

MSBA approves of Milford High as next building project

Organizing School Building Committee next step

By Scott Calzolaio

A public hearing hosted by Milford High School officials took place the night of April 22, to discuss the recent approval from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to begin planning a new high school building.

A statement of interest was submitted to the MSBA in 2022, 2023, and again this year. After two rejections from the state-run organization, the third time proved to be a charm, said Milford Schools Superintendent Kevin McIntyre.

They have now entered a nine-step eligibility period, where school officials have a little less than a year to complete the MSBA's checklist.

Officials will organize a School Building Committee to oversee the process. From there, enrollment projections,



The Massachusetts School Building Authority has approved Milford's request to start planning for a new high school building. The current MHS was built in 1971. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

educational profile surveys, public meetings, feasibility studies, and local votes will all play a part in getting the high school built.

There is no official timeline or budget available at this time.

The process really started about eight years ago, when

the Woodland School building was completed, McIntyre said. When looking at all of the older school buildings, the conclusion was that the high school was the next logical option for a do-over.

MILFORD HIGH

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Let the games begin: Milford Public Schools host Annual School Day Games



Spirit of Unity at the School Day Games. Photo source: Milford Public Schools

The Milford Public Schools transformed into a hub of excitement and camaraderie as they hosted their annual School Day Games. With peers, pompoms, and a field teeming with games

and activities, the event aimed to engage, excite, and motivate athletes while emphasizing the values

DAY GAMES

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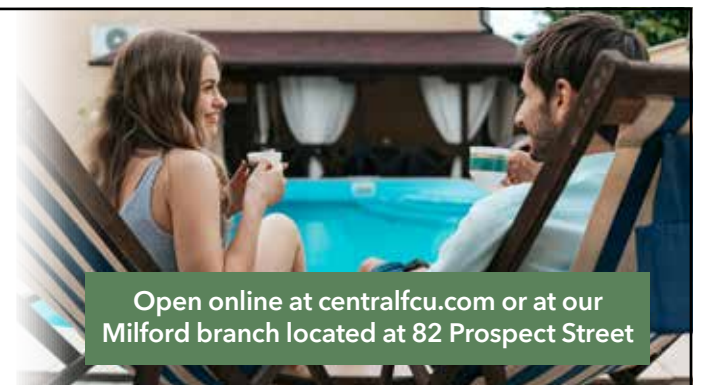
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Massive ‘wholesale with storage’ facility planned for East Main Street, near Holliston town line

Planning Board hearing continued to June 4

By Theresa Knapp

A “wholesale with storage” facility is proposed at “0” East Main Street, a 117-acre parcel of undeveloped land near Wildwood Drive.

Route 85 Realty Corporation, owned by Kevin Meehan of Mendon, has proposed a “191,700sf wholesale building and approximately 200 associated parking spaces on the subject property. The overall size of the undeveloped property is 116.87 acres, and the actual development parcel is to be 10 acres,” according to the special permit application.

At a Planning Board hearing

on April 16, Joseph Antonellis, attorney for the applicant, said he and his client are “admittedly frustrated” by the process.

The board voiced concerns related to traffic, maintaining trees, and a concern that a “high cube” project would be built on the site.

The board asked, in several ways, who would be the ultimate tenant in the massive facility. Antonellis said, “I just don’t understand or agree that you can impose on the applicant a list of potential users in this building.”

He said, “It is my particular opinion that, if we have a

wholesale with storage, we need not tell the board” [the name off the tenant]...Whether we’re a distribution center for CVS Pharmacy distributing sundries to drugstores... or whether or not we are – and again I am using this as an example – a Riley’s [sic] Regional Wholesale Facility...I really don’t think that we can get that specific.”

Antonellis further stated the applicant would not agree to let the board determine who the tenant will be. “I want you to know it’s not just a simple situation where we can say we’ll come back to the board and make sure you like who’s going



A “wholesale with storage” facility is proposed on a 117-acre parcel of undeveloped land on East Main Street, near Wildwood Drive (shown here) on the Holliston town line. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

in there...If that’s the case, we’ll have to go in a different direction.”

During public comment, residents expressed concern over traffic, including traffic

lights, dangerous driveways, etc.; trees being cleared; impact on aesthetics and recreational activities; and more.

The hearing was continued to June 4 at 7:02 p.m.



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Milford Police capture suspect with help of K-9 units



On April 11, the Milford Police Department reported on Facebook that “our K-9 units responded to a neighboring agency to assist with locating a suspect that crashed a stolen motorcycle into a fence at a residence and then threatened the homeowner before fleeing into the woods.

“Both K9 Titan and K9 Kodak were deployed and worked together to track a good distance into the woods, and K9 Kodak ultimately located the involved suspect who will have several charges pending.”

They also posted a photo of very muddy Officers Sanchioni and Motuzas who helped push a stuck cruiser from the rough and wet area that was searched.

Source: Facebook @MilfordMAPD

Milford Annual Town Meeting May 20

Medway’s Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday, May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Upper Hall of Milford Town Hall.

The warrant was not available at press time but will soon be available at www.milfordma.gov/town-meeting/pages/article-and-town-meeting-documents-annual-town-meeting where you can also find the

Milford Fire Department budget explanation and the Police Department’s special operations report.

Source: www.milfordma.gov



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Comprehensive Plan community meeting May 13

Residents are asked, “What is your vision for Milford?”

By Theresa Knapp

The Town of Milford will hold a Comprehensive Plan community meeting on May 13 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

This “visioning forum” will be held in collaboration with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). Residents will be asked, “What is YOUR vision for Milford?”

A comprehensive plan, according to MAPC, “will provide strategic direction for decision making regarding land use, zoning, housing, transportation, economic development, and community investment in public infrastructure, facilities, and services.”

Milford’s last plan was put into effect in 2003. Plans are typically updated every 10 years. According to the project timeline at www.mapc.org, organizers will compile the information, hold two feedback sessions later this year, and present a final comprehensive plan in the spring of 2025.

“The project team will use valuable input received throughout the process from residents, business owners, community leaders, and other stakeholders to develop recommendations and an implementation strategy with specific actions to help the town achieve its future goals and enhance quality of life. When completed, the Milford Comprehensive Plan will serve as a roadmap for the Town, with a cohesive vision and a set of goals that reflect the shared values of the community.”

Light refreshments will be served, and interpretation will be offered.

What’s your vision for Milford?

Preparing Milford’s Comprehensive Plan begins!

Do you have a vision for Milford? Do you see opportunities for the Town of Milford? Do you see challenges facing the Town? Do you care about the future of Milford? The Town wants to hear from you. The Milford Comprehensive Plan will define goals and strategies for the Town over the next 10 years.

Join us for our first community conversation!

Milford Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting

Monday, May 13th, 2024

7:00-8:30 pm

Milford Town Hall (Upper Hall)

52 Main Street

An introduction to the Comprehensive Plan will be presented. This will be followed by interactive exercises to learn about your vision for the Town, including challenges and opportunities you see for the Town. Light refreshments will be served and interpretation will be offered.

Get involved!

Sign up for updates about this process: mapc.ma/milford-plan24

Keep up to date with the Milford Comprehensive Plan by joining our email list. We’ll share updates throughout the process and let you know when there are engagement opportunities to provide your input!

How can I learn more?

Visit the plan website at <https://mapc.ma/MilfordCompPlan> to learn more about the process and how to get involved.

If you have questions or special needs, please contact: Larry Dunkin, Milford Town Planner at ldunkin@townofmilford.com or Josh Fiala, Metropolitan Area Planning Council at jfiala@mapc.org

For more information, visit www.milfordma.gov/home/news/comprehensive-plan-community-meeting or www.mapc.org/resource-library/milford-comp-plan/

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How is your retirement income taxed?



Mark Freeman

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Once you're retired, you will likely need to draw on several types of income for your living expenses. You'll need to know where these funds are coming from and how much you can count on, but you should also be aware of how this money is taxed — because this knowledge can help you plan and budget for your retirement years.

Here's the basic tax information on some key sources of retirement income:

- **Social Security** – Many people don't realize they may have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits. Whether your benefits will be taxed depends on how much other taxable income you receive from various sources, such as self-employment, stock dividends and interest payments. You'll want to check with your tax advisor to determine whether your income reaches the threshold where your Social Security benefits will be taxed. The lower your total taxable income, the lower the taxes will be on your benefits. The Social Security Administration will not automatically take out taxes from your monthly checks — to have taxes withheld, you will need to fill out Form W-4V (Voluntary Withholding Request). Again, your tax advisor can help you determine the percentage of your benefits you should withhold.
- **Retirement accounts** – During your working years, you

may have contributed to two basic retirement accounts: an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan (such as a 457(b) plan for state and local government employees or a 403(b) plan for educators and employees of some nonprofits). If you invested in a "traditional" IRA or 401(k) or similar plan, your contributions may have been partially or completely deductible and your earnings grew on a tax-deferred basis. But when you start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA or 401(k), the money is considered taxable at your normal income tax rate. However, if you chose the "Roth" option (when available), your contributions were not deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals are tax-free, provided you meet certain conditions.

- **Annuities** – Many investors use annuities to supplement their retirement income. An annuity is essentially a contract between you and an in-

surance company in which the insurer pays you an income stream for a given number of years, or for life, in exchange for the premiums you paid. You typically purchase a "qualified" annuity with pre-tax dollars, possibly within a traditional IRA or 401(k), so your premiums may be deductible, and your earnings can grow tax deferred. Once you start taking payouts, the entire amount — your contributions and earnings — are taxable at your individual tax rate. On the other hand, you purchase "non-qualified" annuities with after-tax dollars, so your premiums aren't deductible, but just like qualified annuities, your earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. When you take payments, you won't pay taxes on the principal amounts you invested but the earnings will be taxed as ordinary income.

We've looked at some general rules governing different sources of income, but you should consult your tax professional

about your specific situation. Ultimately, factors such as your goals, lifestyle and time horizon should drive the decisions you make for your retirement income. Nonetheless, you may want to look for ways to control the taxes that result from your various income pools. And the more you know about how your income is taxed, the fewer unpleasant surprises you may experience.

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

Mark Freeman
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TABS Matter: Shriners' Year of Impact in 2024

So far in 2024, the Shriners have made a significant impact by assisting 28 children through their TABS program. The program, which collects aluminum tabs from cans, receives immense support from individuals, organizations, like local Masonic Lodge and companies such as Medway Oil and owner Jeffrey Mushnick, a 20+ year Shriner as well as his brothers and cousins.

The Shriners' efforts translated into tangible help, with \$426,000 spent on the medical needs of these children. One of the key initiatives is the collection of tabs at Medway Oil, located at 37 Broad St in Medway, MA, **aiming to fill five 55-gallon drums!!**

The Aleppo Transportation Fund, a crucial arm of the Shriners, also had a remarkable year, assisting hospitals with the cost of transporting patients. Approvals were granted for various cases, including a 3-year-old boy from Guatemala with severe flame burns, a 1-year-old from Mexico with

extensive burn injuries, and two siblings from Mexico injured in a house explosion.

In addition to these cases, Aleppo approved funding for sponsorships, covering costs like food, air transportation, ground transportation, lodging, visas, passports, and miscellaneous expenses for patients requiring repetitive treatments.

The fund also supported patients requiring surgery and specialized medical care, including a 7-year-old boy from the Dominican Republic needing elbow surgery in Philadelphia, an 8-year-old boy from Colombia needing three orthopedic surgeries, and an 11-year-old girl from Ecuador requiring a below-knee amputation and fitting with a prosthesis.

The Aleppo Nobility's successful fundraising efforts allowed for substantial donations to both the Boston and Springfield hospitals, further enhancing their impact in the community. Overall, well over \$500,000 was approved

in funding, highlighting the significant contributions of the Shriners and their supporters in making a difference in the lives of children in need.

To drop off your collected TABS and support The Aleppo Transportation Fund, please visit your local drop off site: Medway Oil, 37 Broad St., Medway MA. To learn more about The Aleppo Transportation Fund, please see: The Aleppo Shriners Children's Transportation Fund Travels - Nobles - Aleppo Shriners.)

Drink more, SAVE TABS, it's for the Kids!!



Citizens for Milford announces the return of the Field of Flags to Draper Memorial Park

New flag sponsorships and renewals now being accepted

Citizens for Milford and the Milford Corps of the Salvation Army are excited to announce that the Field of Flags will return to Draper Memorial Park this May to commemorate Memorial Day. The flags are installed on three patriotic holidays each year (Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day) to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans and active military personnel.

All area citizens, organizations, and businesses are invited to sponsor a 3'x 5' American flag to fly on a 10' staff in Draper Memorial Park for a \$40 donation. Previous sponsors are encouraged to renew their flag sponsorship for another year and will receive an enrollment form either by email or U.S. mail.

Sponsors can choose to honor a veteran (alive or deceased), an active member of the military, or all our nation's veterans.

Each flag includes a yellow ribbon with an attached card naming the person being honored, the honoree's military

branch and years of service, and the sponsor's dedication. Sponsors can personalize each flag by providing a photo if desired.

To sponsor a flag for the Draper Memorial Park Field of Flags project, citizens need to complete a form and mail it to the address provided on the form with a \$40 check made out to the Salvation Army before May 18. The sponsorship order form can be printed from the CitizensforMilford.com website. Requests for a sponsorship form can be submitted by email to CitizensforMilford@gmail.com.

A total of 215 flags can be installed, so Citizens for Milford urges everyone who would like to sponsor a flag to send their form and check as soon as possible.

Questions can be emailed to CitizensforMilford@gmail.com.

Citizens for Milford is a volunteer, nonpartisan, grassroots organization, which includes a diverse group of citizens who care about our community. Participation in our projects and events is open to everyone in Milford. More information is available on the group's website CitizensforMilford.com.

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The truth about cataract surgery performed in an office: A cautionary tale

By Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.
Milford Franklin Eye Center

Cataract surgery is a common, safe, and highly successful procedure traditionally performed in hospital settings or specialized ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). However, some considerations including greed and financial bias have led some surgeons to advocate for performing cataract surgeries in office-based settings. This is while there is plenty of availability for performing the same surgery in the safety and comfort of an ASC just a few minutes from these surgeons' offices. There are inherent risks and considerations that patients must be aware of before undergoing such procedures outside of a hospital environment or an ASC. If they ask you to have your cataract surgery in their office, think again.

Lack of Emergency Resources: One of the primary concerns associated with cataract surgery in an office setting is the potential lack of immediate access to emergency medical resources. Unlike hospitals or surgical centers, where anesthesia emergency teams and specialized equipment are readily available, office-based facilities may not have the same level of preparedness to handle unforeseen complications during surgery. In fact, those offices have no anesthesia presence at all. In the event of a medical emergency such as sudden changes in vital signs or cardiac arrest, delays in accessing emergency care could have serious consequences for the patient's health and well-being. Although it may sound hard to believe, those office surgeons want to call 911 if you have a medical emergency while you are having your cataract surgery.

And good luck if the emergency crew is too busy or inaccessible!

Infection Control Challenges: Maintaining strict infection control measures is essential in any surgical setting to minimize the risk of post-operative infections. However, office-based facilities may face challenges in upholding the same standards of sterility as hospital operating rooms or ASCs. Factors such as limited space, inadequate ventilation, and insufficient sterilization equipment could compromise the cleanliness of the surgical environment, increasing the likelihood of surgical site infections and other complications. Furthermore, an ASC performing thousands of cataract surgeries every year has way more infection control personnel and training compared to an office performing the same surgery occasionally.



Lack of Anesthesia Monitoring: Another critical aspect of cataract surgery is the administration of anesthesia to ensure patient comfort and safety during the procedure. While local anesthesia is commonly used for cataract sur-

gery, monitoring the patient's response to anesthesia is crucial to prevent adverse reactions or complications. In office-based settings, the availability of

CATARACT
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04/25/2024	24 Country Club Ln. #B	\$440,000
04/25/2024	69 Godfrey Ln.	\$400,000
04/24/2024	73 Pine St.	\$612,000
04/22/2024	3 Essex Ave.	\$561,000
04/22/2024	83 Medway St.	\$599,900
04/29/2024	14 Simmons Dr.	\$585,000
04/12/2024	292 Central St.	\$440,000
04/12/2024	7 Maria Cir.	\$465,000
04/10/2024	3 Divittorio Dr.	\$510,000
04/09/2024	21 Whitney St.	\$505,000
04/09/2024	1 Florence St. (8,206 sf lot)	\$160,000
04/05/2024	5 Julie Cir.	\$739,900
04/04/2024	1 Purdue Dr.	\$555,000
04/03/2024	33 Fruit St.	\$340,000
03/29/2024	26 Parkhurst St.	\$177,500
03/29/2024	6 Shadowbrook Ln. #36	\$210,000
03/27/2024	1 Whispering Pine Dr.	\$830,000

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



A 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,697 sf house at 1 Purdue Drive in Milford recently sold for \$555,000. Image credit www.zillow.com

CATARACT

continued from page 7

trained anesthesia personnel and monitoring equipment may be limited and often inexistent, potentially putting patients at risk of anesthesia-related complications such as respiratory depression or allergic reactions.

Lack of Anesthetic Titration: Sedation titration allows for the adjustment of sedation levels during the procedure, thereby mitigating the risk of patient awareness during the surgery. Titration involves the ability to administer varying levels of anesthesia, as deemed appropriate. When your surgery is in an office, you will have no IV and no ability to titrate the anesthetics. They give you some sedatives by mouth before you go to the OR. That’s it. The absence of the capability to titrate anesthesia in the office poses a significant risk. You may not be able to hold still for safe surgery. You may remember the entire experience afterward. This, in turn, can cause you significant traumatic stress because of this experience.

Limited Surgical Expertise in an Office: Cataract surgery requires precision and expertise to achieve optimal outcomes and minimize the risk of complications. Surgeons who perform these procedures in hospital settings or ASCs often have extensive training and experience in ophthalmic surgery, backed by the resources and infrastructure of a specialized surgical environment. In contrast, office-based setting may not have the same level of track record or access to advanced surgical techniques and equip-

ment. In fact, the entire state of Massachusetts has only 2 offices performing cataract surgery in the office. Compare this to hundreds of well-equipped ASCs and hospitals performing this surgery successfully for decades.

Patient Selection and Follow-Up Challenges: Proper patient selection and thorough preoperative evaluation are crucial to identifying individuals who are suitable candidates for cataract surgery and assessing their risk factors for complications. Additionally, postoperative care and follow-up are essential for monitoring the patient's recovery and addressing any concerns or complications that may arise. In office-based settings, there may be limitations in conducting comprehensive preoperative assessments and providing adequate follow-up care. Even if this selection is perfectly planned and the patient is deemed “low risk for office-based surgery”, unforeseen surprises can happen when no emergency services exist. This can potentially compromise patient safety and satisfaction.

Lack of Approval by Professional Societies: Cataract surgery in an office setting is not covered by Medicare and not approved by all major ophthalmology professional societies. In fact, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery refuse to approve office-based surgery, citing concerns about patient safety.

Legal and Ethical Considerations: The decision to perform cataract surgery in an office setting raises important

legal and ethical considerations for both patients and health-care providers. Patients must be fully informed about the potential risks and limitations of office-based surgery, as well as their rights to alternative treatment options and access to emergency care. The surgeon’s choices to perform the surgery in an office based on financial bias should be clearly explained to the patient, more so when a safe surgery center exists and is available minutes away, and when the surgeons are charging patients fees for this office-based surgery.

In conclusion, office-based cataract surgery is not without its risks and limitations. Patients considering this option should carefully weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks. If your surgeon recommends you have cataract surgery in an office, you are advised to seek a second opinion to make an informed decision. 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. 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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Amazing Earth Solar where electricity savings can truly be amazing!

When Jose Rivera’s electric bill skyrocketed a few years ago, he knew he had to do something about it. He had been thinking about adding solar energy to his home, but he had heard horror stories, along with great stories, about the process.

Today, Rivera - who lives in Milford with his wife and family - not only has SunPower solar panels and is saving money with them, but he also is an authorized dealer for SunPower.

“We offer a solution to the gamble of the electric company,” says Rivera. “The grid is a monopoly, you can’t control it, they can increase their prices at any time, and they’ve already told customers they’ll be doing that over the next few years. Amazing Earth Solar offers energy solutions to lower their energy bills.”

Why SunPower/Amazing Earth Solar?

Rivera acknowledges there are other solar companies in the market, but SunPower/Amazing Earth Solar is unique in that all solar panels are made in the United States, and the company has one designated phone number for all customer service issues should they arise - customers aren’t transferred or told to call other numbers, which Rivera knows can be frustrating.

“The difference between other solar companies and us

is that we have ‘1 Number, 1 Warranty.’ We have a 25-year warranty and if you have any problems, you call one number for assistance,” says Rivera. “We offer one point of contact and the peace of mind that comes with that.”

Also, Rivera says, SunPower has been in business for almost 40 years and is the only solar energy company that has been in business beyond the industry’s standard 25-year warranty. “We’re the only company that has outlived the 25-year warranty, we have a proven track record of success.”

Amazing Earth Solar is based in Peabody and services all New England states.

What’s the process?

Rivera said his job is two-fold: To sell solar panels, sure; and also to provide education to people just starting to think about solar and beginning to learn about their options.

Customers interested in learning about solar panels can contact Amazing Earth Solar for a no-obligation consultation. The in-person meeting takes about 30 minutes, Rivera reviews the house position, discusses options, and will create a diagram of what the panels would look like on your roof.

“Let me teach you how it works, and you decide for yourself if it makes sense for you,”



says Rivera. Once you sign a contract, it typically takes 8-12 weeks to get the panels installed and be up and running, says Rivera. And now, with hot and sunny weather right around the corner, is a great time to get solar. “If they call now, the panels could be installed in the summer and start contributing to the grid; the best months to generate sun power are June to October.”

What happens after installation?

After installation, you remain connected to the grid, but you only receive a bill if your solar power does not cover the electricity you consume, says Rivera. If customers generate more power than they use (like in the summer months), it rolls



forward and becomes a credit in their account which they can use during the cloudier (like winter) months.

Finally, customers should rest assured that, if they ever have any trouble with the system, or the roof on which the panels sit, they can call SunPower’s “1 number” for assistance.

“We need electricity, it’s true,

but we don’t need the high prices,” says Rivera. “Let Amazing Earth Solar help you get what you need so you can use the money you save for something you want.”

For more information, contact Jose Rivera at 978-761-9844 or email at Jose@amazingearth-solar.com

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Milford Cultural Council now accepting applications for two vacancies

The Milford Cultural Council will have two open seats this June and is encouraging Milford residents who are interested in volunteering to serve on the council to submit a talent bank application.

The talent bank application is available on the Town of Milford website MilfordMA.gov and can be found by typing "talent bank application" in the search box. Completed applications should be returned to the Town Administrator's office in Town Hall. Applications can be mailed or left in one of the drop boxes at Town Hall (52 Main Street). Applications can also be emailed to the town administrator's office (lpirez@townofmilford.com).

The Cultural Council is asking that all applications be returned to Town Hall before May 17, 2024. The council will review applications, interview applicants, and make their recommendations to the Select Board, which is the appointing authority.

Questions can be sent to the council by email to Cultural-Council@townofmilford.com.

The Milford Cultural Council seeks 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. The council welcomes ideas, recom-



mendations, and feedback regarding programs and events funded or sponsored by the council. Interested Milford residents are encouraged to attend meetings, which are held every third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. typically in Room 14 of Town Hall. Learn more online at: MilfordMA.gov/milford-cultural-council and on the council's social media accounts: Facebook ([MilfordCulturalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MilfordCulturalCouncil)) and Instagram ([MilfordCultural](https://www.instagram.com/MilfordCultural)).

MILFORD HIGH

continued from page 1

The current Milford High School was built in 1971. McIntyre said the aging infrastructure, lack of necessary appropriate classroom space, and overall design of the building does not meet the requirements of current educational needs.

"We have a lot of different needs today than we did when the building was built in the 1970s," he said. "Education was very different. We've adapted a lot of spaces to meet kind of current educational needs, but we're fitting a lot of square pegs in round holes."

There are limited options as to where the new building would go. McIntyre said it is most likely to be built on the grounds of the current school, but maybe not in the exact location.

School Committee Chair Matthew Zacchilli recently took a tour of Attleboro High School, a building that was erected just a year ago. He took a minute to discuss what Milford High School truly is for the town - a community center.

On his tour in Attleboro, he said he saw exactly what he imagines for Milford.

"Their high school wasn't just

what they called an educational hub, but it was a spot that was a catalyst for growth empowerment and unity in their community," Zacchilli said. "It was something that brought a lot of pride and belief in their students and in their faculty alike."

The Attleboro High School, he said, was made to be "a centerpiece for the entire community and for the entire educational platform," he said. "I'm personally excited to explore the possibilities that we have with a project like this."

Milford High School Principal Joshua Otlin echoed his remarks.

"There's a recognition that Milford High School is much more than a high school," Otlin said. "We want to make sure that, in the future, Milford High School not only remains a community center, but is even a more robust community center than it presently is."

Otlin pointed out that the high school is used by the community every day in some way for between 10 to 15 hours. This, he said, really makes it a central hub for the community.

When the meeting opened up for public commentary, the most common suggestion was to make room in the budget for a fieldhouse or an indoor track.

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Source: www.massschoolbuildings.org

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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

Library Closings

The library will be closed all day on Tuesday, May 7 for carpet installation. Regular hours return on Wednesday, May 8 at 9 a.m. The library will also be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Protect Your Identity and Avoid Scams

On Friday, May 17 at 11 a.m., the Milford Town Library is proud to host Milford Federal Bank for this special event, Protect Your Identity and Avoid Scams! Susan Carabbio, VP Retail Market Manager, will be offering some expert advice. No registration is required, and all are welcome.

New scams are being created every day in order to try and steal your hard-earned money, and your identity. And they are becoming more and more tricky to recognize. Thankfully, forewarned is forearmed! In this presentation we will be reviewing common types of fraud and financial exploitation, and who is at risk. You'll learn how to understand the warning signs in order to prevent and minimize exploitation, and how to find resources in order to make better-informed decisions. We'll cover topics ranging from charity and Internet scams, to investment fraud. Perhaps most importantly, we'll also discuss identity theft, offering tips on how you can protect yourself.

For more information, visit our calendar page or Facebook event.

Northeast Regional Button Association Display

To coincide with their annual show in June 14-16 at the Doubletree Hotel, the Northeast Regional Button Association (NERBA) is sharing some "Art in Miniature" in the adult display case at the library.

Show manager and longtime collector Sabrina O'Meara put the beautiful and educational exhibit of antique, vintage, and contemporary novelty buttons together. Memorabilia from the Morley Button Factory, once one of the world's largest button suppliers is also included. Be sure to look for the Valentine Box of Buttons as well.

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 6 - 7 p.m.

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 quintas-feiras, 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, May 21 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center to discuss *Ms. Demeanor* by Elinor Lipman.

Lipman, author of *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *On Turpentine Lane*, *Good Riddance*, among other novels, is known for her witty and wry takes on relationships and the absurdities of modern life.

In *Ms. Demeanor*, Lipman's heroine Jane Morgan is on house arrest in her New York apartment for six months after being discovered having sex on a rooftop terrace with another lawyer in her firm. Rather than feeling shame, Jane makes the most of the time now available to her to make new friends in her building, start a catering business and embark on a romantic relationship with another ankle bracelet wearer. If you're looking for an assuming break from the news, this is the book for you.

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.

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 highlights.

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 & Quarry Rooms and is suitable for Beatles fans of all ages!

Ryk McIntyre: Shawna Foundation Library Poetry Tour

The next stop on the Shawna Poetry Foundation

Library Poetry Tour brings poet Ryk McIntyre to MTL on Wednesday, May 22 at 7 p.m. The reading will be held in the ESL classroom and the event is free and open to all.

A veteran of Boston area poetry slams, Ryk McIntyre is the author of the collections *After Everything Burns* and *The Man at the Door*. His poems have also been published in The Worcester Review and Oddball Magazine, among others.

The poetry tour honors the memory of Shawna Shea, who died in an auto accident in 1999 at only 16 years old. A creative and independent person, Shawna loved connecting with people. The Shawna Foundation has hosted film festivals, poetry tours and also awards scholarships.



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LEARN MORE

DAY GAMES

continued from page 1

of competition, collaboration, and teamwork.

One of the standout features of the event was the intergenerational connection fostered between older and younger peers. Demonstrating the spirit of unity, the motto "We" echoed throughout the Milford Public Schools as older students took on the role of mentors, guiding and encouraging their younger counterparts.

The Milford High School stadium buzzed with energy as athletes, Gamechanger volunteers, members of the MHS student body, First Responders, Veterans, and families gathered to celebrate the profound impact of sports. It was a moment to recognize how sports foster acceptance, inclusion, and the discovery of excellence and joy.

The proceedings commenced with Rhea Matthews delivering a heartfelt rendition of the National Anthem, setting the stage

for a day of celebration and camaraderie. Kingston Rowlands, a beacon of inspiration, led the procession of athletes while carrying the torch, followed by Milford First Responders and Veteran representatives from the Milford community. In a poignant address to his peers, Rowlands spoke eloquently about embracing uniqueness and pursuing one's dreams, emphasizing that while the journey may be arduous, the rewards are immeasurable.

A sincere expression of appreciation and thanks is extended to Jennifer Walsh, a long-term advocate for Special Olympics and inclusion. Walsh's dedication, passion, and unwavering love for the community have made the event a resounding success year after year.

As the School Day Games commenced and came to a close, the echoes of cheers and the sense of unity lingered in the air, serving as a testament to the power of "We" in bringing people together and inspiring positive change.



Rhea Matthews rendition of the National Anthem set the stage for a day of celebration and camaraderie. Photo source: Milford Public Schools

About Milford Public Schools

The Milford Public School District provides an equitable learning environment that empowers all students, faculty, and staff to achieve their short and long-term goals and prepares each individual in the school community to adapt to the challenges of change in an increasingly complex world.

Submitted by Milford Public Schools



Milford students enjoyed Annual School Day Games in April. (L to R) Front row: Paige Caldon, Lindsay Casman, Dominic DiNucci, Samantha Fazo, Emma Haughey. Back row: Nadia Palombo. Photo source: Milford Public Schools



The Milford Free Press is currently seeking freelance writers who live in the area and are interested in writing for our publication. If interested, please send a résumé and writing sample to editor@milfordfreepress.com.

Hearts, Hugs & Hope: An Alzheimer’s support group at Cornerstone at Milford

Join us May 14, 6 p.m. at the Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch Street, Milford. This group for caregivers meets in person. Dealing with Alzheimer's disease and

related dementia isn't easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal experiences with others who completely understand what you're going through. You will also learn about proven strategies to help

you better care for your family member. Call 508-473-0035 to RSVP or contact Director of Compass Programming Jenn Hozempa at jhozempa@cornerstonemilford.com for more information.

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

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Milford School Highlights

The School Days Program, held April 8 - 12, was a week full of fun, and engaged students and staff with a variety of school community events. The highlight of the week was the School Day Games. The entire MHS school community filled the bleachers on the football field to cheer on their PreK-12 peers participating in the school day games.

Save the Date:

- 5/24: Early Release K-12-PreK Closed-School Offices Open
- 5/27: Memorial Day-No School-School Offices Closed
- 5/28: Last Day for Seniors
- 6/2: Milford High School Graduation Ceremony
- 6/17: Last Day Grades K-12
- 6/19: Juneteenth: 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 Help Line (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 ao diretor da linha de ajuda em Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov.

Milford High School

Milford High School hosted uplifting Best Buddies assemblies on Monday, March 25, during the Flex period. The sessions were divided into two segments, starting with grades 9 and 12, and then followed by grades 10 and 11. These assemblies serve as integral components of the high school's ongoing mission to cultivate a culture of inclusivity and compassion within the MHS community.

On March 21, select MHS members had the honor of being welcomed by Representative Murray to the State House for Early College Day. Together with Amy Kozlowski, Early College Coach, and a cohort of Early College Scholars, the group highlighted the essence of the MHS program. Early College offers high school students the opportunity to engage in strategically-sequenced college courses with a strong focus on career readiness, all while still attending regular high school. Remarkably, this comes at no cost to the students or their families. Currently, the Early College program at Milford High School serves 148 students, each benefiting from this enriching educational experience.

On March 6, 2024, 11th and 12th-grade students, along with their Flex teachers, convened in the auditorium for an engaging presentation sponsored by the Massachusetts State Police. "Think Fast" took center stage, employing a dynamic trivia game show format to deliver crucial, fact-based insights on personal safety matters. The

presentation covered a spectrum of topics, ranging from highway safety to specialized prevention strategies tailored for Massachusetts teen drivers.

Stacy Middle School (SMS)

Junior District auditions were held on February 3, 2024, welcoming aspiring student musicians from grades seven through nine. Among the talented participants, fourteen students from Milford, spanning grades 7 to 9, secured their spots for participation. The MMEA Central District Junior Music Festival took place at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School on April 27, 2024. Milford Public School participants included:

- Grade 7:** Emily Carey, Miguel de Faria
- Grade 8:** Lilli Wild, Hannah Parke, Jennifer Grabau, Tonny Alves, Faithful Alemnkia, Ishmael Da Silva, Camille Stacey, Cameron Zicherman, Davi Gomes
- Grade 9:** Aolani Clayton, Angelina Chapman, Giana da Cunha

Woodland Elementary School (WES)

On Tuesday, April 9, a cohort of Milford High School students embarked on a mission to Woodland Elementary School, to conduct engaging Science Day lessons with third grade students. The students eagerly shared their knowledge with their younger peers, making the day both educational and enjoyable. Milford High School students taught their elementary peers about electricity, delivering interactive science lessons that sparked excitement among the young learners. Following the instructional segment of the lesson, collaboration ensued as WES students worked alongside their older counterparts to unravel the mystery of illuminating a light bulb using fruit as a power source.

The Woodland Elementary School community extends heartfelt gratitude to the following Milford High School students for igniting the spark of curiosity and for being shining examples of leadership and gen-

erosity within the MPS school community: Dylan Sparkes, Emily O'Toole, Nicolette Macchi, Megan Lobisser, Grace Bonina, Camille Bonina, Caleigh Wilson, Erin Michelson, Madelyn Burns, Maeve Driscoll, Rebeca Vieira, Ryara Madruga Ferreira, Grace Gorham, Saige Dutcher, Cailyn Naugler, Elise Landry, Ava Pellegrine.

Memorial Elementary School (MES)


On Wednesday, April 10, Memorial Elementary School celebrated the culmination of its Books and Beyond program with an evening ceremony, marking the achievements of over 200 students who excelled in the Books and Beyond program. Launched on Monday, January 29, this annual initiative aimed to fill grade-level gumball machines through an engaging 8-week read-a-thon. Now in its 10th year, Books and Beyond stands as a well-established,

MILFORD SCHOOLS
continued on page 19

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

Scottish Highland Games in Milford on June 15

4th annual "Home Games" welcomes 120 athletes sporting muscles, kilts

By Theresa Knapp

The public is invited to the Scottish Highland Games on Fino Field on June 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. More than 100 athletes from all over New England, the United States, and Canada to compete in two separate competitions: Highland Games Heavy Athletics with all nine traditional events, and Team Highlander.

The Heavy Athletics events include, in traditional order: Braemar, Open Stone (like Shotput), Heavy Weight for Distance, Light Weight for Distance, Heavy Scottish Hammer, Light Scottish Hammer, Caber Toss, Weight Over Bar, and Sheaf Toss. The Team Highlander competition will include teams from the best barbell clubs and gyms from New England who will compete in a more strongman style competition, and will start with a Truck Pull.

The event is run by No Fame Games in Milford and is essentially "track and field meets strong-man in kilts with centuries of deeply rooted history and culture," says founder Joshua Mackintosh. "This is not something you see every day, and

"We do this because it is the right thing to do, because things die out when people do not step up to keep them alive."
- Jonathan Mackintosh, No Fame Games founder and event organizer

right in our own backyard." "This will be the largest Highland Athletic Event in New England," he said. "It's special, fun, family-friendly, and healthy. Also, youth athletes and adults alike get a chance to see world-class caliber and world record holding professional athletes compete, in person, right in front of them. They can meet and talk to them. It's not like the NFL, or NBA, or NHL, although these athletes are just as magnificent, athletic, and talented. It's engaging and alive." The day will begin with an opening ceremony with traditional bagpipes; representatives from Scottish Clans who will share their Celtic history and lineage; and more. Other aspects of this family-



friend event include:

- Youth "Try It" stations, including Kids Sheaf, Caber, Stone 'Put' (like shotput), and Weight Over Bar;
- Playground area for kids that parents can self-supervise while keeping them entertained;
- Truck pull;
- Local food and coffee trucks;
- and much more.

This is the fourth year of the event which started as a grassroots backyard movement during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We were all missing throwing given how long the pandemic was at the time," said Mackintosh, who himself started throwing in the Highland Games in 2018. "A few of us got together to practice and it naturally spawned into, 'Hey, what if we had a 'backyarder' games?' - a 'Backyarder' is a very casual, simplified Highland



Games that just focuses on the 'Heavy Events' or athletics. "We started a larger group chat and when coming up with a name, we all liked 'No Fame Games'... The first Home Games in Milford was in the

History of the Scottish Highland Games
"Athletically, it is said that the Scottish Highland Games is one of the forerunners to modern track and field. The beauty of the Games is in the deep history that dates as far back as the 11th century. The Games were originally held as a way for Scottish clans/tribes to showcase their warriors' strength and athletic prowess. Moreover, it was a way to celebrate togetherness and foster community connections."
- No Fame Games founder, and event organizer, Jonathan Mackintosh

summer of 2021, and we've been growing very rapidly ever since. We were one of the largest Highland athletic events in

HIGHLAND GAMES
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CODE: DO462925

BVT announces second trimester Commendation List

Acknowledging academic and vocational achievement

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has released the Superintendent-Director’s Commendation List for the second trimester of the 2023–2024 school year. Students must meet rigorous standards to be named to the Commendation List, such as maintaining a grade point average of 88 percent or above in each technical, related, and academic course for the trimester. Milford students include:

SENIORS (Class of 2024)
Milford
Giana Duquette, Painting & Design Technology; Benjamin Kinsella, Multimedia Communications; Leah Neves, Construction Technology; and

Lizmary Vidal-Sanchez, Dental Assisting.

JUNIORS (Class of 2025)
Milford
Lacey Coffman, Multimedia Communications; Adriana Hawkins, Culinary Arts; Matthew Hunter, Biotechnology; and Charbel Jebara, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

SOPHOMORES (Class of 2026)
Milford
Larissa Da Cunha, Biotechnology; Andrew Dolan, Health Services; Myles Guikema, Engineering & Robotics; Aaron Korpi, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Dominic Quintino, Information Technology.

FRESHMEN (Class of 2027)
Milford
Julien Awuku-Asante, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Dan Matthew Belina, Health Services; Elena Ciarametaro, Painting & Design Technology; Davi Dalla Dea, Engineering & Robotics; Bryan De Sena, Engineering & Robotics; Emily Kee, Dental Assisting; Lily Lizarralde, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Mallory McCarthy, Multimedia Communications; Katherine Pinguil-Agualema, Dental Assisting; Sophia Santos, Cosmetology; Sarah Schorn, Culinary Arts; and Arianna Turner, Engineering & Robotics.

HIGHLAND GAMES

continued from page 14

the nation last year with over 120 athletes coming from all over the country.’

He said they have had a world record broken on Fino Field every year so far, including World Champions who can throw stones and weights distances that only a handful of people have ever done in history.

These games continue, Mackintosh said, due to numerous volunteers, including his wife Jennfer Yarro, and the No

Fame Games team.

“We do this for our heritage, health, the community, and also because there is a power to giving back. We do this because it is the right thing to do, because things die out when people do not step up to keep them alive. This is something we wanted to teach our son by showing him directly. When people come and see Home Games, they will feel what I’m trying to explain. It’s ancient, yet as relevant as ever today.”

For more information, visit www.nofamegames.com. Entry fee is \$10 per person, \$20 per family. Lawn chairs encouraged.

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Brown Pine Mulch	\$40	1 1/2", 2 1/2"		Mason/Pool Sand	\$60
Red Cedar Mulch	\$42	Multi-Color River Stone	\$85	Stone Dust	\$35
Playground Safety Fiber	\$42	Multi-Color River Stone	\$85	Blue Stone Dust	\$50
Forest Chips	\$12	3/8", 3/4" Blue Stone	\$50	Rip Rap	\$35
Screened Loam	\$28	3/4" Processed Gravel	\$35	Fill Clay/General	\$10
50/50 Compost/Loam	\$32	3" Processed Gravel	\$35	Trench Sand	\$28
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3/8", 3/4" & 1 1/2" Grey Stone ..	\$38	1" Dense Grade Gravel	\$28		

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Easter Brunch family fun at Cornerstone

Cornerstone at Milford had an amazing Easter Brunch on Saturday, March 30. The celebration

included solo acoustic guitarist Chris Carter; photographs by McKeown Imaging, and beautiful center-

pieces created by the residents for the occasion. *Courtesy photos*



Resident Care Associates Momy Mbacke, Melissa Weeden and Ann Dumont with Mary Sannicandro and Lorraine Bedard.



Cornerstone at Milford resident Martha Scarsdale and family.



Cornerstone at Milford resident Dolores Russo and family.



Cornerstone at Milford residents Alma DiCecco and Arlene Hutnak.



Cornerstone at Milford resident Tom McGowan and family.



Cornerstone at Milford resident Margaret Morahan and family.

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Galliford's Gives Back teams up with Southwick's Zoo for charity event

Galliford's Gives Back, in collaboration with Southwick's Zoo, is honored to announce an evening of support and solidarity for Cameron Montoya, a young warrior bravely fighting leukemia AML. The event, scheduled for May 19, from 5 to 9 p.m., aims to rally the community to raise funds for the Montoya Morrell Family.

Cameron Montoya's journey with leukemia AML has moved the hearts of many in the community, sparking an incredible outpour of love and generosity. Galliford's Gives Back and The Savanna Grille are joining forces to channel this support to provide assistance to Cameron and his family during this challenging time.

Attendees can anticipate an unforgettable evening featuring live music by Nashville recording artist Timmy Brown who is graciously volunteering his talents for the evening. Additionally, guests will have the opportunity to participate in raffles generously donated by a variety of local businesses and organizations, including Southwick's Zoo, The Worcester Red Sox, Dunkin Donuts, New England Steak and Seafood, and many more, with all proceeds benefiting the Montoya Morell Family.

A \$10 cash cover charge will directly benefit the Montoya Morrell Family, enabling attendees to demonstrate their support while enjoying the festivities. All proceeds from the evening including the cover charge will benefit Cameron in his battle against leukemia AML.

Galliford's Restaurant and Tavern extends its gratitude to all the businesses and individuals who have generously donated raffle prizes and supported this event. Their contributions will provide essential assistance to the Montoya Morrell Family as they navigate Cameron's medical journey.

Information on the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3848077388846404>



ported this event. Their contributions will provide essential assistance to the Montoya Morrell Family as they navigate Cameron's medical journey.

Information on the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3848077388846404>

Thanks To Yanks donates \$1,000 to service dog program



Recently Thanks To Yanks made a visit to Clear Path for veterans located at Devens. Clear Path is a charity that provides direct and indirect support and services for veterans, active duty, reserve, guard, and their families. The trip was to make a \$1000 donation. In this picture are Thanks To Yanks volunteers with family members along with staff of Clear Path.

The donation from Thanks To Yanks to Clear Path was specifically earmarked for their service dog program. The veterans receive the dogs at no cost. Submitted by Thanks To Yanks

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MILFORD SCHOOLS

continued from page 13

research-based program crafted to ignite and nurture a passion for reading that transcends the confines of the classroom. Students are urged to engage in the program by either digging into independent reading or enjoying shared reading experiences, with the target of completing seven books or the equivalent of seven chapters.

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

Brookside Elementary School (BES)

Brookside Elementary School students experienced the magic of Poetry Parties on April 25 and 26, where students captivated their peers with recitations of class-selected poems, fostering a celebration of literature within their grade levels.

Families enjoyed an evening of literary prose during Pages, Popcorn, and Pajamas on April 4. Volunteer staff animated stories while families played Book Bingo and enjoyed popcorn,

creating cherished memories with their children. BES students illuminated the night with their participation in the Glow Run, rallying together to raise an impressive \$13,000 destined for enriching field trips and student activities. Great teamwork BES.

Second-grade scholars at BES discovered the wonders of nature as they embarked on research projects centered around animals and their habitats, showcasing their inquisitive minds and passion for learning.

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

Shining Star Early Childhood Center (SSECC)

Unlocking the potential of a simple box is a journey of innovation and creativity, illuminated by the brilliance of MPS Shining Stars. At the annual Invention Convention held on April 2 and 3, participants were excited by the theme of "Imagine It, Make It," igniting a flurry of blueprints, designs, and spirited brainstorming sessions.

Among the variety of projects showcased, Jadko's Fresh Cut

Flowers stood out for its inclusion of scientific inquiry and experimentation. Through rigorous experimentation, it was revealed that the key to sprouting flowers lies in the provision of essential nutrients.

Venturing further into the realm of imagination, students envisioned a wealth of possibilities for transforming a box. From addressing practical needs such as a camper outfitted for adventure, a car, and a laundromat for household chores, to whimsical creations like a majestic castle and an enchanting ice cream shop, every project bore the mark of ingenuity and ingenuity. The spirit of entrepreneurship shone brightly through endeavors like the lemonade stand, popcorn machine, and bustling aquarium, etc., each offering a glimpse into the entrepreneurial spirit thriving within the Shining Star Early Childhood Center's community, and how project based learning supports students academically, socially, and emotionally.

But perhaps most enchanting of all was the transformation of the box into a means of storytelling and performance with the Shining Star Puppet

Theater—a testament to the power of imagination and the boundless potential of even the most ordinary objects.

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.

In April, the MFCN hosted two enriching Intergenerational Playgroups, one at The Cornerstone at Milford and another at The Milford Senior Center. These gatherings fostered meaningful connections across generations while bolstering the overall well-being of seniors within the Milford community.

MFCN's monthly parent education initiative, Desserts & Discussions, held at the Bancroft Memorial Library in Hopedale, delved into essential topics such as potty training, boundary-setting, and managing childhood

anxiety. Mark your calendars for the upcoming session on May 22, where participants will continue to explore valuable insights into parenting.

Don't miss MFCN's highly anticipated 28th Annual Zoo Field Trip on May 30 at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience the zoo at an exclusive discounted rate, promising a day of fun and adventure for all attendees.

Looking ahead, MFCN is excited to announce Drop-In Summer Playgroups, scheduled for two days a week over six weeks in July and August. Visit the MFCN's website for details on current and upcoming programming.

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), 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".

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Stacy Middle School Second Trimester Honor Roll

Stacy Middle School Principal, Mrs. Caridad Lopez has announced Stacy Middle School's Honor Roll for Trimester Two.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Grade 6: Alsheikh, Jannah; Ateawung, Myra; Ballard, Evan; Brothers, Michelle; Bullock, Nola; Caccin, Luigi; Carvalho, Kamilla; Consigli, Rita; Cue, Olivia; Cunningham, Brooke; De Oliveira, Sophia; DiGiallonardo, Brandon; Dwarampudi, Visishta; Earl, Kendall; Fagone, Elyse; Falk, Liam; Falk, Nolan; Fonseca, Mason; Fries, Noah; Garay, Judah; Geoffroy, Cali; Gross, Camden; Healey, Brandon; Iacovelli, Grace; Keenan, Makayla; LeBlanc, Landon; Lefter, Jayden; Macchi, Emma; Mancia, Destinee; Mandrik, Cora; McGovern, Kennedy; McGrath, Logan; Merrill, Colton; Metodiev, Georgi; Naugler, Abigail; Nnyanzi, ohn; O'Toole, Emmett; Perez, Rafael; Purtell, Melanie; Repella, Nicholas; Reynolds, Tristan; Ribeiro, Guilherme; Roderick, Cooper; Simonds, Mac; Sobers, Aria; Stokes, Madison; Underwood, Lily; Valenca, Marley; Villa, Mey; Walker, Jack; Wallace, Ellie; Webster, Samuel

Grade 7: Aboalanin, Rami; Asong, Rose; Auger, Annie; Barbosa, Gabriella; Bertoni, Jessica; Bien, Charlotte; Blackmar, Luke; Bukenya, Nicholas; Cales, Mila; Capuzziello, Dante; Carey, Emily; Connors, Reese; Corbin, Jeffrey; D'Amico, Olivia; De Faria, Miguel; Dias, Julio Cesar; Donelan, Sean; Flanagan, Brian; Guikema, Emelia; Held, Colin; Holland, Margaret; Kandi, Anand Ananya; Kearnan, Meghan; Knapp, Ella; LaTour, Cameron; Lefter, Anela; Martinez Quiroa, Sasha; Mauricio, Jordyn; McDavitt, Adrian; Moreira Ocampo, Hellen; Murphy, Isabella; Naves, Grace; Oliveira, Beatriz; O'Mensah, Danique; Padilla Munoz, Sebastian; Persico, Tessa; Prevelige, Leah; Puri, Grayson; Richard, Benjamin; Saad, Samarah; Tint, Soe; Turner, Olivia; Vazquez, Emma; Vereker, Grant; Viera, Claire; Vootla, Aakash; Wright, Reagan; Wright, Riley

Grade 8: Abbiuso, Brian; Allen, Ainsley; Ateawung, Matthew; Avelar, Rachel; Brown, Andrew; Buckley, Aubrey; Carlos, Esther; Casey, McKenna; Castro, Ilda; Charczenko, Maya; Croeber, Kailyn; Curley, Allison; Dahmer,

Zachary; Day, John; DeOliveira, Pedro; DeTore, Gabriella; DeTore, Jady; DiGiando, Samuel; Doyon, Khryss; Ettahiri, Sami; Ferreira, Gabriella; Golla, Rupinika; Gomes, Davi; Grabau, Jennifer; Grucelski, Brooklyn; Hough, Amelia; Lanctot, Cody; Macchi, Avery; MacKenzie, Katelyn; Martin, Cydney; Martins, Lucas; Miles, Cody; Murphy, Keira; Nosek, Gabriella; Parke, Hannah; Pinto, Gabriella; Pires, Emali; Renaud, Gianna; Rizzo, Luke; Saguay, Bryan; Senna, Juliana; Shannon, Gage; Shaw, Payton; Soares, Sabrina; Stokes, Brooke; Sweeney, Grace; Sweeney, Rosemary; Tobar, Valeria; Vaquilema Puma, John; Voss-Leal, Brian; Wild, Lilli; Williams, Lauren; Zicherman, Cameron

HONORABLE MENTION

Grade 6: Afonso-Veinotte, Ethan; Albert, Alexandra; Angamarca Bermeo, Janeth; Ballard, Bryn; Baum, Cameron; Beals, Danny; Bourassa, Mason; Campos, Alicia; Canenguez Alfaro, Roberto; Chimbo Colcha, Danna; Connerney, Carter; DeTore, Cameron; Dunham, Arya; Fallon, Shawn; Gkalios, Demos;

Gomes, Matheus; Howland, Finnegan; Hukanovic, Mirza; Jaboin, Jordan; Liatsos, William; Lima, David; Long, Sophia; Martforte, Julie; Mastroianni, Vincent; McDaniel, Giovanni; Mojica, Solenn; Neular, Ana; Oliveira, Alice; Perez Sauca, Lesly; Pinto, Jackson; Powers, Alexandra; Quickmire, Nicholas; Ribeiro, Thiago; Roderick, Logan; Rodriguez, Giselle; Ross, Addison; Sifien, Kerollos; Silva Hughes, Isabella; Teixeira, Anna Julia; Tomas, Aiden; Vidal, Samuel; Walthers, Audrey; Wisa, Giovanni; Xavier, Gabriel

Grade 7: Abrantes, Benjamin; Atherton, Ryan; Castro Tacuri, Felipe; Cela Caguana, Kevin; Corless, Shayne; Da Cunha, Leticia; Da Silva, Jairo; De Oliveira, Emanuele; Dias, Kayla; Dominguez, Lucas; Duchi Quizpilema, John; Duchi Yupa, Shyrley; Ferreira, Madelynn; Freeman, Junior; Gusmao, Sara; Hughes, Lily; Jordan, Connor; Karlin, Evan; Kearnan, William; Loja-Mendez, Chase; Marin, Sophia; Marques, Jacob; Martinelli, Dominic; Mayancela Guaman, Saywa; Michel, Isabella; Nashawaty, Kaylyn; Oliveira, Julia; Pellegrini, Santino;

Petruska, Gianna; Reneau, Alexa; Ribas Da Silva, Arthur; Roderiques De Lana, Isabelly; Saeteros Loja, Katly Janet; Sainvilus, Juniece; Santomenna, Mia; Scher, Melissa; Seyfarth, William; Silva, Ellen Kathleen; Sullivan, Isabella

Grade 8: Alemnkia, Faithful; Alemnkia, Favour; Alvarez Posada, Yulianet; Asongafac, Glenn; Ballard, Reese; Boccia, Brayden; Campos, Aaliyah; Carvalho, Daniel; Cela Chuqui, Jomaira; Damata, Juliana; Daniels, Anthony; De Oliveira, Yamin; Fagundes, Lucas; Ferreira, Nathaniel; Flis, Callan; Furnari, Matteo; Geoffroy, Cody; Ibrahim, Maryama; Kedski, Hailey; Kerr, Nathaniel; KokEnnen, Aiden; Lalangui Ponce, Christopher; Liborio, Samuel; Loscerbo, Vincent; Luchini, Talia; Machado, Gustavo; Michalewski, Emma; Miller, Giovanna; Miranda, Sophia; Murray, Autumn; Oliveira, Jordan; Oliveira, Kayo; Parker, Jacob; Powers, Victoria; Rocha, Rykelme; Rodrigues, Anna Beatryz; Sanaguaray Moyon, Jhover; Silva, Caleb; Smith, Ethan; Stacey, Camille; Usher, Annabel; Vilalobos, Alani; Webster, Nathan; Yupangui Castro, Janneth

SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST

ILLUSTRATION BY ROWAN KAPLAN/MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

In 2025, Southwick's Zoo will be celebrating 60 years of family fun! Share a photo of your favorite memories at Southwick's Zoo for a chance to win a family four-pack of general admission passes for the 2024 season and make some new memories!

Winners will be announced in our Summer Guide - Coming in June!

Share your photo today! Last chance for entries is May 17!

By entering this contest, you are providing consent for Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing (the publishers of The Yankee Xpress/Blackstone Valley Xpress, Free Press and the newspapers of Local Town Pages) to use your photo(s) for print, digital and social media purposes, and allowing Southwick's Zoo and Our Town Publishing to contact you via email for this promotion or upcoming promotions. Only one winner per household. Cannot be an employee or family member of Southwick's Zoo or Our Town Publishing to win.

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FREE PRESS

Milford Spotlight

The Milford Free Press would like to shine a spotlight on people, places, and things that other Milford residents really wish everyone knew about.

Did you ever learn something Milford-related and think, 'I wish I'd known that sooner'?

Do you know a Milford resident who has an interesting story? Maybe a volunteer or unsung hero doing great things in the community, or a student working on a special project?

Or perhaps there's a great community resource or program that deserves additional attention?

If you have ideas for parts of Milford life that should be highlighted, please contact us at editor@milfordfreepress.com for consideration for an upcoming feature in the Milford Free Press.

Pet of the Month – Meet Roland



Roland has come such a long way from the frightened street cat who arrived at the shelter one year ago. He was in such bad shape that we thought he was much older than the three years the vet exam suggested. A rough life on his own had aged him. But to look at him now you wouldn't imagine how much pain and fear he was in living on the streets.

Like many stray male cats, Roland is FIV positive. Roland lives peacefully with a small group of other FIV positive cats

and might enjoy a calm FIV positive feline friend in his new home. Cats with FIV tend to have normal lives, both in quality and duration. They just need to be monitored for infections and dental issues.

While Roland is still shy and cautious, he has come to enjoy gentle attention from people who come down to his level and approach him quietly. When he is comfortable, he will roll over to be pet and will even reach out his paw to touch you, clearly asking you to stay. We believe

Roland will be happy in a calm home with a family that understands that he will need to be


given time to adjust to his new life. The reward will be the love and affection of this wonderful

boy! To learn more about Roland please visit www.milfordhumane.org.


Franklin Robotics Team competes at World Championship





Milford students participating in this year's Robotics World Championship include (L to R) Anjan Lakkadi, Tanish Asu, Aakash Vootla, Jaswanth Bandaru. Tanish was part of the Drive Team that drove the robot during competition. All four Milford students were rookies on the team this year. Courtesy photo



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SPORTS

Milford Boys Track sets sights on state success

Several Hawks among Top-10 in their events

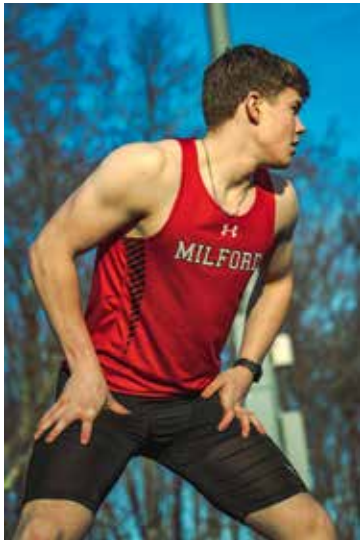
By Chris Villani

Milford High boys' track head coach Dan Gordon said his team has picked up right where it left off from the indoor season, with the "usual suspects" continuing to produce at a high level and other athletes stepping up into bigger roles. The Scarlet Hawks showed their strength early in the year with a dual meet victory over Taunton.

"That was a real morale-booster," Gordon said. "Their roster is about three times the size of ours."

Senior captain Ben Parson is one of Milford's top point scorers. He is ranked number one in Division III in the 400-meter dash and, at the end of April, was less than a second away from the school record.

"He has been continuing his career as an elite athlete at Mil-



Ben Parson is one of Milford's top runners this spring and his coach described him as an "elite athlete." Photo credit: Benjamin Zou

ford," Gordon said. Another high-level athlete is Aloiy Okhipo, D3's top runner in the 200 and the number two

ranked runner in the 110 meter hurdles. Fellow junior Taylor Feliciano is in the top 10 in the 200, and the relays figure to be an area of strength for Milford. The Scarlet Hawks have the top-ranked quartets in both the 4x400 and the 4x100, and Gordon said they would like to win state titles in both. The sprint relay team includes Okhipo along with Jarrett Brown, Shawn Pierce, and Yael Lopez, the lone senior.


"These four guys have been working together for a couple of years now, and it's nice to see them at the top of their divisional level," Gordon said.

In the 4x400, Parson is anchoring the team with split times under 50 seconds and Gordon has high expectations for the group of him, Feliciano, senior Nick Simas, and junior Sean Mairs.



Aloiy Okhipo is ranked among the state's best in multiple events. Photo credit: Benjamin Zou

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"I think we should win the state championship this year, no doubt," Gordon said. "These guys work so hard on handoffs, their conditioning is top notch, and their will to win is extremely high. They are some of the best guys I have been able to coach."

In addition to his contributions with the relay team, Mairs is a highly ranked 400-meter hurdler in just his second season with the event. Senior Brendan Morin, in his first year as a spring track athlete, is one of the better runners in the Hockomock League in the mile and the two-mile, and sophomore Folahanmi Ojolayo is already a highly-ranked high jumper and long jumper.

Gordon is confident that the mix of top-notch runners and field athletes will help Milford make some noise after moving into Division III this spring.

"The teams we are facing are new," he said. "But I am pleased with the effort and the results, and I think that we can make an impact right away."



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Small MHS Girls Track building program in 2024

Young squad is looking to develop talent

By Chris Villani

In track and field, the size of a roster is a critical component to dual meet success. In addition to having high-end talent, teams need to fill out each event and have the depth needed to score points for second and third place. It is in the latter category that the Milford High girls' track team comes up a bit short, but coach Dan Gordon said the relatively small squad is more than making the most of this season.

"We want to just develop, develop, develop," Gordon said, summing up the Scarlet Hawks' goals for the year. "Find out what people are good at, find creative ways to win events, and keep recruiting numbers."

Having more athletes not only helps in meets, but it also makes practices more competitive. Some of MHS' newer athletes have taken on a role of pushing their older teammates during training.

"We have had some freshmen really step up and surprise us with how much they are willing to try and how hard they are willing to work," said Gordon, who is coaching the team with Milford High Athletic Director Peter Boucher. "A lot of them did not do track in middle school and do not have traditional backgrounds in the sport."

The Milford roster includes 17 freshmen, more than any other class.

Gordon added, "They compete hard, and we have had a few people who are turning into really good runners."

Junior Julianys Rentas had already qualified for the Division



One of only four seniors, Milford will look to Katarina Ferreira for leadership this spring. Photo credit: Benjamin Zou

III state meet in the low hurdles before the month of April was over with a time of 73 seconds, good enough for the seventh best time in the state.

"For her to be in the top-10 right away is pretty incredible," Gordon said.

Senior Caleigh Wilson is a steady contributor in both the dash and the relays, and Gordon described her as "very dependable and reliable." MHS' top thrower is fellow senior Jazlyn Martinez, who is also a sprinter. Two more seniors, Tatiana Chaplin and Katarina Ferreira, are providing steady leadership.

Gordon said the plan is to continue to develop this year with an eye towards improving and hopefully bringing more girls into the program to add the depth MHS needs to compete in the perennially strong Hockomock League.

"We are making some sub-

stantial strides," he said. "We are behind some of the other programs in the Hock, but we are working towards getting there."



Senior Caleigh Wilson is a strong contributor in multiple events including the dash and relays. Photo credit: Benjamin Zou

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