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July 11 - August 7, 2024

# **Upton Police Chief Michael Bradley announces retirement after 30 years**

Bradley will become Executive Director of Massachusetts Chief of Police Association

Upton Police Chief and Public Safety Director Michael Bradley announced his retirement after 30 years with the Upton Police Department. His last day of employment will be August 16

Michael began his career in 1994, joining the Town of Upton as a dispatcher and rose through the ranks. Michael became Police Chief in 2008 and Public Safety Director in 2021. Noteworthy accomplishments include: The state's accreditation of the department in 2011 and its re-accreditations through 2024; creation of the Regional Dispatch Center for the Towns of Upton and Hopedale; his service as president of the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association in 2022; and the work he has done overseeing the police



**Upton Police Chief Michael Bradley.** Courtesy photo

and fire departments serving as the Town's Public Safety Director.

Speaking of his retirement, Chief Bradley said, "I am saddened to say that I am retiring after 30 years of service, 16 years as Chief. I've been offered

**RETIREMENT** 

 $continued\ on\ page\ 8$ 

# Anne Mazar named 2024 Mendon Senior Citizen of the Year

Public invited to celebrate on Sept. 8

The Mendon Council on Aging would like to thank everyone who submitted nominations for this year's Senior Citizen of the Year award. Since 1978, a deserving person (or persons) has been awarded the annual distinction. The chosen Mendon resident, age 60 or older, generally exemplifies a spirit of public service and has made a positive difference in the community.

The Council is pleased to announce that this year Anne Mazar has been chosen. Anne Mazar is the Community Preservation Committee and Land Use Committee Chair. She has enjoyed working collaboratively with the people on these committees for many years. She organized to have Mendon adopt the Community Preservation Act in 2004 and has since managed CPA bringing millions of dollars into the town through state matching funds, private dona-



Anne Mazar. Courtesy photo

tions, and various grants. Projects have included preserving land, improving recreational facilities, restoring historical buildings and working towards providing affordable homes in Mendon.

In 2010, she worked to designate Mendon a Green Community improving the energy

**MAZAR** 

continued on page 10







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## Upton Men's Club hosts 19th annual Upton Fireworks Festival

### **Event funded entirely by donations**



Courtesy photo

By Theresa Knapp

On June 22, the Upton Men's Club hosted its 19th annual Fireworks Festival, and Brad DiDio has been Fireworks Festival Chairman for the past 18 of

DiDio says event planning often starts as early as January and involves "reaching out to all of the vendors, reserving all of the needed items such as tents, porta potties, two-way radios, sound company, band, magician, fireworks, inflatables, dumpster, etc., coordinating with the schools, police, fire, Town Selectmen, getting



This year, the Army National Guard provided an artillery unit (and musical entertainment) for the event. Courtesy photo

permits for food and tents, obtaining youth volunteers and member volunteers, seeking sponsorship to help defray the costs of the event, sending out resident mailer to all Upton residents for donations, etc."

He said, "There is a lot to do.

The fireworks display itself is funded entirely by donations. Everything else, DiDio says, is funded by sponsors and the Town of Upton which has been helping defray the costs of the safety-related items such as tents, professional sound (so announcements can be heard), and two-way radios (to coordinate with police and fire).

"Honestly, without the donations made by the residents, including mail-in, online, and those at the gate, as well as the volunteers who help run everything, this event would not be possible, so they all deserve a great deal of praise for supporting us year after year," DiDio said. "Also, our incredible sponsors that donate as well. This year's sponsors included, Unibank (which is our highest-level sponsor) and many others such as Dunkin Donuts, Webster First, Milford Federal, Pyrotech-



The 2024 annual Upton Fireworks Festival took place on June 22. Photo source: Facebook @uptonpolice

nico, Price Chopper, ckSmith Superior, Pulte Homes, the Glowacki Family, and Deanna Small Engine Repair."

And this year, the Upton Men's Club coordinated with the Army National Guard recruitment office which provided the musical entertainment and

the artillery unit. DiDio said, "They were also going to bring some entertainment items for the kids, but the weather prohibited them from doing so. We are trying to get them again next year."

To help fund next year's event, visit uptonmensclub.org.



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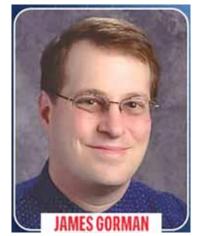
## Nipmuc's Gorman named Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year

Nipmuc Regional School District Superintendent Maureen Cohen recently announced that James Gorman, a science teacher at Nipmuc Regional High School, has been named Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year by the Patriots Hall of Fame presented by RTX.

"Mr. Gorman has a talent for bringing complex concepts to life through real-world application and experience," said Superintendent Cohen. "Every day he engages his students, encourages their curiosity, and provides a solid foundation for lifelong understanding of STEM principles."

Gorman is the Science Department chair at Nipmuc Regional High School, where he teaches all levels of physics and engineering classes. He takes a hands-on approach to learning about STEM, having his students explore problems and find actual solutions to make the curriculum come alive.

For example, through the Epic Education Foundation, his stu-



James Gorman will receive a \$5,000 grant from the Patriots Foundation, named to the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. Photo Courtesy Mendon-Upton Regional School District

dents research unsolvable problems, break them into smaller parts and work on a solution to one of those parts. Gorman then writes to industry experts to present the results of the stu-

participated in the international MaxIQ Space World Space Week competition based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Their project, which involved designing a motor to rotate solar panels so they are always facing the sun, was selected by judges as a runner-up.

"Mr. Gorman is a visionary educator who embodies what it means to be a difference-maker for our students," said Nipmuc Regional High School Co-Principal John Clements. "Whether connecting students with astronauts, introducing them to 3D printing and laser engraving, building partnerships that allow students to launch their ideas into orbit, or more - he creates life-changing experiences for students at Nipmuc."

Gorman also helps Nipmuc students choose science classes that match their interests through a series of prompts he calls NipSci Pathfinder.

"I am honored to be named the Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year," said Gorman. "There's no greater privilege than being an educator and I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to teach the next generation of STEM experts."

Gorman, who has already collaborated with the state Department of Education to create curriculum frameworks and strand maps for science and technology/engineering, has also presented at national conferences on best practices in STEM education.

The Patriots Hall of Fame launched the STEM Teacher of the Year program in 2012 to highlight the importance of providing Massachusetts students with a robust STEM education that prepares them for 21st century careers.

"This teacher approaches STEM teaching with curiosity, discovery and a commitment to using the power of personalized learning to unlock the potential of his students. As a former special education student who became an AP Physics teacher, his story is an inspiration to his students," Patriots Hall of Fame Chairman and CEO Robert

Kraft said in a statement. "Congratulations James! Thank you for your investment in your students. It will continue to pay dividends for years to come.'

Governor Maura Healey said in a statement, "Massachusetts is a leader in education, and teachers like Mr. Gorman are critical to our ability to continue providing the best opportunities in STEM for our students. In our state, we want to open doors for our young people, especially to STEM pathways, which is why we are so appreciative of Mr. Gorman for all the work he does to support and guide our students in and out of the classroom."

For being named STEM Teacher of the Year, Gorman will receive \$5,000 from the Patriots Foundation in his name to be used for STEM education. He will also be appointed to Governor Maura Healey's STEM Advisory Council, which is chaired by Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

Source: Mendon-Upton Regional School District







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# **Upton safety log**

The Upton Police Department provided a wide range of services between May 26 and June 25 related to motor vehicle violations, disabled and suspicious motor vehicles, traffic enforcement, radar services, parking complaints, vehicle and house lockouts, road hazards, building checks, various alarms, abandoned and accidental 911 calls, gates closed, community policing, preventative patrol, wellbeing checks, summons service (and attempts), court appearances, fundraiser-possible scams, solicitation, identity theft, lost/missing/ found property, car seat installation, and animal matters. In addition, UPD often provided mutual aid to Mass. State Police, Milford, and frequent assistance to Hopedale police, fire and EMS.

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### **Reader Submission Deadline**

is the 25th day of the month preceding the publication date. For example, items should be submitted by Feb. 25 to be included in the March issue.

### Please submit to:

editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com

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Other entries of note include: **May 26** at 7:02 a.m., Hartford Ave. North, fire/box alarm **May 26** at 2:44 p.m., Hopkinton Rd., brush fire

**May 26** at 5:27 p.m., Main St., threats

May 26 at 6:25 p.m., Kiwanis Beach Rd., motor vehicle complaint, vehicle stored/impounded/received

**May 27** at 2:19 p.m., Pleasant St., bike complaint

**May 27** at 5:39 p.m., East St., disturbance/noise complaint **May 28** at 11:29 a.m., Pleasant

**May 28** at 11:29 a.m., Pleasar St., psychiatric assistance, removed to hospital

**May 28** at 11:40 a.m., Walker Dr., repossessed vehicle **May 28** at 5:17 p.m., School and

Main Sts., lost animal

May 29 at 8 a.m., West Main
and Williams Sts., lost animal

May 29 at 9:53 a.m., Maple Ave.,
suspicious person

**May 29** at 12:13 p.m., Pleasant St., suspicious person

**May 29** at 8:24 p.m., Hartford Ave., animal injured

**May 30** at 8:01 a.m., Shoemaker Ln., fire department inspection/

**May 30** at 6:24 p.m., Glen Ave., suspicious person

**May 31** at 6:31 p.m., Hartford Ave. North, suspicious person **May 31** at 11:36 p.m., Main St., loitering

June 1 at 11:12 a.m., Main St.,

fire department, structure fire/box alarm, investigated

**June 1** at 9:17 p.m., School St., motor vehicle drivers license check

**June 2** at 11:41 a.m., Milford St., public drinking

**June 2** at 1:57 p.m., Williams St., neighbor dispute

**June 2** at 7:54 p.m., Grove and Mendon Sts., "Are you okay?"

**June 2** at 8:40 p.m., Milford St., disorderly person

June 3 at 7:39 a.m., Church St., fire department inspection/blasting June 3 at 11:06 a.m., Milford St., psychiatric assistance, removed to hospital

**June 4** at 12:18 p.m., Church St., trespass notice served

**June 4** at 1:12 p.m., Kiwanis Beach Rd., public drinking **June 4** at 1:56 p.m., Westboro Rd., fire department inspection/ blasting

**June 4** at 3:16 p.m., Westboro Rd., fire department inspection/blasting

**June 5** at 8:03 p.m, Glen Ave., suspicious person

**June 6** at 2:47 a.m., Walker Dr., suspicious person

**June 6** at 7:54 a.m., Shoemaker Ln., fire department inspection/blasting

**June 6** at 9:24 a.m., School St., harassment

**June 6** at 10:30 a.m., Fiske Mill Rd., fire department structure fire/box alarm

**June 6** at 9:41 a.m., Williams St., lost/missing person, returned to home/family

**June 7** at 8:34 a.m., Chestnut St., illegal dumping/littering

**June 7** at 8:48 a.m., School and Main Sts., water leak

**June 7** at 10:49 a.m., N. Main St., training

**June 7** at 5:04 p.m., School St., trespassing

**June 7** at 7:38 p.m., Main St., lost/missing person, returned to home/family

**June 8** at 6:06 p.m., Hartford Ave. North, fire department structure fire/box alarm

**June 8** at 7:05 p.m., Mendon St., shots fired, services rendered **June 9** at 1:08 a.m., Williams St., open door, no action needed

June 10 at 3:21 a.m., Main St., fire department structure fire/box alarm

**June 10** at 7:56 a.m., Cobblers Creek., fire department inspection/blasting

**June 10** at 3:16 p.m., Brousseau Dr., immediate threat, summons/209A/tres. delivered **June 10** at 4:15 p.m., School St., fingerprints

**June 10** at 5:15 p.m., Kiwanis Beach Rd., suspicious person, dispersed gathering

June 10 at 6:46 p.m., Williams St., fire department/oven fire June 12 at 2:40 p.m., Milford St., suspicious package/material

**June 13** at 7:50 a.m., Cobblers Creek, fire department inspection/blasting

June 13 at 10:23 a.m., School Resource, services rendered June 13 at 11:03 p.m., Laurel Ln., harassing phone calls June 13 at 11:22 p.m., Main St., threats, no action needed

**June 14** at 8:28 a.m., Main St., fire department structure fire/box alarm

**June 14** at 6:07 p.m., Milford St., suspicious person

**June 16** at 9:31 a.m., Sadler Rd., dirt bike complaint



**June 16** at 12:36 p.m., N. Main St., suspicious person

**June 16** at 9:05 p.m., Rockwood Ln., shots fired

**June 17** at 2:02 p.m., Christian Hill Rd., suspicious person **June 17** at 8:12 p.m., Crockett

Rd., fraud/forgery **June 17** at 9:50 p.m., Kiwanis

Beach Rd., loitering

**June 18** at 8 a.m., Cobblers Creek, fire department inspection/blasting

**June 19** at 7:54 a.m., Railroad Ave., disturbance, removed to hospital

June 19 at 8:58 p.m., Dogwood Dr., water/sewer system check June 20 at 3:06 p.m., Main St., assault and battery, services rendered

**June 20** at 3:41 p..m, School St., cell inspection

**June 20** at 9:16 p.m., Kiwanis Beach Rd., suspicious person, gone on arrival

**June 21** at 9:26 p.m., Merriam Way, secured building

**June 22** at 11:08 a.m., School St., harassing phone calls

**June 22** at 4:06 p.m., Hartford Ave. North, disturbance

**June 22** at 9:12 p.m., N. Main St., fireworks, gone on arrival

**June 23** at 5:34 a.m., Pleasant St., fire department inspection/blasting

June 23 at 11:18 a.m., Southboro Rd., suspicious person June 23 at 9:34 p.m., Church St.,

open door, services rendered **June 24** at 1:18 p.m., Main St., fraud/forgery

**June 25** at 2:40 p.m., Kiwanis Beach Rd., assistance Source: Upton Police Department Photo source: Facebook @uptonpolice





# What to know before 'reversing' your retirement



Mark Freeman

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If you've retired, you may have thought you closed the book on one chapter of your life. But what happens if you need to "reverse" your retirement?

Due to higher inflation and rising interest rates, many retirees are taking out more money from their retirement accounts than they had originally anticipated. As a result, some are headed back to the workforce. If you're thinking of joining them, you'll need to consider some factors that may affect your finances.

First, if you've been taking Social Security, be aware that you could lose some of your benefits if you earn over a certain level, at least until you reach your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. Specifically, if you are under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which, in 2024, is \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, which, in 2024, is \$59,520.

Social Security will only count your earnings up to the month before you reach your full retirement age, at which point your earnings will no longer reduce your benefits, regardless of how much you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amounts to credit you for the months your payments were reduced due to your excess earnings. Social Security also allows you to pay back early benefits received if you withdraw your application within 12 months of starting benefits. This move could help you receive substantially higher benefits at full retirement age.

Your Social Security isn't the only benefit that could be affected by your earnings. Your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are based on your income, so they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, your extra income could push you into a higher tax bracket.

Nonetheless, you can certainly gain some benefits by returning to the working world. Obviously,

you'll be making money that can help you boost your daily cash flow and possibly reduce some debts. But depending on where you work, you might also be able to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And regardless of where you work, you'll be eligible to contribute to an IRA. By putting more money into these accounts, you may well be able to strengthen your financial position during your retirement years. You might also be able to receive some employee benefits, such as group health insurance — which could be particularly valuable if you haven't yet started receiving Medicare.

In addition to the potential financial advantages of going back to work, you might get some social benefits, too. Many people enjoy the interactions with fellow workers and miss these exchanges when they retire, so a return to the workforce, even if it's on a part-time basis, may

give you an emotional boost.

In the final analysis, you'll want to weigh the potential costs of going back to work against the possible benefits. There's no one right answer for everyone, but by looking at all the variables, you should be able to reach a decision that works for you.

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

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

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# **Last summer for Mendon Driving Range?**

### 55-plus housing development proposed at and around driving range

By Scott Calzolaio

This could be the last summer to hit a Happy Gilmore at the Mendon Driving Range as plans for a 55-plus community at Hastings and Washington Streets are making their way through town boards.

Developers held a public hearing over the course of three Mendon Planning Board meetings to discuss the proposed mixed-use project at the current site of the driving range and the former Barry's Place Lounge.

The Planning Board approved the special permit for the site plan review at its May 13 meeting. The plan will also need various approvals from the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, and others before anything is final.

According to the Notice of Intent filed in March 2024, "The project site is located at 35, 37 Hastings Street and 18, 20 Washington Street in Mendon, MA. The site is an ap-

proximately 18.3-acre developed property. 35 and 37 Hastings Street is developed with 'Barrys Place' and a large golf driving range. 18 and 20 Washington Street are developed with a single-family house."

The assembled parcels, purchased by Kevin Meehan under Hastings Plaza LLC in 2018 and 2020, and Determination Inc. in 2021, have frontage along Route 16 and Washington Street; and 16.53 acres are considered developable. The southwest portion of the lot is protected wetland under local bylaw.

Meehan is seeking a "special permit for alteration from the preexisting non-conforming use as a Gold Driving Range (prohibited in the Rural Residential and General Business Districts) to a Shopping Center (specially permitted in the General Business District)."

Marlborough engineering group Tetra Tech, Inc. represents Meehan on this project.



A 55-plus housing development is proposed at 35-37 Hastings Street in Mendon. Image source: bit.ly/ Mendon35-37HastingsNOIplan

Senior Project Manager Matt Moyen, who was present for

the hearings, said that keeping the aesthetic of Mendon is im**DRIVING RANGE** 

continued on page 8

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### **Recent Home Sales**

Date	Mendon	Amount
06/27/2024	174 Providence Street	\$365,000
06/21/2024	23 Vincent Road	\$969,900
06/05/2024	49 North Avenue #B	\$975,000
06/03/2024	4 Metcalf Road	\$825,000
05/31/2024	19 Ashkins Drive	\$1.28 mil
Date	Upton	Amount
06/25/2024	1 Centerbrook Way	\$775,000
06/07/2024	4 Blueberry Lane	\$863,000
06/07/2024	1 Hartford Avenue South	\$515,000
06/03/2024	149 Pleasant Street	\$740,000

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



The 4-bed, 3-bath, 2,900 square foot house at 49 North Avenue, Unit B, in Mendon recently sold for \$975,000. Photo credit www. zillow.com



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## **Upton creates 'Silver Alert' program**

The Upton Police Department has developed a Silver Alert Program to help improve police response time when a person with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other cognitive impairment is reported missing.

This program is part of Upton's effort to implement the MA Silver Alert Community Response System at the local level. The MA Silver Alert Law outlines procedures and communication protocols among state/local public safety and human service agencies to identify people with dementia who

# SILVER ALERT

have wandered or become lost and return them safely to their homes.

The program involves working with people who have a family member at risk of wandering to collect info and a recent photo that can help police identify and/or locate the family member. Collecting this confidential information before an incident occurs enables

the agency to begin search procedures immediately, as collection of data after a person has already gone missing can delay an effective search for an hour or more, increasing the chances the wanderer will be in danger.

Upton's Silver Alert registration form can be found at bit. ly/UptonSilverAlert

Source: www.uptonma.gov

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### **DRIVING RANGE**

continued from page 6

portant to both his client, Meehan, and the town.

"We focused the majority of the residential development to the interior site to both maintain the existing character of Washington Street, and minimize the impacts on the surrounding waters," he said at one of the hearings.

The project would require a road to be built at the location, creating a four-way intersection, and pushing the need for a traffic light at that location. The lot has an additional Route 16 entrance to the far right, as well as emergency vehicle access to Washington Street.

The road will not be a through-way to Washington Street, but instead will circle around a development of 32 units, four of which will be considered "affordable housing." The plan also includes a market-type building, outdoor retail space, salon, walking path, water systems, and a single family, barn-style home to replace an existing structure.

Stormwater will be handled in a closed drainage network. The system is designed to capture and convey the runoff through an onsite treatment system.

There were a number of concerns voiced by both the board and a few residents, such as parking, environmental impact, traffic, snow removal, and others.

The project will continue to move through town government before any final decisions are made.

Additional documents can be found at www.mendonma. gov/conservation-commission/news/public-documents-35-37-hastings-st. A recording of the May 13 Planning Board meeting can be found at www. youtube.com/watch?v=0Oa-BHg4niQ.

### Plans for the proposed project at 35-37 Hastings and 18-20 Washington Streets in Mendon include:

- In the eastern portion of the site, adjacent to Hastings Street, the applicant proposes the construction of a 36,500sf building consisting of a 28,500sf market and 8,000sf outdoor retail store. This building will have a +/-46,000sf parking lot.
  - To the south of the proposed market and retail building is a proposed 4,800sf building to be used as a salon. The salon will have an associated 7,300sf parking lot.
     The majority of the work will take place within existing lawn of AstroTurf.
- In the western portion of the property, the applicant proposes 35 age restricted single-family houses.
  - A woodland walking trail is proposed in the 100-foot buffer zone.

Source: mendonma.gov

### **RETIREMENT**

continued from page 1

and have accepted the Executive Director's position for the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association." The Chief added that his decision to leave was not easy, but he looks forward to his new role and "my job [will be] to make sure that Police Chiefs are successful across the State."

The Select Board expressed sadness for the Town and remarked that the Chief's Association will be lucky to have him. Chair Laura Hebb said that his selection for the position "is a testament to your character, integrity, and all your years of service to Upton, we truly appreciate all you've done for the Town."

In preparing for the Chief's retirement, the Board authorized the Town Manager to prepare solicitations for the selection of a consultant to assist in the selection of the Town's next Police Chief.

Submitted by the Town of Upton



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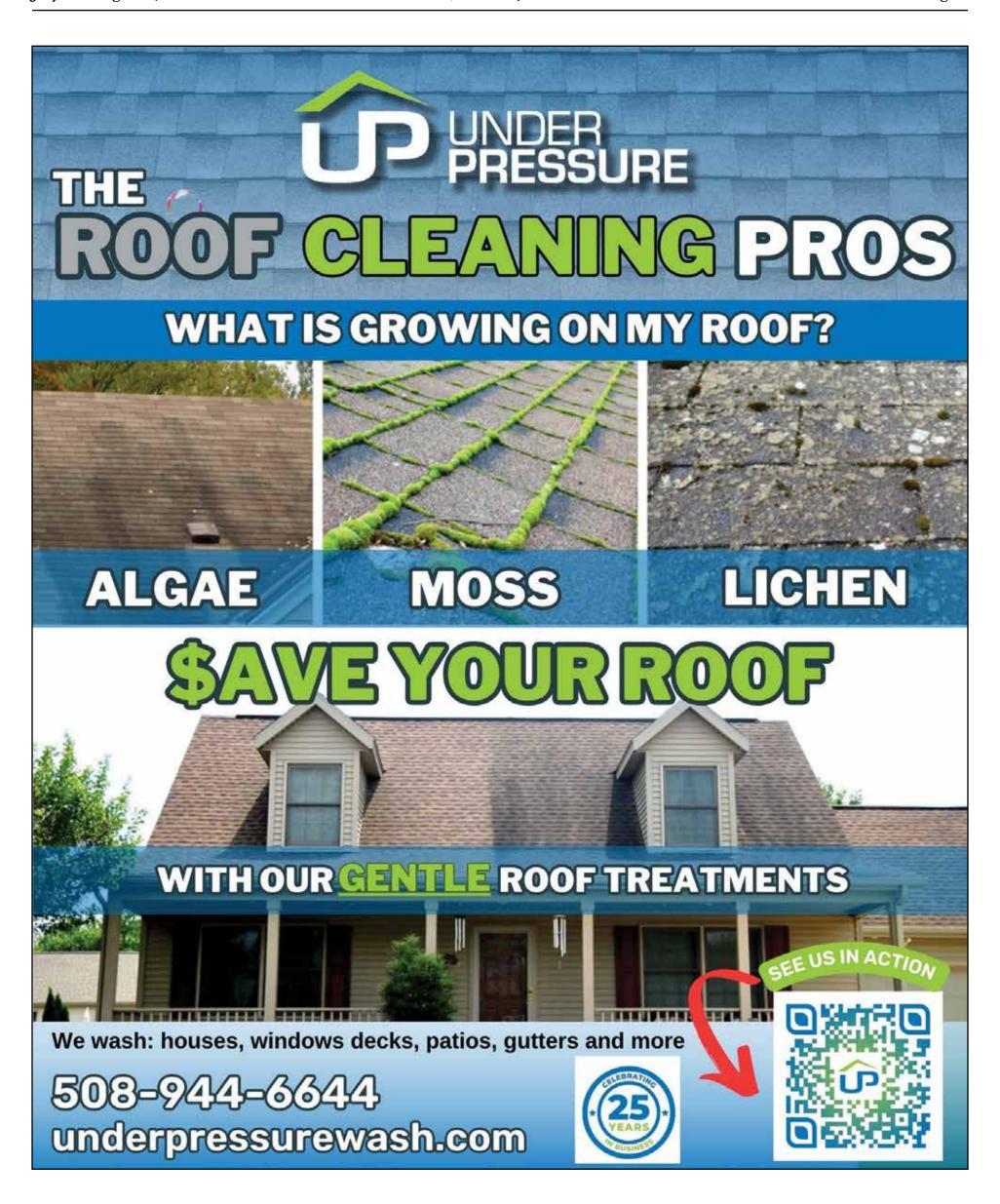
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# Sports psychologist helping Nipmuc athletes

### Mental coaching ranges from performance to teamwork

By Chris Villani

The Nipmuc athletic program has numerous talented coaches to help athletes sharpen their physical skills, and this year the program added Matt Ludensky to help with the mental side of the games.

A licensed mental health counselor, Ludensky primarily works with first responders and the military with a focus on post-traumatic stress disorder. He is back in school with the goal of earning a degree in sports and exercise psychology and started working with the program this spring.

"It's going really well," Ludensky said. "The school is extremely supportive. [Athletic director] Chris Schmidt made the athletes readily available to work with me, and it's been a lot of fun."

Schmidt and Ludensky put out a message to coaches at the start of the year to make them aware of Ludensky's services. Some coaches reached out to him to have him work directly with their teams, and other times Ludensky said he would meet individually with athletes.

"I work on team dynamics and various other aspects of working with the athletes on their team approach," he said. "If someone is feeling upset, how can we implement strategies to help them calm down? If they are feeling burnt out, can we implement some things that are more fun? If the team is not communicating well, how can we improve those team dynamics?"

Ludensky also works with athletes to improve leadership skills and motivation.

"If someone is not getting the playing time we want, what can we do to show that they want to play and are willing to do whatever it takes?" He said, "It's a broad spectrum, but we try to hit all the aspects for the athletes so they can perform their best."

Ludensky said there was initial awkwardness until the athletes got to know him. He made himself available and became a

frequent presence at games and practices to help break the ice.

"You could see a turn in acceptance of me being there and a little more excitement," he said.

After working with the athletic teams this spring, Ludensky said he is eager to spend the entire 2024-2025 school year with Nipmuc and spending time with sports from all three seasons.

"This spring was a great learning experience, but I am really looking forward to the fall to take those lessons I learned and provide my services for the other teams," he said. "I am feeling more excited about it, and I am hopeful the athletes are too."

According to the American Psychological Association,

"Sport Psychology interventions are designed to assist athletes and other sports participants (e.g., coaches, administrators, parents) from a wide array of settings, levels of competition and ages, ranging from recreational youth participants to professional and Olympic athletes to master's level performers."

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### **MAZAR**

continued from page 1

efficiency in town buildings, saving over \$500,000 through energy savings and grants. With her direction, Mendon became an MVP Community, renovating the Town Hall Campus landscape and incorporating low-impact development practices into the town bylaws. Anne has also served on Mendon's Economic Development Committee.

Anne has happily lived in Mendon since 1987 with her husband Brian and three children, Jake, Jessie and Casey. She has two grandchildren with a third one on the way!

Robin Fletcher, who was Senior of the Year in 2014, said of Mazar, "A beautiful woman with brilliant ideas, as well as civic responsibility! Great choice, though I was stunned that she is considered a senior!"

Please join us in congratulating Anne and plan to attend the annual Senior Citizen Day sponsored by the Mendon Lions Club. The event, scheduled for Sunday, September 8, at 11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Church of Mendon/Uxbridge, 13 Maple Street, Mendon, is a time to honor all senior citizens. Please call 508-478-6175 or stop by the senior center to register for this event







# Summer eye safety

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

We all use sunscreen to protect our skin, but don't forget to protect your eyes as well. Summertime means more time spent outdoors, and studies show that exposure to bright sunlight may increase the risk of developing cataracts and growths on the eye, including cancer. The same risk applies when using tanning beds, so be sure to protect your eyes from indoor UV light as well. Sunlight reflected off sand and water can cause photokeratitis, the condition responsible for snow blindness, so beachand pool-goers: Take note.

Independence Day is just around the corner. Your 4th of July holiday usually ends with enjoying professional fireworks and maybe even lighting a few of your own in the backyard. Before you light your first bottle rocket or sparkler, let's talk about the dangers of fireworks and how to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Most firework injuries happen in a one-month span from late June to late July. Each year approximately 16000 people visit an emergency room because of a fireworks-related injury, and there are 18 deaths. The number of people sustaining minor injuries not requiring an ER visit is thought to be much higher. The most common injuries are to the hands and fingers, legs, head, face, ears and arms. Sometimes people pick up packs of fireworks at the grocery store thinking they're safe because they're small and don't produce large displays. Often, these are the fireworks we give or use close to children. Consider the number of ER trips these common, "safer" fireworks cause each year. Many of us think the people most at risk of getting injured are those lighting the fuse, but bystanders are the most at risk. Those on the sidelines account for 65% of all ER visits for firework-related injuries.

Eye injuries caused by fireworks are very common and can have devastating effects. Your eyes are delicate, and any fireworks injury could potentially cause permanent damage. Sparks, flames, smoke, and flying pieces of debris are all hazards inherent in any display. The four most common eye injuries are: detached retina, scratches on the cornea, ruptured eyeball and burns. Any eye injury can lead to long-term vision problems or even blindness. If your eye has been hurt, seek medical attention right away. Please leave fireworks to the professionals and let's all enjoy a safe 4th.

UV radiation, whether from natural sunlight or indoor artificial rays, can damage the eye's surface tissues as well as the cornea and lens. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the dangers UV light can pose. By wearing UV-blocking sunglasses, you can enjoy the summer safely while lowering your risk for potentially blinding eye diseases and tumors. It is important to start wearing proper eye protection at an early age to protect your eyes from years of ultraviolet exposure.

Everyone of any age and any degree of skin pigmentation is susceptible to UV damage. Children are particularly susceptible to UV damage. People with light colored eyes may have an increased risk of certain eye diseases tied to UV exposure, including eye cancer. Some studies show that people with certain eye diseases such as retinal dystrophy may be at greater risk for UV-related sun damage.

Cataract is a clouding of the eye's lens. The lens must be clear in order to focus light properly onto the retina. Extensive exposure to the sun is one of the major reasons why we develop cataracts. Cataract surgery is by far the most common surgery performed in the United States.

According to a national Sun Safety Survey conducted by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, only about half of people who wear sunglasses say they check the UV rating before buying. The good news is that you can easily protect yourself. In order to be eye smart in the sun, the American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends the following:

Wear sunglasses labeled "100% UV protection": Use only glasses that block both UV-A and UV-B rays and that are labeled either UV400 or

100% UV protection.

Choose wraparound styles so that the sun's rays can't enter from the side.

If you wear UV-blocking contact lenses, you'll still need sunglasses.

Wear a hat along with your sunglasses; broad-brimmed hats are best.

Remember the kids: It's best to keep children out of direct sunlight during the middle of the day. Make sure they wear sunglasses and hats whenever they are in the sun.

Know that clouds don't block UV light: The sun's rays can pass through haze and clouds. Sun damage to the eyes can occur any time of year, not just in summer.

Be extra careful in UV-intense conditions: Sunlight is strongest mid-day to early afternoon, at higher altitudes, and when reflected off of water, ice or snow.

By embracing these simple tips you and your family can enjoy the summer sun safely



while protecting your vision ... And if you have a cataract and it's time for surgery, remember that new technologies exist to optimize vision and outcome: Bladeless laser cataract surgery is a major advancement in cataract treatment, is FDA approved and embraced by top Ophthalmologists in the US and around the world.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we offer in-house optical service with the best in UV protection sunglasses. And if you need cataract surgery, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser

assisted cataract surgery. We are happy to have been pioneers of this technology in our communities. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem as these implants can now be offered even if you have astigmatism thanks to bladeless laser surgery. Our percentage of complications is one of the lowest in the Nation and is measured by independent sources. We operate in a state-of-the-art

**SAFETY** 

continued on page 12





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# **Mendon Senior & Community Center update**

### Committee members sought, new proposal expected for fall town meeting

Despite the recent adverse vote at the polls, there continues to be an ongoing need for a new Senior and Community Center. The proposal had been based on 10 years of work by two separate committees that included input from seniors, several architects, and townspeople.

The Mendon Select Board has therefore charged the current committee with formulating a revised proposal to address the need. The proposal will be brought before the voters in the fall.

The opinions of the towns-

people are especially important to the committee and will be used in crafting a revised proposal. Anyone wishing to join the committee or offer suggestions, please contact Phil Cieply at pcieply@mendonma.gov or Peg Nogueira at pnogueira@mendonma.gov.





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# **Friends of Mendon Elders Scholarships Awarded**

Congratulations to the following Friends of Mendon Elders scholarship recipients in 2024:

Yara Alomar, 2024 graduate of Blackstone Valley Technical School who plans to attend Worcester State University in the fall to study Nursing; and

Owen Thompson, 2024 graduate of Nipmuc Regional High School who plans to attend Hamilton College in Clinton, NY to studying neuroscience.

We congratulate them on

their achievements and would like to thank them for their dedication to helping others. We would also like to thank all the student volunteers who assisted us in many ways this past school year at the Mendon Senior Center and Food Pantry.

The Friends of Mendon Elders, Inc. is a non-profit 501C-3 organization formed for the purpose of supporting Mendon senior citizens and providing financial support through fundraising efforts to the Mendon Senior Center for items not provided for by local or state funding.

### **SAFETY**

continued from page 11

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

# Business sp⊗tlight

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

286 Mendon St. Blackstone, MA

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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 backend 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 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 are really grateful for the repeat



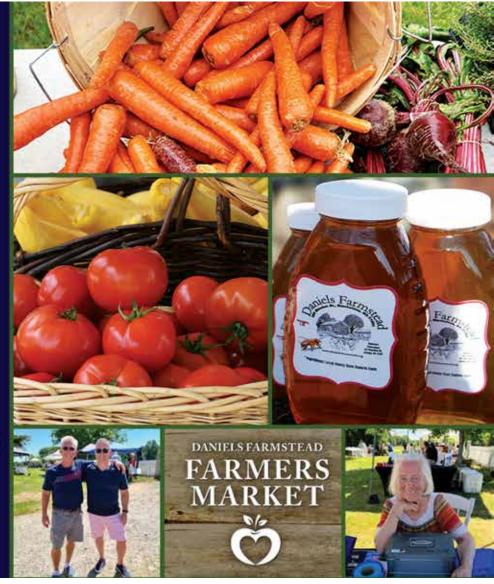
Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005. Contributed photo

business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.

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## **OBITUARY** -

### Donna B. Johnson

Donna B. (Bradford) Johnson, of Pt. St. Lucie, FL, and formerly of Upton, wife of the late Larry K. Johnson, passed away on June 18, after a period of declining health. She was the daughter of the late Ronald L. and Grace N. (Minor) Bradford. She was also predeceased by a sister, Bonnie, and a nephew, Craig.

Donna was educated in the Upton Elementary schools, Northbridge Jr. High School, and was a member the Class of '65 at Nipmuc Regional High School where she played field hockey, basketball, and softball. She also attended Framingham Union Hospital School of Nursing. Donna was a longtime employee of the various iterations of the phone company in Massachusetts, Indiana and Florida. After retirement from the phone company, she worked for Walgreen's until Covid hit.

She is survived by her brothers, Upton Fire Chief (Ret.) Michael J Bradford and his wife Mary of Upton, Stephen R Bradford of Holliston, and Joseph L. Bradford and his wife Gloria of Jacksonville, Florida; Nephews and nieces Michael



Jr, Ashley, April and David; And grand nephews and nieces Colin, Kendal, Samantha, Michael, Connor, Kiera, Braeden, Bryson, Chase, and Owen. Also, dear sisters-inlaw Lisa and Debbie Johnson who were a Godsend for Donna and Larry. She is also survived by an uncle, Norman Minor of Maine and his wife Denise and many, many cousins on both the Bradford and Minor sides of the family.

Celebration of Life information will be forthcoming.

The Pickering & Son Upton Funeral Home is honored to be assisting Donna's family with local arrangements

Please visit www.UptonFunerals.com for her online tribute and service details.

## **Mendon Senior Center events**

### The COA Summer Cookout/Eat-In

Wednesday, July 17 - 12 p.m.

Join us at the Senior Center for a good old-fashioned cookout prepared by the Mendon Council on Aging.

We'll have hamburgers, hot dogs, summer side dishes, and all the fixings. (Vegetarian options available with advance notice.) The cookout is free, sponsored by the COA, but seating is limited. Please call or sign up at the Senior Center, we'd love to see you!

# Tri-Valley Nutritional Talk: "Cholesterol & You"

Thursday July 25 at 11 a.m.

Maintaining healthy cholesterol levels is a great way to keep your heart healthy and lower you chances of heart disease or stroke.

Join us and learn-understand your cholesterol levels; how to manage or prevent high cholesterol; and other ways to keep your heart healthy.

Call or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to register for this free program. Why not consider staying for lunch afterwards?

Please sign up for both programs separately.

### The Senior Tea

Sunday, July 28 at 2 - 4 p.m.

The Council on Aging and Friends of Mendon Elders will be co-hosting a special reception honoring Mendon residents age 85 and older. Our afternoon tea will feature as assortment of finger sandwiches, dessert and beverages. Additionally, we'll enjoy beautiful piano music played by our own COA board member Earl Pearlman. Save the date, and please call the Senior Center if you have not received your invitation by mid-July.

### Cabaret Performance

Wednesday, July 31 at 1 p.m.

Invite a friend to join you for some multi-faceted entertainment on Wednesday, July 31 at 1 p.m. The Mike and Beth Cabaret Show will deliver an eclectic cabaret style show filled with familiar songs, stories, jokes and that also features our fellow musician and RI's own army trombone player, Ben Marcotte. This program, free to our guests, is brought to us with a arts grant from the Mendon Cultural Council, a member of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Please reserve you space early by calling 508-478-6175 or stopping by the senior center.

### Medicare Supplement Plans or Medicare Advantage Plans? Which Coverage is Best for Me? (duration 45 mins.) Monday, August 19 at 11 a.m.

This is the #1 question most people have when deciding on the coverage that is best for them. This presentation will discuss the differences between Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage plans, show real life case studies and provide resources to help in the decision process. This presentation is great for people new to Medicare and also for existing Medicare members that will have the option to make changes to their plan during the Annual Election Period from October 15 through December 7 or during the Medicare Advantage open enrollment period from January 1 through March 31. Please stop by or call the senior center at 508-478-6175 to reg-

### Ice Cream Social & Live Music

Join us on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 p.m. for a really cool

### **MENDON SENIOR CENTER**

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## **Upton Building Commissioner Patrick Roche retired after 47 years**

Upton Building Commissioner Patrick Roche retired on June 28 after 47 years of service with the town.

Pat began his career in 1977, joining the Town of Upton as the part-time Building Inspector. A native of Upton, he first worked out of his house on Ridge Road where people would stop by seven days a week to have him review their plans. He did this without a clerk or assistant inspector while working his regular full-time job.

In the early 1980s, as building construction began to grow, he moved to an office at Town Hall. As Upton continued to have steady construction growth, averaging about 50 houses per year, the demand for more office space and staff became evident. Pat oversaw a department that grew to include an assistant building inspector, trade inspectors, and a full-time department assistant while moving to the Risteen Building and eventually back to a renovated Town Hall.

Pat's knowledge and experience have been invaluable to the town. Through his years as

"A true Uptonian
who was committed
to doing his best
for the town and the citizens
of Upton, Pat will be missed
at Town Hall."

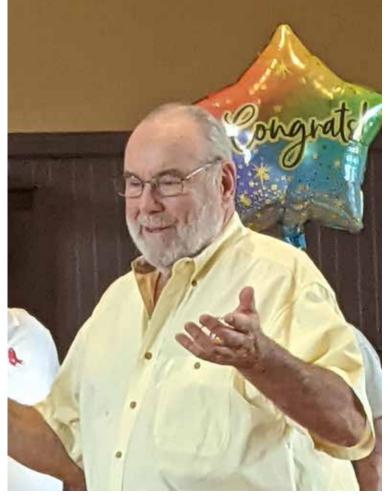
Town of Upton News Flash

Building Inspector, and more recently Building Commissioner, Pat oversaw many private building projects including single-family homes, subdivisions, and commercial buildings. There have also been many town projects reviewed and inspected by Pat including two new schools, multiple renovations of Blackstone Valley Tech, police station, fire/EMS headquarters, public works building, renovation of Town Hall, the Ramsey build-

ing at Kiwanis Beach, and most recently the building of the new Upton Community Center.

Pat has served as one of the longest tenured building inspectors in the state. A true Uptonian who was committed to doing his best for the town and the citizens of Upton, Pat will be missed at Town Hall, and we all wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Source: bit.ly/UptonPatRoche (uptonma.gov)



Upton Building Commissioner Patrick Roche retired on June 28, 2024, after 47 years of service with the town. Source: www.uptonma.gov

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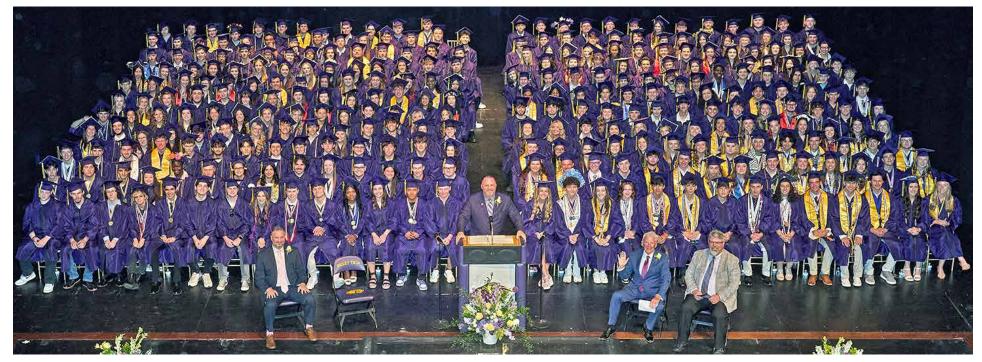
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# Marking a milestone at Blackstone Valley Tech

BVT confers diplomas and industry-recognized certifications



The Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2024 at their Commencement Ceremony. Photo credit BVT/Morin Studio

UPTON - The Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2024 Commencement Ceremony was held at the Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Worcester on May 30. The evening ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of its 306 graduates with all the pomp and pageantry they

"From their first day of school, I encouraged this class to put their best effort into their work, work their hardest, and to leave Valley Tech just a little bit better than they found it," said Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Mr. Anthony E. Steele II in his opening remarks. "The Class of 2024 met that challenge and then some.

They have been outstanding stewards of their school, and after tonight, I do not doubt that they will carry that torch as BVT alumni."

The ceremony included a salute to the flag and the national anthem. Next, Yvette Martin, Director of Student Services, delivered the benediction. Then, John Kearney of Douglas and Amelie Botelho of Upton performed Abba's emotional hit song, "Slipping Through My Fingers."

The speakers eloquently expressed the sense of commu-

nity, connection, and a shared purpose that has shaped their time at BVT. Ella Rogozenski of Northbridge, Valedictorian, reflected on being welcomed into a community that celebrates diversity, embraces creativity and fosters innovation. Michael Borowski of Millbury, Senior Class President, expressed pride in being a "Beaver" for life. Eleanor Poitras of Hopedale, Student Council President, felt a strong sense of community as a class and being part of the BVT family. Lastly, Laney Beahn of Douglas, Salutatorian, recalled

the moments, accomplishments, hardships, and experiences that have made this high school chapter worth remembering.

Assistant Principal Mr. Matthew Urquhart addressed the class and took a moment to acknowledge those who helped make this day possible. In closing, he congratulated them on reaching one of life's signature milestones and reminded them to be proud of what they have earned.



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### **BVT**

continued from page 16

"Your determination, thoughtfulness, and ambition have taken you this far, and we know you have many more amazing goals to reach," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "You, the Class of 2024, are part of our legacy and forever a part of our collective experience. Impressed with everything you've accomplished so far, we cannot wait to see what you do

Three hundred and six students concluded their dual high school education. They received a vocational certificate and a

diploma, which certify mastery of competencies in their career-technical programs and a rigorous academic course of study. The evening celebration concluded with applause for the graduates as they tossed their caps into the air. To view the ceremony, visit www.valleytech. k12.ma.us/classof2024.

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

# Going, Going, Gone! BVT to comply with records regulations

### Class of 2017: Destruction of student records is August 1

UPTON - Attention Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 2017. Per state and federal regulations, temporary student records, including special education files (IEP), 504 plans, and student health records, shall be destroyed seven years after the student leaves the school. For the Class of 2017, this date is August 1, 2024.

Members of the Class of

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2017 may request their temporary student record (any information not contained in their transcript) before the August 1 shred date by written request. If you want to obtain your record, please send a written request indicating the year of graduation and your name while in school to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, Student Services Record Dept., 65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568.

Student transcripts (a record of grades) shall be destroyed 60 years after the student leaves the school. For the Class of 2017, that date is August 1, 2077. An alum from that class may request a transcript from their graduation date: May 2017 through August 1, 2077.

If you want to retain your records, learn how at: www.vallevtech.k12.ma.us/studentrecords.



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# Smiles & waves, summer projects underway at BVT



Faculty and staff wave goodbye to students as the last buses of the school year roll out. Courtesy photo

UPTON – It was a perfect morning to be outdoors. On June 14, teachers, administrators, and support staff at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) gathered under a blue sky to say goodbye to students as the last buses of the school year rolled out. The annual send-off marks the official start of summer at BVT, with smiles and waves before teachers and students embark on their sabbatical.

The last day wave, held on the last day of the school year, means another successful school year has concluded, and a productive summer of addressing proposed projects has begun. While students and teachers enjoy their well-deserved downtime, administrators, support staff, and the facilities team manage many projects and complete routine maintenance during the seven-week summer vacation.

"Our to-do list is ambi-

tious by design to maximize every minute of our planned schedule," said BVT's Facilities Manager Robert Dolegiewicz. "Some of the proposed summer projects include installing a batting cage with retaining wall and drainage; slice seeding the athletic fields; renovating the long-jump area; paving the back courtyard; reconfiguring school vehicle parking, subdividing office space in counselor wing; locker room renovation in Cosmetology; relocating Sporty's Closet to a larger space; painting all exterior doors; in addition to other annual projects, routine maintenance, and inspections."

Blackstone Valley Tech will welcome the Class of 2028 freshmen and parents at the Freshmen Cookout on Wednesday, August 14. Freshmen Orientation Days are August 15 and 16. The first day of school for all of BVT is August 19. Until then, have a fun summer!



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# **Upton Senior Center – July events**

### NEW - Walking Club, Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Our walking club began in June and will continue with scheduled walks on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the BVT track. Please contact the senior center to register and obtain information as locations may change week to week.

### **Dance Fusion Fitness is Back! Wednesdays at** 9:30 a.m.

Dance Fusion Fitness with Scott Shuster is back! Looking for a fun way to get fit? We have the answer for you. Dance Fusion Fitness is similar to Zumba Gold featuring low-impact movements that are gentle on the joints, making it ideal for seniors with joint issues or limited mobility. The class is set to pop and funk music. \$3 fee.

### **Exercise with Shirley** - Extra Summer Class! Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. & Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Shirley will be adding a second class for summer! Starting June 21, Exercise with Shirley will be offered at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays in addition to her regularly scheduled class on Tuesdays.

### **Grief Support Group,** Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

The loss of a loved one is painful and difficult but you are not alone. Find compassion and comfort at this grief support group led by Robin Natanel.

### Silver Sisterhood, Wednesday, July 17 at 11 a.m.

Want to connect with other women? Join the Silver Sisterhood, a fellowship for senior women interested in making new friends and sharing interests, laughter and support. Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11

### **Coffee & Conversation** with the Town Manager -Friday, July 12, 9:15 -9:45 a.m.

Join Town Manager, Joe Laydon, every month for an informative coffee and conversation. The public is welcome to join, ask questions, meet special guests, and learn what is going on around town!

### Mindful Meditation, Friday, July 12 at 1 p.m.

Calm your mind and body so

you can acknowledge and accept your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgment through Mindful Meditation with Robin Natanel.

### Aging Gracefully, Friday, July 12 at 11:30 a.m.

Presented by UMass Memorial Health in partnership with AARP and Mass Advantage. This workshop provides information regarding what to expect as we age and what you can do to prevent falls and stay young!

Falls are the leading cause of injury in older Americans and cause the most injury related hospital stays and Emergency Room visits. Preventing falls is one of the most important things we can do to maintain our independence as we age. Most importantly, most falls are preventable! Join our workshop to learn more!

### Tech Help, Tuesday, July 16 at 1 p.m.

Join us for our monthly tech help session. Our resident

"techsperts" will be available for one-on-one assistance with your tech questions. Please bring your phone, laptop or tablet with you to follow along with the tech talk or for help with your specific device. Pre-registration requested.

### Pied Piper at Nipmuc, Friday, July 19 at 2 p.m.

The Upton Recreation Youth Summer Theatre Program presents: The Pied Piper with original music by Bob Nicoll. All ages welcome; no admission fee. Sign up for a ride on the shuttle or meet us there!

### Ice Cream Truck Social, Tuesday, July 23 at 2 p.m.

July is National Ice Cream month and what better way to celebrate than a visit from the good old-fashioned Ice Cream Truck! Bring your friends to enjoy an afternoon of ice cream novelties and music! This event is generously sponsored by the Upton Fire and EMS Association who will be here to welcome and



chat while you enjoy your ice cream.

### **Build Your Own Pasta** Bowl - presented by Tri-Valley, Monday, July 29 at 12:30 p.m.

Tri-Valley Presents Build your own pasta bowl. Tri-Valley is offering an Italian buffet for your enjoyment. We will feature penne pasta with a choice of tomato or alfredo sauce and many toppings. Garlic bread, milk and dessert will also be served. Please register by July 22. \$3 suggested dona-



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### **MENDON SENIOR CENTER**

continued from page 14

time. Enjoy the banjo music of Joe Kuras with his current collection of banjos and a repertoire of about 200 songs followed by an Ice Cream Social - all free of charge! Make your own sundae with all the toppings. Both events are generously sponsored by the Friends of Mendon Elders. Seating is limited.

### Mendon Food Pantry

Open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Summer Schedule: Friday, July 12 Friday, August 9 Friday, September 6

The Food Pantry serves residents from Mendon, we offer non-perishable food, toiletries, and paper products. Donations can be dropped off in our donation gazebo located outside of the Senior Center. Contact outreach coordinator Janet Hubner at 508-478-6175 to schedule an appointment.

### Stay in the Know

Learn about programs in advance. If you'd like to be added to our email list, please contact Julie at the center. You can also access The Mendon Senior Scene at: https://mycommunityonline.com/organization/friends-of-mendon-elders-inc

You may subscribe to the newsletter online and have it sent right to your inbox!

## A note from the Director and Outreach

It is with grateful, yet heavy hearts we must say farewell to Gail Bourassa, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Program Director of EMHOT (Elder Mental Health Outreach Team.) Since its inception in 2016, this grant funded program, and more specifically Gail Bourassa, has provided confidential support, individual counseling and referrals for numerous older adults from five neighboring towns including Mendon. Unfortunately, the grant for this five- town model is no longer being supported. Future client referrals will be directed to Tri-Valley. We wish Gail the best in the future and thank her for her caring support of so many individuals.

~ Amy Wilson Kent, Senior Services Director & Janet Hubener, Outreach Coordinator

### Friends of Mendon Elders summer day trip tickets still available

A few seats remain for this fun summer day trip sponsored by the Friends of Mendon Elders on Wednesday, August 14. Join us as we all Escape to Margaritaville at the Ivoryton Playhouse, in Ivoryton, CT with lunch at the Scotch Pines Tavern with a choice one of four mouthwatering entries.

The musical comedy is described as, "Don your Hawaiian shirts and kick off your flip flops at the Ivoryton Playhouse for a tour of a tropical paradise led by Tully, a part-time bartender, part-time singer, and full-time charmer who thinks he's got life all figured out—until a beautiful tourist steals his heart and makes him question everything."

The cost is \$149 per person and includes everything: round trip transportation (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.), admission to Ivoryton Playhouse, and a delicious luncheon choice. Payment is due by July 18. Call Beverly Fior, 508-473-8382 for more information. Call 508-478-6175 or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to reserve your space.

### From the Friends of Mendon Elders - Yard Sales Galore! Oh My!

Dear Friends,

Our Progressive Yard Sale was a huge success! Thank you to all involved. This includes our advertisers, over 50 families who held yard sales, those that donated items and our

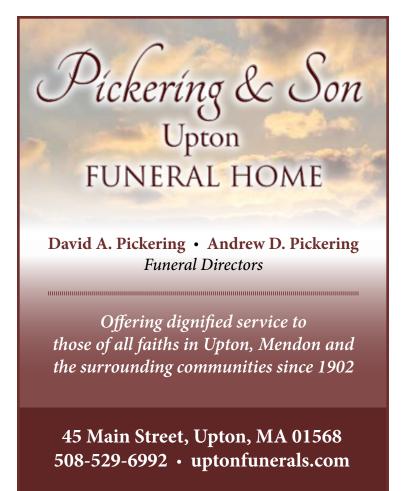
valiant group of volunteers who worked tirelessly securing adverts, collecting, sorting and pricing items for the yard sale, working so hard on the day of the sale! The marketing team who got the word out to our greater community and the staff at the Senior Center who jumped in to help wherever and whenever they were needed. There are also thanks needed for the Town of Mendon, the Lions, Scouts, Library and Historical Society whose efforts also increase traffic through town that day and to the police department for their continued support. A final thank you to the many hundreds of shoppers. We hope you all secured new treasures at bargain prices and know that the money you spent supports the ongoing services at the Mendon Senior Center. Finally, congratulations to Karen Meade, winner of the Friends 50/50 raffle. Thank you, Karen, for generously donating the proceeds back to the Friends!

Please enjoy your summer break. We hope to see you all at our welcome back meeting on Monday, September 9 at 10 a m

Cheers, Carolyn Wass, President of the Friends of Mendon Elders







# Be part of an inclusive, creative community!



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Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza

GB & Lexi Singh **Performance Center** 

Spaulding R. Aldrich **Heritage Gallery** 

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Our facilities are handicap accessible.





What's happening now: openskycs.org/news-events Connect with us on Social Media: linktr.ee/valleycast

ValleyCAST's mission is to foster a creative and engaged community in the Historic Blackstone Valley that is inclusive and supportive of all people with and without disabilities. ValleyCAST is the arts & culture arm of Open Sky Community Services.





- Art Gallery Exhibits
- Sculpture in the Plaza
- Theater Performances
- One Act Play Festivals
- Art Workshops & Classes
- Free Summer Concert Series
- Art & Music Makers Festivals and much, much more!











## **Take Down the Wall Presents: OPEN MIC NIGHT**

TDTW Open Mic is an inclusive opportunity for musicians and poets of all abilities -**ALL are welcome!** Have fun with monthly themes, meet new people, and share your talent in this encouraging environment. Performers, please come early to sign up!

Doors open at 6pm

**July 13 Freedom Rocks** Aug. 10 Grill at The Mill Sept. 14 Magic Mania



## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Volunteers needed for our monthly Open Mic Nights:**

- set up/breakdown crew
- set design
- stagehands
- and more!
- concessions assistant

Interested? Please contact michelle.benjamin@openskycs.org

## Are you the next Club 21 Discovery Member?

We are seeking members of the community to partner with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health challenges as Discovery Members in our Club 21 program.

- Do you enjoy meeting new people and building friendships?
- Do you need more fun in your busy life?
- Are you interested in getting to know your community?
- Do you want to make a difference in someone's life?

If you said "Yes" to any of these, contact us at club21@openskycs.org for a no obligation informational meeting.

For more information about these opportunities and more visit openskycs.org/communitymembership

### **Upton Town Library Calendar of Events**

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

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

### Summer Reading Program – Read, Renew, Repeat

Our Annual Summer Reading Program has begun. A paper form is available at the circulation desk, or visit our website for a Google Form link and more information. Participants can then pick up a packet of materials including a calendar of events, a reading log, and more. Our theme this summer is Read, Renew, Repeat. Keep reading all summer to learn more about ways to help our environment and support conservation

## Summer Story Walk $^{\otimes}$ - July 1 through August 31

All summer, the VFW Memorial Playground will feature our next StoryWalk® installation. Families can stroll through the playground and enjoy the story, *And Then Comes Summer* by Tom Brenner, featuring all the fun things that take place during this season. Participants

may then enter our raffle to win a free copy of the book by completing our QR code at the end of the walk. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier Vermont. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

### Special Events

Beekeeping 101 - Saturday, July 20 at 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Join beekeeper and Worcester County Beekeepers Association member John Hedly for a presentation on beekeeping. Topics will include starting a beehive, the bee colony, collecting honey, the importance of pollination, and more. Register at uptonlibrary.com.

Family Game Night - Thursday, July 25 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Families are invited to enjoy a game night at the library. Board games, card games, and more will be available to play. We will have games that are appropriate for children ages 6 and up. Please note, is not a drop-off event. Caregiver

participation is required. Registration is requested so that enough games will be available, but not required.

How Money Works for Teens & Their Parents - Thursday, August 8 from 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Teens and parents are invited to How Money Works, a program on money basics by financial advisor Mike Ford. The talk will include topics such as how to approach the management of money and developing good habits that will last a lifetime. Registration is required for this event.

Virtual Author Talk Series

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

Author Talk with Max Brallier: Surviving the Summer with the Last Kids on Earth - Tuesday, July 16, 2 - 2:30 p.m.

Author Talk with Elizabeth Acevedo: Learning the Power of Poetry -Tuesday, July 23, 2 - 3 p.m.

Author Talk with Dan Santat: Graphic Novels are Life! Telling Your Own Story in a Graphic Novel - Tuesday, July 30 from 2 -2:45 p.m.

### Children's & Young Adult Events

4-H Babysitting Course – July 15 & 16 or August 19 & 20 from 1 - 5 p.m.

Back by popular demand is our 4-H Babysitting Course. Participants will learn the responsibilities of babysitting, as well as the skills needed to become good babysitters. The course will help develop confidence in handling situations that may occur when babysitting, along with basic first aid instruction. Upon completion of this course, youth will receive a Babysitters' ID card and a Certificate of Completion. For ages 11-16. This is an 8-hour course taught over two days, and participants must attend both days to earn their certificate. Tuition fee of \$35 must be paid by check made out to Massachusetts 4-H Foundation on the day of the class. Pre-registration is required.

Forest Trek – July 20 from 10 - 11 a.m.

Join Children's Librarian Mrs. Murphy and Park Ranger Viola Bramel as they hike through the Upton State Forest. Viola will share her expertise on all things flora and fauna during this hourlong exploration. Please dress accordingly for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. In case of rain, the hike will take place July 27. Check our website for any cancellations. We will meet at the CCC Building (the big brown building). For ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration required.

Popsicle Stick Catapults – July 24 from 6 -7 p.m.

Ready, aim, fire! We'll be launching marshmallows as we create our own popsicle stick catapults. Materials will include popsicle sticks, rubber bands, plastic spoons, and marshmallows. For ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration required.

Virtual Authors

In July, the library will offer "watch parties" for all our upcoming virtual author visits. Authors

**UPTON LIBRARY** 

continued on page 23

# FLAT RATE PLUMBING



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## Mendon's Flanagan named to Siena College President's List for Spring semester



Courtesy photo

Catherine Flanagan of Mendon was named to the Siena College President's List for the Spring 2024 semester.

The President's List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

About Siena College

Founded in 1937, Siena College is a private, Catholic Franciscan, residential, liberal arts college with a student body of about 3,000. Siena College offers 36 degree programs, 80-plus minors and certificate programs, and professional curricula in teacher preparation/education, pre-medical, pre-law and social work. A student-to-faculty ratio of 11-to-1, average class size of 21, rigorous academics, Division I athletics, intramural sports and widespread service and advocacy experiences nurture each student's personal growth while providing the education of a lifetime.

### **UPTON LIBRARY**

continued from page 22

include Kate DiCamillo, Max Brallier, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Dan Santat. Check our Event Calendar for details on how to watch from home or watch with us!

### Monthly Library Events – Register now!

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

Baby Storytime – Fridays at

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

Read around the Town—Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

During the summer, our Preschool Storytime program is replaced by our Read around the Town series, where we visit municipal locations in Upton for storytime. Register for each location separately on our Event Calendar. These events all take place Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Lee Ann Murphy at lmurphy@cwmars.org.

Saturday Storytime – July 13 at 9:30 a m

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

Drop-In Storytime – July 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Children's Department offers a Drop-In Storytime session, once a month. No registration required. This is a blend of our Baby and Preschool Storytimes; however, no craft will be provided. We will feature stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. This will be held in the Greatroom and will be a larger group size. For ages 0 to 5.

LEGO Club – July 17 at 4 p.m. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m. This group is led by Library Director, Matthew Bachtold, and is for ages 5 to 12. We provide the LEGOs while you have fun building and making new friends. Pre-registration is required.

Kids' Book Club – August 7 at 4 pm. Our book club members explore popular juvenile fiction titles on the first Wednesday of each month from 4 - 4:45 p.m. For July, we will be discussing Who Was? biographies. Our August title will be the mystery title, Word Travelers – Case of the Missing Mexican Mole by Raj Haldar. This group is for ages 8-12. We welcome new members all year round. Pre-registration required.

Tween Book Club – June 20 at 6:30 p.m.

This club is especially for our middle grade patrons, ages 10

to 14. This group reads popular middle grade titles selected by our members. For July, we will be discussing the realistic fiction title *Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj. Our August title is the mystery title, *The Mystery of Locked Rooms* by Lindsay Currie. We welcome new members all year round! Preregistration required.

Teen Group — Tuesdays 3 p.m. This group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 3 - 4 p.m. and focuses on a new theme each month, sharing books, crafts, games, and more. This group is for tweens and teens ages 10-16. This is always a drop-in program led by Adult Librarian Micaela.

### Upton Reads Book Group

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

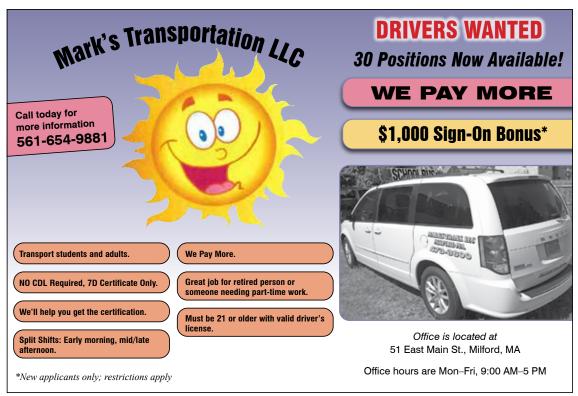
Tuesday, August 13 at 12:45 p.m., and Thursday, August 15 at 6:45 p.m.: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon.

### Fic or No Fic Book Group

An adult book group led by Librarian Micaela that alternates fiction and non-fiction selections. Meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:45 p.m. July 31 at 6:45 p.m.: fiction title, *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy.

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





### **Taft Public Library Calendar of Events**

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

### **ADULT PROGRAMS JULY 2024**

### **Summer Reading 2024**

Why should kids have all the fun? Did you know that the Taft Public Library offers reading prize programs during the summer for teens and adults too? Get in on it! For all the details including Summer Reading registration and our calendar of events visit www. taftpubliclibrary.org.

### **Upcoming Events:**

To register for an event, click

on the Library Event Calendar & Registration link at the top of the library's homepage (www. taftpubliclibrary.org).

### **Adult Handcrafting Group**

Let's get crafty! Join us on Wednesday, July 17 at 2 p.m. downstairs in the library and get your craft on. Bring your own craft project, whatever it might be, to work on while you visit. Intended for adults. No registration is required. Crafts are not supplied.

### Adult Book Club

The Adult Book Club will

meet again starting in September. Adult Book Clubs are typically held on the second Monday of the month. For upcoming book clubs contact the library at 508-473-3259 to request copies of the books or log in to your account from our website to request them through interlibrary loan. Upcoming books for the Adult Book Club are as follows:

**September:** Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid and The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

October: The Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley **November:** The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel **December:** Oh William! By Elizabeth Strout

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### Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club

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

Thursday, August 8 at 7 p.m.: A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan October (date TBD): Sociopath: A Memoir by Patric Gagne January (date TBD): American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans by Eve Laplante

March (date TBD): The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I by Douglas Brunt June (date TBD): How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith

#### German Conversation Club

(Note: German Conversation Club is on hiatus for the summer. It will return in September).

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

### Friends of the Taft Public Library Meeting

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

### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS JULY 2024**

### Summer Reading 2024

Can you believe it is already time for Summer Reading? Your friends at the Taft have been busy for months putting together a Summer Reading program that is sure to please. For every three hours of reading, children through grade 4 will be able to pick a prize from our treasure chest! To register please visit our website at www. taftpubliclibrary.org.

### **July Events**

July 15 - West Hill Dam Hike and Storytime at West Hill 10 a.m. **July 16** - Itty Bitty Storytime 9:30 a.m., Story and Craft 10:30 a.m., Mini Golf in the Library 12 - 4 p.m., Rolie Polie Guacamole at Town Beach 6:30 p.m. **July 17** - Read Around Town: Mendon Police Station 10:30 a.m. July 18 - Egg Drop Challenge 10:30 a.m.

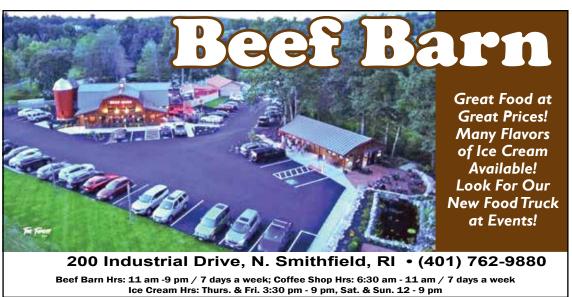
**July 23** - Itty Bitty Storytime 9:30 a.m., Read Around Town at Southwick's Zoo 11 a.m.

**July 24 -** Worm Race 10:30 a.m. July 25 - Christmas in July with Santa at Town Beach 10 a.m., Jungle Jim 1 p.m.

**July 29 -** West Hill Dam Hike and Storytime at West Hill 10 a.m. **July 30** - Coffee and Conversations 9:15 a.m., Puppet Storytime 10:30 a.m., Read Around Town at JJ's Ice Cream 1 p.m., Balloon Creation Workshop with Ed the Wizard 4:30 p.m. **July 31** - Read Around Town: West Hill Dam 10:30 a.m.

For more information and to register for these events please visit our website at www.taftpubliclibrary.org.





# Mendon safety log

Between May 26 to June 22, the Mendon Police Department responded to hundreds of calls, the majority of which were motor vehicle stops. Numerous other calls were related to 911 hang ups, motor vehicle violations, erratic drivers, disabled motor vehicles, fire and carbon monoxide alarms, burglar alarms, road hazards, parking complaints, animal issues, suspicious activity, fraud, warrant and document service, vehicle lockouts, lost and found property, and more.

Other entries of note during the month include:

**May 26** 9:35 a.m., Morrison Dr., property damage

May 26 10:30 a.m., Thornton St., stolen vehicle

**May 27** 7:17 p.m., Blackstone St., trespass

May 27 10:14 p.m., Blackstone St., trespass

May 27 10:31 p.m., Blackstone St., trespass

May 28 8 a.m., Millville St.,

**May 28** 7:47 p.m., Hartford Ave. East, threats

May 29 9:07 a.m., North Ave., well-being check

**May 29** 5:08 p.m., Blackstone St., trespass

**May 29** 7:56 p.m., Hastings St., trespass

**May 30** 1:15 a.m., Milford St., stolen vehicle

May 30 10:30 a.m., Cranberry Ct., threats

**May 30** 12:07 p.m., Northbridge St., noise complaint

**May 30** 2:33 p.m., Blackstone St., trespass

**May 30** 11:24 p.m., Blackstone St., trespass

**June 1** 8:35 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., threats

**June 2** 8:31 a.m., Northbridge St., message delivery

**June 2** 7:18 p.m., Main St., civil complaint

**June 4** 7:53 p.m., Rolling Brook Ln., well-being check

**June 5** 1:25 p.m., Thornton St., breaking & entering residence

June 6 6:30 p.m., Pine Needle Dr., noise complaint
June 7 9:02 a.m., Cape Rd.,

drug paraphernalia **June 7** 2:05 p.m., Colonial Dr., well-being check

**June 8** 12:56 a.m., Northbridge St., disorderly dis-

turbance **June 9** 1:08 a.m., Hartford Ave.
East, well-being check

**June 9** 8:30 p.m., Asylum St., structure fire

**June 10** 4:17 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., harassment

**June 12** 12:46 p.m., Bellingham St., harassment

**June 12** 5:14 p.m., Uxbridge Rd., well-being check

**June 13** 3:45 p.m., Springbrook Ct., noise complaint

**June 14** 2:15 p.m., Inman Hill Rd., fraud

**June 14** 5:26 p.m., Milford St., electrical fire

**June 15** 3:24 p.m., Quissett Rd., medical alarm

**June 17** 4:51 p.m., North Ave., threats

**June 20** 9:24 p.m., Milford St., well-being check

June 20 11:22 p.m., Milford St., well-being check Source: www.mendonpolice.com/ Photo source: Facebook @mendon-to-line.



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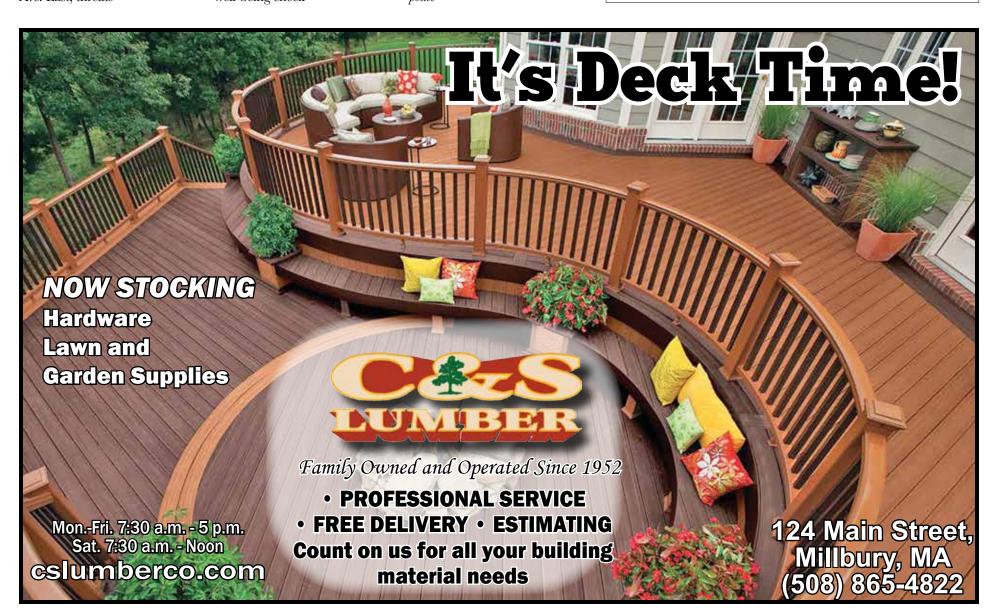


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SPORTS -

# Nipmuc's Julian picks Regis for Softball

NRHS pitcher plans to study nursing



Nipmuc's Kate Julian is heading to Regis for softball and to study nursing. *Photo credit: Mia Herron* 

By Chris Villani

When Kate Julian selected Regis College to continue her athletic and academic career, she picked a place that definitively checked both boxes for her.

"I talked to the coach there and she said they take a lot of nursing students, they really prioritize nursing," Julian said. "When I had the chance to visit and meet a lot of the other girls on the team, we all kind of fit together. I thought it was going to be a really great fit for me."

Julian capped off a strong high school career as both a pitcher and at first base for Nipmuc. She said she sees some similarities between the Weston college and her high school.

"One of the biggest things is they are a tight-knit community," she said. "Being from a smaller town like Upton and Mendon, and knowing everyone, I want the tight-knit community experience again and not just be a number in a classroom."

Julian said the coaching staff told her she will have the chance to earn some playing time right away as the team has a large group of incoming freshmen and graduating seniors.

"As a freshman, it can be tough," Julian said. "She said I will have to prove every day that I want to be there, and I am going to try to do that."

Julian is planning to play club softball this summer to stay in shape and get ready for college.

"It is definitely a big jump going from high school sports and club sports to the college level," she said. "I will have to lean on my teammates and not be afraid to ask for help. I am just going to try to keep working hard and go in with guns blazing."

Julian said she has not decided which nursing specialty will be her focus, but she is interested in labor and delivery.

Julian hit .360 for Nipmuc this spring and helped the program to a third straight Dual Valley Conference title.

"Kate was big for us on the mound at the end of the year, pitching a lot of our tough games, and really was super effective at stifling their bats," said head coach Stephanie DeBaggis.

Julian said she enjoyed her time with Nipmuc this spring and seeing so many underclassmen step up.

"It was nice to see the team excel and see a lot of the players grow," she said. "I thought it was one of the most rewarding seasons for me."



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**SPORTS** 

# BVT's Magill earns spot with Johnson & Wales Baseball

## College commit follows stellar high school career

By Chris Villani

Blackstone Valley Tech graduate Corey Magill said it did not take long for him to decide that Johnson & Wales University would be the place for him to continue his baseball and academic career.

"I scheduled a recruiting camp at Johnson & Wales and I did the tour and, as soon as I was done, it felt like home," he said. "I couldn't be more excited."

Magill was a driving force behind a Valley Tech team that advanced to the start tournament before exiting in the first round. But the Beavers set some program records this spring, several of them tied to Magill. He finished his BVT career as the program's all-time hits leader with 98 and also set Valley Tech marks for most doubles and RBIs.

"It was an awesome season," he said. "We were bummed with the first-round loss, but it was one of the best seasons I could recall. Those guys on that team are my brothers for life."

Magill hopes to find a new brotherhood at Johnson & Wales.

"From what I have seen, it

seems like the Johnson & Wales baseball program is a winning environment with good people and good coaching, that's what made it for me," he said.

An infielder, Magill said the current starting third baseman for the Wildcats is a senior, which could potentially open up a spot for Magill early in his college career. He said coach Kevin Casey, a Milford High graduate and former Milford Legion player, told him his role will be to get better and to be prepared to show up and work hard.

Magill is playing with the Franklin legion program this year, so he will get four games per week of at bats against live pitching. He also plans to spend a lot of time in the gym.

"Going from high school to the college level, these guys are all good and know what they need to do to win," Magill said. "I am going to focus on my game but also put in the time to get my strength up to compete at the next level."

In addition to baseball, Magill is looking forward to studying business communications, a longtime area of interest. He is also eager to live in Providence, a much larger city than his



Corey Magill set three program records at Blackstone Valley Tech this spring. Courtesy photo

hometown of Bellingham.

"There are a lot of opportunities," Magill said. "And I am excited to take advantage of them."





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