

Milford and MAPC hold comprehensive plan community forum



Milford residents work in small groups during a Comprehensive Plan community meeting on May 13. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

By Theresa Knapp

On May 13, the Milford Planning Board and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) held a community meeting related to the town's Comprehensive Plan.

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 informa-

tion, draft a plan, hold two feedback sessions later this year, and present a final comprehensive plan in the

COMMUNITY FORUM

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Milford 4th of July parade looking for participants

Deadline to register is June 21



A photo from a previous Milford 4th of July Parade. Credit: KV Photography

The Milford Fourth of July Parade will happen on Thursday, July 4, 2024 stepping off promptly at 10 a.m. The parade is looking to have all Americana-themed floats, marching bands, dance troops, classic cars, cheerleading squads, sports teams, Boy Scout/Girl Scout/Brownie Troops, organized military groups, and any and all local businesses in this year's parade. If you have an idea

and want to be in the parade, they want you to be in it!

Parade details

- Parade entry detail must be submitted to Milford Fourth of July Parade Committee no later than June 21, 2024, by 12p.m. FourthOfJulyParadeCommittee@milfordma.gov

PARADE

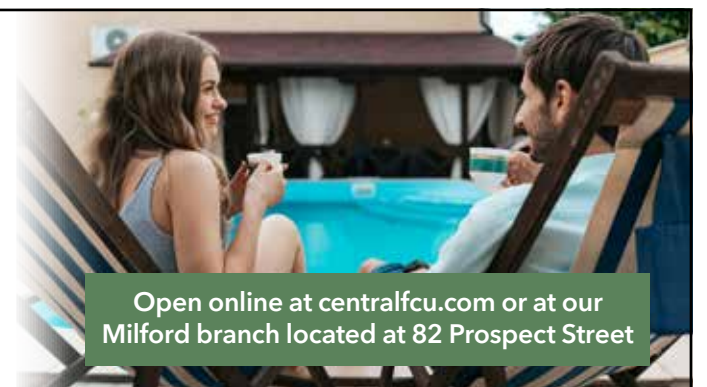
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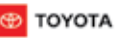
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CORRECTION

Hopkinton Center for the Arts has made a correction to the recent insert that was included in the May newspaper outlining their summer concert series. Due to a carnival happening in the town June 27 - June 30, the "Love Dogs" band concert has been rescheduled for Friday, June 21 and "The C-Jammers" has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 22. Full details of the summer concert series can be found at hopartscenter.org

Milford 'Future Teacher' signing recognition ceremony

On Thursday, May 23 at noon, Milford High School proudly held a "Future Teacher" Signing Ceremony in the Teacher Resource Center to honor eight graduating seniors who have committed to pursuing a career in education. The students are Ben Parson, Camille Bonina, Britney Rankins, Eliana Pires, Brianna Reutlinger, Anna Julia Candida, Maeve Driscoll, and Sarah Ventura. These students, along with their parents, gathered to celebrate this significant milestone. Each student identified a teacher who profoundly influenced their decision to enter the teaching profession, and these inspirational educators were also invited to join the celebration.

Josh Otlin, the principal of Milford High School, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. The program included opening remarks and a speech on the "Journey of a Teacher."



From left to right: Anna Julia Candida, Camille Bonina, Maeve Driscoll, Ben Parson, Eliana Pires, Brianna Reutlinger. Courtesy photo

The Future Teachers Pledge was led by guidance department representatives with all students taking the pledge together. A collective signing of the pledge, followed by a photo session with family members and influential teachers took place.

The "Future Teacher" Signing Recognition Ceremony underscores the Milford Public

School District's commitment to fostering a supportive and empowering environment for its students, faculty, and staff, preparing them to meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world.

The Milford Public School District is dedicated to providing an equitable learning environment that empowers all

students, faculty, and staff to achieve their short and long-term goals. We strive to prepare each individual in our school community to adapt to the challenges of change in an increasingly complex world.

For more information, please visit www.milfordpublicschools.com.

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Milford second graders celebrate Arbor Day

A day to celebrate trees was held on April 25 at Memorial School with the second graders who also celebrated Milford being designated a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation for its sixth year.

A special thanks to Ben Demeo of Barlett Tree Experts for the generous donation of over 200 seedlings which were handed out to students and teachers.

This program was in coordination of Milford Tree Warden Chuck Reneau, Parks and Recreation Administrator Jim Asam, and Memorial School Principal Lisa Burns.



Milford Memorial School second graders displaying Tree City USA flag at Memorial School. Courtesy photo



Milford receives \$9,800 in fire safety grants

In May, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that 214 municipal fire departments across Massachusetts will share \$1.6 million in competitive grants to support fire and life safety education for school-age children and older adults.

The Town of Milford was among the recipients and received a "SAFE grant" of \$7,199.28 and a "Senior SAFE grant" of \$2,599.60.

Since 1995, the Department of Fire Services' Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant program has supported firefighter-educators who deliver age-appropriate fire safety education to kids and teens across Massachusetts. In that time, the number of children who die in fires has dropped to historically low levels, from two dozen or more per year to zero for nearly three consecutive years.

"The SAFE grants have been helping local fire departments deliver life-saving lessons to Massachusetts' young people for nearly 30 years," said Governor Maura Healey. "This year's awards continue that legacy of fire safety education for our most vulnerable residents and their families. Our Administration is committed to helping every community protect its residents through public safety programs like this one."

In 2014, DFS launched the Senior SAFE program, which is geared toward another vulnerable population – older

adults, who face a disproportionate risk of death or serious injury in a fire.

"Senior SAFE connects firefighter-educators with senior centers, councils on aging, and other community-based resources in a unique state-local partnership," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. "Effective safety education, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installation, and other grant-funded services are helping to keep our seniors safe at home."

In FY24, 214 municipal fire departments will split \$1,138,565.58 in SAFE funding and/or \$492,179.29 in Senior SAFE funding. Another 12 departments will share funding for regional SAFE and/or Senior SAFE programs.

"Fire safety education is a smart investment in the safety of our residents and the livability of our communities," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. "Children and older adults are historically the most at risk in a fire, but the SAFE and Senior SAFE grants are helping to provide them with the tools to protect themselves and their families."

The S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE programs are funded through legislative earmarks to the Executive Office of the Public Safety & Security, and they are administered by the Department of Fire Services. For more fire service grant opportunities, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/grants-for-fire-departments.

Recount declares Wilson new Milford School Committee member by two votes

By Theresa Knapp

In this year's April 2 annual election, there were three seats available on the Milford School Committee.

The unofficial results showed the winners to be Matthew Zaccilli, Meghan R. Hornberger,

and Gregory M. Allegrezza.

Another candidate, Christopher Wilson, finished as a close fourth and a recount was called. On April 24, the Milford Town Clerk's Office announced the final recount tally and declared the winners to be Matthew Zac-

chilli (1877 votes), Meghan R. Hornberger (1618 votes), and Christopher D. Wilson (1490 votes) who narrowly edged out Gregory M. Allegrezza (1488 votes) by two votes.

Source: <https://www.milfordma.gov/town-clerk/pages/elections>

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Financial literacy a key part of career enrichment at Blackstone Valley Tech

By Linda Chuss

Students at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) may not realize that the valuable financial literacy component of their Career Enrichment program is rare in Massachusetts. Nationally, 42 states require personal finance or economics coursework for graduation, but not Massachusetts. At BVT, however, financial literacy spans all four years and covers not only personal finance but also small business management.

Joseph Ursoleo, the Career Enrichment Team Leader at BVT, first introduced the topic seven years ago by having students create a personalized budget. He said, "Having been a business major at Bryant University, it seemed like a no-brainer to implement financial literacy for high school students. Our administration offered us the luxury of testing it out, and it showed immediate success."

Since that first budgeting spreadsheet, the financial literacy program has greatly expanded. "We review loans and compound interest, which is relevant to students considering post-secondary options," said Ursoleo. "We cover earning power and evaluate various types of compensation as we explore different careers with students."

"One of the main focuses of our sophomore curriculum is management and entrepreneurship. Even for students who don't want to run their own businesses, understanding these concepts makes them more em-



A "Day with Industry Experts" featured 40 professionals fielding questions from Blackstone Valley Tech juniors. Photo courtesy of Joseph Ursoleo

ployable. We address financial management of a small business like the differences between revenue and net income, variable and fixed expenses, and core economic principles like opportunity costs and cost-benefit analysis.

"During their senior year, each student creates a budget using the entry-level income of the career they're pursuing after graduation. They realize it's not only the cost to buy the car but insurance, maintenance, and fuel. From there, we cover financial markets, investing for retirement, managing and building credit, types of credit, and credit card use."

Financial literacy is one part of the Career Enrichment Program at BVT, which focuses on employability, management and entrepreneurship, and technology. "It supplements traditional academic and vocational coursework with authentic learning experiences for students," Ursoleo explained. "In their capstone project, seniors interview a professional who holds the career they will be pursuing. This provides an opportunity to network and a learning experience beyond the job description."

"Last year, we organized a 'Day with Industry Experts' where 40 professionals from

fields including the construction trades, health care, beauty, engineering, the military, and criminal justice came in to talk with over 200 juniors. The feedback was 100% positive, so we're adding it to the program."

Ursoleo summarized the program this way: "Students receive a personalized learning experience as they discover who they are individually and who they want to become professionally. They develop the employability skills, professional documents, and an economic understanding to maximize their potential and thrive in an ever-changing competitive society."

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2023 QUEST FOR THE BEST WINNER

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Financial freedom: A gift to your family



Mark Freeman

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Here's a sobering statistic: 72% of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a study by Edward Jones and the consulting firm Age Wave. If you are near retirement, how can you prepare yourself to become financially free, so you won't have to depend on grown children or other family members?

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- **Keep adding to retirement savings.** Today, with a greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, many people are spending two, or even three, decades in an active retirement. To help pay for those years, then, you'll likely need to build your retirement savings as much as possible. So, while you're still working, try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you are in the later stages of your career, possibly close to your peak earning power, you may be able to put in sizable sums every year.
- **Choose an appropriate withdrawal rate.** While it's obviously important to build your retirement savings, it's just as essential to make the money last. Once you retire,

you'll want to establish an appropriate withdrawal rate — that is, the amount you can take out each year from your 401(k) and other investments without running the risk of outliving your money. The amount you can safely withdraw each year will depend on a variety of factors, including your age, your account balances, Social Security benefits, inflation, income tax rates and spousal income. In any case, selecting a suitable withdrawal rate can help go a long way toward preserving your financial freedom throughout your retirement.

- **Think about downsizing.** One possible way to boost your savings and add liquidity is to downsize your living arrangements. This may be an attractive option if your children are grown and your current home feels too large. Of course, downsizing is a highly personal decision — if

you've lived in your home for many years, have fond memories of raising a family in it and still enjoy the neighborhood, it can certainly be hard to leave. Consequently, you'll need to weigh these emotional factors against the potential financial benefits of moving into a smaller, less expensive space.

- **Prepare for long-term care costs.** If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, you could face some sizable expenses, most of which may not be covered by Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan. And clearly, you would not want to put your grown children in a position where they might feel the need to step in financially. To help avoid this possibility, you may want to consult with a financial professional about addressing these costs through strategies

that may be appropriate for your needs.

These aren't the only ideas to consider in helping maintain your financial independence and reducing your potential dependence on your family during your retirement years. But taken together, they can give you a good start — so think about putting them to work.

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

Mark Freeman
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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Over 40 and tired of wearing reading glasses?

Refractive lens exchange may be for you

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

Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) stands as a transformative solution for those grappling with vision impairments and hate wearing glasses. This intricate surgical procedure replaces the natural lens of the eye with an artificial one, offering a path to clearer sight and reduced dependence on corrective lenses. In this article, we delve into the depths of RLE, exploring its intricacies, indications, benefits, potential risks, and alternative options.

Understanding Refractive Lens Exchange

RLE, often referred to as lens replacement surgery, is primarily utilized to rectify refractive errors such as severe nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. Moreover, it effectively addresses age-related vision issues like presbyopia, which typically affects individuals over 40. Unlike LASIK or PRK, which reshape the cornea, RLE

involves substituting the eye's natural lens with an artificial one, often termed an intraocular lens (IOL).

Indications for Refractive Lens Exchange

The ideal candidates for RLE are individuals experiencing progressive vision deterioration due to refractive errors or age-related changes in the lens. Candidates typically exhibit:

Significant refractive errors, including severe nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism.

Age-related vision issues, particularly presbyopia, resulting in difficulty focusing on close objects.

Ineligibility for LASIK or PRK due to factors like thin corneas, high refractive errors, or unstable vision.

Desire for decreased dependence on glasses or contact lenses for clear vision.

Best Candidates for RLE

The most suitable candidates

for RLE often meet the following criteria:

Age: Candidates are typically over 40 years old, experiencing age-related changes in vision.

Stable Prescription: Their refractive error should have stabilized, ensuring accurate preoperative measurements.

Good Eye Health: Candidates should have healthy eyes without conditions such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, or severe dry eye syndrome.

Realistic Expectations: They should possess a clear understanding of the procedure's goals, benefits, and potential risks.

Benefits of Refractive Lens Exchange

RLE offers a plethora of benefits, making it an attractive option for those seeking vision correction:

Permanent Vision Improvement: RLE provides long-lasting vision correction, potentially eliminating the need for glasses



or contact lenses.

Enhanced Visual Quality: The use of premium IOLs can enhance contrast sensitivity and reduce glare, improving overall visual quality.

Addressing Age-related Vision Issues: RLE effectively treats presbyopia, allowing individuals to regain near and

distance vision without relying on bifocals or reading glasses.

Predictable Outcomes: With advanced preoperative testing and surgical techniques, RLE offers predictable and precise results.

READING GLASSES

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Southwick's Zoo excitedly welcomes new Eurasian Eagle Owlet

Southwick's Zoo is delighted to announce the birth of a new Eurasian Eagle Owlet. The owlet, offspring of two resident adult Eurasian Eagle Owls, is the first Eurasian Eagle Owl egg to hatch at Southwick's Zoo.

On April 25, 2024, zoo staff noticed the Eurasian Eagle Owlet's egg actively hatching. Recognizing the situation's urgency, the decision was made to intervene and ensure the owlet's well-being. With a commitment to its welfare, the egg was carefully retrieved for hand-rearing by the dedicated bird team at Southwick's Zoo, under their care, the egg hatched in an incubator on the day it was retrieved. Since then, the owlet has been under around-the-clock monitoring, feeding, and care, gradually acclimating to ambient temperatures outside of the incubator with the help of

its growing feathers.

While the owlet's gender is yet to be determined, the zoo's veterinarian has submitted the eggshell for genetic testing, with results expected soon. Regular health checks conducted by the veterinary team at Southwick's Zoo have confirmed the owlet is in excellent condition.

As the owlet continues to grow and thrive, plans are underway for its future role as an ambassador in Southwick's Zoo's bird shows and presentations. Visitors can look forward to special appearances by the owlet during these events throughout the summer.

For an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the Eurasian Eagle Owlet, be sure to visit Southwick's Zoo this summer for bird shows and keeper chats. To plan your visit, please visit www.southwickzoo.com.



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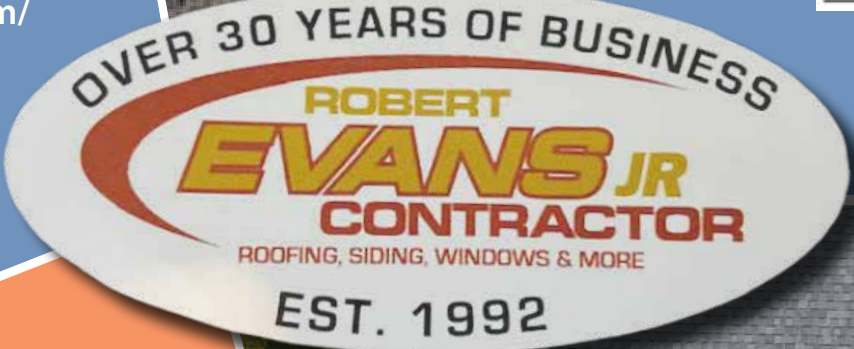
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PARADE

continued from page 1

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- Entries must have an “Americana” theme
- Participants may not toss candy or other objects into the crowd (parade insurance policy dictates this rule)
- There is no rain date. This event is rain or shine
- If and when a threat of lightning is evident, the parade committee will make a decision to cancel or proceed with the event

Reach out directly to FourthOfJulyParadeCommittee@milfordma.gov for a registration form, additional information, accommodations, or questions.



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The mailing address Milford Fourth of July Parade P.O. Box 761, Milford, MA 01757

READING GLASSES

continued from page 6

Lifestyle Enhancement: Improved vision can enhance daily activities such as driving, reading, and participating in sports or hobbies.

No future cataract: Since RLE involves removing and replacing the natural lens, there will never be a cataract in your future because the lens that can cause a cataract and require cataract surgery will be removed.

Risks Associated with Refractive Lens Exchange

While RLE is generally safe and effective, there are potential risks and complications to consider:

Infection: As with any surgical procedure, there is a risk of infection, although it is rare with RLE.

Glaucoma: Some individuals may develop increased intraocular pressure following surgery, potentially leading to glaucoma.

Retinal Detachment: In rare cases, RLE may increase the risk of retinal detachment, particularly in individuals predisposed to the condition.

Posterior Capsule Opacification: This common complication involves clouding of the capsule behind the IOL, which can be treated with a simple laser procedure.

Refractive Error: While precise measurements are taken preoperatively, there is a possibility of residual refractive error necessitating additional procedures or corrective lenses.

Alternatives to Refractive Lens Exchange

While RLE offers significant

advantages, alternative options may be considered based on individual preferences and circumstances:

LASIK (Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis): LASIK reshapes the cornea using a laser to correct refractive errors, making it suitable for individuals with relatively stable vision and healthy corneas. LASIK does not correct reading vision after 40.

PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy): PRK involves removing the corneal epithelium and reshaping the cornea to correct refractive errors, making it an option for individuals with thin corneas or irregular corneal surfaces. PRK does not correct reading vision after 40.

Implantable Contact Lenses (ICLs): ICLs are surgically implanted lenses that work with the eye’s natural lens to correct refractive errors, offering a reversible alternative to RLE for younger individuals. ICLs will not correct reading vision after 40.

Monovision: This approach corrects one eye for distance vision and the other for near vision, providing an alternative for individuals with presbyopia who prefer to maintain some degree of natural vision. Monovision can cause a loss of depth perception. Your brain may or may not get used to monovision.

Conclusion

Refractive Lens Exchange emerges as a revolutionary solution for individuals seeking lasting vision correction. By replacing the eye’s natural lens with an artificial one, RLE offers a path to clearer vision and reduced dependence on cor-

rective lenses. It is amazing to be able to reduce dependency on glasses, both for distance and near. While it presents numerous benefits, candidates should carefully consider the potential risks and alternatives before undergoing surgery. With advancements in surgical techniques and intraocular lens technology, RLE continues to redefine the landscape of vision correction, providing hope and clarity to countless individuals worldwide.

RLE is all about better precision, freedom from glasses for far and near and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, our surgeons have performed tens of thousands of intraocular surgeries and are happy to offer the RLE procedure to our communities. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the US and is measured by independent sources. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and their risks and no need for stitches. Our surgery center is state-of-the-art and staffed by anesthesia full time. We treat our patients like family and ethically: we do not charge you fees for using our OR as another practice in Milford is doing. Our surgeries are performed in a certified and accredited surgery center, not in an office. World class outcomes closer to home.

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- All single stream recycling should be loose in the cart nothing in plastic bags.
- All recycling must fit inside the cart, nothing outside the cart will be picked-up.
- Cart lids need to be closed and the arrows facing towards the street.
- Carts need to be placed at least three feet apart and free of any obstructions including but not limited to mailboxes and cars.
- Bulk waste will NOT be part of the regular household waste collection service. Thus, there will be no free bulk pick ups at curbside. Resident will be required to schedule all bulk curbside collection with E.L. Harvey. More details will follow.



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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@amazingearthsolar.com

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COMMUNITY FORUM

continued from page 1

spring of 2025.

The comprehensive plan is prepared and adopted by the Planning Board. It includes sections related to community engagement; values, vision, and goals; land use; downtown; economic development; housing; transportation, circulation, and transit; cultural and historical resources; natural environment and open space; and community services and facilities.

The purpose of the May visioning session was to introduce the comprehensive plan process, identify potential challenges, and gather feedback on a shared mission.

MAPC member Josh Fiola led the workshop and said, "Our team is really focused on working with you all over the next year."

The meeting began with interactive polling which revealed the majority of the estimated 70 people in attendance had lived in Milford for 21-40 years; were between the ages of 50-64; 92% were white; 56 were women



Milford's new Comprehensive Plan will touch on several areas of life in Milford. Source: Metropolitan Area Planning Council presentation to Milford residents on May 13

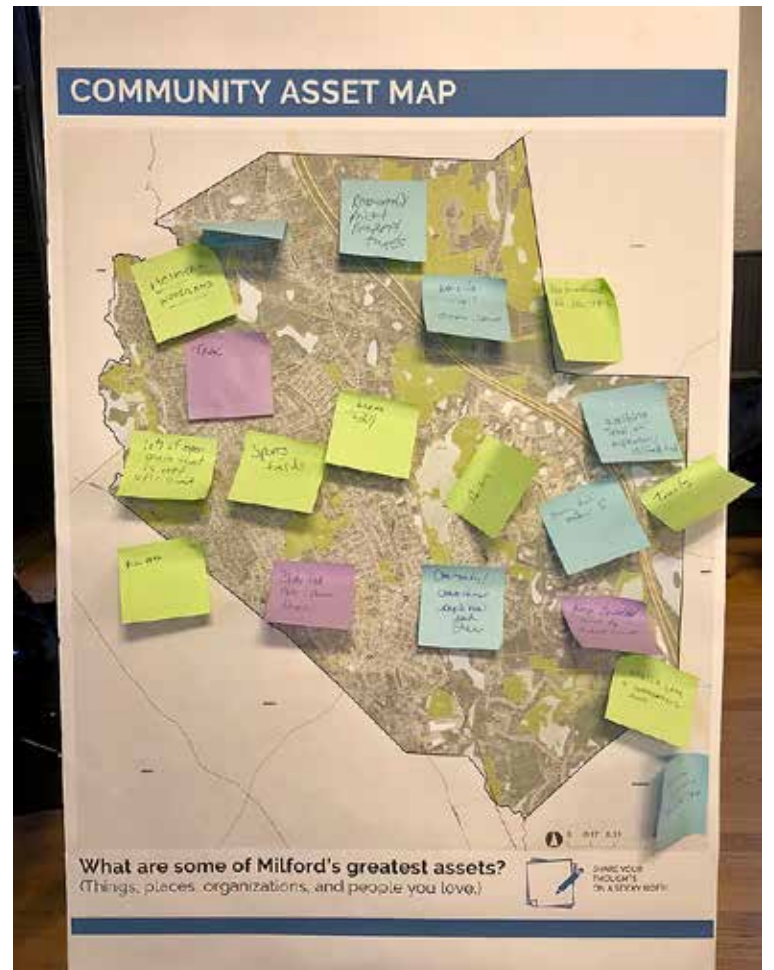
and 44 were men; and 62% had a household income over \$100,000 (31% made more than \$200,000 per year).

As residents entered the Upper Town Hall before the meeting, they were asked to write something on the "Community Asset Map" they considered an asset in Milford. Responses included: Hospital, woodland, reasonably priced property taxes, trail, lots of open space (that is not utilized), bike

path, skate park, arts & music, sports fields, Legion, community/connections/people know each other, new businesses, a "vibrant downtown," and more.

Areas of concern voiced during the meeting included overall affordability, housing availability, job creation, zoning, transportation, schools, traffic congestion, parking, and more.

The MAPC presentation was approximately 40 minutes followed by small group discussions




The Metropolitan Area Planning Council asked Milford residents to add notes to the "Community Asset Map." Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

in which residents shared their personal visions for Milford. For more information on the


comprehensive plan, visit www.mapc.org/resource-library/milford-comp-plan/.

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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By *Christie Vogt*
Contributing Writer

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends



when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative

Business spotlight

that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Milford, the Schadlers have been residents for over 20 years. Their four kids have gone to Milford schools. In addition to living in town, they are proud investors in the community. They sponsor and coach several sports teams, volunteer at the schools, and own both commercial and residential properties.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005. Contributed photo

are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordable-junkremoval.com.

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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 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-friendly 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 summer of 2021, and we've been growing very rapidly ever since. We were one of the largest Highland athletic events in 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 Jennifer 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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SOUTHWICK'S ZOO PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

Thanks to all those who entered! These 12 entries will receive a family four-pack of GA passes to Southwick's Zoo for the 2024 season!

PUBLISHER'S PICK



"MACAW!"

Submitted by Nate H.

STAFF CHOICE



"Oh what fun ..."

Submitted by Bobbie G.

FAMILY



"Family time at the zoo"

Submitted by Nancy M.

SOUTHWICK'S SIGN



"Southwick's is our favorite zoo!"

Submitted by Rachel R.

KIDS



"A couple of cuties at the zoo"

Submitted by Christine H.

HALLOWEEN



"No matter the season ..."

Submitted by Emily T.

NOSTALGIC



"My daughter meeting Jeff Corwin, 1999"

Submitted by Lora D.

RUNNER UP



"We are so goated"

Submitted by Agatha D.

RUNNER UP



"Fun for all ages"

Submitted by Misty W.

RUNNER UP



"Having a roaring good time!"

Submitted by Jillian R.

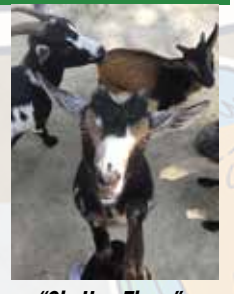
RUNNER UP



"Yikes! What are these?"

Submitted by Brooke M.

ANIMAL



"Oh, Hay There"

Submitted by Emily S.



Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
05/29/2024	5 Gritte Ln.	\$680,000
05/21/2024	34 Country Club Ln. #C	\$450,000
05/20/2024	58 East St.	\$765,000
05/17/2024	7 Shadowbrook Ln. #36	\$280,000
05/16/2024	12 Camp St.	\$650,000
05/15/2024	6 Sabatinelli Rd.	\$431,000
05/15/2024	29 Godfrey Ln.	\$430,000
05/10/2024	28 S Main St.	\$295,000
05/10/2024	38 Congress St.	\$475,000
05/08/2024	8 Kennedy Ln. #38	\$241,000
05/01/2024	57 Whitewood Rd.	\$887,000
04/30/2024	19 Janock Rd.	\$633,000
04/30/2024	29 Paula Rd.	\$610,000
04/29/2024	1 Carp Rd.	\$635,000

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



The 4-bed, 3-bath, 2,818 square foot house at 5 Gritte Lane in Milford recently sold for \$680,000. Image credit www.zillow.com

Thanks To Yanks donates lawn mower to scouts



Thanks To Yanks recently donated a lawn mower to a local scout troop associated with

the Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River. The scouts and parish have an outreach program to

mow the lawns of elderly veterans who need assistance with lawn care.

BVT students earn 69 'precious medals' at SkillsUSA State Competition

Milford students among winners

The 50th SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference was held on April 26 at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The annual event, hosted by SkillsUSA Massachusetts, welcomed more than 2,100 district champions to BVT's campus.

The state competition is like a bustling hive of talented students and industry professionals abuzz with energy, creativity, and a shared passion for excellence. It is an incredible showcase of vocational technical training at its finest. BVT's student competitors achieved remarkable results, earning 69 medals: 27 Gold, 23 Silver, and 19 Bronze. These achievements are a testament to the student's hard work and dedication.

The gold medalists earn the right to represent SkillsUSA Massachusetts and compete with champions from all over the country at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, this June.

BVT students who earned medals at the State Leadership & Skills Conference include Milford residents:

Gold: Nelle Norris, Chapter Display; Emma Sanborn Promotional Bulletin Board

Silver: Matthew Hunter, Bio Tech Knowledge Bowl

Bronze: Lacey Coffman, Advertising Design; Julia Ribeiro, Esthetics; Lizmary Vidal-Sanchez, Dental Assisting

The complete list of medalists is available at www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

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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. CLOSED • Sun. CLOSED

By Reference Department

Summer Library Hours

The library will be closed on Saturdays starting Saturday, June 15 and continuing until after Labor Day.

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

this 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.

Tickets to the button show featuring contemporary, antique and vintage buttons for sewing, textiles, quilts are \$5 per day pre-registered or \$7 for walk-ins. Visit nerba.org or email sabrinaomeara@gmail.com for more information.

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. The spring session will end on Thursday, June 20. Summer session dates will be posted on our website and Facebook ESL Group page.

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 quin-

tas-feiras, 6pm-7pm. A sessão de primavera terminará na quinta-feira, 20 de junho. As datas das sessões de verão serão publicadas em nosso site e na página do Grupo ESL no Facebook.

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. La sesión de primavera finalizará el jueves 20 de junio. Las fechas de las sesiones de verano se publicarán en nuestro sitio web y en la página del Grupo ESL de Facebook.

219 or email Anne at aberard@milfordtownlibrary.org.

Seize the Solstice with Some LIGHT Reading!

Join us for a special reading event on Thursday, June 20, the Summer Solstice and the longest day of the year with sunrise at 5:10 a.m. and sunset at 8:26 p.m.

Weather permitting, library staff and patrons will be outside reading in the Lennard Hill Memorial Garden at the library. Come with your books, magazines, devices and grab a bench or a spot on the grass and stay as long as you are able.

We'll have some light refreshments to fuel our readers and hope you'll join us for a celebration of both reading, the light of knowledge and the kick-off of summer and the adult summer reading program.

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group will meet on Tuesday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center to discuss *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra* by Vaseem Khan.

This novel is the first in a series of the Baby Ganesh Detective Agency. Inspector Ashwin Chopra, newly retired from the police force in India, is gifted a baby elephant by his uncle. A heart attack and his wife Poppy's insistence necessitated the retirement he really didn't want. Along with the unexpected help of the elephant he calls Ganesha, Inspector Chopra continues to investigate a murder case that landed in his station on his last official day.

Khan's obvious affection and knowledge of Mumbai and surrounding cities give the characters and setting an authenticity and charm. Chopra and Poppy's partnership is full of humor and deep love.

To reserve a copy or to learn more about the Center Book Group, please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145, ext.

Adult Summer Reading Program


The 2024 Adult Summer Reading Program is coming soon, on Monday, June 24.

This year's theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat" and we're playing Adventure Bingo to connect with and enjoy all the wonderful resources that Milford has to offer. Everyone who participates will win a prize, but the more you participate, the more tickets you will earn to put toward our Adventure Prize drawing and our Grand Prize drawing. We've got FOUR amazing prizes to give away from several Milford businesses!


The Adult Summer Reading Program takes place Monday, June 24 - Friday, August 16.


LIBRARY


continued on page 17



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Venus, an aspiring cuddle bug



Venus is available for adoption at the Milford Humane Society. Courtesy photo

Once a shy wall flower hiding in the back of her cage, Venus has come out into the light! Venus enjoys head scratches and has the cutest meow when she wants your attention. She likes to play with catnip mice and string toys.

Venus might enjoy a cat friend in her new home. Though she doesn't seek out the other cats in the room, she often

greet them warmly when they come to visit her. In the shelter setting, Venus hasn't been very active. We hope in the comfort of her own home she would play more. After she has been given time to adjust, she might just be a cuddle bug.

For more information on Venus or any other cats at The Milford Humane Society, please visit www.milfordhumane.org

LIBRARY

continued from page 16

For program and prize details, visit our Adult Summer Reading 2024 page of our website: www.milfordtownlibrary.org/reference-department/pages/adult-summer-reading-2024

This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library.

Virtual Program—1969 Stonewall Rebellion

On Wednesday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m., join author Milo Todd on Zoom as he discusses the Stonewall Rebellion, a grassroots movement that sparked LGBTQ+ rights across the country.

What happened during the multi-night rebellion around the Stonewall Inn in June of 1969? What was the first thing thrown and who threw it? Who took part and who stayed away? Note: This session includes mention of transpho-

bia, racism, police brutality, slurs, murder, sexual assault, and misgendering/deadnaming

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge, Charlton Public Library and the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge, in partnership with other MA libraries, including Milford.

For a Zoom registration link, please visit our events calendar or email: reference@milfordtownlibrary.org.

ESL Tutor Training Workshop

Do you want to help your community and learn about other cultures? Help us meet the growing need for ESL Tutors by signing up for a free tutor training workshop on Thursday, June 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church Hall.

We request a 6 month commitment of 1-2 hours per week. Volunteer tutors are

trained to work one-on-one with adult students from a variety of countries to improve their listening, speaking and comprehension skills and to acclimate to American culture.

To register or for more information, please contact Anne at aberard@milfordtownlibrary.org or call 508-473-2145 ext. 219.

Atelier Artists Exhibit Coming in July/August

An exhibition of new artwork by the Atelier Artists will be held at the library during July and August. This group of senior artists are part of an artist's collective founded by Sal Ferreira in 2007 to support and inspire each other in their artistic pursuits. This year's artists have worked primarily in oil and acrylic with some watercolor and photography as well. Please watch our website and Facebook page for more information and details of the opening reception.

Looking To Advertise? Contact Jen today at 508-570-6544 or jenschofield@localtownpages.com



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Milford School Highlights

District

The Milford Public Schools wishes to welcome Wen Cobb who will be starting with the Milford Public Schools as the new school business administrator on July 1. She will be replacing Assistant Superintendent Kathy Perry who will be retiring in July after a long esteemed career with the Milford Public Schools. Ms. Cobb started her career as a budget analyst for the Worcester Public Schools, served as the school business manager for the Blackstone-Millville Public Schools, and most recently served as the director of accounting and business services for the Wellesley Public Schools. She has an MBA from Clark University and a bachelor's degree from Huazhong University. The MPS community is excited that Ms. Cobb will be joining the district this summer.

Save the Date:

6/17: Last Day Grades K-12: Early Release

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). Cualquiera 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

Congratulations to Academic Decathlon who competed in the eNationals Competition. A special congratulations to Violet Tran who ranked fifth in Essay and Mathematics. This year's theme was Humanidade and Tecnologia Next year's theme will be Our Changing Climate. Also, congratulations to MHS New England Math League participants. Nathan Mandrik,

Kally Mayancela Largo, Harsh Mannava, and Keerthana Vootla all received awards for being the highest scorer for their grade level at MHS.

Janet Applefield was the special guest presenter during Flex Period on May 15 for a special assembly on the Holocaust. Janet previously visited MHS and graciously agreed to do so again. Students enrolled in US History 2, Contemporary World Issues, AP US History, and AP World History were invited to experience Janet's poignant presentation.

On Wednesday, May 1, during the FLEX period, Milford High School's Social Studies Department, along with Government classes and students aspiring towards careers in law enforcement, criminal justice, or law, had the privilege of meeting with The Honorable Judge Richard Eustis, presiding justice of the Milford District Court. Milford High School expresses its sincere gratitude to Judge Eustis for generously sharing insights into the workings of the judicial system and offering invaluable guidance regarding potential career pathways in law enforcement, criminal justice, and law.

During the FLEX period on

Wednesday, April 24, students in grades 11 and 12 had the opportunity to attend a challenging, and critical, special assembly organized by Milford's own Community Impact and Chris's Corner. Three community members shared their stories of recovery from addiction with students, offering valuable insights and inspiration to the attending students.

Stacy Middle School (SMS)

Two 8th-grade French students, Annie Usher and Gabby Ferreira, from Stacy Middle School, serving as French Club Officers, led a group of 15 peers in recreating Vincent Van Gogh's iconic masterpiece, "Starry Night," for the school's May French Club activity on May 15, 2024, held after school hours. With enthusiasm, these student leaders not only supplied all necessary materials but also offered tips to guide their fellow club members in capturing the essence of this celebrated artwork.

Stacy Middle School is gearing up for an exciting lineup of end-of-year activities. This includes YMCA field trips for

MILFORD SCHOOLS

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MILFORD SCHOOLS

continued from page 18

both sixth and seventh graders, Grade five Step-Up Day celebrations, an immersive journey with the French Club to Montreal, and the eagerly anticipated Grade 8 Carnival and Semi-Formal event.

Woodland Elementary School (WES)

Principal Kearnan is proud to announce the seventh Council of the year nominated by their teachers for Respect. These students have demonstrated respect for others in many different ways throughout the school year. They have been polite and used good manners. They have been kind to others. They have been unselfish and helpful. They have taken care of their school and classroom. There are many ways one can show respect, and these students have been great role models for others.

Respect Grade 3: Emilia Toma, Alice Dias, Ingrid da Silva, Zachary Cue, Cecilia Martins, Layan Chekhar, Yeya Seck, Maria Duraes, Sumak Guaman Guaman, Larissa Lima, Mateus Ribeiro, Rocco Samito, Ellen DaCunha, Corinne Gross, Bigail Taipe Namina, Michael Napoleon MacDonald, Joshua Alvarenga.

Respect Grade 4: Samyuktha Kodali, Zack Valis, Connor Nelson, Yago Mendes, Alexis Pizha Pinguil, Grace Borges, Samana Gautam, Yasmin Dos Reis Rocha, Anali Mayancela Caaguana, Colton Sarkisian, Amelia Zacchilli, Valentina Reis, Evannah O'Rourke, Anahi Giomara

Duchi Yupa, Bernardo Fraga Mendes, Lucas DePaula.

Respect Grade 5: Mirella Oliveira, Barrett Beaton, Murilo Godoy, Dylan Ortiz Poveda, Danny King, Davi Dutra, Myah Murphy, Anthony Jacobson, Srinithi Burrumukku, Raphael Bastos, Cassidy Knapp, Alexa Alencastro, Cecily Hausmann, Camilly Souza, Julia Carmo, Aurora Cantillon.

Memorial Elementary School (MES)

Memorial School extends heartfelt congratulations to Melissa Picard, Paula Mullahoo, and Laurie Borghi on their well-deserved retirement. Their unwavering dedication and years of service have left a memorable mark on the Memorial Elementary School community, for which MES is deeply grateful.

Memorial Elementary School held a special Memorial Day program on May 23. Students honored the occasion with inspiring renditions of patriotic songs and heartfelt recitations of poems, paying homage to those who have served our country.

Students and staff were dazzled at Memorial School's "Superstar Reading" Event. Each classroom delved into a captivating book and translated its essence into creative projects. Students came together to enjoy storytelling sessions led by two of MES teachers. Following the tales, students and staff witnessed a vibrant parade where students proudly showcased their imaginative projects, upholding the spirit of the stories they've explored. PTO Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

Brookside Elementary School (BES)

Jacob Wycoff, a meteorologist from WBZ, engaged BES second graders with an insightful presentation on weather phenomena. Meanwhile, BVT Dental Students imparted valuable lessons on dental care to first grade classes, emphasizing the importance of oral hygiene. The BES school community held the annual Memorial Day Program on the morning of May 24, where Brookside students honored veterans through heartfelt poems and songs, embodying deep respect and gratitude for their service. PTO meeting is the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7 p.m.

Shining Star Early Childhood Center (SSECC)

Excitement fills the air as Shining Stars prepare to embark on their journey to Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. Eager to meet their new Principals and Assistant Principals, administrators from both Brookside Elementary School and Memorial Elementary School will be visiting rising Kindergarten at the SSECC gymnasium

throughout May and June. It's a wonderful opportunity for SSECC students to begin forming connections with their future school leaders and feel a sense of belonging before their first day of school in their new building. PTO Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise posted.

Milford Family & Community Network CFCE (MFCN CFCE):

May was a busy month for the Milford Family and Community Network CFCE. The last monthly parent program for the Spring, "Desserts and Discussions" was well attended by parents and caregivers looking to connect and build relationships. The Intergenerational Playgroup held at Cornerstone at Milford brought smiles to the senior's faces as well as the children, and the eight week series of Lap Babies for some of the youngest members of our community was a success.

On May 23 the MFCN CFCE hosted the first Community Helper Day in the parking lot of Sacred Heart Church in Milford. Participating children

enjoyed meeting local first responders, the Milford Police K9 unit and Piper, the support dog. Lastly, the 28th annual Southwick's Zoo field trip was fun for all that attended.

MFCN CFCE is excited to announce the Summer Playgroup schedule for 2024. Six weeks of playgroups are planned for Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., starting on July 10 and ending on August 15. These drop-in playgroups do not require registration. Are you looking to join a registered playgroup? The Fall Playgroup Registration details will be announced in late August or early September.

Information on the MFCN CFCE Playgroups: All playgroups are FREE and intended for children from birth to 5 years old with their parent/caregiver, 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 always find and follow us on facebook at "Milford Family and Community Network CFCE."

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Milford to form High School Building Committee: Call for volunteers

Deadline to apply is June 17

On May 20, 2024 Milford Town Meeting approved the formation of a High School Building Committee (HSBC) dedicated to overseeing the feasibility study, preliminary planning, and construction or renovation of the Milford High School currently located at 31 West Fountain Street. This committee will play a crucial role in ensuring the project meets the town's educational needs and budgetary goals.

The Milford Selectboard and Milford School Committee are seeking five Milford residents to volunteer to serve on this committee. Three will be appointed by the Milford Selectboard and two will be appointed by the Milford School Committee. These community members must have experience in either project management, architecture, or engineering, and be willing to serve for the life of the project, anticipated to be seven to ten years.

By participating in the High School Building Committee, you will have an opportunity to help shape the future of education in Milford and make a lasting impact on our community. The Milford Selectboard and Milford School Committee are looking forward to your applications and to working collaboratively and in partnership on this exciting project.

Who Can Join? Milford residents that have experience in project management, architecture, engineering, and/or construction. There will be ten additional members as mandated by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and Town Meeting.

Role and Responsibilities of the High School Building Committee. The High School Building Committee will:

- Oversee the feasibility study and planning stages

- Provide technical guidance and fiscal oversight during planning, design, and construction of the project
- Collaborate with Milford Public Schools staff and consultants on project management
- Ensure that plans and designs meet the needs of the school district while staying within budget
- Monitor construction to ensure adherence to approved plans and budget

Application Process. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest with a resume or a detailed summary of relevant experience. In your letter of interest, please explain why you would like to join the committee, how you can support its work, and that you have the time available.

Deadline for letters of interest. Letters of interest must

be received by Monday, June 17, 2024 and can be emailed or dropped off at Milford Town Hall or at the Milford Public Schools Central Office. Contact Information. For more information or any questions, please send an email to mbullock@milfordma.com and/or rvillani@townofmilford.com.

What is the time commitment? School Building Committee (SBC) members are asked to commit to the full length of the building project, as well as several years of follow-up work that will continue after the school opens to address project punch lists and closing out contracts. In total, this is a seven to ten year commitment. During this time, members will be expected to prepare for and be active participants in meetings that will occur one or two times per month. Committee meetings are held in the evening and run for approximately two hours.

- The Superintendent of Schools
- A member of the Select Board
- The Town Administrator
- A member of the Finance Committee
- The Milford High School Principal
- The Milford Public Schools Facility Director
- A Milford High School faculty member, selected by the Milford Teachers Association
- Five (5) residents of Milford with project management, architecture, engineering, and/or construction experience. Two (2) appointed by the School Committee and three (3) appointed by the Selectboard

The Senior member of the School Committee will call the first meeting to organize the committee's efforts. The committee will report its findings and progress at either a Special or Annual Town Meeting.

Why Form a High School Building Committee? The Milford Public Schools has embarked on a significant project that may include constructing a new building or renovating Milford High School. This project is part of the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) grant program, which has the potential to provide significant state funding for school construction projects. Forming this committee is a required step in the MSBA process to ensure proper oversight and management of the project.

What is the MSBA? Information about the Massachusetts School Building Authority can be found on their website located here: www.massschool-buildings.org

Do I have to commit to the entire project period? While members may serve less than the entire seven to ten year period, applicants who express an intent and ability to serve for the entire project period will be given preference.

Who is on the committee? The committee will include representatives from various town boards and departments, as well as residents with expertise in project management, architecture, engineering, and construction. Specifically, the committee will consist of:

- Two (2) members of the School Committee
- A member of the Planning Board

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Forest Chips.....	\$12	3/8", 3/4" Blue Stone	\$50	Rip Rap	\$35
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50/50 Compost/Loam	\$32	3" Processed Gravel.....	\$35	Trench Sand	\$28
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UniBank holds annual meeting at Pleasant Valley Country Club

Bank emphasizes strong financial strength and community assistance



Pictured: L-R: Chris Foley (President of UniBank), Cara Brindisi, Justine DeNorscia (EVP of UniBank), Michael Welch (CEO of UniBank)

WHITINSVILLE, MA – (May 20, 2024) UniBank, Central Massachusetts’ largest mutual community bank, recently held their Annual Meeting at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, MA.

Michael Welch, CEO of UniBank, said, “Our Annual Meeting was a great night of celebration and reflection of the entire past year of the Bank. We reported on our financial strength, our community giving both financially and through volunteerism, and being well-positioned to assist consumers and businesses throughout Central Mass with their financial needs through 2024. This year, our keynote speaker was Andrew Calamare, who has been in the banking industry for over 40 years. Adding to our night was singer, song-writer Cara Brindisi who was featured on the television show, The Voice – Season 22. Cara delivered beau-

tiful renditions of the National Anthem, America the Beautiful, and her self-written song, Jar of Flowers.”

Welch continued, “As the Annual Meeting is the closing of the prior year, it’s also the springboard for the next year as it sets the vision to propel our mission to be the best mutually owned community bank in Central Massachusetts again.”

UniBank is rooted in the Blackstone Valley with assets of \$2.5 billion as of December 31, 2023. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining a high level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. UniBank NMLS #583135. The company website is www.unibank.com.

Bishop Feehan High School announces third quarter honor roll

Bishop Feehan High School Vice Principal for Academics, Charlotte Lourenco, is proud to announce the Honor Roll students for the third quarter.

Honor Roll is a recognition of high-performing students based on the student’s overall average in any given quarter,

regardless of the levels of their classes.

Bishop Feehan has three levels of Honor Roll: First Honors is awarded to students whose overall average in that quarter is grade 93.00 or higher, Second Honors is grade 90.00 or higher, and Third Honors is 85.00

or higher, with no individual grade below 80.

Joyce Abdelshahid, grade 9, of Milford received First Honors.

The full list is available at www.bishopfeehan.com/apps/news/article/1920259

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SPORTS

Milford Boys' Volleyball rides 'rollercoaster' season

Scarlet Hawks once again a formidable force in the state

By Chris Villani

Sports seasons are often filled with ups and downs, but rarely are a team's surges and struggles as pronounced as those of the 2024 Milford High boys' volleyball squad. The Scarlet Hawks started the year on a roll, winning most of their matches in straight sets. They then lost five straight before rebounding with a series of wins capped off by a 3-1 victory over Newton North, perhaps the top team in the state.

"It's been a slight rollercoaster of a season so far," head coach Andrew Mainini said. "But I think we are on the most exciting and productive part of the rollercoaster at this point."

Mainini, who led the team to an appearance in the final four a season ago, credited some slight modifications to the lineup for the team's surge at the end of the regular season. Milford went into the state tournament ranked in the top-five in the state and poised to make another deep run.

"We are seeing that a couple of players in different positions really made them shine, which is what we were looking for in the middle of the season," the



Milford celebrates after a recent win over Newton North. Photo credit: Olga Lyubkin

coach said.

Senior captains Alex Guerra and Arthur Gomes continued to be huge parts of the MHS lineup this spring. Mainini said one of the changes he made midseason was moving Gomes from a hitting position to libero, a defensive-minded spot.

"That made a huge difference in both our defense and our offense," the coach said.

Mainini said the athlete who has made the most growth this year is middle hitter Joey Newman.

"He really exceeded expectations," Mainini said. "We don't think we have seen a better middle in the state this year than Joey. If he is not the best, he is in the conversation with other top tier teams that have strong middles."

Setter Owen Callahan has helped drive the second-half surge as well, Mainini said, crediting his "relentless" pursuit of improvement. Milford has also been aided by sophomore Gus Da Silva, who finished the regular season third on the team



Senior Joey Newman (13) at 6'5" has emerged as one of the state's top middle hitters. Photo credit: Olga Lyubkin

in kills.

"That's a huge accomplishment for a sophomore to do on such a competitive team," Mainini said.

Milford earned the number four seed in the state tournament, which means the Hawks had the ability to host tourna-

ment games until the final four.

"We really think we are one of the top four teams in the state, so we are hoping to be playing in that state semifinal match," Mainini said. "From there, we think it's whatever team shows up to play that day."

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SPORTS

MHS Baseball back among state's best

Trio of star pitchers helping the Hawks succeed

By Chris Villani

The 2024 Milford High baseball season is exactly what head coach Alex Dion had in mind when he started a bunch of freshmen at the varsity level four years ago.

"There have been some challenging times and some tough losses, but overall it's been a pleasure to coach these guys," Dion said. "We are fifth in the state right now and it's a great group."

MHS finished the regular season with a 14-7 record and the top-five ranking buoyed largely by playing in the notoriously difficult Hockomock League.

"Playing in the Hockomock certainly prepares us for post-season play," Dion said. "Our strength of schedule and what we have done in non-league play, it was a challenging road, but it's one that gets us ready to play baseball in June."

Perhaps the strongest asset the Scarlet Hawks have brought to the table this spring is pitching. Milford has three pitchers who are all bound for the collegiate ranks. Senior Damien Carter, a five-game winner this spring, is slated to play for Franklin Pierce; Ian Carter, a

junior, is heading to Bryant; and senior Anthony LaPierre is planning to pitch for Babson.

"The story of our team has been the arms. It starts for us on the mound and having three guys who have won games and pitched in some big spots," Dion said. "Having three legit starting pitchers and being able to use at least one of them in the bullpen at times is huge for us."

Milford has some players who are talented with the bat as well. Damien Carter has been a middle of the order hitter. Keith Lee, another four-year starter, is the team's catcher.

"He has been rock solid defensively and a solid offensive player," Dion said. "I don't name captains, but he is definitely a leader."

Milford added Lou Consigli this year after he joined the school from Xaverian, and he's been a starter in the infield. Junior Nick Koch led the team in hitting through the regular season.

Dion said at the start of the playoffs that his players' goal, like many in the state, is to win the last game of the season.

"It's been a goal for a long time," he said. "It's something



Led by its strength on the mound, Milford baseball is once again one of the state's top teams. Photo credit: Jackson Phiffer of JP Media

that has been building."

But, just by being among the top teams in the state, Milford has put itself back in a place it has historically occupied through the years, which Dion credits to the senior class.

"We have talked about the history of Milford baseball and what the standard is here," he

said. "These guys take pride in wearing the pinstripes. There's been a lot of good baseball played in this town for a long

time and this team, particularly the senior class, wants to leave a lasting impression with what they have done at this school."






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8-18 UXBRIDGE ROAD (ROUTE 16) MENDON, MA 01756 // 300 FORTUNE BLVD. MILFORD, MA 01757

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THE DEALS ARE HOT!

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<p>CAR FAX ONE-OWNER VEHICLES 595 ONE-OWNER VEHICLES IN STOCK!</p>		<p>2020 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AS LOW AS \$68/WK #46178 • ALLOYS, AWD, TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$35,490 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,977</p>	<p>2023 KIA FORTE LXS AS LOW AS \$62/WK #D14110R • 28/39 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,220 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$19,377</p>	<p>2021 FORD F-150 XL 4x4 AS LOW AS \$139/WK #P17003L • SUPERCAB, ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$50,950 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$39,977</p>	<p>2021 FORD EXPLORER 4x4 AS LOW AS \$114/WK #P16938L • XLT, LEATHER, TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,765 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977</p>	<p>2019 JEEP WRANGLER 4x4 AS LOW AS \$123/WK #3046Z • UNLIMITED SAHARA, V6 NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$49,810 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,977</p>
<p>2021 JEEP RENEGADE AS LOW AS \$72/WK #D14154 • ALLOYS, LATITUDE, 4X4 NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,265 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 4x4 AS LOW AS \$100/WK #D13995CDJ • TRD OFF-ROAD, DBL CAB NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$42,605 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$29,977</p>	<p>2022 DODGE DURANGO GT AS LOW AS \$111/WK #TP3219A • ALLOYS, AWD, 3.6L NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$48,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977</p>	<p>2023 GENESIS G70 2.0T AS LOW AS \$116/WK #TP3557 • NAV, HEATED LEATHER NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$43,510 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$33,977</p>	<p>2022 TOYOTA CAMRY LE AS LOW AS \$86/WK #TM25-001A • 28/39 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,625 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977</p>	<p>2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4 AS LOW AS \$126/WK #TP3593A • CUSTOM, 2.7L TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$54,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,977</p>	<p>2021 NISSAN ROGUE AWD AS LOW AS \$78/WK #46189 • 26/33 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$31,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977</p>
<p>2019 CHEVY TRAX LT AWD AS LOW AS \$58/WK #46072 • TURBO, PREMIUM AUDIO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$27,565 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$17,377</p>	<p>2023 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4 AS LOW AS \$176/WK #TP3493 • SR5, ALLOYS, 3K MILES NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$58,405 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$49,977</p>	<p>2019 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4 AS LOW AS \$60/WK #124-131A • LATITUDE, ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$18,977</p>	<p>2022 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL AS LOW AS \$72/WK #TP3079H • AWD, HEATED SEATS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$36,750 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>	<p>2021 TOYOTA COROLLA SE AS LOW AS \$71/WK #ST0582A • 31/40 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$24,589 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,477</p>	<p>2022 CHEVY BLAZER LT AS LOW AS \$94/WK #45663R • AWD, ALLOYS, TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,015 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$28,977</p>	<p>2021 HYUNDAI KONA AWD AS LOW AS \$72/WK #45990 • SEL TRIM, MOONROOF NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$27,350 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>
<p>2020 FORD EDGE SEL AS LOW AS \$82/WK #P16744L • SUNROOF, NAV, ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$40,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	<p>2023 VW JETTA SE AS LOW AS \$75/WK #D14189L • TURBO, HEATED SEATS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,550 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>	<p>2019 LINCOLN NAUTILUS AS LOW AS \$74/WK #123-564B • SUNROOF, LEATHER NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$39,745 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>	<p>2021 FORD BRONCO 4x4 AS LOW AS \$85/WK #P17005L • TURBO, 17" ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,995 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$26,977</p>	<p>2022 SUBARU FORESTER AS LOW AS \$89/WK #D13976 • SPORT, SUNROOF NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,695 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977</p>	<p>2023 MERCEDES GLA 250 SUV AS LOW AS \$114/WK #TP3680 • TURBO, AWD, LEATHER NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$48,600 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$33,977</p>	<p>2020 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL AS LOW AS \$71/WK #TP3182RH • 27/37 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,686 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>
<p>2020 CHEVY COLORADO AS LOW AS \$97/WK #45754C • LT TRIM, 4X4, 8" LCD, V6 NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$39,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$27,977</p>	<p>2018 HONDA CR-V EX SUV AS LOW AS \$74/WK #TM24-782A • 27/33 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,190 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>	<p>2021 BUICK ENCORE AWD AS LOW AS \$70/WK #TP4003 • GX ESSENCE, TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,225 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>	<p>2021 MAZDA MAZDA CX-5 AS LOW AS \$82/WK #D14202 • GRAND TOURING, AWD NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,899 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	<p>2023 BMW X1 xDrive28i AS LOW AS \$110/WK #TP3908 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$51,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977</p>	<p>2020 FORD FUSION SE AS LOW AS \$61/WK #D14100 • 23/34 MPG CITY/HWY NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$25,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$17,977</p>	<p>2022 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 S AS LOW AS \$60/WK #D14093 • APPLE CARPLAY, 7" LCD NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$18,977</p>

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Mike Penner
General Manager

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