

# localtownpages Hopedale

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April 2024

## Hopedale DEP violations at Bathhouse, Parklands

By Theresa Knapp

The Town of Hopeland has incurred two wetlands violations recently, one related to the placement of the new ADA-compliant ramp at the Bathhouse, and one at The Parklands.

### Bathhouse

During recent renovations of the Bathhouse, a handicap ramp was installed to bring the building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

At the Select Board meeting, Ruscitti said the Building Commissioner had identified the placement of the current ramp as the only place on the site that could accommodate a ramp.

“A prefabricated metal ramp was installed about two weeks ago,” said Ruscitti, at the March 12 meeting. “An individual took a picture and sent it to the state. That is in violation because it is within the [wetlands] shoreline zoning.”

Ruscitti said he discussed the issue with DEP and explained the need to make the Bathhouse ADA-accessible. “The state is going through a paperwork process where there will have to be a hearing at the next Select Board hearing, the board will have to vote that there was minimal impact to the structure and to the environment, if the board so chooses. That response will be sent to the state, the complaint will be closed out, and we will be in full compliance.”

### Parklands

During regular maintenance, an area of a peninsula within The Parklands was cleared for easier access.

“There is a peninsula that a lot of residents use for fishing and recreation and other purposes,” explained Ruscitti. “In

**VIOLATIONS**  
*continued on page 2*

## Fire Department request to leave civil service will likely be denied

### State officials expected to propose 10-year hybrid pilot program

By Theresa Knapp

At November 2022 fall Town Meeting, the town voted to petition the State Legislature to exempt all positions in the Hopedale Fire Department from the civil service system. Leaving the system would allow the town to hire from a more diverse pool of applicants, not just candidates who have passed a state test.

After the 2022 vote, at the town’s request, State Representatives Brian Murray and Ryan Fattman filed Bill H.2615 to present the request to the Committee on Public Service to which it was referred in February 2023. A hearing was held in October 2023, and the reporting date has been extended to June 30, 2024.

At a meeting of the Select Board on March 12, Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti said the bill is not expected to pass,



along with similar requests from several other towns in the Commonwealth. Instead, state officials are expected to propose a 10-year hybrid model under which some towns can have up to 50% of its staff outside civil service as long as it meets certain parameters, including diversity, equity, and inclusion requirements.

“There has been pushback at the state level from organized labor and veterans groups be-

cause of the benefits the civil service, rightfully, provides to those populations,” said Ruscitti, noting this is not the decision the town was hoping for. “In speaking with the [Fire] Chief, we’re optimistic it will be an improvement. It will be a little bit more difficult to manage but I think that we can certainly work with it and get through. It will be a 10-year pilot program. If it doesn’t work out, I think the Legislature will then reassess their decision.”

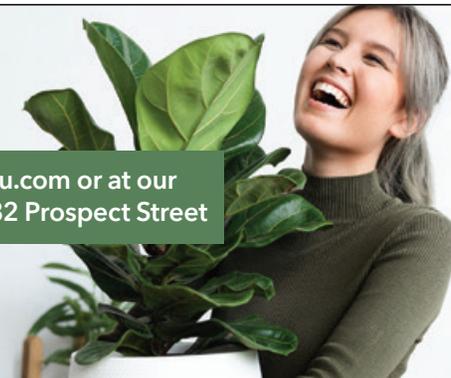
Select Board member Scott Savage said he was disappointed by that decision.

“It continues to disappoint me how the State Legislature refuses to identify the impacts of all these decisions in small communities with limited financial means. Prioritizing other issues, other than the best interest of the community as a whole, is really disappointing.”

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**VIOLATIONS**

*continued from page 1*

regular maintenance of The Parklands, there was a portion of that peninsula that, while well-intended, was accidentally cleared to make room for constituents using it. That is not supposed to have occurred. This was relayed to the Parks Commission and to our staff that maintain The Parklands. It was an accident; again, it was well-intended."

Ruscitti spoke with DEP about the incident. He said the state is recommending the town allow the vegetation to grow back.

"They will send someone out in the fall to walk out into The Parklands to make sure that it has grown back, and we will no longer be clearing any areas in The Parklands or disturbing any of the vegetative life out there. Again, apologies to the community that occurred, it was well-intended, meant to make traversing the area a little bit easier but we're not supposed to be doing that."

Ruscitti said the town is in the process of addressing those issues.

# Matching grant received to purchase permanent conservation restriction at nearby Vandersluis property

## Land Trust to work with Hopedale and Mendon Conservation Commissions

The Metacomet Land Trust received a Conservation Partnership Grant from the Commonwealth in the amount of \$175,000. It represents the match for funds designated at Mendon's November Town Meeting (\$175,000) for the purchase of a permanent conservation restriction for the property on North Avenue owned by Jim and Cheri Vandersluis.

The Trust is currently having the property surveyed and we are completing other due diligence

to satisfy the terms of the grant. The purchase must be completed and the permanent restriction recorded at the Registry of Deeds by the end of June.

The 116 acres will be known as the Maple Farm Wildlife Preserve and will stretch from North Avenue on the west side to the Hopedale boundary on the east side. Muddy Brook runs through the property north to south. There is also a permanently protected conservation property on the north side of the prop-

erty and conservation properties abutting the property to the east. Combined, the area provides terrific wildlife habitat for the area and the potential for environmental classrooms for nearby schools.

The land trust will work with its partners including the Mendon and Hopedale Conservation Commissions and the property owners to develop and maintain trails with potential connections to other protected properties.

To steward the property,

Metacomet Land Trust plans to form a "Friends of Maple Farm" volunteer group to help with care, protection, and ongoing trail maintenance of this special property. We will be kicking off a fundraising drive to support these efforts and we look forward to a celebration this summer when the purchase is concluded.

For more information, please visit [www.MetacometLandTrust.org](http://www.MetacometLandTrust.org) or email [ailinfo@metacometlandtrust.org](mailto:ailinfo@metacometlandtrust.org).

*Submitted by Lisa Moczynski of the Metacomet Land Trust*

# Annual Town Meeting on May 21, warrant to close April 16

The 2024 Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 21 at 7 p.m. in the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School Dennett auditorium.

All articles requested for inclusion on the warrant should be received in the Office of the Select Board by Tuesday, April

16, at 5 p.m. The Select Board encourages petitioners and others submitting articles to provide such materials electronically by [mwhite@hopedale-ma.gov](mailto:mwhite@hopedale-ma.gov) by such date and time; if submitting through this format, petitioners are advised to request a "read receipt" to verify proper and timely

receipt by the Select Board's Office. The Select Board further encourages submission of articles in narrative format only, and that maps and other supplementary material not be included as part of the warrant article.

*Source: [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov)*

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# Digital and Phone Photography for Seniors

Are you interested in digital photography? The Mendon Senior Center is offering Phone and Digital Photography classes with Steve McGrath and Hopedale Seniors are welcome to at-



tend. Classes begin on Tuesday, April 30 and run for 5 weeks - 1:30-3 p.m.. Cost is \$25. Please call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175 to register.

**"Come From Away" bus trip**  
*A Broadway hit musical*

Boston Opera House  
Sunday, June 2, 2024 6:30pm show  
Tickets: \$145 includes front mezzanine seating and bus transportation from Hopedale  
For information and reservations call, Billi Manning 508-478-0929  
Theater trip sponsored by the Hopedale Cultural Council

**\*\*\*LAST DATE TO ORDER TICKETS- APRIL 27**

# Hopedale DECA sending 18 to the International Competition in Anaheim, CA!

State Competition Success!  
From March 7 - March 9, 35 Hopedale DECA members competed and participated in the 65th Annual Massachusetts DECA State Career Development Conference in Boston at the Marriott Copley and Hynes

In the Operations Research category, competitors performed extensive primary and secondary research on a business's talent management methods and prepared a strategic plan to counteract hiring challenges. Hopedale competitors networked and

Anaheim! DECA members in attendance will expand their leadership skills and business knowledge while also networking with business professionals and peers from 50 different states, four U.S. territories, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Korea,

Leadership Academy Participants: Jonathan Araujo, Nathan Jerrett, CJ Kivlehan, Alex Lannibois, Cody McLain, James Seaver, Hudson Terando

School Based Enterprise Retail Competition: Emma Gosse-lin, Antonia Rolo

Hopedale Public Schools -> DECA Competition/Sponsorships. Thank you for your consideration in helping the students reach their \$16,000 fundraising goal!

Hopedale DECA would like to thank all who made attending the state conference possible, including the officer team, DECA members and competitors, parents, guardians, and HJSJS staff. Thank you also to the 2024 Hopedale DECA State Sponsors who dramatically reduced competitor costs for the event: Leonardo DRS, Altman & Company, and RJG Building and Remodeling. Thank you in advance to the Hopedale community for the continued support of Hopedale DECA member competitions and experiences. Please reach out to Talitha Oliveri, advisor, at [toliveri@hopedaleschools.org](mailto:toliveri@hopedaleschools.org) with questions or to receive additional sponsorship information.



### Fundraising Efforts.

To help make the cost of ICDC more manageable, Hopedale DECA is looking for sponsorships and donations from local businesses and individuals to offset trip expenses. Be on the lookout for upcoming fundraisers posted on Instagram (@hopedale.deca) and Facebook (hopedale.deca)! Details on the sponsorship program can be found at [bit.ly/HopedaleICDC2024](https://bit.ly/HopedaleICDC2024). Donations payable to Hopedale DECA can be mailed to Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School, 25 Adin St, Hopedale, MA, 01747 or via UniPay at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/> ->

Convention Center.

With close to 3,800 participants statewide, Hopedale students competed against up to 45 competitors per category!

All Massachusetts competitors qualified for the competition by placing in the top 6 for their events at one of 8 district competitions throughout the state. Hopedale DECA students competed in the project management event where competitors used project management skills to organize events including a financial literacy fair and a career fair for HJSJS students in grades 7 - 12 and a STREAM activities fair for elementary students.

practiced valuable employability skills that will benefit them both in high school and their future careers.

Top 10 medalists at the conference included:

Business Services: Nathan Jerrett, CJ Kivlehan

Hospitality and Tourism: Jonas Bernardes, Jose Pomavilla, James Seaver

### International Competition - Here We Come!

Moving on to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) are 18 Hopedale students bound for

and more.

State Champions and members participating in the Emerging Leaders Academy from April 26th - May 1st are as follows:

Project Management Event Champions - Financial Literacy: William Adamski, Matthew Carroll, Kyle Maloney, Sales Project: Riley Mulligan, Kenzie Styles, Aaron Terbush

Business Operations Research Event Champions - Business Services: Carter Lachiatto, Patrick Madden

Professional Selling Event Champion: Leah Hodgdon

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# Senator Markey Celebrates Awarding of Congressional Gold Medal at U.S. Capitol to WWII "Ghost Army"

**Senator Markey introduced legislation to honor U.S. Army unit whose efforts helped ensure an estimated 15,000 to 30,000 U.S. soldiers made it home during World War II**

Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) today celebrated the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the top-secret U.S. Army units that served in World War II, widely known as the "Ghost Army," including posthumously to John J. "Jack" McGlynn of Medford, Massachusetts. McGlynn was a member of 3132 Signal Company, which was a division of the Ghost Army handling sonic deception. Often operating on or near the frontlines, these army units were instrumental to Allied successes during World War II, most notably at the Battle of the Bulge and the final battles in Italy's Po Valley.



Senator Markey with McGlynn family from Medford, Massachusetts

"The Ghost Army had to operate in the shadows during World War II, but their valiant efforts are finally getting the spotlight they deserve through the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal," said Senator Markey. "These heroes, including Jack McGlynn, not only guided the United States and the Allies to an Allied victory, but they also made it possible for countless American and Allied troops to return home safely and reunite with their loved ones. Jack McGlynn and all of the Ghost Army soldiers embodied the best of the American can-do spirit and our patriotism. It is an honor to celebrate this long overdue recognition with the McGlynn family and all of the loved ones of these true American heroes."

Markey, President Joe Biden, and your colleagues for the strong leadership that you have clearly demonstrated while passing this legislation," said Michael McGlynn, former mayor of Medford, Massachusetts, and Jack McGlynn's son.

"The Senator has been our neighbor, friend, and a recognized leader in government for his entire career."

In March 2016, Senator Markey and his colleagues introduced the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act. In February 2022, Senators Markey and Susan Collins (R-Maine), along with Congresswoman Annie Kuster (NH-02), celebrated President Joe Biden's signing of the bicameral legislation to award the Ghost Army a Congressional Gold Medal.

"Thank you to Senator Ed

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## Applications to fill Parks Commission seat due by April 2

### Select Board and Parks Commission to discuss on April 8

The Select Board and Parks Commission will hold a joint meeting on April 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Draper Room of Hopedale Town Hall for discussion and potential vote to fill a vacancy on

the Parks Commission.

Any registered voter interested in filling this vacancy on the Parks Commission is invited to submit an application no later than 2 p.m. on April 2 to Martha White,

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator, at mwhite@hopedale-ma.gov or by mail to 78 Hopedale St., Hopedale.

Any individual appointed to fill this vacancy will serve until

the expiration of the current term, i.e. until the May 2025 Annual Town Election.

For further information, contact the Town Administrator's office at 508-634-2203 (ext. 210) or email mwhite@hopedale-ma.gov.

Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov

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# Solar eclipse community viewing party on April 8

## Neighbors to gather on Community House lawn to witness event

By THERESA KNAPP

Various town entities are joining together to sponsor an official Solar Eclipse Community Viewing Party on Monday, April 8, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., on the Hopedale Community House Lawn.

The eclipse is expected to start around 2:15 p.m., reach full totality at 3:29 p.m., and end around 4:40 p.m. All times are weather permitting.

The event is sponsored by the Bancroft Memorial Library, Friends of the Hopedale Library, Hopedale Council on Aging, Hopedale Community House, and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Bancroft Memorial Library Director Tricia Perry is hoping 500 or more people gather together to witness the event. She hopes the close proximity of the Council on Aging building and

the serendipitous dismissal time of nearby schools will entice people to congregate in the center of town.

“The Community House

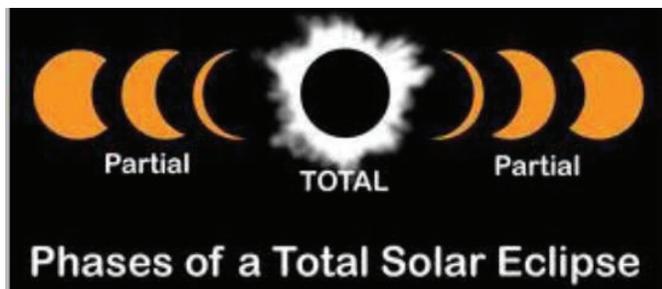
lawn is located just across the street from the Library and has a great deal of open space that will allow for great viewing opportunities, and will allow the option

of sharing the solar glasses from the SEAL [Solar Eclipse for Libraries] grant with a large group – and hopefully give everyone who attends the event an opportunity to actively participate in this amazing activity,” Perry said.

Last year, in anticipation of the eclipse, the library submit-

ted a grant request for 500 pairs of ISO Certified Solar Eclipse Glasses. Those glasses will be available for the April eclipse. And, Perry says, if the supply runs out, people gathered on the lawn can share with their neighbor.

“Without the glasses it is impossible to comprehend the magnitude of the occasion,” said Perry, recalling the first time she witnessed a solar eclipse. It was 2017, and she was the director of the Westwood Public Library where she organized a similar community event. “We had over 400 participants and it was an incredible day! It was the first time I had ever viewed a solar eclipse in real life, and watching that unfold and being able to actually see what was happening in real time with the solar eclipse glasses, was truly something spectacular...And from first-hand experience, I can attest that being able to actually look at the sun is an awesome and singularly memorable experience that will last a lifetime.”



**The Great North American Eclipse is coming...and we want everyone to see it!**

### Solar Eclipse Community Viewing Party

Monday, April 8th, 2024 from 1:30 PM – 4 PM

Hopedale Community House Lawn



**Partial Totality: Begins at 2:15 pm**

**Full Totality: Begins at 3:29 pm**

**Partial Totality: Ends at 4:40 pm**

## Hopedale Presidential Primary official results

### 30.5% of town voters cast a ballot

The following are the official results as reported by Hopedale Town Clerk Lisa Pedrolini on March 6, 2024, on the town's website. emailed UOCAVA (Uniformed

Hopedale Presidential Primary March 5, 2024 Official Results	
<b>Democrat Results (574 ballots cast)</b>	<b>Republican Results (610 ballots cast)</b>
Presidential Preference: - Joseph Biden, 483 State Committee Man: - Thomas Trull Klebart, 420 State Committee Woman: - Lisa A. Moczynski Town Committee Dem: (20) - Write-in, 97 - Blanks, 11,383	Presidential Preference: - Donald J. Trump, 348* State Committee Man: - Ryan Chamberland, 366 State Committee Woman: - Elizabeth S.L. Groot, 317 Town Committee Rep: (35) - Write-in, 69 - Blanks, 21,281
Source: <a href="http://www.hopedale-ma.gov">www.hopedale-ma.gov</a>	*Halcy received 241 votes

results in the March 5 Presidential Primary as reported by Hopedale Town Clerk Lisa Pedrolini on March 6, 2024, on the town's website.

According to Pedrolini, 1,196 of the town's 3,918 voters – or 30.50% - of all registered voters - cast a ballot in the Primary. Those voters were either in person on Election Day (689), early in person at Town Hall (58), or by mail (445). At the polls, three damaged ballots and one

and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) ballot were hand-counted and are part of the 1,196 total votes.

The full results, including the 12 Libertarian votes, can be found at [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov).

Source: [www.hopedale-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif711/f/minutes/official\\_primary\\_minutes\\_3-5-24.pdf](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif711/f/minutes/official_primary_minutes_3-5-24.pdf)

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- Active enrollment in e-statements – you must sign into your online banking account at least once every 12 months to keep enrollment active.

# Annual Town Election on May 14

## 11 seats available

The following elected offices will appear on the annual town election ballot on May 14:

- Board of Health, 3 years
- Housing Authority, 5 yrs
- Library Trustee, 3 yrs
- Park Commission, 3 yrs
- Planning Board, 5 yrs
- Road Commissioner, 3 yrs

- School Committee (2 seats), 3 yrs each
  - Select Board, 3 yrs
  - Town Moderator, 3 yrs
  - Water & Sewer Commissioner, 3 yrs
- Nomination papers were due on March 26. The last day to withdraw as a candidate, or to object to nomination papers, is April 11 at 5 p.m.

The last day to register to vote in the annual town election is May 4 at 5 p.m. Residents can register to vote at Town Hall or at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/)

The last day to request a mail-in ballot (absentee or early) is May 7 at 5 p.m.

Source: [www.hopedale-ma.gov/home/news/may-14-2024-annual-town-election](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/home/news/may-14-2024-annual-town-election)

## Hopedale Senior Center

### Mondays

Visit the Pop-up Coffee Shop at the Hopedale Senior Center. The "Daily Grind" Coffee Cart offers coffee and baked goods, free of charge. Monday, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

### Chiropractic Care for the Older Adult

Join us for a seminar on Thursday, April 25 at 1 p.m.. Dr. Kendra Plant of Palmer Family Chiropractic will explain the fundamentals of Chiropractic care

and discuss spine health. She will answer general questions at the presentation. Reservations are required. Please call the Senior Center at 508-634-2208. This presentation is free of charge.

## Is there a Little Free Library in your neighborhood?

"A little Free Library is a "take a book, share a book" free book exchange, according to [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org)... There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community."



variety of genres and authors. Since the libraries run on an honor system in which the readers are advised to take a book and leave a book, its shelves are updated often.

### Who can host

Anyone can own a little library by installing a structure and registering it at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org) to get it on the map, and that's it – you're ready to go!

For more information, visit [www.littlefreelibrary.org/map](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/map)

**This little library is located at 4 Crestview Drive in Mendon, not far from the Hopedale Country Club. There are no Hopedale locations currently registered at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)**

The site lists small house-like structures in nearby towns but none in Hopedale. If you have one, or would like to start one, you can register it on that site.

### How it works

From children's reads to adult literature, the libraries hold a

*Sofia Mercier contributed to this article*

## Men and Money: The Building of Draper Memorial Church

Free presentation on April 7 at 2 p.m.

In June 1897, two sons of the late George Draper offered the Hopedale Unitarian Parish a new church. It was to be based on an English design,

built of granite and oak, and finished within a year. The parish gratefully accepted and the workers broke ground quickly. But the building's construction

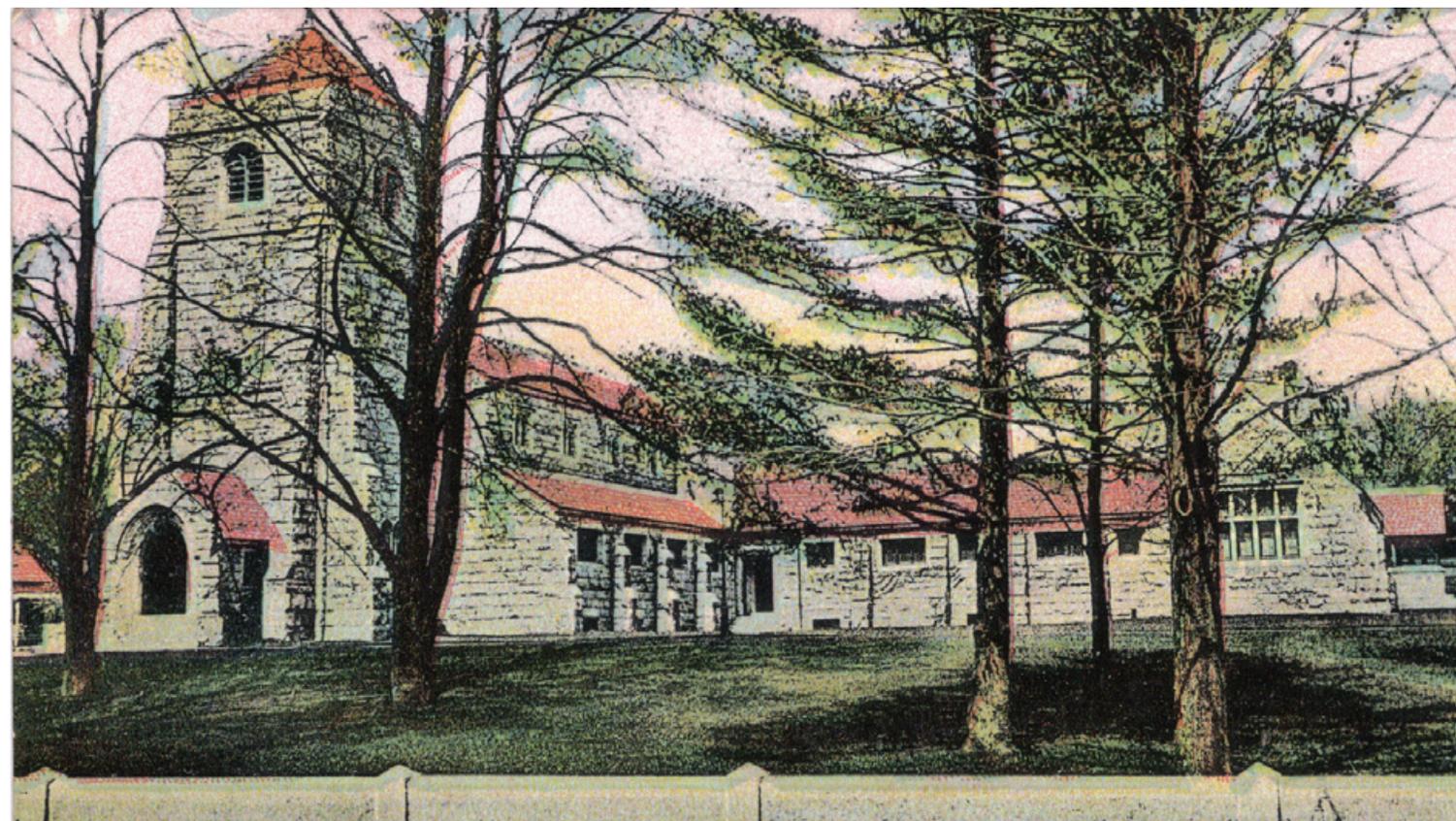
involved razing Hopedale's original church – a church built by George Draper and his brother, Ebenezer, to honor Adin Ballou, the man who founded the town.

The construction timeframe was short, only a little over a year from the destruction of Ballou's egalitarian community church and meetinghouse to the finishing touches being put on this new "Draper Memorial Church."

As with any tale, there is a

backstory to this generous offer. Eben S. and George Albert Draper weren't George Draper's only children – he had two daughters and another son, Civil War hero and statesman General William F. Draper. The General was not involved in this project and did not attend the dedication in 1898. During much of the construction, the local newspapers seemed unimpressed as political one-upmanship and a war took the headlines. Then, to top it off, a family feud began to brew.

The Unitarian church has become a beautiful Hopedale landmark, but questions remain: Why were George Draper's two youngest sons so determined to build an expensive memorial to their parents when Hopedale had a perfectly good and much larger church? And did the project help lead to a Draper family feud that would last for decades? Join Hopedale Women's History Project founder Linda Hixon to learn the story behind the façade. This free presentation will be held at Hopedale Unitarian Church on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.



# Defying Physical Challenges and Uniting for Cancer Prevention

This June, three extraordinary girls will swim to raise money for breast cancer prevention at Against the Tide, an annual event hosted by Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC). Despite facing physical challenges, Jordan, Jasmine, and Chloe participate in Against the Tide not only with the hope that others will join their passionate support of cancer prevention, but to honor their loved ones who have been affected by breast cancer.

Every year participants from all over New England and beyond are drawn to Against the Tide and to MBCC's unique mission. These swimmers, runners, and walkers share the belief that there are environmental links to cancer and other ill-health. Against the Tide not only raises funds for MBCC's work to prevent exposures to environmental toxins, the event also raises spirits and empowers people to unite under a common cause.

Among the participants at this year's Against the Tide are three courageous girls whose determination and unwavering spirit embody the true essence of this event.

Jordan Marquis, a thirteen-year-old from Bedford with a below-knee amputation, is challenging herself to compete in the one-mile swim. Jordan shares, "I hate being underestimated. People with disabilities can do anything! Goal setting – the full mile is the next step for me." Jordan took on the half-mile swim last year and, in an effort to honor her grandmother who is a breast cancer survivor, she wants to swim even further this year.

Jasmine "Jazzy" Gillespie, an eleven-year-old girl from Bedford with minor spastic diplegia, is participating in solidarity of the daily challenges that are faced by those with health conditions like cancer. Jazzy says: "Sometimes I feel like people who don't have conditions that

affect their daily lives don't understand what it's like. So instead of having empathy for these people, they make fun of them or make them think that they can't do anything. Doing this breaks the person down and they start to believe that they can't do anything. I could imagine that this happens to people with breast cancer, too." Jazzy is swimming in Against the Tide to honor her two grandmothers as well as her aunt, all of whom were touched by breast cancer.

Like Jordan and Jazzy, Chloe Smagula, a fourteen-year-old girl from Westford with hemiplegia, is swimming in Against the Tide to pay tribute to her aunt and to help those touched by cancer through supporting MBCC's mission. Chloe, who participated in Against the Tide last year, said, "I did the open water swim because I've never done it before and I wanted to try something new."



**2023 Hopkinton Against the Tide Event on June 17, 2023.**  
From Left to Right: Jasmine Gillespie, Laura Diamond, Chloe Smagula, Megan Cohen, and Jordan Marquis

Against the Tide is a truly inviting event where all are welcome and everyone can get together in support of cancer prevention. It offers participants of any age or ability the chance to take part in one or more of the event's athletic components.

The special 25th Anniversary Cape Cod Against the Tide event will take place on June 8th at DCR's Nickerson State Park in Brewster, MA. The 32nd

Annual Hopkinton Against the Tide event will take place on June 15th at DCR's Hopkinton State Park in Hopkinton, MA. Against the Tide will also be held virtually from June 8th to June 15th.

To learn more about Against the Tide and all of the registration options, to join or create a team and to donate or fundraise, please visit the event website at [mbcc.org/swim](http://mbcc.org/swim).

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# Bancroft Memorial Library News

50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale MA 01747

Contact: Tricia Perry, Library Director (508) 634-2209 [tperry@cwmares.org](mailto:tperry@cwmares.org)

The Library will be closed on Monday, April 15th for Patriot's Day.

## Solar Eclipse Community Viewing Party - Monday, April 8th from 1:30-4pm

All members of the community are invited to a free Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on the Community House lawn on Monday, April 8th from 1:30pm - 4pm. Library staff will have a limited supply of ISO certified glasses for distribution at the Community House; we ask that people be considerate and share the glasses so everyone has an opportunity to view the eclipse. This event is sponsored by the Bancroft Memorial Library, the Friends of the Hopedale Library, the Hopedale Council on Aging, the Hopedale Community House and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

## Cradles to Crayons - March 25th - April 5th

The Library will again be a collection location for Cradles to Crayons, an organization

that battles clothing insecurities across MA and the US. New and gently used clothing for newborns to age 12 can be dropped off any time the Library is open; there will be bins both upstairs and downstairs.

## Drawing for Southwick's Zoo Passes - April 1st through April 11th

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are sponsoring a drawing for passes to Southwick's Zoo! To enter, fill out a form at the Library between April 1-11th. The Friends will draw 25 names on Friday, April 12th and will notify winners via a phone call. NOTE: you must be a Hopedale resident and only one entry per family/address is allowed. Each winner will receive two free passes to the Zoo.

## Helen Symonds Book Group

Wednesday, April 3rd at 1:00pm

The group will meet in the Library Program Room to discuss Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See. "Tan Yunxian -- born into an elite family, is being raised by her grandparents to be of use. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in

China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations: looking, listening, touching, and asking. Sent into an arranged marriage, forbidden to continue her work as a midwife-in-training and ordered to act like a proper wife, Tan seeks a way to continue treating women and girls from every level of society in fifteenth-century China." - adapted from CWMARS catalog

## Community Conversations

Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:30pm

Community Conversations will meet to discuss Immigration. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please sign up at the Circulation Desk or online on the Library website under Calendar of Events.

## News from The Friends of the Hopedale Library

Birdscaping: Home Sweet Habitat - Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30pm The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to present Birdscaping: Home Sweet Habitat. Join us as Joan Butler of Enchanted Gardens explores the importance of

creating welcoming habitats for birds through thoughtful landscape choices. Learn about the benefits and joys of creating beautiful layered gardens designed for avian - and human - habitats. To register for this free program, please stop by the Library, call 508-634-2209, or sign up through the online event calendar. All ages are welcome.

## Maker Mondays - Monday, April 22nd at 6pm

Join our evening crafting workshop for adults at Bancroft Memorial Library! This month is Seedlings 101 - learn some casual planting tips with fun facts and engage in a Q&A with Suzie Canale. Space is limited and registration is required. Register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events.

## DQ Fundraiser - Tuesday, April 23rd 5pm-8pm

Support The Friends of the Hopedale Library at the Milford Dairy Queen at 190 West Street in Milford. The Friends will receive 10% of all purchases from 5-8pm; all monies raised will go right back to support Library programs, summer reading, museum passes, and expenses not covered by the Library budget.

## Free Seed Library

Don't forget to stop by the Bancroft Memorial Library and get free seeds from our Seed Library. There is no limit - take what you need! Special thanks to Burpee & Co., Baker Seed Company, Floret Flowers, Hudson Valley Seed Company, High Mowing Organic Seeds, and New England Seed.

## FlowerPower.org Fundraiser

Our FlowerPower.org fundraiser continues through 5/15! Order flowers, bulbs, and other plants online, have orders shipped directly to you and the

Friends will earn 50%. Shop at <http://hopedalelibrary.fpfundraising.com>.

**Ongoing Book Sale** Support the Friends of the Hopedale Library anytime the Library is open by shopping the Ongoing Book sale, located downstairs just outside of the program room. All monies raised pay for expenses not covered by the Library budget.

## About the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Hopedale Library meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, September - June. It is a volunteer, non-profit organization with a town-wide membership and a representative executive board. We work with the Library staff and Trustees to provide funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the Library's regular operating budget. New members and ideas are always welcome!

## News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room

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

**Rhyme Time - Ages 2 - 4 years:** Tuesdays 4/2, 9, 23, 30 at 10:00am

**Toddler Tunes - Ages 1 - 3 :** Tuesdays 4/2, 9, 23, 30 at 11:00am

**Teen Advisory - Grades 6 - 12:** Wednesday 4/3 at 5pm Share pizza and play video games! Registration required.

**Alpha-nauts! - Ages 4 - 6:** Thursdays 4/4, 11, 25 at 10am Registration required.

**Busy Babies - Ages 0 - 18**

## LIBRARY

*continued on page 9*

## Local Town Pages Is Looking for Writers!

Our Town Publishing is currently seeking freelance writers local to the Metrowest area to cover stories for our nine publications which cover the towns of **Ashland, Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Natick, Norfolk, Norwood, Medway, Millis, and Wrentham**. If you're interested, please send a resume and two writing samples to [editor@franklintownnews.com](mailto:editor@franklintownnews.com).

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# Ready Homebuyers? Things Are About To Change.



**Glenn Brown, CFP**

It's been a perfect storm the last 3+ years against first and second-time homebuyers.

But a change is coming, starting with anticipation of mortgage rates falling from 7%.

Morningstar, echoing other analysts, in March shared current Fed Funds rate of 5.25-5.50% will be 4.00 to 4.25% at end of 2024. Furthermore, expect the Fed to continue to "cut through end of 2025, ultimately bringing the federal funds rate down by over 300 points".

Talk to realtors and lenders, they're seeing activity pick up.

Why?

Wait until mortgage rates fall to 5%, then homes in certain price points will have inversely increased in value. Whereas, if one can purchase now with expectation to lower ongoing expenses via refinancing later, you've capped initial co2006sts

and participated in appreciation.

Thus, first time buyers and those looking to move up, it's time to plan.

This means prioritizing your needs, wants, locations and budget for after you've moved into your new home. This last one is critical as lenders base your pre-approval on this moment in time, not the fact you plan to do X a year from now which requires more money in your budget.

Due diligence should also include:

**Zillow, RedFin, Realtor** - Scroll beyond pictures and into details of when built, sqft, interior features, acreage, adjacent home values and price/tax history. With price history, see when last sold, amount, then account for pictures or better yet when you visit, to see what's been done since to determine value.

**Tax Assessments and Property Taxes** - Regardless of Realtor views on tax assessments relative to asking price, know a \$890K listing with town tax assessment of \$620K for \$9,300 property taxes, will get reassessed the following year. If bought for \$900K, town likely comes in at \$820K (or higher) for \$12,300 property taxes or \$250 extra a month on your budget.

**Financing Options** - Explore beyond 30-year fixed rates. Understand directional interest rate

landscape and how long you expect to stay in your home. Does a 7-year adjustable rate mortgage (ARM) make sense if the plan is to move in 5-7 years or refinance as rates come down 50-75bps?

**Mortgage and Cash Flow Calculations** - The more variables, the better. Same with ability compare refinancing scenarios and contrast amortization tables. With clients, I'll share calculator.net, use links to save scenarios and then run these inside eMoney cash flow analysis. Together, we see impact on their future budget, cash flow 1-3 years out as well as long-term impact.

For example, say one refinanced \$600K in Sept 2020 at 2.75% on 30-year for \$2,449 a month.

In April 2024, decides to move with current mortgage balance ~\$550K, using equity and additional savings, to add \$150K to a new \$700K mortgage at 7%. New monthly payment is \$4,657, or \$2,208 more. In 5 years (April 2029), outstanding balance is ~\$658K without refinancing.

Conversely, if able to pay \$4,657 a month, decide to stay put with Sept 2020 mortgage and make \$2,208 additional payments starting April 2024, the balance is \$322K by 2029. Beyond the \$336K spread after 5 years to move and borrow \$150K, the Sept 2020 is now

paid off in August 2035 and not 2050.

But wait, there's more to consider.

What if the 7% mortgage is refinanced down to 5% by April 2026? New monthly is \$3,634, or \$1,023 less. Add this as extra payment starting 2026, what do you have?

Understand money is a tool, not the only consideration.

There is great value in doing what's best for your family, educational or work opportunities and/or your personal choice of belonging to a community.

You should know this value going into a decision, not after it.

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.

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**LIBRARY**

*continued from page 8*

**mos:** Thursdays 4/4, 11, 25 at 11am

**Book Cubs - Grades 2 - 3:** Wednesday 4/10 at 4pm  
Registration required.

**Teen Movie Night - 4/17** from 6-8pm

**Saturday 4/6 from 10-12pm:** Make an indirect viewer for the solar eclipse on April 8th

**\*New\* Teen Book Club: Book Buffet - Grades 6-12 - 4/29 from 6-7pm**

Enjoy some treats as we talk about our favorite books and start your own mini book library!

**Saturday Family Fun -** Saturdays April 13 and April 27 from 11am-1pm.

**April Vacation week -** Tuesday, April 16th through

**Saturday, April 20th**

We will be making spring crafts, watching a movie, planting seeds to take home and having a Taylor Swift day! Call the Library or check the Library website under Calendar of Events for more information.

**Desserts and Discussions - Wednesday April 24th at 6:00pm**

Presented by the Milford Family & Community Network, this fun night is a participant led discussion only for parents/caregivers to connect with others. To register, call (508) 277-4981. The Milford Family & Community Network is a Co-ordinated Family Community Engagement grant funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and awarded to Milford Public Schools.

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. Our webpage is <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library>.

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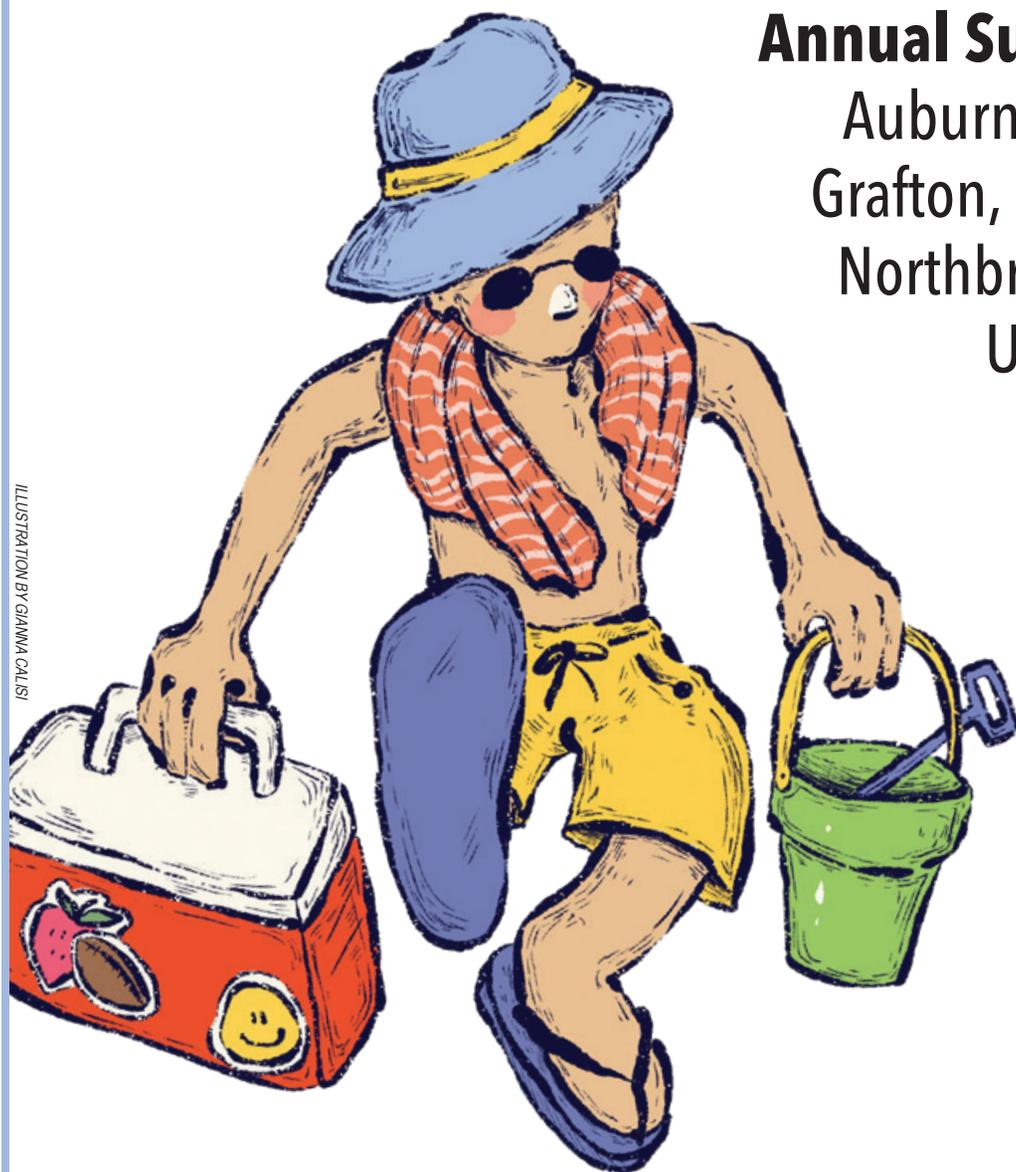
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# Hearing continued to April 17 regarding 370 S. Main Street

## Applicant proposes two 6,600 sf warehouses

By THERESA KNAPP

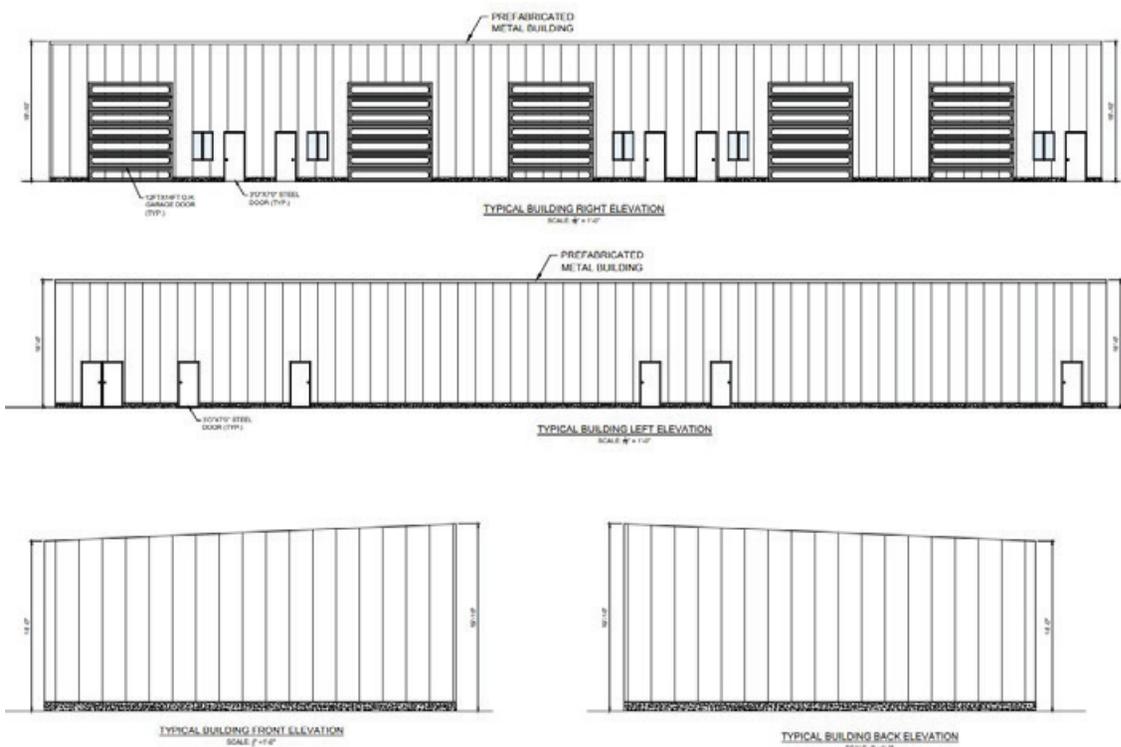
There is currently an application before the Hopedale Planning Board for two 6,600 square foot prefabricated metal warehouses at 370 S. Main Street, across from Hopedale Business Park and among several single-family homes.

The first hearing was held on March 18; the meeting recording was not available at press time. The hearing was continued to April 17 at 7 p.m. for ad-

ditional discussion.

The Hopedale Application for Site Plan Approval lists the applicant as Pro-Painting Inc. at 366 Berlin St., Clinton, and the email address of the owner belongs to Gabriel Praxedes.

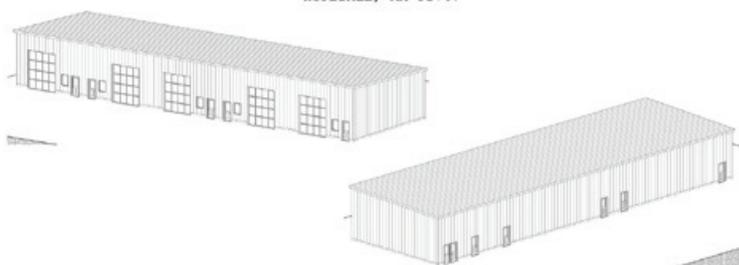
According to [bit.ly/countyoffice370SouthMainHopedale](http://bit.ly/countyoffice370SouthMainHopedale), the buyer bought the multi-family residential building in 2021 as a foreclosure for \$191,000. Praxedes has several other businesses listed at his Clinton address, according to the Secretary



Images from the Application for Site Plan Approval for 370 S. Main St. where two 6,600sf metal warehouse buildings are proposed. Source: [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov)

### NEW STRUCTURES

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of the Commonwealth's Corporations Division ([bit.ly/MassCorporationsDivision](http://bit.ly/MassCorporationsDivision)).

For more informa-

tion on the project, including the application and building plans, visit [www.hopedale-ma.gov/planning-board](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov/planning-board) or

[bit.ly/370southMainStHopedale](http://bit.ly/370southMainStHopedale).

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- Multi-Color River Stone ..... \$85
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- Blue Stone Dust ..... \$50
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# Living Healthy

## The Vital Role of Anesthesiologists in Eye Surgery

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

In the realm of surgical procedures, eye surgeries stand out for their delicacy and precision. From cataract removals to glaucoma procedures, these surgeries require meticulous attention to detail and specialized care. Among the crucial team members in the operating room, anesthesiologists play a vital role in ensuring the safety and comfort of patients undergoing eye surgery.

During eye surgery, patients often need to remain still and relaxed, which can be challenging, especially when they are conscious. This is where the expertise of anesthesiologists becomes indispensable. Anesthesiologists are trained professionals who specialize in administering anesthesia and monitoring patients' vital signs throughout the surgical process. By carefully selecting and administering the



appropriate type and dosage of anesthesia, they ensure that patients are adequately sedated, pain-free, and stable during the procedure.

One of the primary concerns during eye surgery is maintaining optimal conditions for the surgeon to work effectively. Any

sudden movement or reflex from the patient could compromise the precision of the procedure and potentially lead to complications. Anesthesiologists play a crucial role in achieving and maintaining the desired level of sedation or anesthesia, keeping the patient still and comfortable

throughout the surgery.

Moreover, certain eye surgeries, such as retinal detachment repair or corneal transplantation, may require the patient to be completely still for an extended period. In such cases, the expertise of anesthesiologists in administering regional anesthesia techniques like retrobulbar or peribulbar blocks can be invaluable. These techniques involve injecting anesthetic agents around the eye to numb the surrounding area while keeping the patient awake but pain-free. By effectively blocking the sensation of pain and minimizing involuntary movements, anesthesiologists facilitate a smooth and successful surgical outcome.

Additionally, anesthesiologists play a crucial role in managing patients with pre-existing medical conditions or factors that may increase the risks associated with anesthesia, such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic pulmonary conditions, diabetes, or allergies. Through comprehensive pre-operative assessments and personalized anesthesia plans, they ensure that patients receive safe and optimal care tailored to their individual needs.

You can easily conclude that the presence of anesthesiologists in the operating room is essential for the success and safety of eye surgeries. Their expertise in administering anesthesia, monitoring patients' vital signs, and managing anesthesia-related complications is instrumental in ensuring a smooth and comfortable surgical experience. Unfortunately, some practices are advocating for performing cataract surgery in their office. Unapproved by Medicare and major ophthalmology professional societies, this office-based surgery is based on giving you the patient a sedative pill by mouth and then they want you to be going to surgery with just that. No IV line in case of an emergency, no anesthesia presence, and the surgeon who is overwhelmingly busy operating on your eye will be the only physician in the room. Furthermore, if the sedative pill is not enough to keep you sedated or comfortable, there is nothing else they

can do to relieve your anxiety and make you comfortable because you have no IV line. This raises significant concerns about patient safety and comfort. Furthermore, performing cataract surgery in an office setting may lack the rigorous standards, staff training and sterile environments maintained in dedicated surgical centers. The absence of dedicated anesthesia professionals and comprehensive medical support can compromise patient comfort and safety during surgery. Patients are advised to prioritize their well-being and consider established surgical centers with experienced medical teams and top-notch facilities to ensure optimal outcomes for cataract surgery. You should always ask "Will an anesthesiologist be present during my surgery?" and "What do you do to make me comfortable if the pill you gave me outside the surgery room is not enough?" At the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, a dedicated MD anesthesiologist is present full-time for all procedures, no exception, and your comfort and safety are titrated by using an IV line, which is lacking in the office-based surgery model.

As advancements in surgical techniques continue to evolve, the collaboration between surgeons and anesthesiologists remains paramount in achieving the best possible outcomes for patients undergoing eye surgery. At Milford Franklin Eye Center and The Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, our focus is on you, your vision, excellent surgical results without compromising your safety or comfort. You come first. We are available in your backyard and proud to offer world-class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! In an accredited and licensed surgery center facility, not in an office. Four decades serving our communities and going strong.

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**APRIL 2024 - HOPEDALE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES (508)634-2208**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am - 9:30 am Daily Grind 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 am - 9:30 am Daily Grind 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO 2pm - 5pm Solar Eclipse Viewing Party</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 9:30 am Grocery Shopping 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance</p> <p><b>Errand Van Available</b> </p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class <b>12:00 pm Pizza Party</b> 1:00 pm Tai Chi</p> <p><b>Errand Van Available</b> </p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>Patriots' Day Holiday CLOSED</b></p> 	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm No Dance Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 am - 9:30 am Daily Grind 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 10:00 am Parklands Walk <b>12:00 pm Lunch at Senior Center</b> 12:45 pm BINGO</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 9:30 am Grocery Shopping 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance</p> <p><b>Errand Van Available</b> </p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 am Watercolor Class 10:00 am COA Board Meeting 1:00 pm Tai Chi 1:00 pm Chiropractic Care for Older Adults</p> <p><b>Errand Van Available</b> </p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Senior Center closes</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 am - 9:30 am Daily Grind 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 9:30 am Digital Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance</p>			

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## Sports

# Looking To Hold Onto Her Second Singles Position

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Kate Friesema is entering her fourth season on the Hopedale varsity girls' tennis team and after securing a position at second singles last year, the sophomore is looking to hold onto the spot as the Blue Raiders get ready for another season of tennis.

After playing tennis with her twin sister Emma in local summer programs, she was enticed to join the high school team as a seventh grader with her friend

Gabby Rinehart. The duo would both make the team and actually play second doubles together that first campaign.

"That year we had a decent record," Friesema said. "Although I don't know if Gabby was thrilled with my play. I can be a ball hog at times, and it could get the best of me on the court."

After picking up a racquet for the first time, Friesema found that she enjoyed the competitiveness of the game and loved the team aspect of the sport. Although she was all in during her



first season with Hopedale, she didn't know what to expect in playing a varsity sport for the Jr/Sr High School.

"Coach Riffo is very patient and understanding," she said, "The very first week I was on the court with all the first-year players, but by the next week along with Gabby, I found myself on the next court with the doubles players."

After playing doubles her first two seasons with Hopedale, Friesema realized that seniors would be vacating the team due to graduation and some singles spots would be open the following season. That summer she decided that she wanted one of those openings and worked really hard, playing a lot of tennis to get ready for the potential challenge.

"I played a lot of tennis that summer on the courts next to my house with my sister and a few teammates," Friesema said. "Although I like playing doubles, I would much prefer singles. When I won the second singles challenge during tryouts, I was excited and knew that I could do this."

Having earned the second singles spot on the team, Friesema may have been thrilled to get the position, but she was also nervous the first time that she took the court in her new role. The nerves

may have been running through her body, but the then freshman took the match to a tiebreaker, which she eventually won.

"Playing singles was something new and very different from doubles," she said. "It's only me on that side of the court and I control everything, good or bad."

Playing singles for her first time, Friesema found that she ended up with a record over .500 and was named to the Dual Valley Conference All-Star team, something that definitely caught her off guard.

"Honestly, it was out of the blue," she recalls. "I felt that I had been playing well, but when Coach told me that I had been named to the All-Star team I was totally surprised that it had happened, but it boosted my confidence."

Having been recognized as a talented player, the now-sophomore decided to take lessons with a couple of her teammates this past summer to improve their game. Friesema felt that she needed to work on her serve and backhand form to elevate her game.

"I felt that the lessons helped, but I still need to continue to work on it," Friesema said. "I'm quick so I can get to a lot of balls on the court, but everyone has something that they can work on

and I'm no exception."

As she gets ready for her second season as Hopedale's number two singles player, Friesema is looking to have a full serve this year and hopefully can get back to DVC All-Star status again all the while holding onto her second singles spot.

Right in front of the sophomore in the number one singles slot is another sophomore in Pia Obrador and although she is a very talented tennis player Friesema says playing in the top spot is something that she'd like to play some day.

"It's crossed my mind, but right now I'm staying at second singles," she said. "I believe that I could be successful there, but to get there I'd have to beat out Pia and she's an incredible player."

In addition to playing tennis, which she classifies as her primary sport, Friesema also plays basketball for the Blue Raiders and next fall she plans on trying out for the cross-country team. She was looking for something to do during the down season that would keep her in shape and get ready for basketball season. Not only that, but Rinehart has been trying to get her to join the team with her.

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# 14th Annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk

**Sponsored by the Hopedale Athletic Boosters Association**

By JESS ALLEN

The 14th annual Hopedale Blue Raider 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by the Hopedale Athletic Boosters Association, will be held on Saturday, May 11, at the Hopedale Jr-Sr High School at 25 Adin St., in Hopedale.

It is expected that over 250 runners and walkers will be making the trek again over the relatively flat course through downtown Hopedale. A Hopedale version of Heartbreak Hill after mile 2 will separate the pack – this was where Tim Maguire, Hopedale Girls Cross Country coach and Biology teacher, made a decisive move to win last year's race.

The 5k Run/Walk is held annually in memory of Coach Larry Olsen who led Hopedale's Girls Cross Country and Track teams to tremendous success. Coach Olsen, was a highly decorated runner; his compassion and enthusiasm are greatly missed by Hopedale and the entire running community. It has been wonderful to see the community rally for the past 14 years around this event!

This event is the biggest fundraiser for the Hopedale Boosters and the money raised is used to support the student athletes of Hopedale Junior/Senior High School and many other student body activities. The Boosters provide senior scholarships, donations to senior activities and year book committee in addition to funding requests that support the school athletic teams.

Number pickup and race-day registration will begin at 8 AM. The pre-entry fee is \$30; \$20 for ages 21 and younger. A free dry-fit T-shirt will be given to those who register by April 12. Runners can register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or by using the QR code shown here. In addition to the race, there



Above, men's winner: Tim Maguire, and below, women's winner Mel Weaver. Photos by Steve Bassignani.



will be a variety of raffle prizes to be won that are being graciously donated by local businesses. The 5K race will begin at 10. Those who are not able to participate may also enter a 50/50 raffle here: <https://go.rallyup.com/hdaleboosters>

Any person, organization or company wishing to donate raffle items or become an official sponsor should contact the Boosters at [Hopedale5k@gmail.com](mailto:Hopedale5k@gmail.com). There are many levels of sponsorship available including t-shirts, bibs and signage. No donation is too small to support our student athletes.

Professional timekeeping will be provided by Tri-Valley Front Runners. Medals will be given to the top three male and female runners in each age category. Overall winners will receive a gift certificate to PR Running. Running or walking with strollers and pets is allowed and encouraged.

Parking, restrooms, compli-



mentary snacks and water and a DJ Mike will join us for entertainment. Join us on May 11th for a fun filled day of Hopedale Blue Raider pride and community spirit!

## Real Estate Corner

### Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
03/08/2024	88 Laurelwood Dr.	\$375,000
03/08/2024	65 Freedom St.	\$415,000
03/06/2024	210-210A S. Main St.	\$320,000
03/04/2024	13 Elmwood Ave.	\$500,000
02/29/2024	31 Laurelwood Dr.	\$390,000
02/27/2024	72 Greene St.	\$488,000

Source: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com) / Compiled by Local Town Pages



The 4-bed, 2-bath, 1,813 square foot house at 65 Freedom Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$415,000. Image credit: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)

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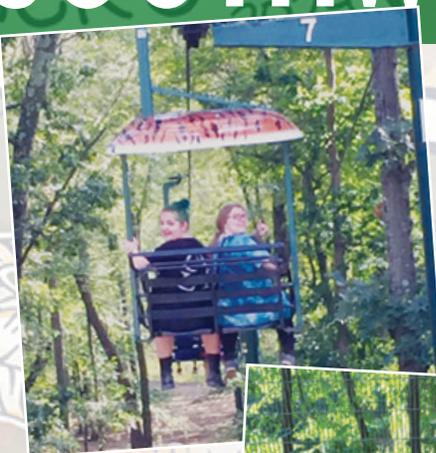
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ILLUSTRATION BY ROMAN KAPLAN/MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN



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