# Milford FREEPRESS

PRSRT STD ECRWSS U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** PERMIT NO. 142 SPRINGFIELD, MA

Postal Customer Local

#### Vol. 2 No. 4

#### April 11 - May 8, 2024

# Library leap year party a hopping success

More than 80 people stopped by the Milford Town Library on Thursday, Feb. 29, to celebrate Leap Year. Children of all ages enjoyed leaprelated crafts, activities, and snacks during the two-hour event. MTL offers several free youth events each month. For more information, visit www. milfordtownlibrary.org or find them on Facebook @Milford-TownLibrary





ENTRALON

# Beat Generation multimedia music event rocked the Milford Senior Center



**Fran Hart regales the audience at the Milford Senior Center with popular music from the 1950s.** *Courtesy photo* 

#### By Linda Chuss

During the afternoon of March 27, Fran Hart treated attendees at the Bleakney Senior Center to the "Beat Generation – a cultural review of the 1950s through music." The multimedia performance

was designed to highlight the best (and sometimes the worst) of the decade. People of all ages came to learn about the youthful experiences and tastes of those who are seniors today.

Hart, a founding mem-

ber of the Beatles tribute band, 4EverFab, played acoustic renditions honoring the greats of the era: Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Jerry

> BEAT GENERATION continued on page 8

#### LIFE IN MASSACHUSETTS PHOTO CONTEST Submit your original photos depicting life in the state of Massachusetts FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN \$200!

For full contest rules and to enter, visit **tinyurl.com/LifeinMass** or scan the QR code! Entries must be received by 4/30/24.

centralfcu.com | (800) 527-1017





# Milford High School staff and students prioritize mental health initiatives

By Molly Stoker and Dale Kalber Student Writers

The Milford High School community has continued to make students and staff's mental health a top priority and there are many advocates working both behind the scenes and outwardly to make those improvements a reality.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "In 2021, more than 4 in 10 (42%) students felt persistently sad or hopeless and nearly 1/3 (29%) experienced poor mental health." The MHS faculty and students are persistently providing support for one another's emotional well-being.

MPS Director of Social Emotional Learning Lisa Kingkade shares, "If students' mental health isn't addressed then everything else is really difficult. In order for us to have students achieve, we need to make sure they feel good and they have the supports in place to achieve academically."

Students agree that mental health has to be a matter of greatest importance.

Junior Eve Gergis, started her own Mental Health Alliance Club this past year at MHS and is an advocate for students' mental well-being. Gergis' new club strives to destigmatize mental health and promote talking about the subject.

One of Gergis's main initiatives she would like to see is in the education of teachers on mental health related issues. Gergis states "... there are small ways we can educate teachers on how to support different students and not solely by giving them extensions."

When talking about how to take care of oneself, she also says, "When you're on an airplane, they tell you to put on your oxygen mask first before you can help others and that's kind of how I've chosen to live my life."

The advisor of the Mental Health Alliance Club is Jenna Smith. She sheds some light as both a teacher and leader of the community.

Ms. Smith comments, "By having this club, and creating the safe space that we have planned, students will know they have somewhere to go and someone to talk to." This club allows for a calm shelter from the storm that can be high school.

MHS has other programs working in many different ways and are trying to find methods that work for the community.

Kingkade explains, "Here at the high school, we've been working with a program called JED ... a group of 12 of us were trained who will be training staff in the upcoming months and also students. The idea is to have the peer-support group without the counselors."

Staff is being trained on Emotional CPR (ECPR) and how to set up a student-led support group.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), "This training is a practice in how to listen. You are going to be listening without doing anything, but being emotionally present."

Associate Principal William Chaplin is a strong advocate for the mental health of students. He discusses the future initiatives that would be put in place at the future high school building. "Community learning spaces as well as outdoor learning spaces. Student lounges where kids can go in and chill out, make a cup of tea if they want ... similar to what adults have." Chaplin hopes for a new high school to be built within 5-6 years.

In the current high school, there is limited space and not a lot of natural sunlight within some of the classrooms. Chaplin comments, "Students in this building go through the whole day ... and never see daylight ... [in the new building] more light, that helps everything."

Mr. Chaplin states, "[This is a] fast paced world, and [it's] a life skill everyone has to learn throughout early adulthood and adulthood of just trying to pause and focus on their own selfcare and that is mental health and wellness."



# Electronics Recycling Day Saturday, April 20

The First Congregational Church of Milford is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, April 20 from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The church will ensure that 99% of dropped off items will be reused and recycled.

All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Recycling fees range from \$5 to \$40 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost.

This event is an easy and fun way to dispose of the old electronics in your garage, basement, attic and offices. So start setting them aside now and bring them to the church parking lot on Saturday, April 20. A drive through process will allow those donating to quickly drop



off their items where help will be available.

The First Congregational Church Electronics Recycling event is held twice a year during April and September. We very much appreciate the support of those who have previously chosen to responsibly recycle with us and look forward to continuing to offer this recycling opportunity.

Drop off in the church parking lot at 4 Congress St., Milford. (Opposite Draper Park, next to the Post Office). **Please enter the lot from the church street entrance.** 

Cash payments only,

please. For more information contact Martha at 508-904-4471

# Popular all-ages Milford program for activities and learning keeps growing

#### Community School Use Program started in 1970s

#### By Linda Chuss

Estate planning. Kids camp. Pasta making. Lap swimming. Unified basketball. What this diverse group of activities have in common, along with many others, is they are all conducted at Milford's school facilities outside of regular school hours.

Chris Burns, Assistant Director of the Milford Community School Use Program, explained the basics. "It started in the 1970s to put the school facilities to good use for educational, recreational, and cultural activities outside of regular school hours. I remember it from when I was growing up in town. While some offerings have changed over the years, the program has thrived."

Sessions are listed on the website, and registration can be completed online. People can find out about new offerings by joining the email list or seeing flyers around town, like at the senior center and library.

"We add new classes by request," Burns said. "Based on a suggestion, we recently started 'Safe Sitter' to teach teens about caring for younger children. Another way we introduce new offerings is when an instructor has an idea. Someone with a skill teaching people a hobby they have or something they have worked at, like guitar, or makeup application, can propose a class. Then, there's a budget we need to work out to pay the instruction fees, so we don't lose money on the programs we run."

The town's Community School Use Program Committee helps promote the program. Tony Chinappi, a committee member, is "looking for more ways to get the word out, like mailings and listings in local papers."

Because there is no facility use fee for the classes, prices tend to be lower than similar offerings at other locations. As one example, lap swimming is \$6 for a 90-minute session, with non-residents paying a slightly higher fee of \$7. The Community School Use Program is not-for-profit and is self-funded, meaning registration fees pay for the instructors and the management of the program. Not all towns offer a program like this and in some situations, charge a facility use fee.

In Milford, there are over 30 programs conducted each year, and over 1,000 people attend sessions. One of the most popular is the after-school program for children ages 3 to 5, and students in kindergarten through fifth grade who attend Milford Public Schools.

For more information or to register or sign up for the email list, visit milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com. Follow the latest on Facebook: @milfordcommunityuse. For questions, call 508-478-1119 or email the director at jligor@milfordma. com.



Summer camp is a popular choice in the Milford Community School Use Program. Courtesy photo



**Bronze Award blessing bags for the homeless** 

### FREE PRESS

# 6

Use this QR CODE to visit our Facebook Page



#### LOOKING TO ADVERTISE?

Contact Jen today at 508-570-6544 or jenschofield @localtownpages.com

### FREE PRESS

Published Monthly on the 2nd Thursday Mailed FREE to the Community of Milford Circulation: 12,800 households & businesses

> **Publisher** Chuck Tashjian

**Editor** Theresa Knapp

Send Editorial to: editor@milfordfreepress.com

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

Creative Design & Layout Michelle McSherry Kim Vasseur Wendy Watkins

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

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

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

© Copyright 2024 Free Press



Milford Girl Scouts Selina Cales and Lyla Fasulo from Junior Troop 65017 earned their Bronze Award by creating 57 "blessing bags" for the homeless of Milford.

Blessing bags contain hygiene necessities and other comforts, which the girls organized with help across the community. First, Selina and Lya contacted the Sacred Heart Catholic Church's coordinators to learn what items are needed most. Once they had a list, the girls created an Amazon wishlist and solicited their families, friends, and the Girl Scout community for donations. Next, the girls went to Milford's hotels to request shampoo, conditioner, razers, shaving cream, combs, and other travel sized items. They even received toothpaste, toothbrushes, and floss from a local dentist's office.

As a result of assembling these blessing bags, Selina and Lyla learned the challenges of being homeless and how they can make a difference in someone's life. This project embodies the Girl Scout Law by demonstrating consideration and caring to those in need.

The Bronze Award is the highest award that Girl Scout Juniors (fourth to fifth graders) can earn and requires 20 or more hours of work.



Milford Girl Scouts Selina Cales and Lyla Fasulo earned their Bronze Award by creating "blessing bags" for the homeless of Milford. *Courtesy* photo

# Milford police detectives use community tips to make drug arrest

On April 2, 2024, members of the Milford Police Detective Bureau conducted surveillance in the area of upper Congress Street, in response to several community information tips received via the Milford Police Tip Line and citizen interaction.

At approximately 6 p.m., detectives observed a hand-tohand transaction involving a grey Nissan Juke with Rhode Island registration tags. Following the observation, detectives enacted a motor vehicle stop and investigation of the vehicle. The operator, Samaris Rivera Pena, 23, of Providence, Rhode Island, freely provided the location of drugs in the vehicle. Regarding the arrest, Sgt.

Kevin O'Loughlin said, "The

catalyst, and ultimately the outcome, of this investigation can be directly attributed to the information we received from our community. We can't encourage our community enough to continue telling us what they see."

Pena was arrested and charged with the following: - Drug, possess Class A

- Drug, possess with intent to

distribute Class A

- License suspended, operate motor vehicle with

If you have any information involving illegal activity, please contact the Milford Police by calling the Confidential Tip Line 508-473-3800 or emailing tipline@milfordpolice.org

Source: www.milfordpolice.org



#### Page 5

# Time for financial spring cleaning?



**Mark Freeman** 

#### FINANCIAL FOCUS® Provided by Edward Jones

Spring is almost here, which means it's time for some spring cleaning. This year, in addition to tidying your home and surroundings, you might want to consider sprucing up your financial environment, as well.

Here are some suggestions for doing just that:

• Improve your vision. Once the days are warmer and lon-

ger, you may want to get outside and clean all the winter grime and smudges from your windows, allowing you to see the world more clearly. And you may want to bring more focus to your financial vision by asking some key questions: Is my investment strategy still appropriate for my needs, goals and family situation? If not, what changes should I make? And am I prepared for changes in my life, such as health challenges or a need to retire earlier than planned? The answers to these and other questions can help you clarify where you are, in terms of your financial picture, and

• **De-clutter.** As you look around your home, you may find things such as expired health care products, old prescriptions, ancient cleaning solutions, and so on, in addition to duplicate household items (how many blenders do you really need?) and nonworking equipment — print-

where you want to go.

ers, laptops, etc. Most people find that eliminating this clutter gives them a good feeling - and more livable space. As an investor, you can also find clutter in the form of redundant investments - for example, you might own several nearly identical mutual funds. You might be better off selling some of these funds and using the proceeds to find new investments that can help you further diversify your portfolio. As you may know, diversification is a key to investment success, but keep in mind that it can't prevent all losses.

• Plant seeds of opportunity. Whether they're planting camellias and crocuses or carrots and cilantro, gardeners are busy in the spring, hoping their efforts result in lovely flowers and tasty foods. And when you invest, you, too, need to plant seeds of opportunity in the form of investments that you hope will grow enough to enable you to make progress toward your goals. So, you may want to review your portfolio to ensure it's providing this growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance.

• Reduce dangers. You may not think about it that much, but your home and surroundings can contain potential hazards. You might have ill-fitting caps on cleaning products with toxic chemicals, or sharp cutting instruments protruding from shelves in your garage, or heavy, cracked tree branches hovering close to your roof. Spending some time on a spring-cleaning sweep can get rid of these dangers - and devoting time to consider the possible threats to your financial security, and those of your family, can pay off, too. For starters, review your life insurance to determine if you've got enough. Your employer may offer some coverage as an employee benefit, but it might not be

sufficient, so you may need private coverage. And the same is true for disability insurance, because if something were to happen to you, and you couldn't work for a while, you'd still want to protect your family's lifestyle.

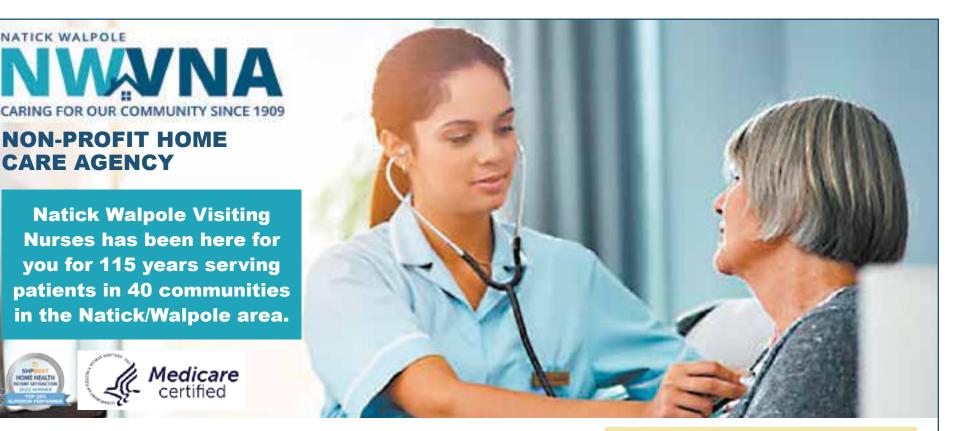
Spring is a great time for brightening your physical space — and your financial one, too.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact:

Mark Freeman Edward Jones Financial Advisor 77 West Main Street, Hopkinton, MA 508-293-4017 Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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

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



Your care is our #1 priority. The Center for Medicare Services (CMS) has awarded our Agency the highest standard in patient satisfaction. 5 Gold Stars ★★★★

Natick Walpole VNA provides post-surgical care, cardiac rehab, joint replacement therapy, fall prevention, diabetes control, and much more.

We are Medicare Certified. Medicare pays 100% of allowable charges when you need skilled nursing, rehab therapy or aides at home.

If you or someone you care for could use help at home, please call Natick Walpole VNA at 508-668-1066, we are open 7 days per week from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, plus 24/7 on-call nurse and phone coverage.

#### Join Our Team! Mother's Hours Available

Due to our continued growth, we have open RN and LPN positions available. We offer competitive salaries, flexible full or part-time schedules, and an excellent benefits package. Please contact us at **508-668-1066** for more information or apply online at www.nwvna.org

Natick Walpole VNA | 85 West Street Walpole | www.nwvna.org

## Milford's K9 Titan passes recertification



On March 28, the Milford Police Department reported that K9 Titan had successfully passed his recertification test with the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) to maintain his explosives/firearm detection ability.

Source: www.milfordpolice.org



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

Call us for a free estimate Boucher Energy Systems 508-473-6648 www.boucherenergy.com

# 'Everyday Heroes' scholarship deadline April 20

Four scholarships available in honor of Lucas Denommee

The "Everyday Heroes" scholarship has been established to honor the legacy of Milford High School student Lucas R. Denommee.

Funds for the scholarship were graciously made available by donations to the Lucas Denommee Legacy Fund, whose mission is to spread awareness, provide resources and establish a sense of community to those impacted by mental illness and suicide.

This year, there are four scholarships available. The deadline to apply is April 20. Any and all graduating students may apply for this scholarship, regardless of intentions of furthering their education, their GPA, gender, sexual preference or extracurricular activities.

In order to be considered for one of the four scholarships, applicants must answer one of the following prompts:

1. Out of the ashes, a hero

arose..." finish the rest.

- Describe a quote, lyrics, or a piece of art that has had a major impact on you.
- 3. Describe how a creative outlet has helped you overcome adversity.

According to www.lucasdenommeelegacy.org/single-project, "Responses to the prompts may be in whichever format the applicant feels demonstrates their abilities best, whether that be an essay, poetry, short story, drawing, painting, a short video, a song, a sculpture, a collage or even an interpretive dance. If your creative outlet is not listed here, by all means submit it! That means your creativity has already ousted ours and that is exactly what we're looking for."

Responses should be emailed to lucasdenommeelegacy@ gmail.com by April 20, 2024. For detailed information, visit www.lucasdenommeelegacy.org

## BVT students earn 94 SkillsUSA medals at District V Competition

#### 36 Gold, 27 Silver, 31 Bronze, and 9 Sweeps

UPTON – Blackstone Valley **Regional Vocational Technical** High School (BVT) students put the systems voc-tech mission on full display. During the first of three SkillsUSA competitions, students test their vocational-technical competency by competing with other trained career and technical education students from six vocational high schools. On March 13, 227 BVT students competed in the annual SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Competition with outstanding outcomes.

The competition allows students to demonstrate their vocational-technical education, skills, and knowledge with SkillsUSA employment and trade tests. Successfully demonstrating their knowledge in their career technical area of study, employability skills, and safety. Student competitors from BVT proudly claimed 36 gold, 27 silver, 31 bronze medals and swept 9 categories.

68 students will advance from districts to compete amongst the most talented vocationaltechnical students in the Commonwealth at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State competition held at BVT in late April. An additional 43 students will go directly to the state competition, and 13 student delegates will represent BVT. The complete list of medalists is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/ skillsusa.

#### MILFORD

*Gold:* Lacey Coffman, Advertising Design; and Lizmary Vidal-Sanchez, Dental Assisting. *Silver:* Andrew Dolan, Basic Health Care. *Bronze:* Julia Ribeiro, Esthetics.



# 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



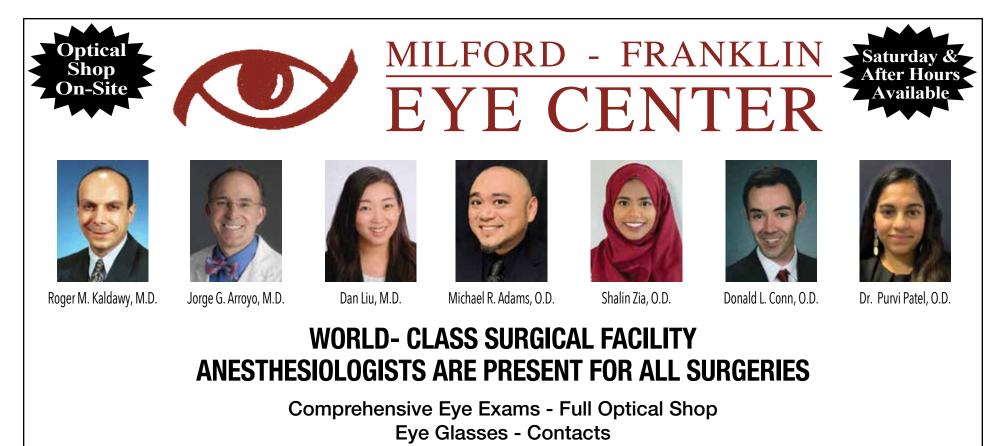
while keeping the patient awake but pain-free. By effectively blocking the sensation of pain and minimizing involuntary movements, anesthesiologists facilitate a smooth and successful surgical outcome.

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 preoperative 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

> ANESTHESIOLOGISTS continued on page 10



NEW PATIENTS RECEIVE A FREE PAIR OF SELECT GLASSES

### **SMILEFORVISION.COM**

FRANKLIN OFFICE 750 Union St. 508-528-3344 MILFORD OFFICE 160 South Main St. 508-473-7939 MILLIS OFFICE 730 Main St. 508-528-3344 SURGERY CENTER MILFORD 145 West St. 508-381-6040

#### **BEAT GENERATION**

continued from page 1

Lee Lewis, Ray Charles, Little Richard, James Brown, Fats Domino, Pat Boone, and others. Audience members were invited to sing along to familiar favorites.

Audio and video clips evoking key events from that timeframe accompanied the musical performance. The Korean War and the beginning of the Cold War. The origins of the Cold War. The origins of the Civil Rights movement. And on a lighter note, the Hula-Hoop and the iconic Elvis Presley.

Hart also shared interesting facts from the era, like the average cost of a home in 1950 being \$7,150. He displayed a photo of one of the earliest television remote controls, which was made by Zenith. It bears no resemblance to today's models, but perhaps would have been easier to use than modern versions.

Coincidentally, there were 57 attendees at the '50s-themed event. Laura Neill, program coordinator for the senior center, said, "The presentation was great and transported our seniors back in time!"

This is the second time Hart



The Beat Generation performance included facts and items from the 1950s, like an early remote control device. Courtesy photo

has performed at the Milford senior center, the first being a Beatles review. Hart only recently created the '50s show, and its performance at the Milford senior center was one of the first.

The musical event was made possible through a grant

from the Milford Cultural Council. According to its webpage, the council's purpose is "to promote excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences to foster a rich cultural life for all Milford residents, thereby contributing to the vitality of our community and economy."

Other grants awarded for 2024 include "Songs of Stage and Screen Spring Concert," as performed by the Greater Milford Community Chorus at Town Hall on May 5, at 1:30 p.m., and "Anastasia the Musical," at the Milford Performing Arts Center in June. For a complete list of grant recipients as well as information about how to apply for a program grant, see milfordma.gov/milfordcultural-council. Follow events on Facebook @MilfordCulturalCouncil.



## Here Today. Here to Stay.

While "big banks" sure like to talk about their commitment to the community, at the end of the day they are the first to bail out and close branches *Our customers know they can count on Charles River Bank for not just the powerful solutions they need, but the personal connections that make the difference.* 

#### **Personal Connections.** *Powerful Solutions.*

Visit CharlesRiverBank.com or visit one of our convenient locations to open a new account today.



CharlesRiverBank.com 70 Main Street • Medway • 508.533.8661 2 South Maple Street • Bellingham • 508.966.2857 1 Hastings Street • Mendon • 508.422.9792





# Milford High School Theater Workshop performs 'Seussical: The Musical'



(L to R) Jessica Webster, Mia Greeley, Kay Strafello.

By Molly Stoker Student writer

Milford High School put on "Seussical The Musical" this year! The original made its debut Broadway performance back in 2000. The show was performed three times at the high school between March 15 -March 17.

The Seussical starts with the Cat in the Hat who was played



(L to R) Jackson Pfieffer who played JoJo, Aidan Bushell who played the Cat in the Hat.

by Aidan Bushell, a homeschooled sophomore. He narrates the show and guides the characters through all the twists and turns through the Jungle of Nool. The musical follows the adventures of popular Dr. Seuss characters in a silly yet meaningful way that everyone matters even if you feel like a speck of dust on a big clover.

Luke Stachowski, sophomore,

was the perfect fit for Horton the Elephant and rocked the stage with his singing. Horton's next door neighbor Gertrude McFuzz was a bird with sadly only one feather. Mia Greely, junior, embodied this character and wowed the audience with her vocals and theatrical emotions.

Senior Jackson Pfifer did an astonishing job playing Jojo. Jojo's parents send him to mili-



Photo of the cast of Milford High School's 2024 performance of "Seussical: The Musical." Photos by Emily O'Toole

tary school, and they happen to be the mayor and his wife of Whoville. Will Brown, who is a sophomore, played the quirky mayor and junior Gianna Pasacane was his wife which was a delight to see.

The production team, consisting of Director Kristina Lando, Jenna Smith, Avery Travis, Maddie Frye, Danica Crim, and Nora Pavento clearly worked incredibly hard to produce such a fun musical.

The people behind the amazing scenery worked on the bright and colorful jungle as well as the home of the Whos. Music Director and Stacy Middle School music teacher Mr. Hawkins, plus the ensemble of students, and current and past music teachers, brought the whole musical to life.



# Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra Season Finale April 27

The Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra Season Finale will be on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The orchestra has just announced a program change for that concert. Originally scheduled to present "Concert Opera Heritage" - a performance of two famous Italian operas - the orchestra will instead perform a "Symphony Movie Pops Night" with music of many of the greatest and most popular movie film scores - including music of John Williams and many of the other great film composers of the past 50 years.

Post Symphony Season, Claflin Hill is looking forward to an entire summer of free outdoor park concerts throughout the region. Claflin Hill produces "Family Night at the Bandstand" every Tuesday evening in Milford Town Park throughout July and August and makes concert visits to numerous communities in an expanding region.

The Claffin Hill Symphony Summer Winds will perform for the first time ever in Holliston on Saturday, August 17, 2024 from 6 - 8 p.m. as part of the Holliston 300th Birthday Celebrations! Claffin Hill will also perform in Northbridge, Grafton and Medway this summer.

Check www.claflinhill.org for more information and to sign up on the CHSO Email Newsletter List.

All tickets to all CHSO concerts can be purchased online at www.claflinhill.org. Patrons can call the CHSO office at 508-478-5924 with any questions.

The Claffin Symphony Orchestra, located in Milford, MA, is a



powerful regional musical force. Through passionate performances presented by masterful musicians, the CHSO plays a leading role in the cultural enrichment and vitality of Central Massachusetts and Metro West communities. The CHSO sponsors a remarkable outreach program that helps youth perfect their musical talents and build long-lasting appreciation for music.

### For rates and info on advertising your business

Please call Jen at 508-570-6544 or email: jenschofield@locaaltownpages.com



#### ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

#### continued from page 7

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 fulltime 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.

For more details, see our ad on page 7.

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

# 3rd annual LDL walk for suicide prevention on Sept. 15

On Sept. 15, the Lucas Denommee Legacy Foundation will hold its 3rd annual walk, in partnership with Community Impact. The walk will be held once again at Fino Field. Please join us! We are also looking for sponsors for the event. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor, please see website for more information.

For more information, go to lucasdenommeelegacy.org



CitizensForMilford.com

# Join Us!





# BETTER HEARING EVENT SAVINGS PACKAGE



WE HAVE AFFORDABLE FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH APRIL 30TH

12 MOS INTEREST FREE FINANCING<sup>†</sup> OR 100% FINANCING APPROVAL<sup>†</sup>

# **MILFORD** 196 E. Main St., Unit #26 meoffer.me/milford

\*Once you complete your hearing test, you will receive an email from our third-party supplier with the opportunity to choose a gift card from the available retailers. Please note gift cards are not supplied at your hearing test. Limit one card per customer. Must be 55 or older. Must not have been tested or made a purchase in the last 6 months. While supplies last. Expires 04/26/2024. \*\*Hearing test is always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only, not a medical exam. †See store for details on available financing and benefit options.

CODE: DO457943

# 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 thirteenyear-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."

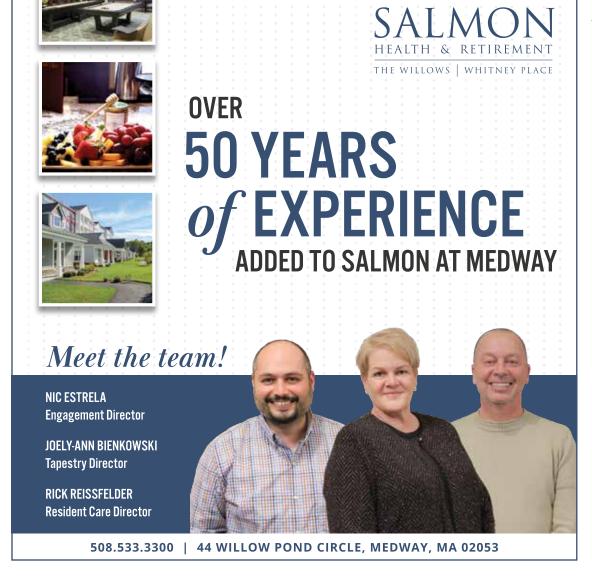


2023 Hopkinton Against the Tide Event on June 17, 2023. From Left to Right: Jasmine Gillespie, Laura Diamond, Chloe Smagula, Megan Cohen, and Jordan Marquis

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 8 at DCR's Nickerson State Park in Brewster, MA. The 32nd Annual Hopkinton Against the Tide event will take place on June 15 at DCR's Hopkinton State Park in Hopkinton, MA. Against the Tide will also be held virtually from June 8 to June 15.

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.





# **Milford official town election results**

According to the Milford Town Clerk's Office, of the town's 18,250 registered voters, 2,868 ballots (16%) were cast in the April 2 town election.

#### **Results include:**

Select Board (3-year term): Paul A. Mazzuchelli **Board of Health** (3 yrs): Loriann M. Braza **Board of Assessors** (3 yrs): Joshua M. Lioce **Board of Library Trustees** (3 yrs): Marco T. Bon Tempo, Johnna L. O'Loughlin **Park Commissioner** (3 yrs): Joseph P. Arcudi Planning Board (5 yrs): Joseph A. Calagione **Planning Board** (2 yrs): Martha White (write-in) Sewer Commissioner: Rudolph V. Lioce III **School Committee:** Meghan R. Hornberger, Matthew Zacchilli, Gregory M. Allegrezza **Trustee of Vernon Grove** Cemetery (3 yrs): Michael J. Lenza,

20

Charles W. Skaff **Trustee of Vernon Grove** Cemetery (1 yr): Paul A. Boisclair Water Commissioner: Jamie C. Luchini Housing Authority: Patrick G. Holland

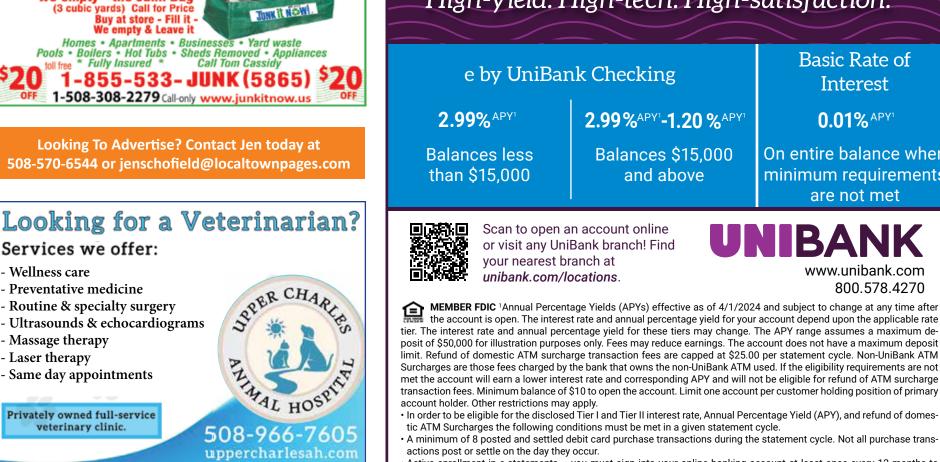
#### **Town Meeting Members Elected were:** Precinct 1 (3 years): Marco T. Bon Tempo, Alicia L. Calzolaio, Michelle Zale, Nicholas D. Valorie III, Christopher M. Calzolaio, George V. Holland Jr., Robert P.

Devita Precinct 2 (3 yrs): William P. Smith, Michael D. Barney, Molly M. Rudell, True T. Davis, Kim T. Smith, Rosemary Trettel, Michael Lalime, John Ciccarelli Precinct 3 (3 yrs): Earl C. Wagner Jr., Jason B. Barney Precinct 3 (2 yrs): Brian J. Hemeon Precinct 4 (3 yrs): Mary E.C. Hull-Allen, Robert

Tusino Precinct 4 (2 yrs): Kadie Montgomery Precinct 5 (3 yrs): John W. Casey, Pamela E. Hunter, Henry C. Papuga, Laura J. Crisafulli, Christopher J. Morin, Katie R. Logan, Mitchell Ruscitti, Frank T. Ferrante Jr. Precinct 5 (1 yr): Johnna O'Loughlin Precinct 6 (3 yrs): Angelo A. Calagione, Alan R. Bacchiocchi, Matthew Zacchilli, Terrence J. Thomas Precinct 7 (3 yrs): Jenny N. Lyons, Robert F. Lyons Sr., Philip J. Ciaramicoli Jr., Raymond Jansons, David L. Probert, Carolyn A. Hildebrand Precinct 8 (3 yrs): Donald S. Francy, Donato F. Niro, Andrew G. Lizotte, Christopher M. Fritts, Abolghasem S. Moazeni, Kimberly Honey, John R. Bayrouty, Gregory M. Allegrezza Full results can be found at www. milfordma.gov/



# Checking with all the benefits. High-yield. High-tech. High-satisfaction.



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

On entire balance when minimum requirements

116 Mechanic Street, Bellingham MA 02019

CLEANOUT COUPON

"We empty - the Junk Bag

(3 cubic

Services we offer:

- Preventative medicine

- Same day appointments

Privately owned full-service

veterinary clinic.

- Wellness care

- Massage therapy

- Laser therapy

# Franklin husband and wife teach dance for a good cause

#### Dance4Dreams benefits Boston Children's Hospital

With Spring in full bloom, Kevin and Anna Balcom are teaching dance to benefit Boston Children's Hospital. Dance4Dreams, an 8-week introductory West Coast Swing dance series, will be held on Tuesdays beginning April 16 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. through June 4 at the Franklin Elks Lodge located at 1077 Pond Street, Franklin, MA 02038. 100% of proceeds will benefit Boston Children's Hospital.

Anna Balcom and Kevin Balcom have been dancing collectively for over 40 years. Anna, a Franklin resident, dances Classical, Contemporary Ballet, Salsa, Latin Ballroom, Modern Jive, and West Coast Swing. Kevin, a lifelong MA resident, started his dance journey in Country Line Dancing, and rapidly became exposed to many other styles, with a competitive and educational focus on West Coast Swing. This event combines their passion for dance with their deep appreciation for Boston Children's Hospital.

DANCE4DREAMS

For over 150 years, "Boston Children's Hospital has been dedicated to improving and advancing the health and wellbeing of children around the world through its life-changing work in clinical care, biomedical research, medical education and community engagement. Boston Children's is ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. It is home to the world's largest pediatric research enterprise, and it is the leading recipient of pediatric research funding from the National Institutes of Health. It is the primary pediatric teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School. Boston Children's treats more children with rare diseases and complex conditions than any other hospital." - Boston Children's Hospital.

Anna encourages all to join, "whether you are a beginner or an expert, swing on over for a good cause!" Ages 16+ are welcome. No prior dance experience or partner required. \$15/person per class. Cash preferred. No advance registration required.

For inquires or questions, contact Anna Balcom at 508-808-4675 or visit www.dance-4dreams.com.



Date	Milford	Amount
03/22/2024	59 Lawrence St.	\$230,000
03/22/2024	18 Silver Hill Rd.	\$737,250
03/22/2024	9 Amanda Cir.	\$685,000
03/21/2024	10 Camp St.	\$586,000
03/20/2024	90 Walden Way #90	\$700,000
03/15/2024	116 Congress St.	\$492,000
03/14/2024	8 Walter Cir.	\$720,165
03/13/2024	311 Purchase St.	\$810,000
03/08/2024	20 Simmons Dr.	\$569,000
03/08/2024	22 Yale Dr.	\$480,000
03/08/2024	9 Myrtle St.	\$530,000
03/06/2024	6 Shadowbrook Ln. #59	\$295,000
03/04/2024	28 Princess Pine Ln.	\$560,000
02/29/2024	16 Joan Cir.	\$670,000
02/29/2024	90 Highland St.	\$520,000
02/29/2024	36 Highland St.	\$425,000
02/29/2024	41 Whitewood Rd.	\$600,000
02/29/2024	8 Shadowbrook Ln. #18	\$227,000
02/28/2024	46 Congress St.	\$775,000
02/27/2024	2 Woodridge Rd.	\$520,000
02/27/2024	56 Bowdoin Dr.	\$581,500
02/27/2024	3 S Central St.	\$655,000

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Milford Free Press



A 6-bed, 5-bath, 6,106 sf house at 46 Congress Street in Milford recently sold for \$775,000. *Image credit www.zillow.com* 

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Email us about an upcoming event or a concern about things happening around town. editor@milfordfreepress.com





Gymnastics obstacles, group games, arts & crafts. Snack & lunch time!

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** kkidsgymnastics.com • 508-435-2401 34 Hayden Rowe Street, Hopkinton

# Start your spring cleaning early with Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it.

Business **Sp** Sp Stlight

He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage-you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working

Scan this OR CODE to visit our Website

FREE PRESS





with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at 774-287-1133 or visit us online at www.affordablejunkremoval.com.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



#### Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

80 Spruce Street, Milford • 508-473-2145 • MilfordTownLibrary.org • HOURS: Mon. – Thurs. 9-9 • Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 9-5 • Sun. CLOSED

#### By Reference Department

#### **Tax Forms**

Both federal and state tax forms are available in the library entrance (between the double doors). Additional forms and schedules can be found at www.irs.gov/forms-instructions for federal taxes and https:// www.mass.gov/topics/taxes for state taxes. The tax deadline is Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

#### AARP Tax Aide Program

We'd like to thank the dedicated coordinators and volunteers with the AARP Tax-Aide program for another successful year of income tax preparation for seniors and low-moderate individuals. Over 275 people were helped through this vital program.

#### Theresa Beggs: Photography

During March, local photographer Theresa Beggs returns with an exhibit of nature photography. her craft during the pandemic and has found a community of other photographers and artisans who inspire her to keep making photographs. Her work at Louisa Lake is phenomenal!

Theresa really began exploring

### Your Money: Keep More in 2024

Milford Town Library is proud to host Milford Federal Bank for this special series during National Financial Literacy Month! Susan Carabbio, VP Retail Market Manager, will be offering some expert advice on how to keep more of the money that you earn, to help you reach your personal goals this year!

- Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. Get Rent Ready!
- Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. Understanding Your Credit & Scores
- Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. *Protect Your Identity and Avoid Scams* No registration is required,



and all are welcome to attend one, two or all three events held in MTL's Granite Room. For more information, visit our calendar page or Facebook event! *About Milford Federal Bank* 

"At MFB we strive to make sure that we live up to our tagline 'Our Community. Your Bank.' We are committed to the communities we serve by creating meaningful relationships and earning the trust of our customers.." To learn more about Milford Federal Bank, visit https://www.milfordfederal.com/.

#### **ESL Drop in Classes**

Free Drop in ESL classes for adults are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 - 8 p.m. in the ESL Classroom on the lower level.

An intermediate class has also been added on Thursdays from 6pm-7pm.

As aulas de ESL gratuitas para adultos são realizadas às terças e quintas-feiras, 7pm-8pm na sala de aula de ESL no nível inferior.

Uma aula intermediária também foi adicionada às quintasfeiras, 6pm-7pm.

Las clases gratuitas de ESL para adultos se llevan a cabo los martes y jueves de 7 pm a 8 pm en el aula de ESL en el nivel inferior.

También se agregó una clase intermedia los jueves de 6pm-7pm.

#### **Center Book Group**

The Center Book Group will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center to discuss *All Adults Here* by Emma Straub.

In this nuanced exploration of life choices, family dynamics, and relationships with friends and ourselves, Emma Straub gives us the character of Astrid Strick. Witnessing a school bus accident puts Astrid, mother to three dramatically different adult children, on a path of reflection and discovery.

To reserve a copy or to learn more about the Center Book Group, please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145, ext. 219 or email Anne at aberard@ milfordtownlibrary.org.

#### Who Were the Drapers? Talk by Dr. James Buckley

Dr. James Buckley will give an informal talk on the history of the Draper Family on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. in the Granite Room.

While the Draper family is legend to lifelong Milfordians and Hopedale residents, those new to town may have no idea why the park across from the police station is called Draper Park and about the equestrian statue of General Draper that graces the park.

The Drapers were pioneers in the automatic loom industry and their textile plant in Hopedale once employed thousands. Their imprint on the community was enormous. General William Draper was a Civil War hero and the statue of him in the park was dedicated in 1912 and designed by Daniel Chester French who also designed the statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.

There's so much more to learn about the Drapers and their legacy. Dr. Buckley, a retired school superintendent wrote hundreds of columns on local history for area newspapers in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s.

#### Friends of the Library Spring Booksale

The Friends will hold their semi-annual spring booksale on Friday, April 26 from 4 - 7 p.m. for members and on Saturday, April 27 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the public. Come browse the spectacular selection of children's, young adult, and adult books, games, movies, music and puzzles all available at bargain prices. The Friends enhance library users' experience by supporting and offering programs, lectures, concerts, for the whole family. Please note the earlier start time on Saturday, April 27. Memberships can be purchased or renewed at the door.

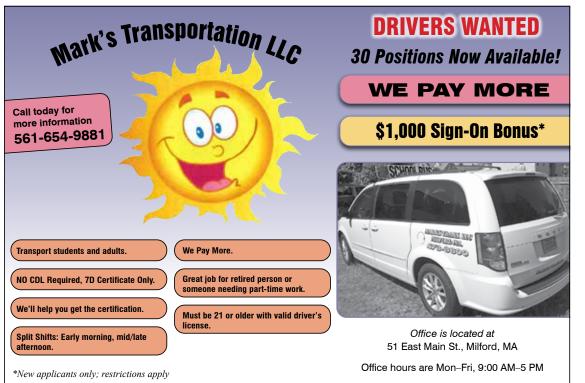
#### How to Kill Your Lawn with Mark Richardson

Join us for a free, innovative program sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library on Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. in the Granite and Quarry Rooms.

According to NASA, in the United States more surface area is covered by lawn than

#### LIBRARY

continued on page 18





NOT AVAILABLE IN EVERY STATE. Feature optional. Subject to terms & conditions Allstate Insurance Co. © 2018 Allstate Insurance Co.

# Milford Youth Football & Cheer will hold informational event April 25

The Milford Youth Football & Cheer (MYFC) will hold a full program Information Event on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Milford High School Auditorium.

This will be an open forum event, designed to answer any and all questions pertaining to the Milford Youth Football & Cheer Program and the upcoming 2024 season. This event is free, open to the public and all are welcome to join. If you would like a certain topic addressed at this meeting, please email questions to:

augerm1211@gmail.com Guest speakers to give an overview of the programs offered will include: **Steve Bournazian** - *MYFC President* 

Willie Vasquez - MYFC Football Coordinator

Kirsten Schwenke - MYFC Cheerleading Coordinator Brian Karp - MYFC Flex Flag Coordinator

In addition to the guest speakers, past and present MYFC coaches will be attending to add perspective and answer any questions pertaining



to the expectations and logistics of what a typical football/cheer season would look like.

MYFC offers the following programs for the 2024 Fall season:

Flex Flag Football – Kindergarten through third grade Tackle Football – second grade through eighth grade Instructional Cheerleading – Kindergarten through second grade

**Competitive Cheerleading** – third grade through eighth grade

Milford Youth Football & Cheer is a 501(c)(3) non-profit youth athletic organization run and organized by dedicated volunteers. Our goal is to encourage and increase youth participation in football and cheerleading, with a focus on building character, self-confidence, and good sportsmanship within our athletes.

Funeral Home, Inc.

# Jasada and Gumbo available at The Milford Humane Society

This adorable adult pair have been with us for a year and we hope their perfect family comes for them soon! Jasada and Gumbo were surrendered separately but immediately decided to move in together. They have been roommates ever since.

Jasada is an active male Tabby Tux who enjoys interacting with other cats. Gumbo is a female black medium haired cat with stunning green eyes who prefers to hang back and nap while her friend wanders. Jasada and Gumbo have enjoyed making friends with all the cats who have come through the shelter this year. Jasada particularly enjoyed playing with the young cats and showing them the ropes!

Jasada and Gumbo can be slow to warm up to strangers so they don't stand out to potential adopters. Though Jasada gets much friendlier

٦٢

when he hears a cat food can open! Both cats go straight to their feeding spot when dinner is coming. Once they get to know you, Jasada and Gumbo are open to receiving attention. We believe they would do well in a home if they are given plenty of time to decompress and acclimate to their new environment.

For more information on Jasada and Gumbo, or the other cats at The Milford



Gumbo is quiet female looking for the purrfect forever home. Courtesy photo

Humane Society, please visit https://www.milfordhumane.org/



Jasada is an active male who comes running at the sound of a cat food can opening. *Courtesy photo* 

# GENERAL LABORER JACK OF ALL TRADES

Some vehicle cleaning, yard cleaning, and house painting (knowledge of carpentry a plus). Winter duties will include snow removal, some shoveling, cleaning off vehicles and plow ing. Must have a valid driver license and clean driving record. Must be able to take directions and work alone.

Call Mark's Transportation 561-654-9881





Type III Funeral Director/Embalmer

David A. Consigli www.consigliruggeriofuneralhome.com

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

#### LIBRARY

#### continued from page 16

by any other single irrigated crop. Lawns are resource-heavy, requiring irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides to thrive in our climate. Learn how to replace your lawn with beautiful and environmentally friendly native plant gardens.

Mark Richardson is Director of Horticulture for New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston, Massachusetts. He leads a team of horticulture staff and oversees a living plant collection that spans sixteen distinct garden spaces, two conservatories, and over 100 acres of surrounding woodlands and wetlands. He has a passion for ecological horticulture and native plants, and he lectures on various topics including "How to Kill Your Lawn." He is coauthor of the book Native Plants

for New England Gardens (Globe Pequot, 2018).

#### Share the Plastic Circle: Family Hula-Hoopalooza

Join Kat from Wildkats Hoops for a hula-hoop program for ages 5 and older on Saturday, May 4 from 1 - 2 p.m. Bring the whole family for a fun program that gets everyone moving, hooping, and smiling. Kat's been leading groups at camps, extended day programs and libraries for the past ten years. She encourages all participants and guides really agile participants to try some cool tricks with the hoops. Moms, Dads, caregivers, kids all welcome!

#### Friends Annual Meeting & Author Mike Tougias

Join the Friends of the Milford Town Library at their annual meeting on Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Granite and Quarry Rooms Learn how the funds donated and raised by the Friends are being allocated and then stay for a special very guest at 7 p.m.

Local author Mike Tougias will give a short talk about his latest book *The Power of Positive Fishing* followed by his presentation on *Extreme Survival: Lessons from Those Who Triumphed Against All Odds.* Michael J. Tougias is a New York Times bestselling author and co-author of 30 books for adults and 7 for children and young adults including *The Finest Hours* (adapted as a Disney motion picture in 2016) *Fatal Forecast, Overboard and King Philip's War.* 

#### Seascapes: Pastel Painting Workshop with Greg Maichack

Award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present "Seascapes," a pastel painting workshop for adults and teens 18+ on Thursday, May 9 from 6 - 8 p.m. This is a pastel painting workshop designed for both sheer beginners to advanced participants and is inspired by Winslow Homer's painting "Summer Squall," and "West Point, Prout's Neck." Participants will we create the wave effect of spray, embedding pigment particles into the painting while being instructed by Greg in expressive pastel strokes, blending, slurring and layering.

Spots are limited and registration is required. Call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 219 or email reference@milfordtownlibrary.org to reserve a spot.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Milford Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The pastel workshop will be held in the Granite and Quarry Rooms.

#### Johnny Cash - Songs & Stories with Matt York

On Saturday, May 18 at 1 p.m., longtime New England musician/author Matt York will perform the songs of Johnny Cash and tell stories about Cash's career. He'll discuss Cash's emergence as a groundbreaking artist in the 1950's, his marriage to June Carter and many of his other career high-

#### lights.

In both 2022 and 2023, York was nominated for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist and his album *Gently Used* was named one of Worcester Magazine's best albums of 2022. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Milford Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. The concert will be held in the Granite and Quarry Rooms.

## The Beatles 1964 with Steve Minichiello

On Wednesday, May 22 at 7 p.m. writer and Emmy-award winning producer Steve Minichiello will discuss the pivotal year for this musical and cultural phenomenon. Steve presented a program last fall about The Holy Trinity of Milford Jazz and his knowledge and passion for music and music history are remarkable. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library. This event will be held in the Granite and Quarry Rooms and is suitable for Beatles fans of all ages.



Route 16, Mendon • 508-473-5079 nesteakandseafood.com



lower carbon footprint, it's the most environmentally friendly heat fuel, and the safest. 196 West Central St., Natick • 508-653-5050 • 800-262-6462 • coanoil.com

# **Brownies donate Girl Scout** cookies for military personnel



(L to R) Kathryn Walker, Payton Fasulo, Michael Shain of Thanks To Yanks, Lillyanne Straight. Source: Thanks To Yanks

Milford Troop 65217 Brownies donated cookies to Thanks To Yanks to be sent to those deployed. Thanks To Yanks is a local charity that serves those who serve in the military and the families that love and support them. Sending Girl Scout cookies to those

deployed has become a tradition for the charity, says Michael Shain of Thanks To Yanks, noting that local residents are very generous in our support of those who serve. For more information, like them on Facebook @thankstoyanks

# **Tri-County second trimester Honor Roll released**

Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2023-24 academic year.

For students to make the regular Honor Roll, they must attain A's and B's in all of their academic subjects.

Milford residents making Honor Roll include: Grade 9 – Honors Jonathan Ferrante

Grade 10 – Honors Max Guaman



Grade 11 – Honors Kailyn Gibson Grade 12 – Honors **Destiny Carroll** 

For the full list, visit www.tri-county.us





# **Milford School Highlights**

#### Save the Date:

3/29: Good Friday-No School-School Offices Closed
4/15: Patriot's Day- No School-School Offices Closed
4/15-19: April Vacation
4/22: School Resumes
5/24: Early Release K-12-PreK Closed-School Offices Open
5/27: Memorial Day-No School-School Offices Closed

#### **Resources:**

DMH Behavioral Health Hotline The Department of Mental Health has launched a new Behavioral Health Help line that people can call or text at 833-773-2445. The helpline can help individuals and families navigate the behavioral health system and access treatment, including mobile crisis services. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in more than 200 languages. For more information, please see the FAQ. Anyone with questions or concerns about the helpline can email the helpline director at Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov.

#### Spanish:

El Departamento de Salud Mental ha lanzado una nueva línea, Behavioral Health Helpline (Línea de Ayuda de Salud Mental) a la que se puede llamar o enviar un mensaje de texto al 833-773-2445. Está

disponible 24 horas al día, siete días a la semana en más de 200 idiomas. La línea de ayuda puede ayudar a personas y familias a navegar por el sistema de salud del comportamiento y acceder a tratamiento, incluyendo servicios móviles de crisis. Para más información, consulte FAQ (preguntas frecuentes). Cualquier persona que tenga preguntas o dudas sobre la línea de ayuda puede enviar un correo electrónico al director de la línea de ayuda a Mio.Tamanaha@ mass.gov.

#### Portuguese:

O Departamento de Saúde Mental lançou uma nova Behavioral Health Helpline (Linha de Ajuda de Saúde Comportamental) em que as pessoas podem ligar ou enviar mensagens de texto para 833-773-2445. Ela está disponível 24 horas por dia, sete dias por semana, em mais de 200 idiomas. A linha de ajuda pode ajudar indivíduos e famílias a navegar o sistema de saúde comportamental e acessar tratamentos, incluindo o serviço de crise com atendimento pelo celular. Para mais informações, consulte o FAQ (perguntas frequentes). Qualquer pessoa com dúvidas ou perguntas sobre a linha de ajuda pode enviar um e-mail

Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov.

#### Milford High School

Milford High School was thrilled to welcome Aaron Golub as a guest speaker on March 11, made possible by the generous sponsorship of Milford Federal Savings and Loan Association. Aaron Golub, a professional speaker, entrepreneur, and consultant, made history as the first legally blind Division One athlete to play in a football game at Tulane University. The Milford High School school community enjoyed their inspiring and insightful session with Aaron.

Congratulations to the MHS Percussion Ensemble for receiving a "Superior" rating at the annual RI Percussion Festival at the University of RI on Saturday, March 2. Members of the MHS Percussion Ensemble include, Stephanie Azor, Jeffery D'Orazio, Michela DiGiallonardo, Marcelo Gomes da Silva, Nicholas Lalangui Ponce, Abhirup Mahanta, Daniel O'Leary, Kayla Pierre, Brenda Soares, Keerthana Vootla, Sarah Wengal, Maeve Williams, and Maggy Zou.

On February 26, 2024, high school students from Florence, Italy, arrived in Milford as part of the schools annual bilateral exchange program. Concurrently, 13 Italian language students from Milford High School returned after a rewarding twoweek study venture at its partner school in Florence. To celebrate and initiate this cultural exchange, a warm welcome ceremony was held on February 27, 2024, at 8 a.m. in the Milford High School library, fostering the spirit of global learning and friendship among the students.

Students from the Building and Trades classes, and instructor Timothy Dowd, have been actively engaged in the creation and delivery of charming Little Libraries for their peers in the elementary schools within the Milford Public Schools district. Crafted and painted with dedication, these students presented their completed projects on February 29 and March 1. The following high school students played pivotal roles in bringing this initiative to life: Victor Da Silva, Madison Davis, Tanner Longacre, Aaron Longdaue, Nicole MacRae, Joseph Newman, Kiaxell Ramirez Aleman, Tyler Sanon, Pedro Teixeira, Jake Vaz, Mason Albano, Luis Castro-Gualpa, Christian Denaro, Xander Dias, Ryan Franklin, John Gemma Jr., Damien Gosselin, Jonathan Hilditch, Sylas Kennedy, and Matthew Pointer. Their collective efforts have made a positive impact on the community, fostering a love for reading among elementary school students.

Hats off to Academic Decathlon for an outstanding achievement, securing the 3rd place trophy at the State Competition hosted at MIT on March 2. Special kudos to Sasha Matovu, who showcased exceptional skills with a 4th place in Social Sciences, 5th in Interview, and another 5th in Science. Additionally, Violet Tran claimed the 5th spot in Social Science, while Yu Xin Zheng earned 4th place in both Social Science and Art. Nick Kenton clinched the 5th position in Social Science, and Tony Huynh, achieved 5th place in Literature. Congratulations to the entire team for their hard work and stellar performance.

#### **Stacy Middle School**

Stacy Middle School's French Club embarked on an engaging Scavenger Hunt at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston on Wednesday, February 28, accompanied by their dedicated advisors, Holly Davoren and Brian Shuman. Students and staff enjoyed the process of finding, and learning about each item on the Scavenger Hunt list.

#### Woodland Elementary School (WES)

Massachusetts Senator Becca Rauch visited Woodland School on Friday, March 8, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. to meet with Grade five students. The session was held in the cafeteria. Senator Rauch presented a guided slideshow that lasted 25 minutes, during which she shared her background and covered topics such as insights into the government and basic federalism, and the various functions of her office, including constituent services, policy, budget, and more. Following the presentation, Senator Rauch held a Q&A with students, fostering an interactive and informative session. The event is closely aligned with the ongoing Government studies in our Humanities classes. The WES Humanities team coordinated the Q&A session with their respective teams and classes.

Principal Kearnan announced the sixth Council of the year as nominated by their teachers for Perseverance. These students never give up and never give in. When the going gets tough, they get going. Math problem is hard? I'll figure it out! Not sure what that word means? I'll use my resources to find out! Made a mistake? No problem, I'll keep trying. We thank these classmates for setting a great example with their perseverance.

*Perseverance Grade 3:* Ana Beatriz Teixeira, Cecilia Macedo, Gabriel Garces, Luiz Cordeiro, Jennifer Rodrigues, David Uyaguari Macas, John Hendron, Rebeca Fogaca, Jennifer Ortega Quinchi, Iris Melendez, Norah Winroth, Karas Dif, Pedro Baesso, Perola Amaral, Dyosely Crispim, Riley Perez, Ella Burrows, Elijah Jorge

*Perseverance Grade 4:* Jonathan Oliveira, Analba Spencer Rodriguez, Lara Santana, Davi Maia, Ryan LaRochelle, Pietro De Souza, Raphaela Silva, Dilan Pomavilla Chimborazo, Paloma Da Cruz, Josselyn Lema Guallpa, Nia Patel, Chloe Curran, Rachel Snitko, Maven Tassone, Stella Alvarintho

*Perseverance Grade 5:* Carolyne Cordeiro, Ethan Boudreau, Tyler Ferreira, Gabriela Lema Pirca, Jillian Karlin, Lekha Kanijam, Ashley Chuqui Loja, Eduar Valenzuela Godoy, Artur Alves Teles, Alice Pacheco, Ximena Gutierrez Escamilla, Stalin Lema Nugra, Miguel Marques Borges, Caitlin Boudreau, Hernani Machado, Vincent Martin

#### Memorial Elementary School (MES)

As part of MES commitment to education and cultural enrichment, Memorial School observed "Music in Our Schools" month and organized a family music night on March 27. This event showcased the exciting developments in the music classes

> MILFORD SCHOOLS continued on page 21



#### **MILFORD SCHOOLS**

continued from page 20

and engaged families in the celebration of music education.

Memorial School hosted a family reading night on February 29, titled "Leap into Reading." The evening saw active participation from MES families, with staff and community members reading books to the attendees. Adding to the charm of the event, Piper, the Milford Police Department Comfort K9, and Detective Sgt. Paul Pinto, made a special appearance. The night concluded on a sweet note with milk and cookies provided for everyone, creating a warm and enjoyable atmosphere for all who attended.

PTO Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

#### Brookside Elementary School (BES)

Brookside School participated in its annual *Boosterthon Fun Run* on March 27. During this exciting event, students will either run or walk around a designated track, all while actively raising funds for upcoming field trips, contributing to the school's vibrant educational experiences.

In an effort to enhance math skills and foster friendly competition, students participated in the ST Math March Mathness challenge. The goal was for each class to collectively increase their math puzzle completion by an impressive 10%, promoting a collaborative and engaging approach to mathematical learning.

Celebrating literary enthusiasm, students and staff at Brookside School embraced *Read Across America Week*. Throughout the designated week, a diverse range of daily themes added an extra layer of excitement to the learning environment, fostering a love for reading and promoting literacy across the school community.

On March 14, the school's music teachers showcased student learning experiences happening in music class during the Music in our Schools event. This special occasion provided families with an opportunity to witness the talents and skills developed by their children in music education, highlighting the importance of music in the overall school curriculum.

PTO meeting is the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7 p.m.

#### Shining Star Early Childhood Center (SSECC)

The SSECC Reptile Show, held on the March 3, 4, and 5, proved to be an enriching experience for students and staff. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of reptiles, gaining insights into their habitats, environmental significance, and life cycles.

PTO Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise posted.

#### Milford Family & Community Network CFCE (MFCN CFCE):

The Family Fun & Disabilities Awareness Fair held its 26th Annual Family Fun & Disabilities Awareness Fair on Saturday, March 2, 2024, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Milford High School Cafeteria.

Information on the MFCN CFCE Playgroups: All playgroups are FREE and intended for children from birth to 5 years old with their parent/caregiver(s),





A warm thank you to the Milford Town Library for setting up a Giving Tree for the holidays, adorned with hats, gloves, and scarves for winter use. Jacque Gorman from the Milford Town Library is seen alongside Michael Shain, the president, and founder of Thanks To Yanks contributing a portion of the Giving Tree, specifically designated for donation to local military families. Thanks to Yanks is responsible for delivering these heartfelt handmade products to the deserving military families in the community. Submitted by Thanks To Yanks

unless otherwise specified. For more information on MFCN CFCE programs, visit https:// www.milfordpublicschools.com/ milfordfcn, email familynetwork@milfordma.com or call 508-277-4981. You can also find and follow MFCN CFCE on Facebook at "Milford Family & Community Network CFCE".





# SPORTS

# Boulanger earns state title, top-5 regional finish

MHS wrestler helped team place second in state meet

By Chris Villani

By this point in his career, Mikey Boulanger has gotten used to winning. The Milford High School junior wrestler posted a 36-3 record this season and won the state championship in the 138lb weight class and finished fourth in the New England Regional meet.

He was also part of a Scarlet Hawks' team that once again rolled through Hockomock League competition and came within a mere 1.5 points of winning a third straight state title.

"I feel like everyone wrestled well this year," Boulanger said. "I felt like I definitely wrestled well at the end of the year at states, and I had a lot of fun at New England."

This year marked Boulanger's third straight trip to the regional meet. After a fifth-place finish a season ago, he placed fourth this year. He has moved up in weight class during each of his three seasons at Milford. After starting at 113lbs as a freshman, he wrestled at 126 last year before moving to 138 this winter. His 2023-2024 season got off to a late start after he suffered a collarbone injury during an offseason tournament.

"I just landed on it wrong, and it broke," he said. "I knew I would be back at some point,

lain Group LLC, 300 Wind



Milford High School junior Mikey Boulanger won Hockomock League MVP honors this year after 36 victories and a state title. Photo credit: Jose Pinto



coeu OVERHEAD DOORS 

mygaragedoor.com • 508-883-4522 745 South Main St., Bellingham

but it was just about not being rusty and not performing as well as I could have. It took me a few weeks of matches to get my confidence back and shake off some of the rust."

Boulanger bounced back in fine fashion, and was named Hockomock League MVP at the end of the season. But, in his mind, he still wanted more out of his junior campaign.

"Obviously, the number one goal on my mind was trying to win New England, and I didn't accomplish that," Boulanger said. "But, being out for the first month of the season, one of my goals was just to get back and

wrestle as well as I can."

Boulanger has his sights set on his senior year and has plans to wrestle in college as well. He said he is trying to get quicker on his feet and improve some of his skills, including his hand fighting, and add to his repertoire of moves that he can employ on the mat.

In between his divisional state title and fourth-place regional finish, Boulanger placed second in the all-state meet, falling in overtime in the final. This year's results give him some clear-cut goals for his next season.

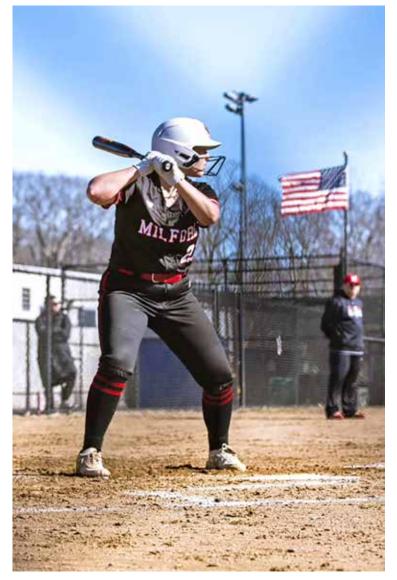
"Definitely," he said, "I want to win all three."



## SPORTS

# Milford's Pellegrini ready for bigger role with MHS Softball

MHS junior one of League's Best in 2023



Cae Pellegrini has her sights set on more high school softball success and playing in college. Photo credit: Jackson Pfeiffer

By Chris Villani Cae Pellegrini may have a hard time topping her statistics after a stellar sophomore season with the Scarlet Hawks' softball team, but the Milford High



... is here to service ALL of Milford's **PRINTING NEEDS** 

#### • Full-service & high quality printing

 Ready to help with your business, school or organization's projects

• We are print specialists who can also assist with our expertise to develop, design & mail

CALL TO GET A QUOTE TODAY!

508-533-4588 • ourtownpublishing.com printing@ourtownpublishing.com

School junior is hoping to step up her role as a leader and help MHS get back to the state tournament.

"I just want to help out my team as much as I can," Pellegrini said. "We have captains and I don't want to intrude, but I am very passionate about softball. When I was a freshman, I was nervous coming in and the seniors and juniors helped me. So I want to be the outlet for younger players."

Pellegrini was one of the top players in the Hockomock League a season ago. A corner infielder, she hit an eye-popping .524 with three home runs and 16 RBIs, all of which led the Scarlet Hawks.

"I had been training pretty hard in the offseason, and I ended up doing the best I could, all of the hard work I put in finally showed," Pellegrini said. When she is not playing for Milford, Pellegrini plays for the Firebirds club softball program out of Hopkinton. She has also begun the college recruiting process. Pellegrini said she is hoping to attend a school in the prestigious NESCAC, with Bowdoin, Colby, and Hamilton among the schools she has her eye on.

"I am really focused on academics, that's a huge thing for me," she said. "I know those schools are academics-first, but I really want to play softball in college too."

Pellegrini plans to major in biochemistry with the goal of becoming a dentist someday. She said the pace of recruiting and her contact with coaches will likely pick up this summer after the softball season.

A week into the season, Pellegrini said the 2024 Scarlet Hawks are gelling quickly after most of the team played together last year. She said she is trying to work on her mechanics at the plate to follow up on her success from last spring.

"I definitely want to do as well as I did last year," Pellegrini said. "Playing in the Hock, it can be hard to play all of these good teams, but it's good to play against good competition."

And, after a number of less successful seasons, Pellegrini and her teammates want to at least match the 2023 team's performance.

"We are definitely aiming to make the playoffs again," she said. "We did last year, and it was a huge jump since our team has not been as strong in past years. It was great to play the playoffs and show the town that we are a team on the rise."

# SCHOOL'S OUT SUMMER 2024



9 WEEKS TO CHOOSE FROM. YOU SELECT YOUR WEEKS & DAYS! 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

> Ninja obstacles, arts & crafts. Snack & lunch, backyard and water fun!

> **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** SurgeNinjaGym.com • 508-435-2400 88C Elm Street, Hopkinton

