachtold, and is for ages 3 to 12. We provide the LEGOs while you have fun building and making new friends. Pre-registration is required.

*Storybook Art Club* – April 15 at 10 a.m.

This is a new program that will meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Children can enjoy a picture book and create a

craft inspired by the story! This month will feature the book *Potato Pants!* by Laurie Keller. We will then use real potatoes and tempera paint to make prints. Pre-registration required. For ages 3 to 5.

*Crafternoon* – April 24 at 3 p.m.

This is a new drop-in program that will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month. Children can make a simple craft using materials such as crayons, scissors, paint, and glue. This month, we are making April shower umbrellas! For ages 3+. No registration required.

*Kids’ Book Club* – May 7 at 4 p.m.

Our book club members explore popular juvenile chapter books on the first Wednesday of each month from 4 - 4:45 p.m. We will be discussing *I Survived the Black Death, 1348* by Lauren Tarshis. NEW AGE! This group is now for ages 7 to 10. We welcome new members all year round! Pre-registration required.

*Tween Book Club* – April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

This club is especially for our middle grade patrons, ages 10 to 14. This group reads popular middle grade titles selected by our members. This month, we will be discussing the title *The Color of Sound* by Emily Barth Isler. We welcome new members all year round! Pre-registration required.

Upton Reads Book Group

An eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction with meetings on the second Tuesday afternoon and Thursday evening of each month in the Community Center classroom, with a Zoom remote option. Tuesday, May 13 at 12:45 p.m., and Thursday, May 15 at 6:45 p.m.: *The Wedding People* by Allison Espach.



Fic or No Fic Book Group

An adult book group led by Librarian Micaela that alternates fiction and non-fiction selections. Meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30 at 6:45 p.m.: *Hera* by Jennifer Saint.

For more information or assistance with any library services, call 508-529-6272 or email [mbachtol@cwmares.org](mailto:mbachtol@cwmares.org)


Friends of the Library Update

Friends of the Upton Town Library are busy planning future fun events. Please come to our meeting Thursday, April 10, at the library from 6:30 p.m. Bring your ideas and thoughts for upcoming events!

Our plans for the May book sale (Saturday, May 17) are “full steam ahead”. Please bring books in good condition to the donation boxes by our bookshelf at the library. Thank you so much for donations and the support!

## Why lock your money into a CD when you can get a GREAT rate in a checking account?!


e by UniBank Checking		Basic Rate of Interest
2.99% APY <sup>1</sup>	2.99% APY <sup>1</sup> -1.20% APY <sup>1</sup>	0.01 % APY <sup>1</sup>
Rates on balances less than \$15,000	Rates on balances \$15,000 and above	On entire balance when minimum requirements are not met



Scan to open an account online or visit any UniBank branch! Find your nearest branch at [unibank.com/locations](http://unibank.com/locations).

# UNIBANK

[www.unibank.com](http://www.unibank.com)  
800.578.4270

 **MEMBER FDIC | NMLS #583135** <sup>1</sup> Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) effective as of 4/1/2025 and subject to change at any time after the account is open. The interest rate and annual percentage yield for your account depend upon the applicable rate tier. The interest rate and annual percentage yield for these tiers may change. The APY range assumes a maximum deposit of \$50,000 for illustration purposes only. If the eligibility requirements are not met the account will earn a lower interest rate and corresponding APY and will not be eligible for refund of ATM surcharge transaction fees. Refund of domestic ATM surcharge transaction fees are capped at \$25.00 per statement cycle. Non-UniBank ATM Surcharges are those fees charged by the bank that owns the non-UniBank ATM used. Fees may reduce earnings. The account does not have a maximum deposit limit. Minimum balance of \$10 to open the account. Limit one account per customer holding position of primary account holder. Other restrictions may apply, inquire for details.

• In order to be eligible for the disclosed Tier I and Tier II interest rate, Annual Percentage Yield (APY), and refund of domestic ATM Surcharges the following conditions must be met in a given statement cycle:

- A minimum of 8 posted and settled debit card purchase transactions during the statement cycle. Not all purchase transactions post or settle on the day they occur.
- Active enrollment in e-statements – you must sign into your online banking account at least once every 12 months to keep enrollment active.

# GIULIANO

CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING



**DECKS • KITCHEN REMODELS • ADDITIONS  
BATH REMODELS • ROOFING  
SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERS  
ENTRY DOORS • DORMERS • AND MORE!**

## 774-573-9811

FREE ESTIMATES • REFERENCES AVAILABLE • LICENSED & INSURED



# Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By Christie Vogt  
Staff Writer

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things



thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward

## Business spotlight

17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Upton and Mendon in particular, Schadler said they are very involved with these towns as their older son goes to Blackstone Valley Technical High School. They support the police and fire departments. In addition, their Resellables store is located half in Mendon and half in Bellingham.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit [affordable-junkremoval.com](http://affordable-junkremoval.com).

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

### CLARK'S DOG KENNEL

Northbridge, MA

**Book Your Spot Now!**

- Boarding:** All Private Suites w/an outside private run
- DayCare:** Get on our waitlist now
- Cuddles Happen A-Lot Here
- Look at the Huge Play Areas
- AC/Heated Suited Suites
- Playtime = Tired Happy Dogs
- Late Night Bio-Breaks for every Dog (At No Charge)

425 School St., Northbridge, MA  
Use this QR Code to link [www.clarksdogkennel.com](http://www.clarksdogkennel.com)

Email: [frontdesk@clarksdogkennel.com](mailto:frontdesk@clarksdogkennel.com)  
Phone: 508-234-9385

Model 84505R

UNMATCHED REPUTATION, OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS  
Your trusted local professional service & installer

**Jolicoeur**  
OVERHEAD DOORS  
Family-Owned since 1992

**LiftMaster**

**GARAGE DOOR EXPERTS**  
Call or visit our website today!  
[mygaragedoor.com](http://mygaragedoor.com) • 508-883-4522  
745 South Main St., Bellingham

See clearly. Close securely.  
Kids make it home from school? Did you close the garage door? Give yourself peace of mind that your family and home are safe and secure with the LiftMaster Secure View™ 84505R. The built-in camera lets you stream video, record it, and offers 2-way communication through the myQ app — which also allows you to remotely open and close your garage door from anywhere, at anytime.

Download the FREE myQ® app

myQ

Download on the App Store  
GET IT ON Google Play

\*View a live-stream of your garage for free. 7-day and 30-day video storage options are available via a monthly or yearly subscription. Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries and regions. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC. © 2022 The Chamberlain Group LLC. All Rights Reserved. LiftMaster, the LiftMaster logo, myQ and the myQ logo are registered trademarks of The Chamberlain Group LLC. 300 Windsor Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521 | [LiftMaster.com](http://LiftMaster.com) | Wi-Fi is a registered trademark of Wi-Fi Alliance 18967801



# Eye-Opening surgery: Corneal transplant gives patients a clearer outlook on life

*Dan Liu, MD*  
*Milford Franklin Eye Center*

In May 2023, a landmark surgery was performed at NYU Langone Health: a whole eye transplant. During this surgery, the entire eye – in addition to a portion of the face – was transplanted from a donor into a living human recipient for the purposes of facial reconstruction. While we are likely decades away from performing eye transplants that can restore vision, there are more than 49,000 transplants of a different kind performed in the United States annually which can successfully improve vision and save sight: corneal transplants.

**What is the cornea?**

The cornea is the transparent, dome shaped surface that acts as the front window to the eye. It plays a crucial role in focusing light rays entering the eye in

order to allow us to see clearly. When the cornea is damaged, it can become scarred, swollen, or opaque. In these cases, the visual effects can vary from increased light sensitivity, blurry vision, or even impaired vision to the point of blindness. Fortunately, for many individuals experiencing corneal damage, a corneal transplant, also known as a keratoplasty, may offer the opportunity to restore vision.

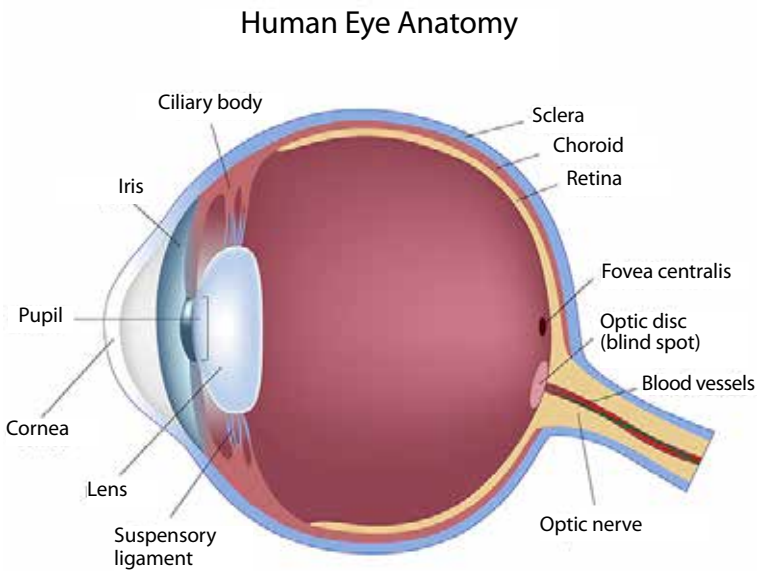
**Who needs a corneal transplant?**

There are various conditions, both genetic and acquired, that can affect the cornea and necessitate a corneal transplant. Common conditions include:

- Corneal dystrophies: These are inherited conditions that cause progressive clouding or scarring of the cornea. Fuchs’ dystrophy is the most common of these dystrophies, which often

runs in families. This is a condition in which the innermost layer of cells in the cornea, the endothelial cells, no longer function in keeping the cornea clear. As a result, fluid can build up in the cornea, causing it to be swollen and cloudy. Some patients with Fuchs’ dystrophy experience debilitating glare, whereas other patients can experience significant loss of vision.

- Keratoconus is a common condition for which corneal transplants are performed. In patients with keratoconus, the cornea becomes increasingly cone shaped over time rather than remaining dome shaped. This can lead to loss of vision as light rays bend or refract aberrantly off the irregularly shaped cornea. Individuals with keratoconus may experience progressive astigmatism and a decrease in vision.



- Other acquired conditions that may affect the health and clarity of the cornea include eye infections which can cause significant scarring, or even previous eye surgeries that can result in damage to the cornea.

**What is a corneal transplant?**

In diseases in which the cornea cannot be repaired with medications alone, an ophthalmologist who specializes in performing corneal transplants can restore the clarity and health of the cornea, as well as vision. In these sight saving surgeries, the diseased cornea is replaced with a clear, healthy cornea

from a human donor who has generously chosen to donate their organs after death. Luckily, in the United States, there is a well established infrastructure for tissue procurement such that people who require corneal transplants do not need to be on a prolonged waiting list in order to have surgery. By replacing the damaged tissue, a corneal transplant can significantly improve a person’s vision, enhance their quality of life, and reduce symptoms like pain or sensitivity to light. In this era of modern medicine, corneal transplants

**EYES**

*continued on page 15*

Optical Shop On-Site



MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Saturday & After Hours Available

WORLD-CLASS SURGICAL FACILITY - NO OR FEE CHARGE

ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ARE PRESENT FOR ALL SURGERIES

NOW ACCEPTING VSP VISION INSURANCE

NEW PATIENTS RECEIVE A FREE PAIR OF SELECT GLASSES



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



Mark Barsamian, D.O.



Dan Liu, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



Shalin Zia, O.D.



Donald L. Conn, O.D.



Dr. Purvi Patel, O.D.

SMILEFORVISION.COM

FRANKLIN OFFICE  
750 Union St.  
508-528-3344

MILFORD OFFICE  
160 South Main St.  
508-473-7939

MILLIS OFFICE  
730 Main St.  
508-528-3344

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

New England Steak & Seafood Restaurant



MAKE YOUR EASTER RESERVATIONS NOW!

9 SEATING TIMES AVAILABLE

12:00 noon

12:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m.



Route 16, Mendon • 508-473-5079

nesteakandseafood.com



EYES

continued from page 8

are very successful and last up to 10 to 15 years, with many lasting more than 30 years.

Are there different kinds of corneal transplants?

Since the introduction of corneal transplants in the 1900s, these surgeries have evolved to become more efficient with faster healing times and better visual outcomes. Corneal transplants can be full thickness or partial thickness transplants.

- Penetrating keratoplasty (PK):** Also known as a full thickness corneal transplant, this is the most traditional form of corneal transplant. In PK, the diseased cornea is removed by the surgeon, the donor cornea is sized to fit the patient's eye, and stitches are used to place the donor cornea in the eye. The surgery is performed when the cornea is severely scarred or damaged, affecting all of its layers.
- Descemet's Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEK):** In DSEK, only the innermost layer of the cornea, called the endothelium, is replaced. The rest of the corneal layers remain intact. This surgery is often used to treat conditions that affect the endothelium, such as Fuchs' dystrophy.

- Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK):** DMEK is a more advanced version of DSEK and is considered one of the most effective corneal transplant procedures for treating endothelial dysfunction. In DMEK, only the thinnest layer of tissue with endothelial cells are transplanted. Because of its precision, DMEK has a faster recovery time and better visual outcomes than traditional PK or DSEK procedures.

Do I need a corneal transplant?

To determine whether you would benefit from a corneal transplant, a thorough evaluation by an ophthalmologist is necessary to determine whether a transplant is appropriate. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we have corneal transplant surgeons who perform additional testing to evaluate the patient's eye health, including measurements of corneal thickness and imaging scans. We also have established relationships with eye banks, which are organizations that procure donated tissue and screen for quality.

For more details, see our ad on page 8.

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

Friends of Mendon Elders

As our thoughts turn to spring and the promise of warmer weather the Friends of the Mendon Elders are gearing up for our Progressive Yard Sale on June 7. To register to participate an application must be completed and returned to the Mendon Senior Center Saturday, May 3, 10, 17 and 24 between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. noon.

Applications are available at our Website or can be picked up at the Senior Center on the dates and times noted above. There is a \$25 registration fee which covers paid advertising, a yard sign, and listing in the booklet. To motivate buyers to visit all the participant locations, all buyers will be provided with a "Yard Sale Bingo" form when they come to pick up their booklets and map indicating yard sale locations. Every yard sale participant will have a unique stamp

and when a buyer visits their location they will stamp the buyers form. The buyer with the most stamps will win a special prize.

We would also like to remind everyone that our Scholarship Program is also underway. All Mendon Seniors enrolling in part-time or full-time post-secondary studies at an accredited two or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. are encouraged to apply for this \$1,000 scholarship.


The deadline to apply is May 9, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. The applicant must be a Mendon resident, commit to complete 20 hours of community service and submit a 200-word essay on a senior citizen who has had a positive impact on in their life, what that impact was and the

result. Applicants must submit a Letter of Recommendation and provide a list of extracurricular involvement.

Our first trip for 2025 is scheduled for June 18. This two-night trip to Cape Cod includes bus transportation, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and tours of Hyannis, Sandwich, Provincetown and Chatham as well as a trip to Martha's Vineyard and a visit to the JFK Museum.

The cost is \$405 per person double occupancy. Payments are due April 18, 2025. To reserve your spot, contact the Sr. Center 508-478-6175. For a complete list of all our planned trips, visit our website for details.

For additional information on these topics and all the Senior Friends news please visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofmendonelders/home>



# CPR Etc.

**CPR, AED, First Aid Training  
Bloodborne Pathogen**

On-Site Training  
Companies • Schools • Private (in-home)  
No Class Too Small • Anytime, Anywhere

**Susan Tetreault**  
Licensed & Insured

**508-473-3630**  
[cpr\\_etc@comcast.net](mailto:cpr_etc@comcast.net)



## LAB OF ALL TRADES

Your local handyman

Give Us a Call ... No Job Too Small

Bedrooms | Basements  
Bathrooms | Kitchens  
Decks, Patios, Yards | Garages  
Living Rooms | Dining Rooms

☒ Reliable

☒ Experienced

☒ Responsive

☒ Professional

☒ Insured

**LabofAllTrades.com | 508-377-2137**



**J.C. Parmenter Inc.**  
Septic Systems  
INSTALLED CLEANED REPAIRED

LICENSED  
TITLE 5  
INSPECTOR

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1920

**\$10 OFF**

**SEPTIC TANK CLEANING**  
with same-day payment

**CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE**

**24 Hour Emergency Support**

 **508-435-3381 • Hopkinton • JCParmenterSeptic.com**



# Mendon Senior Center news for April

## Tri-Valley Lunch Program

Meals are served Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 p.m. noon. The cost is \$3 donation per meal. Reservations must be made 48 hours in advance. Transportation is available. Meals are subject to change.\*Alternative meals.

*Thursday, April 10*  
Braised Beef & Gemelli Pasta\*

*Tuesday, April 15*  
Soup du Jour, Ranch Chicken Salad with Bacon\*

*Thursday, April 17*  
Maple Glazed Ham with Sour Cream/Chive Mashed Potatoes

*Tuesday, April 22*  
No Tri-Valley Meal ~ Pizza Luncheon following Bingo \$7\*

*Thursday, April 24*  
Shepherd's Pie, Carrots & Green Beans

*Tuesday, April 29*  
Teriyaki Beef and Steamed Rice

## Fitness Programs

Welcome back Evening Yoga with Faith Kennedy!  
Thursdays at 6 p.m., beginning April 17.  
Come join Faith and friends for a gentle yoga practice on Thursday nights! Call or stop by the center to register. Cost of the class is \$60 for eight weeks.

## Mendon Senior Walking Group

The Mendon Senior Walking Group will resume April 2 and will meet, weather permitting, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. at various locations: Monday in Milford starting at the municipal lot across from Sacred Heart Church to Louisa Lake; Wednesday in Hopedale on the trail around the pond; and Friday in Uxbridge along the canal at Riverbend Farm. The average distance we walk is approximately 2 miles. We're always open to different walking trails. We sometimes change it up a bit. Diane Howell, the group leader, requests email addresses and phone numbers to be sure all are aware of any walking changes/cancellations. If you are interested or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Diane at [diane.m.howell@icloud.com](mailto:diane.m.howell@icloud.com) or call her at 508-473-3081. New Walkers are always welcome. Please call the center for more information about all our exercise programs.

## New Players Welcome!

The Mendon Senior Center offers a variety of recreational

activities including:

- Cribbage – Wednesdays 9:45 a.m. The Cribbage group is always looking for new players, stop on Wednesdays at 9:45 a.m., all levels welcome.
- Hand, Knee and Foot card game – Tuesdays 1 p.m.
- Mah-Jong – Wednesdays & Thursdays 1 p.m.
- Brain Games – Thursdays 11:30 a.m.

Please check our schedule regarding days, times, and availability. Don't see your favorite game listed, please let us know what you'd like to see offered!

## Friends News-

The Friends of the Mendon Elders is gearing up for our Progressive Yard Sale being held on Saturday, June 7 (Rain Date June 8.) Once again, this year we are looking for sponsors, donations, individuals/families that are interested in participating and those all-important buyers.

## Calling all Crafters!

The committee organizing December's Jingle Bell Fair is looking for individuals interested in working on crafts to sell at this year's event. No experience necessary - just a desire to have fun and work toward a common goal. Our first session will be held Wednesday, April 9 at 1 p.m. Please sign up at the center. Call Paula Malnati at 508-282-0187 for more information.



## The Friends of Mendon Elders

The Friends of Mendon Elders is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization raising funds for the benefit of the Senior Center and the seniors it serves. New members are always welcome! Join us to learn more about the events and activities at the Senior Center. Catch up with members and enjoy some light refreshments prior to the start of our next meeting Monday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. when Trader Joe's of Milford will provide snacks and offer product suggestions.

## Friends Dine Out

Friends Dine Out on Wednesday, April 16 – King Street Café, Franklin. Carpool with friends from the senior center the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. or meet at the restaurant at 12 p.m. noon. Please sign-up at the senior center.

## Learn How to Take Better Pictures

This five-week photography class will begin Tuesday, April 22 at 1:30 p.m. Whether you want to perfect your Phone photography skills or are have a Digital camera of your own, our instructor Steve McGrath, an accomplished, professional photographer with over thirty years' experience, has something to offer. Learn how to create great images on your phone. Digital camera beginners, learn from an expert. Android and Apple Smart phones are welcome, and all models. Info about our instructor: [stevemcgrathphotography.com/classes](http://stevemcgrathphotography.com/classes)

The cost for this grant subsidized program is \$35 for five weeks. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to register.

## Music Bingo

Join us for a musical blast from the past on Tuesday, April 22 at 11 a.m. for Musical Bingo by Good Thomas! Come enjoy the songs of the 50s, 60s and more. You may even win a prize! This program is sponsored by the Friends of Mendon Elders. Reserve your space early and consider staying for lunch afterwards. Join us for pizza and salad for lunch following bingo. The cost of the meal is \$7 per person. Call 508-478-6175 or stop by the senior center to register for one or both programs. Transportation is available.

## Beautification Committee-Spring Clean-up April 25

If you enjoy putting outdoors and have a few hours to spare each month, come learn about the mission of our small, committed group of volunteers

## MENDON SENIOR CENTER

continued on page 19

**Wells Plumbing Company**

**Plumbing and Heating Services**

**John C. Wells**  
Grafton, MA  
License #PL35338-J

**WellsPlumbingCo@outlook.com • 508-864-9381**

OVER 60 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**BIRCHWOOD**  
LANDSCAPE & TREE

Mulching • Pruning • Planting  
Weekly Maintenance • Seeding  
Tree Work • Irrigation • Masonry

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**  
**Schedule Your Spring Cleanup Now**

CONTACT BRENT TEWKSBURY FOR AN ESTIMATE  
**508-416-0580**  
**BirchwoodLandscapeTree@gmail.com**

*Consigli* *CR* *Ruggerio*

*Type III Funeral Director/Embalmer* *Funeral Home, Inc.*

**David A. Consigli**  
[www.consigliiruggeriofuneralhome.com](http://www.consigliiruggeriofuneralhome.com)

Tel. 508-473-0513 • Toll Free 1-800-675-0513 • Fax 508-634-3662  
Email: [Dave@ConsigliRuggerioFuneralHome.com](mailto:Dave@ConsigliRuggerioFuneralHome.com)  
46 Water Street, P.O. Box 513, Milford, MA 01757

**RELIABLE PET SITTING**  
Professional Dog, Cat and Horse Care at Your Home

CALL MAGGIE  
**508-769-9634**

Dependable • Year-Round Service  
Excellent References

35 Years Professional Experience



A HELPING HAND...

Food Pantry at United Parish of Upton

1 Church St., Upton, 508-529-3192  
Hours: Every other Tuesday morning (4/15), 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
www.unitedparishupton.org/food-pantry

Upton Community Center Food Pantry

9 Milford St., Upton, 508-529-4558  
Hours: Wednesday 12 - 2 p.m. & Friday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Other assistance available by appointment  
bit.ly/UptonCommCenterFoodPantry

Food Pantry at St. Gabriels

St. Gabriel the Archangel's Parish, 151 Mendon St., Upton, 508-603-1430  
Call for availability  
www.stgabrielma.org/2018/01/21/food-pantry/


Mendon Food Pantry

Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St., 508-478-6175  
By appointment only.  
bit.ly/MendonFoodPantry

Community supper on April 17

April 17: Community Supper - on the third Thursday of each month from September through June at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., our Faith in Action committee provides a delicious and nutritious meal for the community. This month we will be serving lemon chicken for dinner! Everyone is welcome. Please call the church office at 508-529-3192 by April 11 to make your reservation. If you forget to reserve, please come anyway. We always make extra and would love to serve you.

If your nonprofit organization is located in Upton or Mendon and provides free services to Upton and/or Mendon citizens, email editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com for consideration to be listed in this section.

 PLEASE RECYCLE ME!

BREMANN  
HOME IMPROVEMENT

- New construction and additions
- Bathroom and kitchen remodeling
- Window and door replacement
- Wood flooring and refinishing
- Decks, siding and roofing
- Power washing, gutter repair
- Basement refinishing
- Carpentry and painting
- Masonry, stone patios and retention walls
- Handyman work

Call Mauricio

508.202.8602

FULLY INSURED MA HIC.#169427



Upton safety log

Calls included structure fire, several brush fires, illegal dumping, lost animals

The Upton Police Department and Fire Department provided a wide range of services between Feb. 26 and March 25 related to motor vehicle violations, disabled and suspicious motor vehicles, registration checks, parking violations, traffic enforcement, preventative patrol, community policing, road hazards, power outages, lockouts, alarms, abandoned 911 calls, open doors, pick up/drop off items, psych assist/Section 12 calls, suspicious persons, summons service, court appearances, provide School Resources, fundraiser-possible scams, solicitation, lost/missing/found property, car seat installation, general assistance, and animal issues.

Upton also provided occasional mutual aid to Grafton, Hopkinton, Mendon, and Northbridge; and daily mutual aid to Hopedale police, fire and EMS.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Other entries of



note include:

Feb. 26

at 12:41 p.m., Prospect St., structure fire

Feb. 27

at 8:20 a.m., Milford St., threats

Feb. 28

at 9:57 a.m., Grove St., inspection/blasting

UPTON POLICE

continued on page 18

BOUCHER  
ENERGY  
SYSTEMS, INC.







MITSUBISHI  
ELECTRIC  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Mitsubishi Electric Ductless Systems provide year-round comfort and are up to 40% more efficient than traditional systems.

Call us for a free estimate

Boucher Energy Systems

508-473-6648

www.boucherenergy.com





MOURA

SERVICES

Call  
Tiago


857-236-3122

Painting & Carpentry ★ Power Washing  
Deck Refinishing ★ Exterior & Interior

FULLY INSURED

 Follow us on Social Media





The Upton Mendon Free Press is currently seeking freelance writers who live in the area and are interested in writing for our publication. If interested, please send a résumé and writing sample to [editor@UptonMendonFreePress.com](mailto:editor@UptonMendonFreePress.com)

WE ARE YOUR RELIABLE  
INSURANCE NEIGHBOR



Work with people you can trust:  
Nicole, Julie, Brian, Mike, Letty, Amy

Our family-owned and operated independent agency offers only competitively priced and time-tested insurance products designed to fit your individual needs. Specializing in home, auto, business, condo and renters insurance since our establishment in 1950, our agency is deeply rooted in the communities we serve and committed to providing the very best of value for your hard earned dollars. Whether new to the area or a lifelong resident, you will benefit from the sound advice provided by our professional service advisers.



Contact us today!  
(508) 435-6388  
80 Main Street, Hopkinton  
[PhippsInsurance.com](http://PhippsInsurance.com)

HOME · CONDO · RENTER · AUTO · BUSINESS

# Nipmuc Territory Land Acknowledgement Ceremony on April 12

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) and the Town of Hopkinton invite families to join a special land acknowledgment ceremony with us and the Nipmuc Tribe on Saturday, April 12, at 1 p.m. at the HCA, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton.

The itinerary includes the land acknowledgment ceremony, the story of the Three Sisters, and a drum ceremony. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to honor and learn about Hopkinton's indigenous history. The Natick Nipmuc Tribe will be organizing music, storytelling, an exciting drum performance, and more.

Kelly Grill, Executive Director of HCA, shared, "This event allows us to acknowledge the land's original Nipmuc heritage while bringing the community together to explore the tribe's traditions. We are also very thankful to the Town of Hopkinton for their amazing support in making this event



possible."

The ceremony is planned to take place outside in HCA's amphitheater, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, it will move indoors to the HCA perfor-

mance space. It's completely free and welcomes people of all ages.

For more information, and to RSVP, visit [hopartcenter.org/event-details/nipmuc-territory-land-acknowledgment-ceremony](http://hopartcenter.org/event-details/nipmuc-territory-land-acknowledgment-ceremony)

## UPTON POLICE

continued from page 17

**March 1** at 10:08 a.m., Elm St., neighbor dispute  
**March 2** at 1:20 a.m., Old Grafton Rd., suspicious person  
**March 4** at 8:09 a.m., N. Main St., extra patrols requested  
**March 4** at 8:23 a.m., Main St., extra patrols requested  
**March 7** at 2:24 p.m., South St., tree on wires  
**March 7** at 4:20 p.m., Pleasant St., lost animal  
**March 7** at 7:04 p.m., Hartford Ave., lost animal  
**March 9** at 1:08 p.m., Hazeltine Rd., brush fire  
**March 10** at 3:52 p.m., Rockwood Ln., lost/missing person  
**March 10** at 4:42 p.m., North St., brush fire

**March 11** at 6:56 a.m., North St., brush fire  
**March 11** at 1:22 p.m., Glen Ave., brush fire  
**March 11** at 1:40 p.m., Chickadee Way, illegal dumping/littering  
**March 12** at 4:21 p.m., South St., lost/missing person  
**March 15** at 4:59 p.m., Hartford Ave. South, oven fire  
**March 15** at 7:35 p.m., Blueberry Ln., disturbance  
**March 17** at 1:57 p.m., Shannon Way, harassing phone calls  
**March 18** at 8:42 p.m., Main St., disturbance  
**March 18** at 10:12 p.m., Pleasant St., suspicious person  
**March 19** at 8:28 a.m., Chickadee Way, illegal dumping/littering  
**March 20** at 5:36 p.m., Maple Ave., threats  
**March 21** at 4:09 p.m., Milford



St., vandalism  
**March 24** at 9:16 a.m., Wood St., identity theft  
**March 25** at 5:55 p.m., Maple Ave., disturbance-noise complaint

Source: Upton Police Department



MENDON SENIOR CENTER

continued from page 16

on clean-up day, Friday, April 25. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. noon. Lunch will be served. Call the center at 508-478-6175 to let us know of your interest.

**“From the Horse’s Mouth”**  
As the expression goes, “hay is for horses,” but did you know they also enjoy carrots and apples and some love their peppermints? Join us on Tuesday, April 29 at 11 a.m. for a short presentation about horses, covering some general information, as well as a few surprising things you might not know. It will also include a brief overview of a mare’s journey from conception through to the foal’s birth. The presenter is Barbara Lawson, a local Mendon resident and senior center volunteer, who has had several decades of experience with owning, breeding and raising horses.

If you have a hobby you’d like to share, contact center director Amy Wilson Kent at 508-478-6175.

SHINE Health Insurance Counseling

Certified SHINE counselors are available to assist you with questions about Medicare. SHINE services are free and unbiased: we are available to discuss all options related to Medicare and additional coverage, and we do not sell any plans.

Call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175 to make an appointment or call the Regional SHINE Office in Milford at 508-422-9931

SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is funded through the federal agency, Administration for Community Living and administered through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

**Save the Dates - May events**  
**Annual Town Meeting** – Friday, May 2, 7 p.m. and Election – Tuesday, May 13. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Planning for Medicare – Countdown to 65

Evening program Wednesday, May 7, at 6 p.m.

**MASS Bar Elder Law Education** – Wednesday, May 14 at 1 p.m.

**Mendon Minstrels Program – Star, Skies & Heavens** Thursday, May 15 at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at noon

**Pen Pal Ice Cream Social** – Monday, May 19 at 4 p.m. It is time for our senior Pen Pals to meet their corresponding Girl Scouts.

**Volunteer Appreciation** – Wednesday, May 21 at 11 a.m. by Invitation.

**Hip Hop Chair Exercise** – Wednesday, May 28 at 2 p.m. and Monday, June 30 at 11 a.m.

Planning for Medicare – Countdown to 65

Evening Program: Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 6 p.m.

This evening presentation, led by a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative, is geared towards individuals approaching 65 and Medicare Eligibility. Topics covered include health insurance information outside of employer sponsored coverage, such as an explanation of Medicare, the Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and programs available to early retirees, and for those who may still be working and looking to transition to Medicare. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to register for this free evening program.

**Important update!**  
Effective March 1, there are New Gross monthly limits for the Medicare Savings Program: Apply to Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) now to save

thousands a year on Medicare costs. What are Medicare Savings Programs? Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) will pay for some or all of Medicare premiums, deductibles, copayments, and co-insurance. Depending on your income, MSPs will pay for your Medicare Part A & B premiums and cost sharing, or Medicare Part B premium, as well as lower your prescription costs. This is not an insurance plan. There is no asset limit. Who qualifies? Medicare beneficiaries who meet the following monthly limits:

- At or below \$2,935 (individual)
- At or below \$3,966 (couple)

Call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175 to make an appointment with a SHINE Counselor.

Friendly Reminders from Outreach:

Fuel Assistance benefits must be used by April 30. Call the SMOC automated line at 508-620-1230 to check your benefit balance or to speak with a SMOC representative.

Real ID compliance becomes effective May 7. Due to federal

requirements, anyone traveling domestically or wishing to enter secure federal facilities, will need a Real ID or passport. For more info go to Mass.gov/RMV

Elder Law Program

Wednesday, May 14 at 1 p.m.

The Mendon Senior Center will host a statewide program presented by the Massachusetts Bar Association entitled “Taking Control of Your Future: A Legal Checkup.” Attorney Jack Nealon from Hopkinton will touch on some important topics in this year’s 2025 resource guide (available for distribution) on a wide range of legal issues affecting the lives of seniors including how to protect your home and assets, power of attorney and health care proxies, reverse mortgages, Medicare/Medicaid changes and alternatives to nursing home care. For more information or to register for this free program, call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175. Guides are available to participants first. There is vast subject matter. Please let us know what topics you are most interested in.

Mendon Minstrels Chorus – Spring Program:

Stars, Skies & Heavens - Thursday, May 15 11 a.m.

This eclectic program of much loved songs is sure to lift your spirits high. Please call or stop by the senior center to register. Luncheon to follow. Sign up for lunch separately please.

“A Program that Warms My Heart”

Folks are so pleased our pen pal program has returned this spring, corresponding with local Girl Scouts. Next fall, we hope to partner with one or two fourth grade classes at Whitinsville Christian School where letter writing is part of their curriculum. This is in the planning stages. We ask you to reach out to senior relatives, neighbors and friends who might be interested in joining this endearing program. A sign-up sheet is available at the Senior Center or you can call or text program coordinator Cheryl Lemon at 508-685-1419 to sign up early. One letter a month is all it takes and you, too, will be saying “this warms my heart.”

10% OFF FOR FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS

Call for Details

HomeHelp Solutions, LLC

(508) 570-8818

homehelpsolutions@outlook.com

Your Local Home Improvement Specialist

- Home Repair
- Painting
- Bathroom & Kitchen Improvement
- Flooring Installation & Repair
- TV Installation
- Minor Plumbing
- Exterior Maintenance
- Power Washing & more ...

MOM’S DAY, HER WAY: A CELEBRATION POP-UP

SATURDAY, MAY 10

11AM TO 4PM



BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS BY BULB & BLOSSOM

PEREGRIN

1 MAPLE STREET, MENDON

CUPCAKES BY ALDRICH BAKEHOUSE



# 25 Nipmuc students commit to newly-established Innovation Career Pathways



Nipmuc Regional High School students committed to the school's newly established Innovation Career Pathways program during a signing ceremony held on Feb. 26. From left to right, Connor McFeeters, Liam Downing, Kaitlyn Allington, Hannah Cotton, James Rabidou, and Logan Bertuglia. Photo courtesy Mendon-Upton Regional School District

MENDON – At a signing ceremony in February, 25 students at Nipmuc Regional High School have committed to join the school's newly established Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) program.

Nipmuc's ICP program is the result of a partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which awarded \$125,000 to the school to support curriculum materials, equipment, training and funding to support teacher leadership.

Through the ICP program, the 25 high school students are entering fields of career studies including information/computer science, business marketing and business finance.

Each of these career pathways provides students with technical courses and advanced courses, which specifically relate to their respective professional field, the opportunities to gain industry-recognized credentials, and the chance to participate in a 100-hour internship, or capstone project, to be completed during their senior year or the preceding summer.

The ICP signing ceremony was attended by educators, parents, and guardians, who offered their congratulations. The event was also attended by industry professionals, including Tom Gardner, vice president for human resources at Access TCA; Chris Fuhrmann, IT manager for Access TCA; and Ashley Bregman, executive director of the Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development.

Nipmuc Career, Communication, and Innovations Coordinator Tara Bennett, who leads the implementation of the ICP program, acted as the emcee for the event. Bennett emphasized ICP's focus on strong partnerships, the cultivation of durable skills and authentic learning experiences.

"Nipmuc is fortunate to have great community partners who believe in supporting student development and career opportunities," Bennett said. "We look forward to expanding our

## NIPMUC STUDENTS

continued on page 21

# SUMMER GUIDE!



Think Summer! Warm weather. Beaches. Golfing. Hiking. Outdoor dining. Are you looking forward to it as much as we are? Then promote your business and events with our annual Summer Guide – jam-packed with things to do this summer. Just add warm weather!

Reach more than 73,000 homes and businesses this June with our Annual Summer Guide. Direct mailed to Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge and Webster!

**Reservation Deadline is May 8th! Contact Susanne Odell Farber at 508-954-8148 or by email at [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com) to book your space today!**



Recent Home Sales

Date	Mendon	Amount
03/21/2025	37 Kinsley Lane	\$480,000
03/17/2025	25 Haywood Circle	\$752,000
03/13/2025	17 Bates Street	\$420,000
03/10/2025	11 Wood Drive	\$855,999
03/07/2025	10 Daniels Road	\$730,000

Date	Upton	Amount
03/25/2025	45 Mendon Street	\$860,000
03/20/2025	0 Upton Street (8.81 acres)	\$199,000
02/28/2025	1 Chickadee Way #15	\$773,504

Source: [zillow.com](http://zillow.com) / Compiled by Upton & Mendon Free Press



The 3-bed, 2.5-bath, 1,784-square-foot home at 25 Haywood Circle in Mendon recently sold for \$752,000. Photo source: [RobynAndSeanMyHouse](#)

NIPMUC STUDENTS

continued from page 20

Innovation Career Pathways by building our ICP school community and networking with other ICP schools in the state.”

The following students pledged to join Nipmuc's new ICP program:

- Information/Computer Science: Kaitlyn Allington, Logan Bertuglia, Luke Calabrese, Hannah Cotton, Liam Downing, Anastasiia Kanak, Connor McFeeters, James Rabidou
- Business Marketing: Bennett Bush, Alex Christensen, Luke Cormier, Cody King, Edwin Linares, Lauren Nee
- Business Finance: Ryder Blank, Jack Calvey, Cooper Chaves, Adam Dubowik, Zach Duplessis, Sean Lewinsky, Maddie Molle, Kaitlin Nagda, Caelan Squires, Cate Tengler, Hunter Viscomi

The signing event was also attended by another member of the ICP leadership team, Mendon-Upton Regional School District’s Director of Learning

and Innovation Ryan Robidoux. He explained that participating in the ICP programs will equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in a rapidly evolving and dynamic modern workforce.

“These pathways will provide each of you with experiences and opportunities to see the jobs, learn the skills, and understand the expectations that exist outside the walls of Nipmuc Regional High School,” Director Robidoux said.

Several students said they are excited to get started and look forward to the skills and knowledge that they will gain in the process, along with the future opportunities that will be unlocked through their participation in the ICP programs.

“I committed to ICP because I am passionate about computer science and its real-world applications,” said junior Kaitlyn Allington. “The ability to expand my horizons and continually improve my work over the course of my high school career is truly invaluable.”

“I’m excited to participate in ICP because of the opportuni-

ties such as networking and gaining more knowledge in the world of finance that it will provide me going forward,” said junior Sean Lewinsky.

Mendon-Upton Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Maureen Cohen congratulated the 25 students for signing their commitments to the ICP programs, and she thanked all the teachers and industry professionals for supporting the program, along with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for providing the funding.

“Thank you to all of our teachers and our community partners for supporting our newly established ICP program,” said Cohen. “The grant funding provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was crucial to making this all possible. This is an important opportunity for all students involved and I wish them all the very best as they take advantage of this chance to prepare themselves for their future careers.”

Submitted by Mendon-Upton Regional School District

PROTECT YOUR HOME!

Call WPC for preventative outside barriers this spring



Don't Tolerate,  
ELIMINATE!

IT'S TERMITE SEASON

Protect Your Home

CALL FOR A  
FREE  
HOME  
INSPECTION

WPC Pest  
& Termite  
Control

508-435-2211  
[nobugsnopests.com](http://nobugsnopests.com)

LICENSED & INSURED  
ALL WORK GUARANTEED  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Pickering & Son  
Upton  
FUNERAL HOME

David A. Pickering • Andrew D. Pickering  
Funeral Directors

Offering dignified service to  
those of all faiths in Upton, Mendon and  
the surrounding communities since 1902

45 Main Street, Upton, MA 01568  
508-529-6992 • [uptonfunerals.com](http://uptonfunerals.com)



SPORTS

# Nipmuc Baseball looks to leave DVC a winner

*Big junior class to lead way against tough schedule*

By Chris Villani

It's a new season, but the Nipmuc baseball team is once again looking to test itself against some of the best teams in the state. With an 11-member junior class and the benefit of a power ranking process that rewards the bold, the Warriors will square off against the likes of Framingham, Canton, Boston English, Boston Latin, Hudson, and Northbridge.

"We want to see what we can do against the best of the best," said Head Coach Anthony Leonelli.

Nipmuc will also play its Dual Valley Conference schedule for the final time.

"This is the last year of the DVC; there is going to be a realignment, so we want to win the last one," Leonelli said. "It's been 50 years for us in this conference, we want to make sure we get the last one on the way out."

Leonelli figures Hopedale will be his team's top competition for the DVC crown.

The Blue Raiders got the better of Nipmuc last spring, leaving Leonelli and company looking for a measure of pay-back this year.

Among the players who figure to be a major factor is Josh Giancola, a pitcher and middle infielder who is coming off a strong summer with the Milford Legion team.

Nipmuc will also welcome back Dylan Muccini to full strength after he missed most of last season with an injury.

"He is another pitcher who we are counting on a lot," Leonelli said.

Sean Burchard is a returning all-conference selection who will also be a key cog for Nipmuc. While that troika is at the head of the class, Leonelli said one of the team's strengths this spring will be its depth.

"We have a really strong four through 12 in our rotation," he said. "A lot of guys who have not been asked to carry the burden offensively are going to be shifted into that role. If we



Nipmuc will be leaning on Sean Burchard (6) and Josh Giancola in its quest to win the DVC. Photo credit: Mrs. Giancola

can get guys on base, and get hits while they are there, we will be alright."

Nipmuc returns five juniors who were in the starting lineup during their sophomore seasons,

adding a layer of experience to a team that finished 10-11 a season ago amid a very difficult schedule. But playing the iron of the area is the best way to get ready for the state tournament, Leonelli stressed.

"Division III is a monster," he said of the potential playoff field. "We want to be playing our best ball at the end of the year and see what we can do in the tournament."

READY  
SET  
RUN!

DON'T LET AN INJURY  
STOP YOU FROM RUNNING

Our team is ready to help with your aches and pains before and after the event. We offer manual therapies, exercise prescriptions and modalities.

PLATINUM

PHYSICAL THERAPY

All major insurances accepted

1 Lumber St., Suite 201, Hopkinton

196 E. Main St., Milford (in The Gym)

Additional locations in Ashland and Maynard

Visit [platinumptma.com](http://platinumptma.com) or call 508-544-1540 for an evaluation

Our Town

PUBLISHING

... is here to service ALL of Upton & Mendon's **PRINTING NEEDS**

- Full-service & high quality printing
- Ready to help with your business, school or organization's projects
- We are print specialists who can also assist with our expertise to develop, design & mail

**CALL TO GET A QUOTE TODAY!**

**508-533-4588 • [ourtownpublishing.com](http://ourtownpublishing.com)**  
**[printing@ourtownpublishing.com](mailto:printing@ourtownpublishing.com)**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Email us about an upcoming event or a concern about things happening around town

[editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com](mailto:editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com)



SPORTS

BVT Girls Lacrosse led by strong senior group

Beavers have new coach, lofty goals this spring

By Chris Villani

Blackstone Valley Tech girls lacrosse Head Coach Jenine Grabau has been with the program for a couple of years, and her transition to leading the varsity program this spring has been a seamless one, thanks in large part to a deep and talented senior class.

“We have 10 seniors this year, and I am going to be heartbroken when they leave,” Grabau said. “All of them are very good, well-rounded players who are willing to be put in any position, whether it’s defense, midfield, or attack. They are my triple threats.”

Leading the way for Valley Tech are captains Ella McCann, Samantha Carroll, and Kallie Allen. BVT is also expecting to get big contributions from Abigail Noyes, Skylar Cournoyer, and Addie Taylor, among others.

The depth of the senior leadership is especially important for this year’s team, which has more than 40 girls in the program and a large freshman class. It has also helped Grabau adjust to her new role at the helm.

“It’s been the greatest; I have really enjoyed it and the girls have really accepted me with open arms,” she said. “They



The Beavers are looking to develop their attack under a new head coach this spring. Photo credit: Katie Cunningham

have been open to trying new things and thinking outside the box. We are trying to drill into them that we are a unit and a family and that we are hoping to be able to do great things this year.”

Grabau said she would like to see her team make it to the state vocational tournament this spring. While that is an overarching goal, the team also has a number of process goals like cutting down on penalties and being a more cohesive unit out on the field.

“I want to see them looking like a well-oiled machine,” the coach said. “They are on their way to that; we have a lot of potential to go far if we find the ability to work with each other.”

Even with a big senior class this spring, the Beavers are looking to replace half a dozen seniors who led the way a season

ago. The players out on the field this season are strong, particularly on defense, Grabau said, describing that unit as “phenomenal.”

Valley Tech is drilling down on communication on the of-

fensive end, including trying new things that are out of their comfort zone.

“We are working hard every day to get a little bit stronger,” Grabau said. “And they are getting there.”

Don't just watch TV — Make it!



**\$1,000 ABMI-TV Scholarship**  
**Apply at Your Local High School**  
**Applicants must reside in Bellingham or Mendon**

**Access Bellingham-Mendon, Inc.**  
10 WILLIAM WAY (OFF RTE. 140) • BELLINGHAM, MA 02019  
Tel: 508-966-3234 • Email: [abmi8@comcast.net](mailto:abmi8@comcast.net)  
Visit us on the web at [abmi8.org](http://abmi8.org)



FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

SERVING METROWEST



**SHAHOOD & Sons**  
PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING  
EST. 1949

**Family Owned & Operated for 3 Generations**  
QUALITY & TRUST SINCE 1949

**RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL**

Service Work • Repairs • Boilers  
Water Heaters • Remodeling  
New Construction • Air Conditioning  
Heat Pumps • Mini-Splits

0% INTEREST LOANS & REBATES OF  
UP TO \$10,000 THROUGH  
MASS SAVE

**CONTACT US TODAY!**  
**508-875-3413**  
@ [ShahoodPlumbing.com](http://ShahoodPlumbing.com)





Kevin Meehan  
Owner



# IMPERIAL CARS.com



2,000 VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES  
FOUR DEALERSHIPS // SEVEN BRANDS

SALES: M-TH 9-9, FRI & SAT 9-6, SUN 12-6  
SERVICE: M-F 7:30-6, SAT 7:30-5

**508-488-2382**

8-18 UXBRIDGE ROAD (ROUTE 16) MENDON, MA 01756 // 300 FORTUNE BLVD. MILFORD, MA 01757

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT YOU CAN DRIVE IT!



## WE'LL MATCH YOUR TAX REFUND

UP TO

# \$1,000

SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

DISCOUNTS UP TO

# \$15,000

OR AS MUCH AS

# 15% OFF!

<div><h3>CAR FAX ONE-OWNER VEHICLES</h3><p>620 ONE-OWNER VEHICLES IN STOCK!</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 CHEVY EQUINOX LT</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p><p>#46942 • ALLOYS, AWD, TURBO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$35,490</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$20,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2023 KIA SPORTAGE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$92/WK</p><p>#TP5175L • EX TRIM, AWD, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$30,590</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$25,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 FORD F-150 XLT 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$118/WK</p><p>#D14838A • SUPERCREW, V6</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$46,250</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$32,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 FORD EXPLORER 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$96/WK</p><p>#P17549L • XLT, SUNROOF, 2.3L</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$45,765</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$26,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 JEEP WRANGLER 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$106/WK</p><p>#47201A • UNLIMITED SPORT, 7" LCD</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$49,810</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$29,977</b></p></div>
<div><h4>2022 CHRYSLER VOYAGER</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$82/WK</p><p>#D14902 • LX TRIM, HEATED SEATS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$34,265</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$22,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 TOYOTA TACOMA 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$110/WK</p><p>#TP5005 • SR TRIM, DBL CAB, 3.5L</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$42,605</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$30,677</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 DODGE DURANGO GT</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$120/WK</p><p>#25149A • ALLOYS, AWD, 3.6L</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$48,595</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$33,677</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 GENESIS GV70 3.5T</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$145/WK</p><p>#TP4468 • NAV, HEATED LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$64,700</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$40,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 TOYOTA CAMRY LE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p><p>#TP5050 • 25/34 MPG CITY/HWY</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$38,625</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$20,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$124/WK</p><p>#C46767 • CUSTOM, 2.7L TURBO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$54,180</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$34,977</b></p></div>
<div><h4>2025 CHEVY TRAX 2RS</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p><p>#125025A • HEATED SEATS, SUNROOF</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$28,565</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$24,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2024 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$173/WK</p><p>#TP5047 • SR5, CPO, ALLOYS, V6</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$58,405</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$48,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2018 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$71/WK</p><p>#46893A • TRAILHAWK, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$34,400</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$18,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$92/WK</p><p>#D14852L • AWD, HEATED SEATS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$36,750</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$25,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2023 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p><p>#TP4677 • 32/41 MPG CITY/HWY</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$26,589</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$20,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2018 CHEVY CRUZE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$46/WK</p><p>#46886A • PREMIER, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$32,395</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$12,977</b></p></div>
<div><h4>2021 FORD EDGE SEL</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p><p>#P17266L • 2.0L TURBO, SUNROOF</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$40,395</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$24,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2024 VW JETTA SPORT</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p><p>#47000 • TURBO, HEATED SEATS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$29,550</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$21,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2020 LINCOLN CORSAIR</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p><p>#124361A • SUNROOF, LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$46,645</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$24,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$134/WK</p><p>#124-199B • TURBO, BIG BEND</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$43,995</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$37,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2019 SUBARU OUTBACK</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$64/WK</p><p>#TP4638A • AWD, MOONROOF, V6</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$34,695</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$17,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 MERCEDES GLC 300 SUV</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$118/WK</p><p>#TM25-197A • TURBO, LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$50,800</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$32,977</b></p></div>
<div><h4>2022 CHEVY COLORADO</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$110/WK</p><p>#47270L • WT TRIM, 4X4, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$39,180</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$30,677</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2018 HONDA CR-V EX-L</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$71/WK</p><p>#TM25-075A • 27/33 MPG CITY/HWY</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$34,190</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$19,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 BUICK ENCORE AWD</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$83/WK</p><p>#46830 • GX SELECT, 1.3L TURBO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$32,225</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$23,377</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2021 MAZDA MAZDA CX-5</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p><p>#46823 • MOONROOF, LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$29,899</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$24,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2023 BMW X1 xDrive28i</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$113/WK</p><p>#TP4816 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$51,595</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$31,977</b></p></div>	<div><h4>2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$131/WK</p><p>#TP5159 • 4X4, HEMI, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$45,710</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$36,977</b></p></div>
<div><h4>2023 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$127/WK</p><p>#TP4692 • LE TRIM, ALLOYS, CPO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$45,775</del> WHOLESALE PRICE: <b>\$35,977</b></p></div>					

### WHY PAY THE DIFFERENCE IF YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

**BAD CREDIT? DON'T SWEAT IT!**  
*We finance your future - not your past.*

### WE WORK WITH OVER 60 BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS TO GET YOU THE LOWEST RATE POSSIBLE!

*"We sell more - so you save more!"*



Mike Penner  
General Manager

SALE ENDS 04/30/25. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. THIS OFFER IS NOT VALID ON PRIOR SALES AND IS BASED ON THE MSRP, AND NOT COMBINABLE WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT, PROMOTIONS, OR INCENTIVES. PRICE LISTED INCLUDES ALL APPLICABLE MANUFACTURER REBATES (NOT EVERYONE WILL QUALIFY) AND IMPERIAL DISCOUNTS INCLUDING A \$1,000 IMPERIAL TRADE ASSISTANCE BONUS FOR A QUALIFYING 2014 OR NEWER TRADE. SEE US FOR DETAILS. ADVERTISED PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE TAX, TITLE, REGISTRATION, DOCUMENTATION OR ACQUISITION FEES AND CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS OR PROMOTIONS. WEEKLY PAYMENTS CALCULATED WITH AN ESTIMATED DOWN PAYMENT OF \$2,999 CASH OR TRADE. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS. CALL 1-508-488-2382 TO SEE WHICH REBATES YOU QUALIFY FOR.