

Officials, residents voice concerns on Main St. 40B

60 units proposed at 47 Main St. would bring town closer to compliance



A rendering of the 60-unit affordable housing building proposed for 47 Main Street. Source: www.uptonma.gov

By Scott Calzolaio

As the deadline draws nearer for proposed changes to Upton's newest 40B affordable housing development at 47 Main Street, residents and town officials have been voicing their thoughts and concerns with the project.

According to the town website (bit.ly/Upton-47Main40b), the public hearing on the comprehensive permit will close on May 15, and a decision will be filed within 40 days (June 24). The applicant then has 20 days to appeal (July 15).

In an interview, Upton

Select Board member Brett Simas outlined some of the more prevalent concerns with the development. He said one concern is flooding to the surrounding properties, adding that abutters

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Proposed new Mendon Senior and Community Center on warrant

Requires \$13.2 million override, average tax increase \$325 per year



Renderings of proposed new Mendon Senior and Community Center. Courtesy photos

At Mendon's May Town Meeting, voters will be asked to approve the plans for a new Mendon Senior and Community Center to be built at the corner of North Avenue and Milford Street (Route 16), as well as the \$13.2 million price tag to fund it.

The project will require an override, which will need to pass at town meeting with a two-thirds vote and would also have to pass at the ballot box with a simple majority vote. The plan is to take a 20-year bond and hold fundraisers and seek donations to offset that amount.

At a community information session on March 22, members of the Mendon Senior and Community Center Building Committee said the average increase in taxes per year, on a house assessed at \$500,000 would be between \$325 and \$350 per year.

If the measure passes, construction would likely begin in 2025.

Committee Chair Phil Cieply explained that the town has outgrown the current senior center at 62 Providence Street. "Back when

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Upton Fire and EMS Explorer Post 36 seeks adult volunteer leaders

By Linda Chuss

The Upton Fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Department is seeking four to six adult advisors for their Explorer Post 36. Exploring is a coed program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for 14- to 20-year-olds to learn important skills through immersive career experiences and mentorship provided by community and business leaders.

In Upton, Post 36 focuses on the Fire and EMS field. According to Chief Michael Marchand, "From 2008 to 2020, the department successfully operated the post, but then COVID restrictions led to a dormant period. We're looking to reactivate it now and need a few post leaders to assist with that. While key people from our department work with the post, we want to relieve that demand on our staff by adding volunteer advisors."

The typical volunteer for Post 36 is someone who has been in a fire service role or has a military or scouting background. They

should have experience working with teens and need to complete a CORI background check. Regular time expectations are two scheduled evenings a month for meetings and training sessions, plus support for unplanned work or non-routine events.

"The program is a win-win for everyone," said Marchand. "Volunteer leaders and the Explorers receive training that mirrors what's provided for on-call, fire academy recruits. They even get their own gear. Initially, they help with things like lifting hoses and logistics. For example, post members help maintain the gate and perimeter at the annual fireworks event. Over time, they would assist with things like brush fires.

"A few years back, a member of the Explorer post rode in the truck with the chief at that time, during a storm, helping the chief to identify downed wires and trees. That Explorer ultimately went into fire protection engineering. A number of the Explorers end up in fire service,

"Volunteer leaders and the Explorers receive training that mirrors what's provided for on-call, fire academy recruits. They even get their own gear."

— UPTON FIRE CHIEF
MICHAEL MARCHAND

EMS, or public safety careers, or serve as adult volunteers in those areas. One of our Explorers became a chief.

"Program participants benefit from the training and experience, and our department and the town benefit from their help and the skills they develop. It's a key part of our department's recruitment process."

There is also a bonding that takes place among the volunteer leaders and with the Explorers and department members. Post members and leaders participate in fundraising and social func-



Upton Fire and EMS is seeking adult volunteers to help reactivate the valuable Exploring Program. Photo source: www.exploring.org/fire-ems

tions held by the Upton Fire and EMS support association.

Anyone with questions about volunteering, or who is inter-

ested in being an adult advisor to Explorer Post 36, can contact the chief at mmarchand@uptonma.gov or at 508-529-3421.

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Mendon receives grants for field lights at Memorial Park

Existing light repair could be on Town Meeting warrant

Submitted by Mendon Parks Department

The Town of Mendon recently received a PARC (Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities) grant to install lighting on Pezzella and Lowell fields at Memorial Park in Mendon. This has been a longtime dream project for us as well as the youth sports organizations.

The grant will award matching funds up to \$100,000 with an approximately 60% match and the remainder of the project will be funded through Community Preservation Act Funds. The total budget is \$220,000 with \$100,000 in grant funds, \$96,460 in local matching funds, and \$23,540 in donations. Nipmuc Youth Baseball and Nipmuc Youth Softball have been fundraising for this project

for several years and to date have raised \$23,500 towards the project.

We are in the process of writing the bid specifications and going out to bid. The project will include 6-8 poles, ideally sharing the 2 outfield poles between the fields, and LED lights.

Additionally, as a separate project, we are working on repairs to the existing lights at the basketball and tennis courts to replace those poles and install LED lights. That request will likely be on the May town meeting warrant. Work on both projects cannot start until after July 1 and we are hoping for completion in the fall of 2024.

Lighting up these fields has been a long-standing goal for the town and the non-profit leagues who call these fields home. Nipmuc Youth Baseball

and Nipmuc Youth Softball are the two primary non-profit users of these fields, and their programs serve more than 400 children in the Mendon area as well as surrounding towns. These programs have steadily grown, and registration numbers are some of the highest in the Central Mass region. Lights on these fields will increase the playable hours.

The Parks Department has been inundated with requests for field time from area groups in addition to the local use, and the addition of lights would allow us to accommodate those requests and expand recreational opportunities in Mendon and surrounding towns. The addition of lights would allow for these

GRANTS

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A HELPING HAND...

Upton Food Pantry hours

The Food Pantry at United Parish Upton serves residents from Upton as well as nearby towns. It will be open on April 23 and May 7 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Proof of income or church affiliation is not required. We offer non-perishable food, toiletries, paper products and infant needs. Donations can be dropped off in our donation shed located outside the church office on 1 Church Street, Upton. For more information, go to www.unitedparishupton.org/food-pantry

Community supper on April 18

On the third Thursday of each month from September through June, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., United Parish Upton provides a delicious and nutritious meal for the community. Everyone is welcome.

On April 18, we'll be serving Lemon Chicken with Rice and Broccoli. Red Beans and Brown Rice will be available as the vegetarian option. Please call the church office at 508-529-3192 by April 12 to make your reservation. We are located at 1 Church Street. For more information, go to www.unitedparishupton.org/ministries/community-supper

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

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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.

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WARRANT

continued from page 1

they built this, there were less than 1,000 seniors, now there are 1,700 or 1,800 senior citizens," he said.

Committee member and co-presenter Peg Nogueira explained that the current senior center acts as a town warming station and as an emergency shelter in case of a disaster. She said that, since the building is an emergency shelter, it should have showers, additional toilets, and cots available if needed; it does not have those things.

She noted the town's food pantry is in the basement of the building and should be "much larger" for a town of Mendon's size.

Many community organizations use the building and more want to use it, but they must be turned away for space limitations, overlapping programs, etc. The capacity in the current main meeting room is 50 people, and the upstairs room – accessible only by a narrow set of stairs shared with the stair lift -- can accommodate 25 people.

Nogueira said the current building "is in good shape but is too small, it could be used for another town use." If the article passes, a reuse committee will be formed for the current building.

She said the new site will have much safer parking. At the current senior center, there are some parking spots on the same property but the overflow parking is across the street, which can be dangerous for people to cross because of oncoming traffic.

She explained the committee scaled down its original plans to reach a \$13.2 million project that can address the town's needs related to its aging seniors

The last community information session will be held on Wed., April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the current Mendon Senior Center

and the need for community meeting space.

Nogueira said the 12-member committee explored several options, including staying on the current site and expanding (but the lot size would not allow for an increased footprint and parking) before choosing the town-owned land at North Ave. and Route 16.

The new center would sit on three acres of the property that used to be an apple orchard, leaving over 20 acres for the town's future use. Committee members say that site has been tested and there are no contaminants.

The new two-level building – which resembles a farmhouse and barn – is designed to last at least 30 years and has room for expansion. It would include multi-purpose rooms available for community use, private offices and meeting space for the staff (which is limited in the current building), storage space, a much larger food pantry, and more. The plan would be to include recreational activities, walking trails (possibly an ADA-complaint trail), and basketball and pickleball courts. It would be highly energy efficient and solar-ready.

Committee members urge residents to attend town meeting and to stay until voters act on the article related to the senior center and an article re-



Site plan for proposed new Mendon Senior & Community Center. Source: Mendon Senior and Community Center Building Committee

lated to CPA funds to be used for the project.

"If it doesn't pass, I don't know what we do," Cieply said. "Our committee says its 'one and done.'"

The last community information session will be held on Wed., April 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the current Mendon Senior Center.

For more information, visit www.mendonma.gov/senior-community-center-building-committee



The second floor of the current Mendon Senior Center is accessible by this single stairway and stair lift. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp



The Mendon Food Pantry, located in the basement of the Mendon Senior Center, should be larger considering the town's population. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

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Time for financial spring cleaning?



Mark Freeman

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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 where you want to go.

- **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 non-working equipment — print-

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,
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I ask for your vote on Tuesday, May 7

As we approach Upton's 300-year anniversary (2035), I'm reminded of what makes our town so great. Our people. People are at the heart of our balanced focus on quality education, outdoor recreation, community services, fiscal management, open space, and thoughtful business growth. We must continue to improve our planning and execution with an eye toward maintaining Upton's rural character, natural surroundings, locally owned and curated businesses, and multi-generational living.

My wife, Tiffany and I recognize our current multi-generational families for their service in making Upton what it is today. I've learned so much about our history, the intentionality underpinning our distinct character from neighboring towns, and about humility, honor, and hard work. Thank you to the Aldridge, Anderson, Bates, Bouthiette, Brochu, Consigli, Davidson, Dean, Garland, Gorman, Hebb, Henderson, Johnson, Kelly, Kent, Kuczinski, Marchand, McDonnell, McKinney, Page, Poirier, Ramsey, Robertson, Sadler, Summers,

Stockwell, Thompson, Voss, Varney, and Wood families.

Of course, there are so many great families and individuals contributing to our shared experience. These include members of the Upton Men's Club, Upton Bloomer Girls, VFW Post 5594, American Legion Post 173, each of our local business owners, and the hundreds of coaches, athletic board members, Scout Leaders, tutors, MURSD parent organizations, Upton boards and commission members, and so many others. It's a privilege to serve and live with you. Thank you.

Paid for by the Simas Family. Mention of names and organizations does not represent endorsement.

Psychic Gary McKinstry returns May 3 to Upton

On Friday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. Gary McKinstry, a well-known Medium, Psychic, and Radio Personality will be returning to Upton by popular demand to the Nipmuc Rod and Gun Club, 88 Fiske Mill Road.

The evening will feature McKinstry's talents in channeling spiritual contact with passed loved ones. This event is generously sponsored by the Upton Bloomer Girls, a 501(c)4 women's charity organization that offers resources, helping hands, or other assistance to current Upton residents who are in need of additional support.

There will be opportunities to win great raffle prizes and to be singled out by Gary for a personal experience. Seating is limited. To pre-purchase a ticket, call Ida at 508-529-2822 or visit Shear Excitement in Upton or Denise Smith at the Upton Town Hall.

For more information, please go to Facebook.com/UptonBloomerGirls1.

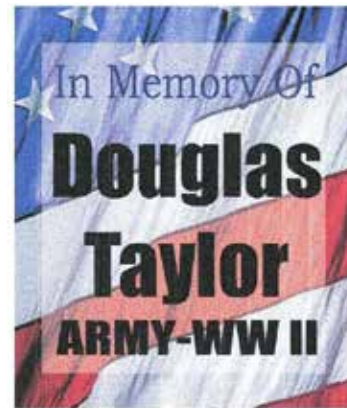
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Reserve a slot by April 22

The Mendham Brothers of the Brush Association wish to announce an opportunity to honor a friend or loved one who has served, or is serving, in our armed forces by participating in our Memorial Flag Program. A flag purchase is for a 2-year period and will be hung prior to Memorial Day and removed in the fall (and re-hung prior to Memorial Day 2025).



The appearance of these flags in the center of Town adds to the solemnity of our Memorial Day Parade as well as honors the participation of friends and family in the defense of our country throughout the summer and into the fall.

To participate, we ask any Mendon resident interested to complete the Flag Purchase Form and mail the form along with a check for \$200 to PO Box 551, Mendon, MA 01756. You can download the form

at www.mendonbrothersofthe-brush.org, or find a printed copy at the Taft Library, Mendon Post Office, Mendon Senior Center, or the Mendon Town Hall. The completed form along with payment must be received by April 22, 2024, to allow for adequate processing time.

There is a maximum of 52 flags which will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Questions may be sent to mendonbrush@gmail.com.

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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."

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



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. Courtesy photo

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.

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Mendon Annual Town Meeting to take place on May 3

The Mendon Annual Town Meeting will take place on May 3, the first Friday in May. The warrant will be posted by April 19 at www.mendonma.gov/node/7286/agenda and at Mendon Town Hall.

According to the town website, "Everyone is encouraged to attend town meetings, committee meetings, and board meetings; ask questions, become informed... You should be a registered voter in Mendon to serve on

a committee." To register to vote, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 508-473-1085, or visit them at Town Hall or online (see below). You must be registered at least 10 days in advance to vote at the annual town meeting (and in the annual election).

Online voter registration: www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/
Check voter registration status: www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx
Source: www.mendonma.gov

Upton Candidates Night April 24

On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. the Upton Bloomer Girls are sponsoring an opportunity to meet the candidates running for offices in the Annual Town Election (Tuesday, May 7, 2024).

All candidates are invited to give a brief statement and respond to questions from the audience. This event will take place at the Upton Community Center located at 9 Milford Street.

Ask the Assessors:

Senior Means Tested Tax Exemption (Circuit Breaker)

Applications are now available at the Assessor's Office in Town Hall for the Senior Means Tested Real Estate Tax Credit derived from qualifying for the 2023 Mass State Income Tax Filing Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. The deadline for submitting the applications is August 31, 2024.

The town's Taxation Aid Committee sponsored an article that was unanimously approved at the May, 2021 Annual Town Meeting to petition the State Legislature to grant Mendon the right to offer this exemption. It was signed into law by then Governor Charlie Baker as Chapter 241 of the Acts of 2022 on October 19, 2022. This coming fiscal year, which begins on July 1, is the second time it is being offered.

Any Mendon resident age 65 or older as of January 1, 2023 who has applied for and received the Circuit Breaker Income Tax Credit when they filed their calendar year 2023 State Income Tax return is eligible to apply for this new ex-

emption. It does not replace any existing senior exemptions, but will be given as an additional exemption.

Specific criteria for the exemption include:

- You must own property in Mendon and occupy it as your primary residence for ten (10) consecutive years.
- For tax year 2023, your total Massachusetts income did not exceed:
 - \$69,000 for a single individual who is not the head of a household.
 - \$86,000 for a head of household.
 - \$103,000 for married couples filing a joint return.
- Your Mendon property tax payments must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the 2023 tax year.
- The assessed valuation of the homeowner's personal residence as of January 1, 2023, before residential exemptions but after abatements, cannot exceed \$1,025,000. (If you own more than one acre of land, only the value of that

one acre will be counted.) As with all property tax exemptions, applicants' financial information is kept completely confidential.

Each year, the Select Board will vote in October to offer from 50% to 200% of the income tax credit (the 2023 maximum Circuit Breaker income tax credit amount is \$2,590) as the exemption for the fiscal year. This percentage will be applied to the amount seniors received as a state income tax credit. For example, if a person receives an \$800 income tax credit and the Select Board decides on 100%, the exemption will be \$800.

It is the Board of Assessors' goal to have this exemption factored into the third and fourth quarter tax bills that are mailed in late December each year.

If you have any questions about the new exemption, please contact Principal Assessor Jean Berthold at 508-473-2738 or jberthold@mendonma.gov or Taxation Aid Committee Chair Kevin Rudden at 508-478-3124 or krudden@mendonma.gov.



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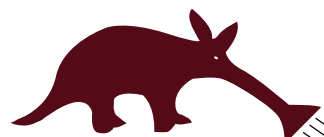


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New Mendon Senior & Community Center Open House/Informational Session

The Mendon Senior and Community Center (MSCC) is seeking \$13,200,000 to support the construction of a new, centrally located facility. The existing center struggles to meet the needs of our growing senior population, with more than 27% of the population aged 60 or older, within a limited space. This new center will provide vital services like:

- **Wellness programs:** Exercise classes, health screenings, nutrition education.
- **Social activities:** Senior lunches, game rooms, arts & crafts studios.
- **Support services:** Information & referral, transportation assistance, counseling.
- **Community events:** Educational workshops, public forums, cultural gatherings (open to all ages).

The MSCC will be a hub for social connection, healthy living, and lifelong learning, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community for all residents of Mendon, MA. As such, while the priority may be for supporting senior citizens, Mendon lacks a centralized community center of any kind outside of a public library or the public schools, many of which have different hours of availability and operation or lack programs that could benefit the community as a whole. Given that the median

age of Mendon, per the 2020 census, was 40.6 (± 0.4), multiple opportunities exist for a facility such as a Senior and Community Center to provide intergenerational and diverse supports for people of all ages.

Some of the enhancements the proposed project will incorporate include areas for lifetime recreation, such as pickleball, bocce, basketball, shuffleboard, and personal fitness, including the potential for ADA-compliant walking trails. While Mendon boasts of several hundred acres of conservation land, much of this is difficult, if not impossible, for senior citizens or those with mobility challenges to safely navigate. In addition, the current facility lacks adequate space for multiple activities to occur simultaneously, so if a group of senior citizens were to play cards, a second group receiving community information on fuel assistance or attending lunch can be accomplished today, which does not serve the goal or schedules of community members. Today our events are wait listed and Seniors are turned away. In short, the current town facilities no longer meet the needs of the Seniors or the broader population. The current town senior center, should this project be approved, will be repurposed in a form of municipal

use, which will improve the spaces needed by other departments that currently have insufficient space and resources.

If you have questions regarding the proposed new Mendon Senior and Community Center, please contact the senior center for a list of FAQ's, attend an open house/informational session on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. or contact committee members Phil Cieply pcieply@mendonma.gov or Peg Nogueira at pnogueira@mendonma.gov

GRANTS

continued from page 3

fields to be considered for hosting larger regional or state tournaments, an ambition of both the baseball and softball leagues.

This project meets several goals outlined in our newly updated Open Space and Rec Plan as well as goals identified in Mendon's first soon-to-be-completed Master Plan. Reading through the comments from the

Master Plan and OSRP surveys, the need for lighted sports fields comes up multiple times. Another topic in survey responses is the need for community gathering places. The Memorial/Veterans Park Complex has been home to several festivals over the years, including most recently, the "Rock the Block" town celebration. Adding lights to these fields would expand the available use of the facility and allow for hosting of these community events.



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MAIN ST 40B

continued from page 1

have already had flooding issues for decades.

“There is a very real concern anytime you disturb the earth, you will change the flow of water,” he said.

According to Massachusetts law, new infrastructure cannot force water onto an abutter's property. Rain, runoff, and stormwater, or sheetflow, are all accounted for in the design of any new structure, he said.

“They account for the water coming from the sky, and they account for the sheetflow,” he said. “But we don't always know what's flowing underground, and that doesn't get accounted for.”

“The more we can stay ahead of things like this, and partner with the developer to point out and be reasonable about these things, the better the outcome will be for everyone,” he said.

During a Select Board meeting in late February, some concern was voiced both from the fire department and residents about the construction of basement units. These units would

have required a large retaining wall, raising some of the initial flooding concerns. The issues were addressed by the developer, Lobisser, and presented to the Select Board on March 19. A new site plan was introduced, eliminating the problematic basement units and retaining walls, and reducing the number of units from 68 to 60.

As safety, flooding, and other essential issues are being worked out, some concerns are focused on aesthetics.

Simas said that with affordable housing, comes high density. It's this, he said, that concerns some residents.

“We need affordable housing, as a society, as a state, as a municipality,” he said.

It's his job, he said, to work with these developers, in this case Lobisser, and to make them understand the town's culture and current needs.

Simas said, the real question is, “Can we make the building look as nice as possible? Let's get it to fit in as best as we can, and I think that we can do that.”

An evolution of building renderings shows the structure starting to resemble something that

“Can we make the building look as nice as possible? Let's get it to fit in as best as we can, and I think that we can do that.”

- UPTON SELECT BOARD MEMBER BRETT SIMAS

might begin to blend more seamlessly with the surrounding urbanization of the downtown area.

“I'm very grateful that there's been some recognition and there's been some work done to help the building fit into the context of the town,” he said.

A definite upside, Simas said, is that this will drive more foot traffic downtown, feeding the downtown revitalization plan.

“In terms of urban planning, this is as good a location as we're going to find,” he said.

Simas explained that, though this development is certainly



Site location of proposed 40B apartment building at 47 Main Street. Source: www.uptonma.gov

welcome to town, the ultimate motive is to regain control over Upton's 40B status. After reaching 10 percent affordable housing in town, Upton officials will essentially regain control over the state as to when and where future developments can take place.

The plan, he said, is to meet that 10 percent, and have a housing production plan in place, which will give town officials and residents more autonomy in deciding where future projects go.

Upton needs 297 units to reach the 10% state mandate and is currently at 6.37% (189 units). If the new 40B at 47 Main Street (60 units) is approved, the town would then be at 8.39%, and would need 48 more units to be fully compliant.

When it comes to the 47 Main Street project, Simas believes that “as a town we've done as much as we can and have the authority to, to ensure that this situation is not made worse by this development.”



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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



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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Taft Public Library Calendar of Events

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

ADULT PROGRAMS APRIL 2024

Upcoming Events:

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

Bridging Two Worlds, An Afternoon of Mediumship with Ellen Henry

Join medium Ellen Henry on Saturday, April 20 at 1 p.m. for this fascinating program. A medium is someone who receives communication from the souls of those who have moved on to the next chapter and delivers those messages to their loved ones here in the physical world. In this program, Ellen will begin with a discussion of what mediumship is, how it differs from a psychic reading, and how she receives messages. Then share in the experience as she performs a mediumship demonstration for the group. *Please Note:* Attendance at a demonstration does not guarantee that you will receive a reading. Registration required. Please visit www.taftpubliclibrary.org and click on the Library Event Calendar & Registration link near the top of the web page to register.

Adult Handcrafting Group

Let's get crafty! Join us Wednesday, April 17 at 2 p.m.

downstairs in the library and get your craft on. Bring your own craft project, whatever it might be, to work on while you visit. Intended for adults. Crafts are NOT supplied.

Adult Book Club

The Adult Book Club are typically held on the second Monday of the month. For upcoming book clubs contact the library at 508-473-3259 to request copies of the books or log in to your account from our website to request them through interlibrary loan. The upcoming Adult Book Club book discussion schedule is as follows:

May: *Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir* by Natasha Trethewey and the poetry of Amanda Lovelace

June: *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Amy Tan

German Conversation Club

Are you looking for a place to practice what German you remember or to improve your German vocabulary? Conversations in German is no pressure, just fun! Lead by Library Assistant (and Mendon resident) Monika Schmid, the group typically meets the last Monday of each month. Mark your calendars for Monday, April 29 at 6 p.m. for the next session! Registration is required. To register, visit our website.

Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club

The Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club meets downstairs in the library on a quarterly basis. Those interested are asked to stop at the downstairs desk to sign the Footnotes registration sheet and pick up a copy of the latest book. Upcoming books in the Footnotes series:

The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams by Stacy Schiff. Discussion on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

Friends of the Taft Public Library Meeting

The Friends of the Library will meet next on Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. downstairs in the library's Art Holmes Community Room for their monthly board meeting. Board meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., unless it falls on a holiday or during a school vacation. All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend. If you plan on attending, it's always a good idea to call the library at 508-473-3259 or email the Friends at friendsoftaftlibrary@gmail.com to confirm the date and time of the meeting. The group will do its best to post any meeting changes on the Taft Library website.

Coming in May: Author Michael Tougias

Join us on Tuesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. for a program from

Michael Tougias, author of *The Finest Hours* and *So Close to Home*. Mr. Tougias will discuss the survival stories of several historic figures and provide an inside look at techniques to overcome adversity based on research from his book *Extreme Survival: Lessons from Those Who Have Triumphed Against All Odds*. Registration is required as space is limited. Please register by clicking on the Library Event Calendar & Registration link at www.taftpubliclibrary.org.

TAFT CHILDREN'S NEWS-APRIL 2024

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

Itty Bitty Story Time

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

Story & Craft Time

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

Alphabet Storytime

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

Coffee and Conversations & Puppet Storytime

Dates: Wednesdays, May 1

and June 5

Time: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Location: Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave., Mendon
Join us for an informal playtime where families will be able to build social connections and learn about early childhood development and family friendly resources. The library will supply Muffin House Muffins.

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

Tutors with Tails

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

Book Clubs

Graphic Novel Book Club: This month we will be reading: *Nell of Gumbing: My Extremely Normal Fairy-Tale Life* by Emma Steinkellner. Join us on Tuesday, May 14 at 5 p.m. to discuss this month's book pick.

8-12 Book Club: We will be reading: *I Survived: The Great Molasses Flood, 1919* by Lauren Tarshis. The book club discussion will be held downstairs in the library on Tuesday, April 23 at 5 p.m.

6-9 Novel Book Club: We will be reading: *The Story of Diva & Flea* by Mo Willems and Tony DiTerlizza. The book club will be held downstairs on Tuesday, May 7 at 5 p.m.

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Mendon can and bottle drive on April 27



Summer, a member of Mendon Scout Troop 44, displays cans and bottles collected at a previous drive. Donations at this year's drive will help fund trips throughout the year. Courtesy photo

Mendon Scout Troop 44 will hold a Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, April 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Henry P. Clough Elementary School.

By donating cans and bottles

to be recycled, you will help the environment and support the troop's upcoming trip to zip line.

For more information, contact Rick Tusoni at 508-479-1213.

Candidates for Upton

Annual Town Election - Tuesday, May 7 from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m at the Nipmuc Regional High School, (gymnasium) 90 Pleasant Street, Upton.

Below are the Candidates on the ballot (incumbents are indicated with an *)

MODERATOR
(one for 1 yr)
- *David C. Loeper, 18 Nelson St

SELECT BOARD
(one for 3 yrs)
- *Brett Adam Simas, 7 Barbaras Path
- Marcia A. Kasilowski, 10 Whitney Ln

ASSESSORS OF TAXES
(one for 3 yrs)
- *William A. Bonina, 44 Plain St

MURSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
(one for 3 yrs)
- *Vikki L. Ludwigson, 9 Josiah Dr

CEMETERY COMMISSION
(one for 3 yrs)
- Mildred F. Galeone, 92 Ridge Rd

BOARD OF HEALTH
(one for 3 yrs)
- *Laura J. Hebb, 38 Grove St

RECREATION COMMISSION
(one for 3 yrs)
- Christopher K. Murphy, 7 Warren St

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(three for 3 yrs)
- *Alycia R. Phylis, 11 Christian Hill Rd
- *Laurie S. Wodin, 7 Nelson St
- Maureen B. Porter, 62 West River St

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(one for 1 yr)
- Lauren Catherine Fobes, 181 Westboro Rd

PLANNING BOARD
(one for 5 yrs)
- James R. Bates Jr, 14 Williams St
- William W. Taylor, 211 North St

UPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
(one for 3 yrs)
No Candidate

COMMISSIONER OF TRUST FUNDS
(one for 3 yrs)
No Candidate

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Upton Town Library Calendar of Events

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

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

Upton Library will be closed on Monday, April 15 for Patriots' Day.

Passport Services

Upton Town Library is now a passport acceptance agency!

We can help with providing forms and answering questions about getting or renewing a U.S. passport. Call us 508-529-6272 or make appointment at uptonlibrary.org

Spring Booksale - May 11

The Friends of the Upton Library spring booksale is coming on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Great selection of gently used books, DVDs, puzzles and more. Don't forget your Friends totebag for our annual totebag deal. If you have items to donate, bring them to the library lobby starting April 16. Additional parking available in municipal lots on Grove Street.

Special Events

StoryWalk™ - April 1 to May 31 - at VFW Playground

All spring, patrons can enjoy our StoryWalk™ at VFW Memorial Playground. A StoryWalk™ is a picture book told panel by panel on signs. Families can stroll around, reading the story of "Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms" by Julia Donaldson. Those who fill out our QR code Google Form at the end will be entered to win a paperback copy of the book for their home library.

Movie Events - Friday, April 19 1 - 2:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 27 1 - 3 p.m.

The Greatroom turns into a movie theater as we begin movie events at the library. On April 19, there will be a movie for ages 5 to 12. On April 27, there will be a movie for ages 10+.

Visit the library's Event Calendar at uptonlibrary.org or call the library at 508-529-6272, for movie titles and details. Feel free to bring your own snacks.

Tabletop Game Night for Adults Thursday, April 18, 5:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Join our new tabletop game

series for adults. Come play new tabletop games every third Thursday of the month from 5:15 - 7:30 p.m. Experienced players and beginners both welcome. Pre-registration requested.

Virtual Author Talk Series

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

Author Talk with **Xochitl Gonzalez**: A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art - Wednesday, April 17, 8 - 9 p.m.

Author Talk with **Douglas Brunt**: Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I - Wednesday, May 1, 3 - 4 p.m.

Author Talk with **Nina Simon**: A Murder Mystery, Family Story, & Love Letter to Strong Women Everywhere - Wednesday, May 8, 7 - 8 p.m.

Children's & Young Adult Events

Wood Slice Painting - Tuesday, April 16, 6 - 7 p.m.

Tweens and teens can join Mrs. Murphy to create mini wood slice decorations, painted with a spring design. For ages 10 to 16. Pre-registration is required.

Shaving Cream Rain

Clouds - Thursday, April 18, 6 - 7 p.m.

Kids can join Mrs. Murphy to use food coloring, shaving cream, and water to make "rain clouds", as well as share a story and learn more about the water cycle. For ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration is required.

Monthly Library Events - Register now!

All programs and events require pre-registration at uptonlibrary.org or call 508-529-6272. Registrations open the month prior to events.

Music & Movement - Select Mondays 9:30 a.m.

Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins will take place April 22, as well as May 6 and 13, in the Greatroom. Join us for stories, songs, and fun. Best for ages 1-5. Partial funding for this program is through a grant from Beginning Bridges CFCE in Uxbridge. Pre-registration is required.

Baby Storytime - Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Baby Storytime is for ages

birth to 3 and is held on Fridays. This is a 20-30 minute lapsit program featuring stories, songs, and nursery rhymes. Pre-registration required. Waitlisted patrons will receive priority for the following month.

Preschool Storytime - Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime is for ages 3 to 5 and is held on Thursdays. This is a 45-minute program, featuring longer stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts. Pre-registration required. Waitlisted patrons will receive priority for the following month.

Saturday Storytime - April 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month we offer a 30-45-minute Saturday Storytime, blending Baby and Preschool storytimes featuring stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Can't join us for our weekday programs? This event is just for you! For ages 0-5. Pre-registration required.

Drop-In Storytime - April 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Children's Department is now offering a new Drop-In Storytime session, once a month. No registration required. This will be a blend of our Baby

UPTON LIBRARY

continued on page 15



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UPTON LIBRARY

continued from page 14

and Preschool Storytimes; however, no craft will be provided. We will feature stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. This will be held in the Greatroom and will be a larger group size. For ages 0 to 5.

LEGO Club – April 17 at 4 p.m.

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

Kids' Book Club – May 1 at 4 p.m.

Our book club members explore popular juvenile and preteen titles on the first Wednesday of each month from 4 - 4:45 p.m. Our May title will be a Members' Choice. Participants may read the book of their choosing and then share it at our May meeting. This group is for ages 8-12 and reads mostly middle grade titles. We welcome new members all year round! Pre-registration required.

Teen Group – Tuesdays 3 p.m.

This group meets weekly on

Tuesdays from 3 - 4 p.m. and focuses on a new theme each month, sharing books, crafts, games, and more. For April, which is Library Appreciation Month, our theme will be **BOOKS!** This group is for tweens and teens ages 10-16. This is always a drop-in program led by Adult Librarian Micaela.

Upton Reads Book Group

An eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction with meetings on the second Tuesday afternoon and Thursday evening of each month in the Community Center classroom, with a Zoom remote option.

Tuesday, May 14 at 12:45 p.m., and Thursday, May 16 at 6:45 p.m.: *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.

Fic or No Fic Book Group

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

April 24 at 6:45 p.m.: nonfiction title, *Sentient: How Animals Illuminate the Wonder of Our Human Senses* by Jackie Higgins.

For more information or assistance with any library services, call 508-529-6272 or email mbachtol@cwmares.org

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

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.milford-humane.org/>



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

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Juveniles charged in recent breaking and entering

Repeated incidents prompt store owner to install metal gate across entrance

The Mendon Police Department has concluded its investigation into two separate breaking and entering incidents targeting the same business in January and February. As a result, the persons responsible, all juveniles from out of town, have been identified and will face charges.

The incidents, which occurred on January 27, 2024 and Febru-

ary 4, 2024, involved unlawful entry into the Mendon Smoke and Vape Shop, located at 15 Uxbridge Road, Mendon, MA 01756. In both instances, the suspects gained unauthorized access to the premises, causing damage and theft.

“Our duty to uphold the law is clear, but so is our responsibility to the well-being and rehabilitation of our youth. While

holding them accountable for their actions, we also aim to guide them towards positive change,” stated Chief David Kurczy.

The Mendon Police Department acknowledges the cooperation of all those involved in the investigation. Additionally, the repeated incidents have compelled the store owner to install a steel gate across the entrance to protect his store, highlighting the impact of these criminal acts on local businesses and communities.

The Mendon Police Department remains vigilant in its efforts to uphold the law and protect the well-being of all residents.

For further inquiries, please contact the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office.

Source: www.mendonpolice.com


Recent Home Sales

Date	Mendon	Amount
No recorded sales since 01/17/2024		
Date	Upton	Amount
03/21/2024	7 Shoemaker Ln. #3	\$758,441
03/20/2024	52 Sienna Cir. #47	\$669,995
03/15/2024	35 Cider Mill Ln.	\$618,888
03/13/2024	133 Chestnut St.	\$625,000
03/08/2024	6 Claflin Farm	\$1.04 mil
03/05/2024	60 Pearl St.	\$485,000
02/29/2024	57 Sienna Cir. #44	\$669,999

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Upton Mendon Free Press



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,940 sf house at 35 Cider Mill Lane in Upton recently sold for \$618,888. Photo credit www.zillow.com



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50/50 Compost/Loam	\$32
Compost	\$38
3/8", 3/4" & 1 1/2" Grey Stone ..	\$38
3" Grey Stone	\$35
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1 1/2", 2 1/2"	
Multi-Color River Stone	\$85
Multi-Color River Stone	\$85
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3" Processed Gravel	\$35
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Blue Stone Dust	\$50
Rip Rap	\$35
Fill Clay/General	\$10
Trench Sand	\$28

PRICED PER YARD

Mendon Senior Center Programs for April & May

Massachusetts Artists with Jim Buckley

On Tuesday, April 16 at 11 a.m., Jim will be introducing us to another Massachusetts artist—American Painter James MacNeill Whistler. Please stop by or call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175 to register for these free programs. Walk-ins are also welcomed.

The History of Baseball

Come test your baseball trivia on Thursday, April 18 at 11 a.m. when DAN DUNN offers us an interactive presentation about the evolution of “America’s game” including the early beginnings of the Boston Pilgrims. Please call the center to register for this free program sponsored by the Friends of Mendon Elders. Consider joining us for lunch following the program. Please sign up for lunch separately.

Beautification Meeting

Many thanks to our Beautification volunteers Mark Cleverdon, Ann and John Vandersluis, Tom Sawyer, Kathy Staniszewski, Eldon Swanson and John Palumbo for their green thumbs and their dedication to sprucing up the center’s exterior grounds last year along with the help of Marty Yenawine and his North Grafton Job Corp youth volunteers. Sadly, Grafton Job Corp. will not be able to assist us further and we need to say farewell to Kathy Staniszewski on her upcoming departure from Mendon. Thank you, Kathy, for over ten years of service tending to our main perineal garden. It has been stunning.

If you enjoy putting outdoors and have a few hours to spare this spring, why not consider joining our small, committed group of volunteers on Friday, April 19 at 9 a.m. for a brief meeting followed by light spring clean-up of the Mendon Senior Center property. At that time, we will formulate our modest goals for the year to further beautify the center’s grounds. The Friends of Mendon Elders have generously agreed to fund our efforts again this year, so all we need now is your green thumbs. Please call Amy at the center at 508-478-6175 to let us know of your interest.

Music Bingo & Pizza Luncheon

Join us for some fun and

prizes on Tuesday, April 30 at 11 a.m. when the Friends of Mendon Elders will sponsor Music Bingo with Good Thomas. Join us for a pizza luncheon following bingo. The cost of lunch is \$5. Please register for one or both programs at the center. Call 508-478-6175

Learn How to Take Better Pictures - Last call!

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

The cost for this grant subsidized program is \$25 for five weeks. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to register. A few spaces remain.

New Program! Diabetes & Nutrition

On Tuesday, May 7 at 10 a.m. the Mendon Senior will present a new monthly health program presented by the Salmon Family VNA concerning proper nutrition and good health. Topics for discussion will include: what is diabetes blood sugar management, diet related to diabetes, symptoms of high blood sugar and low blood sugar. Please call or stop by the senior center to register for this free program. This program will be followed by our monthly blood pressure clinic. Please sign up for the clinic separately.

Historical Women presented by Sheryl Faye Wednesday May 1 p.m.

The talented Sheryl Faye returns to the Mendon Senior Center with a mesmerizing portrayal of Amelia Earhart on Wednesday, May 8. This pro-

gram is generously funded by the Mendon Cultural Council a member of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Please stop by or call the Senior Center to register for this free event. Reserve early, space is limited!

Mendon Minstrels Choral Program

Thursday, May 16 11 a.m.

Join us for an uplifting choral program Morning and Other Beginnings led by musical director/pianist Dave Clinkman, and

accompanied by guitarist Art Forand and percussionist Brad Mosher. Please stop by or call the Senior Center to register for this free event. Lunch will follow the musical program. Reserve early, space is limited!

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Mendon Police Log

Between Feb. 25 and March 23, the Mendon Police Department responded to hundreds of calls, many related to erratic operations of motor vehicles, disabled motor vehicles, motor vehicle collisions, fire alarms, road hazards, parking complaints, suspicious activity, house and vehicle lockouts, medical emergencies, 911 hang-ups and open lines, and assist citizens. They also conducted hundreds of motor vehicle stops during that time. Other entries of note during the month include:

Feb. 25 at 3:06 p.m., Hartford Ave. East, well-being check
Feb. 26 at 10:41 a.m., Providence St., animal
Feb. 26 at 6:17 p.m., Hastings St., brush fire
Feb. 27 at 10:08 a.m., Cape Rd., burglar alarm
Feb. 27 at 5:15 p.m., Oak Hill Rd., civil complaint
Feb. 29 at 6:50 a.m., Asylum St., wires down
Feb. 29 at 4:17 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., message delivery
March 1 at 9:59 a.m., Millville St., fraud
March 1 at 4:12 p.m., Vincent Rd., civil complaint

March 2 at 10:00 a.m., Uxbridge Rd., burglar alarm
March 3 at 9:31 a.m., Hartford Ave. East, civil complaint
March 5 at 5:52 p.m., Hartford Ave. West, smoke investigation
March 6 at 8:34 p.m., Maple St., fire/tech rescue
March 7 at 1:31 p.m., Providence St., hit and run motor vehicle collision
March 7 at 5:47 p.m., Main St. noise complaint
March 7 at 7:09 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., stolen vehicle
March 7 at 7:12 p.m., Maple Ave., well-being check
March 10 at 2:54 p.m., Blackstone St., hit and run motor vehicle collision
March 10 at 12:38 p.m., Milford St., burglar alarm
March 11 at 9:19 p.m., Bates St., hit and run motor vehicle collision
March 12 at 9:06 a.m., Ashkins Rd., trespass
March 12 at 9:53 a.m., Pond St., fraud
March 12 at 10:39 p.m., Millville St., animal
March 13 at 5:35 p.m., Vincent Rd., animal
March 14 at 5:33 p.m.,



Mowry St., document service
March 14 at 6:24 p.m., Mowry St., document service
March 14 at 7:00 p.m., Hartford Ave. East, document service
March 14 at 7:28 p.m., Mowry St., document service
March 15 at 7:31 a.m., Milford St., stolen vehicle
March 15 at 10:08 a.m., Hartford Ave. West, warrant service
March 15 at 2:18 p.m., Mowry St., document service
March 16 at 6:11 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., property damage
March 17 at 2:10 a.m., Milford St., fight
March 17 at 2:16 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., message delivery
March 18 at 8:08 a.m., Old Taft Ave., larceny
March 18 at 11:19 a.m., Messenger St., well-being check
March 18 at 2:36 p.m., Providence St., well-being check
March 19 at 5:34 a.m., Providence St., well-being check
March 19 at 2:47 p.m., Bates St., trespass
March 19 at 11:08 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., burglar alarm
March 22 at 7:37 a.m., Uxbridge Rd., trespass
March 22 at 4:46 p.m., Mendon St., hit and run motor vehicle collision

Source: www.mendonpolice.com/

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 vocational-technical 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.

MENDON

Gold: Kalynn Bellefontaine, Nurse Assisting; Noah LeFave, Electronics Technology; Leila Leyvas, Health Knowledge Bowl; Abigail Scharnagle, Medical Math; and Arthur Tusoni, Television (Video) Production.

Bronze: Sophia Blalock, Cosmetology Over 500 Hours; and Charles Lozeau, Mobile Robotics Technology.

UPTON

Gold: Cassidy Lyon, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Ryan Poirier, CNC 3 Axis Milling Programmer.

Silver: Justin Fransen, Mechatronics; and Laith Shloul, Telecommunications Cabling.

Bronze: Ryan May, Urban Search & Rescue; and Van Richard, Mobile Robotics Technology.

MENDON- UPTON COMMUNITY CLEANUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH - SUNDAY, MAY 5TH

Help us keep our community green and clean!

The 2024 community cleanup will take place from Saturday, April 20th to Sunday, May 5th. Volunteers sign up for a street, pick up their bags, and help clean up their town! Don't forget to post a photo of your cleanup to social media using the hashtag #MendonUptonCleanup2024

To learn more and sign up, visit mendonma.gov/clean-up

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Mendon Police Department supports autism awareness

The Mendon Police Department is proud to announce our participation in the #AutismPatchChallenge. We will be joining over 130 law enforcement agencies across North America for this challenge. For the month of April officers will be wearing multi-colored puzzle block style patches on their uniforms to raise awareness for Autism.

This challenge was started by the New Rochelle Police Department of Westchester County, NY in February 2017. New Rochelle Police Detective Chris Grecco and his wife are the parents of an autistic child. The purpose of the New Rochelle Police Autism Patch Challenge is to promote autism awareness and acceptance in every community. The organization seeks to educate first responders on ways to assist those with autism, who in many cases are non-verbal. Police departments are encouraged to implement or review their training protocols for dealing autistic individuals.

By purchasing the specialty patches (\$10 each) through the Mendon Police Association, you not only show your support but also directly impact the lives of individuals and families affected by autism. Every contribution



supports the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism helping to create brighter futures.

Let's spread awareness, understanding, and acceptance together. Make a difference

with us! Learn more and get involved at <http://mendonpolice.com/community/autism-awareness/>

Source: www.mendonpolice.com and Facebook @mendonpolice

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Mendham Brush Association Elden H. Barrows Memorial Scholarships 2024

The Mendham Brush Association (Brothers of the Brush) is pleased to announce the 2024 Elden H. Barrows Memorial Scholarship. These \$500 scholarships will be awarded to two graduating seniors who reside in Mendon who attend a local high school with the intent to assist students with the cost of Higher Education, or tools and educational materials for entering a trade.

The late Elden H. Barrows was a founding member of the Brothers of the Brush and the first president and leader of the organization during Mendon's

300th Anniversary Celebration. The awarding of scholarships is specific to graduating high school seniors who live in Mendon and who have provided service to their community and support to local organizations, families and or individuals in a manner consistent with the purpose of the Mendham Brush Association.

For an application to this scholarship, go to your school's Counseling Office, or email Scholarship Committee Chair, Allan Greenberg at the following address: greenie175@verizon.net

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Evolution of 1 Maple Street, and life, in Mendon

Here is a look at 1 Maple Street in Mendon over the years. These photos on page 20 and 21 offer a glimpse into the evolution of life in Mendon center (and transportation).

The building recently underwent a

minor refresh in preparation for a new retail tenant that will occupy the historic space.

Note: Today, the building is known as 1 Maple Street (right unit) and 3 Maple Street (left)

All photos provided by Richard Schofield



Barnes Bros with horse and wagon, circa 1898.



1 Maple Street today which will soon host a new retail store.



Men gather on "The Block" around a wood stove, some sitting on milk cans, at the corner store reading the Boston Daily Globe on Nov. 12, 1940

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1 MAPLE STREET *continued from page 20*



Steer & Brown Groceries Grain & Provisions, circa 1910s (note "Coal and Wood" door on the left).



Mendon Post Office (left) and Mendon Cash Grocery with Model T delivery truck, circa 1920s.



Post Office (left) and Shattucks with 1949 Chevy delivery vehicle.



Post Office (left) and Danny's Variety with 1970s Pontiac and 1990 Ford station wagon.

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SPORTS

Squires sets Nipmuc shot put record

NRHS Junior sets sights on more program bests

By Chris Villani

You could say that throwing events are in the blood for Amelia Squires. The Nipmuc junior's father, Nick, competed in the shot put throughout high school and college and his experience inspired his daughter to take up the same events.

"I always thought it was really cool and I just got into it because of him," Squires said. "I have seen videos of him doing it, but it's a lot different when you are actually competing."

Squires seems to have inherited some of her father's abilities. She blew past her personal best during the winter season and broke the Nipmuc program record with a throw of more than 32 feet.

"I felt like I was really improving," Squires said. "And the school record is something I had

been working towards since my freshman year."

Squires said her dad and the rest of the family were in attendance during the meet in which she broke the record, adding to the already special moment.

The junior is now turning her attention to the program's outdoor record in the shot put, which is only about a foot farther than Squires' current personal best. She said she enjoys competing outside during the spring, where she also competes in the discus.

Squires said she is looking to improve in that event, and that the mechanics had just started to click for her at the end of last season. Her best discus throw is around 82 feet, and she has a goal of hitting triple digits this year.

When she is not practicing her

specific events, Squires maintains a rigorous training program.

"I go to the gym every day to do strength training," she said. "And I do a lot of yoga to improve my flexibility."

If she continues to improve, Squires said she would love to compete in track and field at the collegiate level.

In the shot put, Squires earned a top-10 finish in the state meet during the winter season. She said she would like to improve on that ranking and also help her team continue to advance in statewide competition and relay meets. And she knows her father will be there to help her along the way.

"We talk about shot put a lot and he comes to every one of my meets," Squires said. "He is always giving me advice, and he is very helpful."



Amelia Squires watches the shot put fly during a recent indoor track meet. Photo credit Kelley Aubut

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SPORTS

Playoff ambitions for Nipmuc baseball

Pitching depth, star Centerfielder to lead Warriors this spring

By Chris Villani

Nipmuc baseball brings a combination of experienced veterans and newcomers who are poised for breakout seasons to the field this spring, and head coach Anthony Leonelli is ready to test his team with a challenging schedule.

After a season on the job, Leonelli said the relatively new statewide playoff format, and the power rankings that are based, in part, on strength of schedule, led him to add non-league matchups against teams like Canton, Framingham, and Boston English.

“We beefed up the schedule,” he said. “So, we are going to try to improve from week to week, and just be playing our best ball by the end of the year.”

Leonelli said that having centerfielder Anthony Ruggerio gives Nipmuc a huge edge over the competition.

“He is an absolute monster,” the coach said. “He is an elite talent. I don’t know if I have ever seen a better hitter in this area.”

The question will be whether teams challenge Ruggerio when he is at the plate, or work around him. Leonelli said he is looking to several players to provide protection for Ruggerio in the lineup. Noah Parotta hit north of .300 as a junior, and Cody Jameson came on strong with the bat at the end of 2023.

“Cody started at third base last year, but he has been open to playing multiple positions and has been very versatile, which allows us to put our best lineup together,” Leonelli said. “It’s a selfless act out of a senior leader.”

Sophomores John Desmond and Josh Giancola saw significant action toward the end of last season and Leonelli figures both of them will be factors in the lineup as well as on the mound.

Nipmuc returns two of its top three pitchers from a season ago. Senior Dan Heisler and junior Dylan Muccini will once again log significant innings.

“We are versatile, and that’s helpful,” Leonelli said. “We



Anthony Ruggerio is expected to be a driving force behind the Nipmuc baseball team this season.

Courtesy photo

have guys who can play a lot of different spots, and our pitching depth is considerable.”

Leonelli sees his team as one that should improve steadily throughout the spring and be a

far better squad by the time the tournament rolls around. He said he is hoping Nipmuc can capture the Dual Valley Conference title and then make some noise in both the Central Mass.

Athletic Directors’ tournament and the state playoffs.

“We might be a later arriving crowd,” Leonelli said. “But I definitely like the pieces we have to work with.”

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