

# localtownpages Hopedale

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Vol. 8 No. 2

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May 2022

## Marijuana impact fees will become free cash

*Agreements adjusted to reduce and cap fee*

By THERESA KNAPP

The Select Board has adjusted the language in the Host Community Agreements it has with local marijuana businesses.

The impact fees are paid quarterly. Town officials originally thought the fees would be set aside in a separate account to be used only for impacts to the town that were caused by the marijuana establishments.



At its meeting on April 11, the board heard from Town Counsel Brian Riley of KP Law who said the money is actually treated like any other receivable. It goes into the town's general fund, is certified by the Department of Revenue, and is then certified as free cash and available for the town to spend.

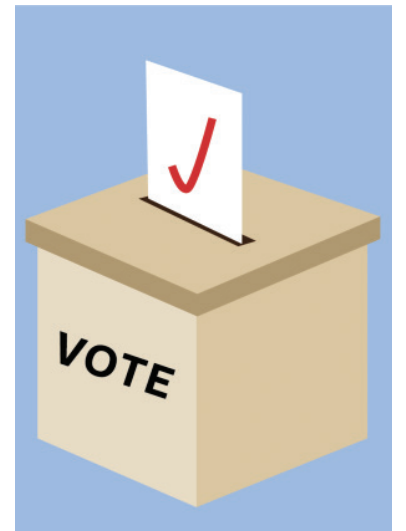
The town does not need to set up a separate account for this money. In fact, if the town did set it aside in a specific stabilization fund, it would require a simple majority vote at town meeting to create the account and a two-thirds vote at town meeting to withdraw from the account.

After a lengthy discussion, the board decided not to set up a separate account, and decided only to adjust the HCA language as it relates to reducing the impact fee from 3 percent to 1.5 percent with a \$35,000 cap.

## Annual Town Election Is May 10

According to Town Clerk Lisa Pedroli, two of the seats do not have anyone running: Board of Health and Planning Board, 1 year terms.

The election will be held Tuesday May 10, at the Draper Gym on Dutcher Street from 7 am to 8 pm.



### Select Board (3 years)

Bernard J. Stock 3 Cutler Street, Hopedale  
(vote for one)

### Board of Health (3 years)

(vote for one)

### Housing Authority (2 years)

Karlene A. Alger 2 Greene St., Hopedale  
(vote for one)

### Library Trustee (3 years)

\*\*Frederick G Oldfield III 30 Freedom St., Hopedale  
(vote for one)

### Library Trustee (1 year)

Marie Riddell 8 Taft Circle, Hopedale  
(vote for one)

### Park Commissioner (3 years)

\*\*Michael J. Ledone 93 Jones Road, Hopedale  
(vote for one)

### ELECTION

*continued on page 2*

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**ELECTION**

*continued from page 1*

**Planning Board (5 years)**  
\*\*Jimmy Khokhar 6 Tammie Road, Hopedale (vote for one)

**Planning Board (2 year)**  
Christopher Cody Chase 76 Freedom St., Hopedale (vote for one)

**Planning Board (1 year)**  
(vote for one)

**Road Commissioner (3 years)**  
\*\*George T. Lovewell 13 Overdale Parkway, Hopedale (vote for one)

**School Committee (3 years)**  
\*\*Jennifer Lynn McKeon 19 Harmony Trail, Hopedale (vote for two)  
Kate M. Guertin 14 Anthony Road, Hopedale

**Town Clerk (3 years)**  
\*\*Lisa M. Pedroli 184 Hopedale St., Hopedale (vote for one)

**Water and Sewer Commissioner (3 years)**  
Adam Anderson 37 Mill St., Hopedale (vote for one)

*The \*\* represents those up for re-election*

# Deed issue resolved for 100-foot tall water tower

By THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board has accepted and endorsed a confirmatory deed regarding 187 Freedom Street where the town hopes to construct a 100-foot tall water tower.

The land was donated by W.G.B. Development Corporation in Mendon and is located at 187 Freedom Street. The land was previously donated to the town, specifically for the purpose of a water tower, but “there was an incorrect land reference in the deed,” according to Town Administrator Diana Schindler. “The land was originally donated for the intent of this water tank, it’s actually in the plan that we are now referencing in the confirmatory deed.”

The parcel of land is “being shown as ‘Open Space #4,’ containing 3.75 acres, more or less, on a plan entitled ‘Pinecrest II’ ‘Definitive’ Plan of Land in Hopedale, Mass.,” dated November 3, 1987.” The error referenced an earlier plan recorded with the Registry.

With the board’s confirmatory vote, and a subsequent similar vote by the Conservation Commission (because it is considered an open space parcel), the document will then be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.



Land located at 187 Freedom Street where the town plans to construct a 100 foot tall water tower. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

In an opinion letter to the Select Board dated March 8, 2022, Town Counsel Katharine Klein with KP Law in Boston determined “the Plan of the Property shows the land as open space with a water tank situated thereon” and opined the town can “install a water tank on the Property without obtaining legislative approval from the Common Court.”

Water & Sewer Department Manager Tim Watson noted access to the parcel is off Freedom Street but the main tie-in will go through Crocket Circle.

Watson says the project could move quickly but he will need \$200,000 for final engineering before he can move forward. “I would think we’d see the first phase this coming summer with the final engineering and design.”

# Additional motions filed in town lawsuit

By THERESA KNAPP

At a Select Board meeting on April 11, Special Counsel Peter Durning presented an Update regarding Town v. Jon Delli Priscoli, Trustee of the One Hundred Forty Realty Trust, et als. This lawsuit related to the town’s intent to acquire 155 acres of land at 364 West Street.

“I can report that the 10 Citizens’ group did file an Emergency Motion to Preserve the Status Quo on March 28 with the Single Justice of the Appeals Court. The Single Justice gave the other parties, the town and Grafton Upton Railroad, until April 7 to file a response to that motion,” Durning said.

Durning noted GURR filed an opposition. The town filed a separate motion for an injunction pending appeal which Durningsaid “was the course of action that we were already

on.” He said there has been no further comment from the court as the parties wait to hear whether there will be a hearing or if the court will issue a decision.

**Annual Town Meeting set for May 17**  
Hopedale’s annual town meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m., in a location to be determined. For updates, visit [www.hopedale-ma.gov/](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/)

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# ZBA request for stipends is rejected

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Zoning Board of Appeals sent a request to the Select Board asking for the reinstatement of stipends for its board members.

In a letter from the ZBA dated Jan. 19, 2022, and discussed by the Select Board meeting on March 28, ZBA Chairman Christopher Hodgins laid out

the extensive work his board is undertaking this year, and said “members are asking the Select Board to consider reinstating all the stipends at the next Annual Town Meeting if economic circumstances become more favorable.”

Select Board Chairman Brian Keyes said the town’s financial situation has not improved and he does not believe board mem-

bers should be paid.

“I don’t think it’s right to get paid based on some of the financial conditions that we’re in as a town, and asking for overrides and debt exclusions and all of that. And based on what I’m seeing as a barometer reading for this year’s outlook, it looks like we’re looking at the same.”

There was no further discussion on the request.

# Hopedale Cultural Council Seeks New Members

The Hopedale Cultural Council is a group of volunteers appointed by the Select Board.

It awards grants annually through the Massachusetts Cultural Council to qualified applicants for community projects and events. Some of the past recipients have been the Bancroft Memorial Library, the Council on Aging, the Hopedale School System, and other organizations in the Blackstone Valley area.

It also sponsors the summer

band concerts, the December Student Art Show, and our biggest event, the annual Day in the Park. In order to continue to provide these programs in our town, the organization needs more help. Some of the activities are in jeopardy if they don’t have more volunteers to serve on the council.

It meets a few times a year for planning purposes. Members work on projects on their own time and are present at the

events. Please see the Facebook page (Hopedale Cultural Council- Community Organization) for photos and videos of past activities.

Current members are: Treasurer Ellen Murphy, Secretary and Grant Coordinator Sally Decelles, Kelly O’Malley, Jean Hill, Gail Brown, and Ann Labrode.

For more information contact: Billi Manning, Chairperson 508-478-0929

# Select Board adopts hybrid meeting model

BY THERESA KNAPP

The Hopedale Select Board has adopted a hybrid meeting model to last at least through July 15, 2022.

In February, Governor Charlie Baker extended pandemic-related rules that extended authorization for towns to hold virtual public meetings through July 15. This extends a previous order that was set to expire on April 1.

Last summer, the Hopedale Select Board adopted a Remote Participation Policy which said all town boards had to find a way for the public to attend meetings remotely.

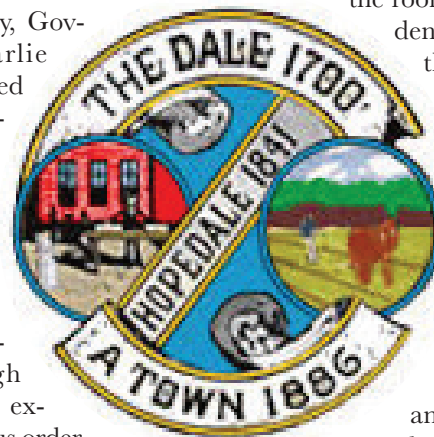
Town Administrator Diana Schindler said the virtual model would continue, at least through July 15, but asked the board if any members would like to be in

the room so that residents could have the option to meet in person if they would like to do so.

“I do think for the sake of our audience and constituents and consultants and attorneys, it is

saving us money, it’s saving people time, and it’s allowing a lot of good participation,” Schindler said.

The board decided at least one selectperson will be in person at Town Hall during the Select Board meetings.



# Select Board makes appointments and accepts resignations

BY THERESA KNAPP

At its meetings on April 11 and March 28, the Hopedale Select Board made the following appointments and accepted the following resignations:

## Made the following appointments:

- Barry Sims as a Hopedale Constable, effective April 11
- Jeffrey White to the Hopedale Police Department as a Full-Time Police Officer, effective April 12
- Christopher Chase to the Hopedale Development & Industrial Commission, term to expire June 30, 2026

- Stephen Capuzziello, Jr to the Hopedale Finance Committee, effective March 28, to expire June 30, 2023

## Accepted the following resignations:

- Call Firefighter David Shearns, effective March 24
- Call Firefighter Brandon DeLuca, effective March 25
- Zoning Board Alternate and Secretary, Mary Arcudi, from the Hopedale Zoning Board of Appeals, effective March 28
- Derek Piatt from the Hopedale Finance Committee, effective March 28

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# Campaign to build domestic violence shelter receives \$2 million

New Hope is thrilled to announce that it has received a \$2 million federal earmark, allowing us to launch the public phase of our Framing the Future Campaign. This project will build an emergency shelter in Attleboro for families experiencing domestic violence. With this earmark, New Hope has raised \$4.9 million toward our \$5.3 million goal.

Federal earmarks allow legislators to target funding for important projects in their districts like New Hope's. Representative Jake Auchincloss, 4th District, which includes Hopedale, was instrumental in helping New Hope secure this critical funding.

"New Hope always strives for a world free from violence, and this funding will help propel that goal forward," remarked Representative Auchincloss.

"This support is a game changer for our campaign and

puts us just \$400,000 away from our campaign goal! On behalf of the thousands of people in Massachusetts who face domestic and sexual violence every year, we thank Representative Auchincloss from the bottom of our hearts for his support!" says New Hope CEO, Marcia Szymanski.

The new 14 bedroom, 11,000 square foot shelter will offer survivors a temporary home where they can feel safe, respected, and heard, so that the healing process can begin. Each bedroom will have a private bath for families, including two ADA accessible bathrooms. The new shelter will have dedicated education space, a commercial sized kitchen, large play space

for age-appropriate child development activities, and living space that accommodates group activities, as well as private space to be alone.



lies will have the ability to choose who and when to interact with other residents. This is one way we can offer survivors more control over their lives, the one thing they too often lacked in abusive situations," says Marcia

In Massachusetts, 1 in 3 women & 1 in 5 men report having experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

New Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving those affected by domestic and sexual violence. Our service area includes the 41 communities in Bristol, Norfolk and Worcester

counties. We believe that every person has the right to live a life free of violence and exploitation.

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**Send Editorial to:**  
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**Business Development Specialist**  
Susanne Odell Farber  
508-954-8148  
sue@odellconsult.com

**Advertising Sales Manager**  
Jen Schofield  
508-570-6544  
jenschofield@localtownpages.com

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## Pink Bag Program – Simple Recycling

The "pink bag" program with Simple Recycling for the collection of unwanted textiles and small household items collection will change as of May 16, 2022. Pickups will no longer be determined by a resident's curbside recycling day.

There are two new ways to schedule a pickup from Simple Recycling:

By Phone - A resident may call Simple Recycling's Customer Service team to schedule a pickup at 1-866-835-5068.

OR

By Email - A resident can go

online to [www.simplerecycling.com](http://www.simplerecycling.com) and enter their zip code. The system will then provide the resident an option of available upcoming days to schedule their pickup. Once scheduled, the resident will receive a confirmation of the pickup and a reminder email the day prior.

Residents should place their items at the front door. Designated pink bags are no longer required. Residents can use their own clean bag or box and label the item for pickup so the driver will know what to take with them.

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Your Money, Your Independence

# Teaching Kids about Savings and Investing

Momma, can I take the \$40 from grandma and grandpa to the Dollar Store?

Dada, how much does a dog cost?

Yes, a third grader and kindergarten can be curious and money conversations become more difficult as they grow older. Making kids understand how money works is a start, however financial literacy doesn't equate to understanding value or making good, responsible decisions.

A book to help create financial decisions as teaching opportunities is *The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money* by Ron Lieber.

Let me share the central strategy: Allowance & Three Jars.

**No allowance for chores.** Lieber argues when parents tie allowance to completion of chores, they make work the primary focus, not money. Kids should do chores for the same reason we do - because they need to be done. If done poorly, there are plenty of privileges we can take away.

**Allowance as a teaching tool.** If your child can count and ask to buy things, start an allowance. Consider 50 cents or \$1 a week per year of age, raised each year on birthdays. Your focus is to have them learn patience, strive for a goal and make decisions with defined resources.

**Three jars: spend, save & give.** They divide allowance into three clear jars each week: spending now, saving for later and giving to those who may need it more - an introduction to budgeting.

Now here is where I've come to differ from Lieber.

He pays an unrealistic interest rate each week (i.e. 20%) for "save jar" to help kids visibly see the power of savings and compounding. Once spent, less interest is paid, helping teach selective spending decisions and building of savings.

**Thinking like an investor.** I want them curious if something can be invested in, think why (or why not) it is a good investment and participate in risk/reward.

To execute, some investment firms allow buying slices of shares, up to 5 companies for \$50 total. Can be in a child's name via custodial account (beneficial capital gains rules) and viewed as a teaching tool rather than education savings since they'll be spending on their larger wants.

As a holiday gift, we started three companies they knew and two I educated why they own it. Monthly we review values, if dividends were paid, total account value, if they want to add more and/or if there's a new company they want to invest in.

I've explained their favorite pizza shop is a small business that doesn't have shares. Also explained who makes a game they like, which they decided to take from their "save jar" to buy. It's down ~15% in a short time but I asked if the reason they bought is still true, if they want to buy more, still hold or sell.

Remember, it's about learning and making mistakes now, to benefit when they're older with their real earnings.



Glenn Brown

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

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

## Senior Center News



### Watercolor Classes May

A four-week series with Mari Steinmann will experiment with painting figures in May. Mari has some fun paintings planned for you. There will always be some watercolor techniques hidden in each week's class, but we want to relax and walk away with a finished product each week.

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## Flexible Schedule

While facility-based health-care professions come with rigid shift schedules, home health and hospice nurses have more flexibility in scheduling patient visits. At VNA Care, we provide patient care seven days a week with opportunities to work weekdays, weeknights, and weekends as well as full-time, part-time,

## Employment spotlight

and per diem. The variety of schedules provides nurses more flexibility for work-life balance or to continue their education. We understand that our nurses have their own responsibilities and obligations outside of work, and providing adaptable schedules makes finding that balance easier.

## Independence and Autonomy

Home health and hospice nurses work independently in coordination with their multi-disciplinary teams and clinical service manager as they care for patients. It's a challenging and rewarding field that allows nurses to practice at the top of their license. Seeing patients in the home setting enables VNA Care's clinicians to personalize care and develop strong relationships with each of their patients and their families.



## Learning and Growing Opportunities

Our nurses are never alone throughout their learning process. VNA Care's nurse specialists provide their expertise to

help their colleagues learn new skills such as wound care and IVs. Nurses are also supported by their clinical service manager and collaborate with other members of the team (such as rehab therapists, social workers, etc.) to provide the best possible patient care.

Along with exceptional team support, VNA Care's healthcare professionals also enjoy competitive benefits including HMO and PPO health insurance plans with a company-sponsored health re-



imbursement arrangement to offset deductible expenses, dental plans, vision plans, and much more. We encourage a manageable work-life balance and incorporate additional benefits to help you outside of your careers such as pet insurance and auto and homeowners' insurance. Compensation, including signing bonuses for certain positions, is just one side of the coin – room for professional growth is a priority at VNA Care, and our career opportunities aim to provide the necessary support and resources to help you meet your personal and professional goals. Founded by Massachusetts' most established home care organizations, VNA Care Network, VNA of Boston and VNA Hospice & Palliative Care, VNA Care has built a company culture of mutual trust and support that enables clinicians to deliver exceptional care.

## For More Information

Interested in pursuing a career in home health or hospice nursing? Visit our website at [vncare.org/careers](http://vncare.org/careers) or email us at [HumanResources@vncare.org](mailto:HumanResources@vncare.org). We are here to answer any questions as you explore the next opportunity in your healthcare career.

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# Bancroft Memorial Library - Library Column /May 2022



## Memorial Day

The Bancroft Memorial Library will be closed on Saturday, May 28 and Monday, May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Summer Hours

Our Friday hours are changing for the summer! Beginning on June 3, we will be open on Fridays from 10am-2pm. This change is in effect through September 2.

## Kanopy

The Bancroft Memorial Library is now offering Kanopy to our library patrons! Kanopy is an on-demand streaming video platform that offers access to a wide variety of films and television content. Kanopy also has educational videos from The Great Courses and more! Kanopy can be viewed on a computer, mobile device, or TV via a web browser or the Kanopy app. To sign up, simply click on the link on our webpage. Then set up an account with your library card and password. If you have any questions, please call the library staff at (508)634-2209. Hopedale patrons are eligible for 10 “plays” per month.

## Book Drop

Did you know that there is a second book drop at the library?? It’s true! The second book drop can be reached by driving down the driveway to the left of the library then parking in the back lot. Walk up the walkway and you will see a large silver book drop under the roof that covers the back door. Drop the books in and you’re done! I’m reminding

everyone because materials are easily damaged by forcing them into the book drop at the front door when it is full. Thank you for helping to keep the items we circulate in great shape!

## ONGOING MONTHLY LIBRARY EVENTS

### Helen Symonds Book Group

The Hopedale Book Discussion Group meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the Bancroft Memorial Library meeting room. New members are always welcome. If interested in joining the group, please leave your contact information at the Circulation Desk.

Travel with the group to San Francisco on Wednesday, May 4 at 1:00 pm as we discuss *The Nature of Fragile Things* by Susan Meissner. “April 18, 1906: A massive earthquake rocks San Francisco just before daybreak, igniting a devouring inferno. Lives are lost, lives are shattered, but some rise from the ashes forever changed.” – adapted from CWMARS catalog

The group will meet on Wednesday, June 1 at 1:00 pm to discuss *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner. “Secretly dispensing poisons to liberate women from the men who have wronged them, a London apothecary triggers unintended consequences that shape three lives across multiple centuries.” – adapted from the CWMARS catalog

### Wednesday Needlework Group

Join us for an evening of needlework every Wednesday night from 6:00pm until 7:45pm. Bring your latest project. No commitment required – come when you can!

### Friends of the Hopedale Library

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to present: Life Cycle Gardening: Gardening for a Lifetime on Wednesday, May 4th, at 6:30 pm. Join us as Master Gardener Betty Sanders teaches how to reconfigure your garden for new uses as your family grows and your life and interests change. Have you lived with the same plantings for many years and now found they don’t fit the way you want to live anymore? Gardens should never be a burden to us! Changing your garden as your needs and abilities change makes sense. Betty will share design and plant selections that can enhance your garden for years to come. Please register for this free event by calling the library at 508-634-2209 or by stopping at the upstairs circulation desk during normal operating hours. You do not have to be a member of the Friends of the Hopedale Library to attend this event. All are welcome.

### New Passes

The Friends of the Hopedale Library have graciously purchased new passes to the following museums: The Providence Children’s Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, and the Worcester Art Museum. These passes provide patrons admission at a reduced cost. Visit our website to reserve a pass or call us for additional information at (508)634-2209.

### Save the Date 6/18/22! – Plant Sale and Create Your Own Garden Stepping Stone

Celebrate the summer with the Bancroft Memorial Library on Saturday, June 18! The Friends of the Library Plant

Sale, a perennial favorite, is back from 10am to 2pm. From 10am-1pm, you can also create your own garden stepping stone. Materials will be provided, but you may bring some of your own “bits and pieces” to personalize your creation! Registration for the garden stepping stones is encouraged by calling (508)634-2209. Be sure to stop by!

The Friends of the Hopedale Library support the Library by providing funds for equipment, materials and programs to supplement the regular operating budget. They offer adult events September- June and fund the children’s summer reading and other programs. More information can be found at <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library/pages/friends-library>.

## NEWS FROM THE MARJORIE HATTERSLEY CHILDREN’S ROOM

### Be Kind to Animals Storytime

Join us on Saturday, May 14 from 11:30am-12:30pm to celebrate our love for animals!

Bring in your favorite stuffed animal and an item to donate to the Milford Humane Society (a can of cat/kitten food, clean towel or blanket, paper towels, paper plates, cat toy, etc.). We will read animal stories then decorate a frame for a picture of you and your stuffed animal! This program is for ages 3 and up.

Summer Reading “Read Beyond the Beaten Path” 2022

The summer is almost here! You know what that means – Summer Reading at the Bancroft Memorial Library will be starting soon. Be on the lookout for a visit from Mrs. Kraimer to your school to talk about all the fun activities planned at the Library this summer!

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

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# Milford Federal Bank appoints Jeremy Leap Senior Vice President Commercial Lending

Milford Federal Bank announced today that Jeremy Leap has joined the Bank as SVP, Commercial Lending. Mr. Leap will lead a growing team of Milford Federal's Commercial Bankers, Jeremy will join Anna Case, AVP, Commercial Credit Officer & Operations Manager, Anita Carroll, Commercial Portfolio Manager and Stephanie Saraidarian, Commercial Credit Representative.

"We couldn't be happier to welcome Jeremy to our Commercial Banking Team" said Paul Gilbody President & CEO, "Jeremy's depth and experience in commercial lending expands our capabilities significantly with this important growth area for Milford Federal. He brings strong relationships and familiarity in the

communities we serve that will benefit our existing clients and future expansion of our lending portfolio"

Jeremy has 16 years' experience as a Commercial Lender most recently at Savers Bank. Jeremy is involved with the United Way & Habitat for Humanity.

Established in 1887, Milford Federal Bank has been assisting its neighbors and friends for 135 years. Serving the greater Milford and Blackstone Valley areas in Massachusetts and Northern RI, it has four conveniently located offices in Milford and Whitinsville Massachusetts and Woonsocket, RI and can also be found on the Internet at MilfordFederal.com and Facebook.



Stephanie Saraidarian, Anna Case , Jeremy Leap and Anita Carroll.

# Senate Passes \$1.65 Billion Supplemental Budget

The Massachusetts State Senate on Thursday passed a \$1.65 billion supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). The legislation makes investments in the state's long-term COVID-19 response; addresses staffing shortages in schools; provides support

for home and community-based services, assistance and protections for families experiencing housing and energy insecurity; funds winter road improvements; extends outdoor dining services as well as beer, wine and cocktails to-go, and provides for the

resettlement of Ukrainian refugees in Massachusetts. Notably, the bill also would divest the state pension fund from Russian assets in response to the Russian war in Ukraine.

"Massachusetts has avoided the worst of the financial down-

side from this pandemic and its effects thanks to a history of careful financial planning and consistent investment in those programs and services which support public health and build resiliency in our communities and our Commonwealth," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Today's supplemental budget continues this trend by providing targeted funding to healthcare, housing, education, and transportation needs. Importantly, this budget ensures that Massachusetts can continue to offer sanctuary to refugees fleeing from violence abroad even as war continues in Ukraine. Thanks to an amendment championed by Senator Comerford, we are also investing crucial funding to the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance to continue providing victim services, including children's advocacy centers and sexual assault programs. I want to thank Chair Rodrigues and his staff, the members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and my colleagues for their work to ensure that the needs of Massachusetts residents are met."

"The passage of this supplemental budget today addresses a number of time sensitive needs as we look to simultaneously support our ongoing response

to COVID-19, while continuing our Commonwealth's recovery," said Senator Michael J. Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "Thanks to Senate President Spilka's leadership and the overwhelming support of the Senate membership, we made clear with the passage of this supplemental spending plan that we will always prioritize protecting our most vulnerable populations, supporting our health care and education workforce, investing in local infrastructure needs and taking the necessary steps to ensure vital public services will be available and accessible to all who need them across the Commonwealth as we recover from the impacts of the pandemic."

### Responding to COVID-19

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure robust preparation in the event of a future variant outbreak, the bill invests \$700 million for the state's COVID-19 response. This funding would ensure the continued no-cost availability of crucial services offered to residents during the pandemic, including on-site testing, vaccinations, and treat-

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### BUDGET

continued on page 9



**BUDGET**

*continued from page 8*

ment, as well as public health staffing needs resulting from COVID-19.

To further protect families facing housing challenges, the supplemental budget extends through March 2023 several protections for tenants experiencing COVID-19-related financial hardship, including extending the requirement that a court grant a continuance in an eviction case for nonpayment of rent when the tenant has a pending rental assistance application.

The supplemental budget also extends popular pandemic-related provisions including outdoor dining services, and beer, wine and cocktails to-go through April 2023. The legislation also extends COVID-19 related bonuses for members of the Massachusetts National Guard.

**Responding to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine**

The supplemental budget responds to the Russian Federation's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent vio-

lence against Ukrainian civilians. An amendment unanimously adopted on the floor of the Senate requires the Commonwealth's Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board to divest any holdings from companies officially sanctioned by the Biden administration or incorporated in Russia. The supplemental budget also allocates \$10 million for the Office of Immigrants and Refugees to support the resettlement of international evacuees, including Ukrainian evacuees.

**Housing and Energy Assistance**

The supplemental budget includes several provisions relating to housing stability and support for individuals currently experiencing or near homelessness. The Senate proposal includes \$100 million for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program which provides eligible families with funds that they can use to keep their housing or obtain new housing. One amendment added to the budget on the Senate floor would increase the cap of the RAFT program to \$10,000 for

the remainder of the fiscal year. Another amendment clarifies existing law to ensure that in all eviction cases where the only valid reason for the eviction is nonpayment of rent, that the tenant has access to protections. The supplemental budget also dedicates \$20 million to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides crucial assistance to families facing high utility bills. To increase oversight, the bill also directs the department of housing and community development to make detailed quarterly reports on the state's eviction diversion initiative.

The supplemental budget allocates \$2.8 million for rates at shelters for homeless individuals and also ensures that down payment assistance funds received from the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency or the Massachusetts Housing Partnership will not be considered taxable income.

**Health Care & Mental Health**

The bill allocates \$346 million in federal American Rescue Plan funding for Home- and Com-

munity-Based Services (HCBS) resources to ensure that eligible Medicaid users throughout the Commonwealth are able to receive health care and medical services in their own homes or local communities. Alongside this investment, the bill also appropriates \$55 million in state resources to support reimbursement rates for human and social service providers that have also been doing crucial work during the pandemic. To address the crisis of mental health care, the bill also dedicates \$10 million to suicide prevention and intervention services, focused on staffing and other resources at crisis centers, and the establishment of a statewide 988 suicide prevention hotline.

An amendment adopted to the supplemental budget allocates \$24 million of the state's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds specifically for the creation of new behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment beds.

**Education**

In response to reports of staffing shortages in public schools, the supplemental budget includes

a provision authorizing the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to issue emergency educator licenses until 180 days after the end of the public health emergency. For private special education schools operating under Chapter 766, the budget allocates \$140 million to fill immediate staffing needs.

**Other funding items of note include:**

\$100 million for a new Winter Road Recovery Assistance Program for cities and towns to repair potholes and roads and bridges worn down by adverse weather conditions.

\$20 million for Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding which supports no-cost counseling, advocacy, and intervention services to victims of crime, thereby covering the immediate needs of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board as they are experiencing a shortage of federal funding

\$10 million for Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC)

**BUDGET**

*continued on page 11*

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## Living Healthy

# iStent Inject and Microgoniomy for Glaucoma

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

### What is glaucoma and how is it treated?

Glaucoma is a chronic disease defined by characteristic optic nerve damage. It is a multi-factorial disease with over 300 different anatomic variations and affects over 40,000,000 people worldwide. Glaucoma is a slowly progressive and irreversible disease and, in most cases, causes a painless loss of eyesight. It is, in short, "the silent sneak thief of sight". The damage to the optic nerve is commonly caused by a fluid imbalance, or pressure, in the eye, as well as possible alterations in the blood flow to the optic nerve. It is well established that lowering the intraocular pressure can slow the process of optic nerve damage. The degree of pressure lowering necessary to prevent optic nerve damage is individualized for each person and each optic nerve. The greater the optic nerve damage, the

lower the intraocular pressure is needed to achieve stability and prevent further optic nerve damage and further visual field loss.

If glaucoma is left untreated you may experience vision loss and eventual blindness. Treatment strategies for glaucoma are individualized to achieve the greatest lowering of the intraocular pressure with the least amount of risk to the individual's eyesight and well-being. Commonly, in the United States, topical medications are used as a first line of treatment. In many situations, multiple medications are tried to achieve the desired pressure level. Unfortunately, there can be difficulties with compliance, cost and side effects with many of these medications and laser therapy is commonly substituted as a first line of therapy.

### What is the iStent® trabecular micro-bypass stent?

Minimally invasive glaucoma surgical procedures, so-called MIGS involve alterations of the

drainage area that are performed inside the eye. The iStent® trabecular micro-bypass stent is a surgical therapy for patients who have mild to moderate open angle glaucoma and have been tried possibly on topical medications or laser therapy. It is designed to improve the aqueous outflow to better lower the intraocular pressure and reduce the need for medications. The iStent® is the smallest medical device approved by the FDA to date. It is placed in the eye into the drainage area, so-called Schlemm's Canal through the trabecular meshwork. The iStent® is an elective procedure. The iStent® is potentially beneficial in helping to reduce the number of glaucoma medications and drops needed to control this condition.

### What is microgoniomy surgery?

Microgoniomy surgery (using the iAccess trabecular trephine device from Glaukos) is another type of MIGS. This procedure provides control of the



eye pressure at lower risk than more traditional glaucoma surgeries. It alters the eye's drainage system to lower the eye pressure and reduce the need for medications. Microgoniomy can be done standalone or combined with iStents during cataract surgery in a tissue sparing fashion to improve resistance to outflow in glaucoma. This tissue-sparing procedure can help lower the pressure even more compared to implanting iStent alone. During this procedure and ophthalmologist (Eye MD/ surgeon) will make 3 trephination cuts in a part of the eye's drainage system called the trabecular meshwork. This will allow fluid to leave the eye much easier.

### Benefits (how the surgery can help)

The goal of the iStent and microgoniomy surgery is to lower your eye pressure and help preserve vision. It will not bring back vision already lost from glaucoma. After implantation, many patients are able to better control their eye pressure with fewer medications.

### Risks

As with any surgery, there are risks with the iStent and microgoniomy procedure. The surgery may not lower the eye pressure or control the glaucoma even when it is properly performed. In addition, sometimes there can be complications that do not appear in the early post operative period but may develop days, months or

years later. Further treatment or surgery to treat those complications may be needed. As with any intraocular surgery, there may be loss of vision, blindness, loss of the eye, as well as bleeding, infection and injury to the eye or nearby body parts.

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# Community Chorus With Hopedale Ties To Host Performance This Month

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

When it presents its Spring Concert this year, American Roadtrip, on May first at 1:30 p.m., the Greater Milford Community Chorus will finally be performing a repertoire it planned to perform before the pandemic shut it down a couple years ago.

"It's nice to be able to bring that back," says the chorus director Mark Schiapucci. "This concert we're performing is the concert we were getting ready for when COVID struck. It's something triumphant, to dust it off and pull it off a shelf and finally be able to perform this concert we've been thinking about for two years now."

The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) was organized in April 1973. The nonprofit draws from communities all around Milford, including Hopedale. Would-be singers are invited to join in on one of three open audition events at the beginning of each season, which includes a holiday concert and a

springtime concert each year.

"We actually have singers from all around the area," says Schiapucci. Right now, he says, membership has been down. "In a pre-COVID year that number would have been about 40, but it's enough to get our concert together and carry on, says the chorus director.

The volunteer group is open to anybody over 18 with a rudimentary understanding of reading music.

"Though this is my first year participating, I have found it fun and very rewarding so far to be a part of something like this where likeminded singers and music lovers come together to perform," says chorus member Jenn Russo, of Bellingham. "I have loved that there are members representing all ages and backgrounds. Mark has been amazing—very talented and with a wonderful sense of humor as he guides us to be our best."

"I'm so relieved and excited that we can get back into the concert hall," says Schiapucci, himself a Milford High gradu-

ate, who brought the chorus back to the concert hall just this past holiday season. "It's been an interesting couple of years for live music," he says. "There are enough challenges, in preparing music, without having to do all these other things. It's enough to get together in the same room with a piano and to make music. There's not really a substitute for that."

The group, says Schiapucci, was able to "think outside the box" during the lockdown, with a virtual concert project during the holiday season, in which members recorded themselves at home and those clips were edited and merged, and then last spring, with an outdoor socially distanced concert.

"I was very proud, that even in the lockdown year, we were able to keep music going and the group active, which was a big priority for me, especially a group like this, where singers aren't paid. If you don't keep up momentum you risk the program falling apart," says Schiapucci, who laughingly notes, I don't

miss rehearsing over Zoom, I'll tell you that. It just really goes to prove how much people love and are devoted to music in their lives."

For more information on joining the Greater Milford Community Chorus, visit [www.greatermilfordcommunitychorus.org](http://www.greatermilfordcommunitychorus.org)

## BUDGET

*continued from page 9*

\$8.4 million for Department of Children and Families foster family rates

\$8 million for Early Intervention staff stabilization supports

\$5 million for state election costs

\$5 million for the Department of Mental Health to expand cli-

entele housing supports

\$1.8 million for mental health services for international evacuees resettled in the Commonwealth

\$1.7 million for state park investments, including water safety initiatives

\$609,000 for additional staffing to implement the Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy legislation, which was passed early in the session

\$500,000 to expand the capacity of the Commission on the Status of Women

A version of this legislation having previously passed the House of Representatives, the differences will need to be worked out by the branches before advancing to the Governor's desk.



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<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 10:00 am Memory Class 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise  11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9:00 am Volunteer Breakfast (By Invitation) 10:00 am Watercolor Class  1:00 pm Tai Chi</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>10:00 am Re-boot Strength &amp; Balance</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 10:00 am Memory Class 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 1:00 pm Griffin-Dennett Ice Cream Social</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise  11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am Knitters' Group 1:00 pm Tai Chi 1:00 pm COA Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>10:00 am Re-boot Strength &amp; Balance</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 10:00 am Memory Class 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class  1:00 pm Tai Chi 12:00 pm Sr. Center Lunch</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>10:00 am Re-boot Strength &amp; Balance</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY</b></p> 	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge</p>			

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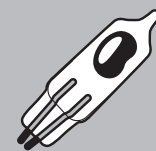
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# Sports

## New Lacrosse Coach Hoping to Develop Players and Bring Success to Hopedale

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having played all kinds of sports for Hopedale while growing up, Maureen Hodgens was approached her freshman year during a basketball game and was asked to tryout out for the new lacrosse team at Hopedale Jr/Sr High School.

Participating in JV basketball and varsity soccer and track for the school, she was intrigued about this new program despite being played in the spring where she played softball.

“My basketball skills definitely helped my lacrosse game,” Hodgens said. “The defensive tactics, the games were similar in play, the movement of the ball and needed to work together as a team.”

While the sport was new to the area, not a lot of people took to it right away and Hodgens saw a lot of her friends stick with their existing sports instead of gravitating to the newer one.

“Katie Rizzo, a friend of mine who had been playing sports with me since a young

Hoping to help the new Coach improve the Blue Raiders squad will be senior tri-captains Sophia Garzoli, Kate Hevey and Nora Hodgens. Garzoli and



“It looked like something that was fun and I wanted to try,” she said. “But I would have to come to the realization that it was played at the same time as softball; it was one or the other.”

Hodgens choose the up-and-coming sport. She was part of the Hopedale club team during her freshman year; the team progressed to a junior varsity team the following year and eventually named a varsity program her junior year. By the time she graduated from Hopedale she had played four years on the team — being named a captain twice.

The then-student athlete found the sport to be a blend of all the sports she had played in the past. It was a fast paced, high endurance sport that eventually became a passion of hers. She also found that her basketball abilities, the sport right before the lacrosse season, helped her to improve in the new sport.

age, decided to try out the new sport and when on the field we just seemed to click,” Hodgens said. “We knew that we were not going to be winning at first, but we would be part of a ground breaking sport and helping the town move in the right direction with it.”

Despite playing four years at Hopedale, Hodgens only had two on the varsity level. She firmly believes that if she had been able to play on the varsity level for all four years, she would have been able to play the sport on the collegiate level. Last spring the Hopedale alumni had the opportunity to coach the girls JV lacrosse program during a Covid shortened season. This year she has been elevated to the varsity head coach where she is not only looking to elevate the program but take ascend to the next level as a coach.

Hevey will be playing attack, while Hodgens who has played defense in the past will be moving up to center to take the draws.

“These three having been playing since the seventh grade and will be some of the first athletes to go all the way through the program. They bring a lot of knowledge of the sport to the field,” the new coach said. “Sophia and Nora played field hockey together, so they have relationships with girls from other sports. They will become an extension of myself. They’ll definitely be a help; my eyes and ears on the field.”

The Blue Raiders Coach will be looking for Garzoli and Hevey, who plays club lacrosse as well, to bring the offensive ability to the field for Hopedale. Hodgens will also be looking to senior Reece Slowick from Douglas, junior Bailey Laprade, and sophomore



Emma Goselin to find the back of the net on a regular basis.

While the seniors may be doing the majority of the scoring it will be the sophomore class (8 athletes) that the coach calls the heart of the program, and she is hoping that they put in the time and step up their games this spring to put Hopedale on the map in terms of lacrosse.

On the defensive side of the ball two of those sophomores, Bea Hava and Delia McAllister will be looked upon to make major contributions. Hava, who was part of the Division 5 State Basketball Championship team this winter, brings a lot of knowledge to the field and the Coach is hoping that she can be vocal as well as a leader in the back field.

Protecting the net for the Blue Raiders will be senior Nicole Zhang, who has continuously improved over the past few

years she has had the position, which has allowed Hopedale to advance into the State Tournament. Last year the Blue Raiders posted their first winning season going 9-8 and entered the Division 2 East Tournament, where they unfortunately lost to Gorton-Barnstable in the first round.

In her first season as the varsity lacrosse coach Hodgens is hoping to develop the team, which has a wide range of ages, into some versatile players that will step up to the task and lock in their positions. She also wants to have the team chemistry gel into a team that are close on the field as well as off it.

While all this is happening, it wouldn’t be bad if the squad put together enough wins to return to the State Tournament and take it at least one game further than they did a year ago.

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### A Marathon Effort

Hopedale A2 and C1 were in Hopkinton working the Boston Marathon on Patriots' Day, Monday, April 18. Photo courtesy of the Hopedale Fire Department Facebook page.

# Real Estate Corner

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
4/15/2022	142 Laurelwood Drive	\$385,000
4/15/2022	16 Ballou Road	\$510,000
3/29/2022	30 Tammie Road	\$571,620
3/23/2022	22 Laurelwood Drive	\$401,500
3/21/2022	5 Union Street	\$412,000

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