

New Milford High School Building Committee holds first meeting, elects Bruce as chair

Aghajanian, Correia named co-vice-chairmen

By Theresa Knapp

The first meeting of the Milford High School Building Committee was held on July 25.

The committee will oversee the building of a new high school as approved by voters in May.

The first order of business in July was to select a chairman and vice chairman. The 15 committee members present elected Jonathan Bruce as chair; and Michael Aghajanian and Alberto Correia as co-vice chairmen.

Chairman

Committee member and Select Board member Michael Walsh nominated Bruce, who currently serves on the Board of Water Commissioners and previously



Jonathan Bruce was elected chairman of the Milford High School Building Committee at its first meeting in July.

Source: MilfordTV

served on the School Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, and other school building committees.

"I served on the School

Committee for nine years,

MHS

continued on page 10

Change in traffic flow at Bow and Spring Streets addresses blind spot

Part of initiative to make town safer place to drive



The One Way sign at Spring Street, soon to be facing the other direction.

Photo credit: Scott Calzolaio

By Scott Calzolaio

The Milford Select Board approved a small change in traffic signage on the North Bow Street side of Spring Street late June, and a new one-way sign will be

placed there soon.

The approved one-way will

BLIND SPOT

continued on page 10

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Mosquito spraying in Milford in August

Residents can opt-out, request specific area

Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project personnel will be in Milford to spray for mosquitos on Aug. 12, 19 and 26. All dates are tentative and subject to change due to weather conditions, mosquito populations, mosquito virus activity and/or special event spraying. This program will shut down when cool night time temperatures become predominant in the area. A detailed notice about the spray schedule is posted at <http://www.cmmcp.org>, under "2024 Spray Schedule."

Requests for service may be recorded by calling the CMMCP office at 508-393-3055 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or logging onto <https://www.cmmcp.org/>. Results of these requests may initiate an application of mosquito insecticides to

The Town of Milford will be sprayed for mosquitos on Aug. 12, 19 and 26




Source: Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project

defined, site-specific areas of town. Such an application may be accomplished by using truck-mounted equipment depending on the extent of the application. Per 333CMR13.03(1)(a),

"Wide Area Applications for pesticides and mosquito control applications of pesticides approved by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board shall not be made to private

property which has been designated for exclusion from such application by a person living on or legally in control of said property." For more information, visit <https://www.cmmcp.org/>

and click the "No Spray Info" button on the right, and follow the links to the state website where you can opt out. Note, exclusions will go into effect 14 days after submitted.

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Milford Safety Log

A summary of police and fire calls from June 25 to July 25

The Milford Police Department provided a wide range of services between June 25 and July 25 related to motor vehicle stops and property checks, traffic enforcement, community policing, disabled motor vehicles, vehicle collisions, erratic drivers, radar enforcement, parking violations, road hazards (traffic lights, trees, wires), general and noise (loud music, etc.) complaints, threats, fireworks violations, disturbances, vehicle lockouts, alarms (residential, commercial, etc.), 911 misdials and hangups, trespassing and unwanted persons, suspicious persons, harassment, fraud, larceny and shoplifting, identity theft, soliciting, lost and found property, well-being checks, assist citizens and follow-up investigations, animal issues (dog strays), drone requests, family services, and court appearances. They also provided mutual aid to Medway. This is not an exhaustive list.

Entries of note include:
June 25 at 9:18 a.m., Main St., funeral traffic
June 25 at 10:50 a.m., Bethel Road, suspicious person, arrest made
June 25 at 12:02 p.m., E. Main St., fight
June 25 at 2:14 p.m., Casey Pool, stolen bicycle
June 25 at 11:54 p.m., E. Main St., stolen license plate
June 26 at 2:35 a.m., Maher Court, noise complaint, unable to locate
June 26 at 11:30 a.m., Fortune Blvd., property damage
June 27 at 6:07 a.m., S. Main

St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
June 27 at 6:41 a.m., Central St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
June 27 at 8:31 a.m., Congress St., funeral traffic
June 27 at 10:31 a.m., S. Bow St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
June 27 at 12:17 p.m., Milford High School, complaint
June 27 at 3:36 p.m., Pheasant Circle, attempted breaking and entering
June 27 at 4:39 p.m., East St., harassment
June 27 at 7:05 p.m., Main St., family services, rendered
June 27 at 10:43 p.m., Cedar St., dispute, peace restored
June 28 at 5:21 p.m., Senate Rd., well-being check; police, fire, highway departments responded
June 28 at 5:41 p.m., Pine St., road rage, criminal application
June 28 at 11:53 p.m., Rolling Green Drive, loud music, spoken to
June 29 at 12:18 a.m., Rolling Green Drive, loud music, spoken to
June 29 at 1:03 a.m., Jefferson St., well-being check, arrests made
June 29 at 1:04 a.m., Prairie St., neighbor dispute
June 29 at 3:19 a.m., Main St., unwanted person
June 29 at 4:27 a.m., Hayward St., disturbance, arrest made
June 29 at 5:46 a.m., Sumner St., unwanted person
June 29 at 2:28 p.m., Colonial Road, walk-in report of breaking and entering

June 30 at 8:46 p.m., Purchase St. Cemetery, investigation
July 1 at 10:10 p.m., Beaver St., road rage
July 1 at 10:35 p.m., Shadowbrook Lane, neighbor dispute, peace restored
July 2 at 4:41 p.m., Lincoln St., family services rendered
July 2 at 10:15 p.m., Hayward St., fireworks violation
July 3 at 12:18 p.m., Spruce St., drinking in public, spoken to
July 3 at 3:57 p.m., Medway Rd., motor vehicle stop, arrest made
July 3 at 5:49 p.m., Hollis St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 3 at 7:20 p.m., S. Main St., neighbor dispute
July 3 at 8:23 p.m., Goodrich Court, neighbor dispute
July 3 at 11:01 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 4 at 9:42 a.m., Fortune Blvd., animal cruelty, canceled enroute
July 4 at 9:29 p.m., Grant St., preserve peace
July 4 at 9:37 p.m., Main St., assault, criminal application
July 4 at 10:34 p.m., Pine Island Rd., hit and run accident, arrest made
July 4 between 8:40 p.m. and 11:36 p.m., fireworks violations on Hemlock Lane, Pine St., Agnes Rd., W. Maple St., Highland St., Camp St.
July 5 at 6:15 p.m., Fortune Blvd., larceny, criminal application
July 5 at 10:07 p.m., Cedar St., fight
July 5 at 10:48 p.m., Plains

Park, bylaw violation
July 5 at 11:56 p.m., Prospect St., unruly patient, peace restored
July 6 at 10:47 p.m., S. Bow St., fight
July 6 at 11:03 p.m., Jefferson St., loud music, spoken to
July 7 at 10:34 a.m., Sidney Road, past breaking and entering
July 7 at 7:26 p.m., Central St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 8 at 3:04 p.m., E. Main St., arrest made
July 8 at 5:45 p.m., Medway Road, intoxicated person, spoken to
July 8 at 11:20 p.m., Cedar St., suspicious person, taken to family/guardian
July 9 at 1:30 a.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 9 at 9:54 p.m., Sumner St., motor vehicle stop, arrest made
July 10 at 11:46 a.m., E. Main St., funeral traffic
July 10 at 6:48 p.m., School St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 10 at 8:28 p.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 10 at 2:44 p.m., Water St., breaking and entering
July 11 at 10:47 p.m., Fortune Blvd., disturbance
July 11 at 11:54 p.m., Franklin St., walk-in report of harassment
July 12 at 8:49 a.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 12 at 10:33 a.m., Main St., funeral traffic



Police badge: www.milfordpolice.org

July 12 at 1:35 p.m., Greenleaf Terrace, disturbance, criminal application
July 13 at 12:10 p.m., Main St., unwanted person, arrest made
July 13 at 3:11 p.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 14 at 12:47 a.m., East St. Ext., motor vehicle accident, summons issued
July 14 at 10:16 a.m., Purchase St., vandalism
July 14 at 12:36 p.m., Fino Field pool, drinking in public
July 15 at 12:37 p.m., Central St., motor vehicle stop, arrest made
July 15 at 8:54 a.m., San Clemente Circle, gunshot response, unable to locate
July 15 at 5:18 p.m., Fino Field, dispute
July 16 at 12:03 p.m., Central St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 16 at 12:32 p.m., Central St., K-9 deployment
July 16 at 12:59 p.m., Beaver St., suspicious activity, arrest made
July 16 at 1:37 p.m., Larson Road, larceny, arrest made
July 16 at 3:59 p.m., Dilla St., arrest made

SAFETY LOG continued on page 14

<p>Brand Spankin' New 2024 TOYOTA</p> <p>RAV4 XLE SUV ADV AWD - 2.5L</p> <p>• Back-Up Cam • Bluetooth • Lane Departure</p>  <p>#RW477110</p> <p>BUY FOR AS LOW AS: \$35,514*</p> <p>LEASE FOR AS LOW AS: \$439* PER MONTH • PLUS TAX</p> <p>SAVE \$500 8 RAV4s AVAILABLE</p> <p><small>*New 2024 RAV4 XLE AWD with MSRP: \$36,014. Lease requires approved credit; based on 10,000 miles per year. \$0.15 per mile excess. Lease for \$439 per month for 36 months with \$3,738 due at signing (including \$2,000 cash or trade down, first month's payment of \$439, and acquisition of \$650). Tax, title, registration, and inspection fees are additional. \$0 Security deposit. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, excess wear/tear, and \$350 disposition fee where permitted by law. Example Stk# RW477110. Offer ends 08/31/2024.</small></p>	<p>Brand Spankin' New 2024 TOYOTA</p> <p>TACOMA SR5 4x4 - 3.5L V6</p> <p>• Double Cab • 16" Alloys • Lane Departure</p>  <p>#TM24-900</p> <p>BUY FOR AS LOW AS: \$41,099*</p> <p>LEASE FOR AS LOW AS: \$459* PER MONTH • PLUS TAX</p> <p>SAVE \$2500 8 TACOMAs AVAILABLE</p> <p><small>*New 2024 Tacoma SR5 V6 Double Cab with MSRP: \$43,599. Lease requires approved credit; based on 10,000 miles per year. \$0.15 per mile excess. Lease for \$459 per month for 36 months with \$3,760 due at signing (including \$2,000 cash or trade down, first month's payment of \$459, and acquisition of \$650). Tax, title, registration, and inspection fees are additional. \$0 Security deposit. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, excess wear/tear, and \$350 disposition fee where permitted by law. Example Stk# PT105382. Offer ends 08/31/2024.</small></p>	 <p>NATIONAL SALES EVENT</p>
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Thousands turn out for 4th of July parade

Efforts of Friends of Milford Fourth of July Parade entertains many



By Theresa Knapp

This year's Fourth of July parade attendees were treated to a

day to remember. The weather was perfect, the parade lineup was chuck full of participants,

and the streets were lined with thousands of people celebrating America's independence.

4TH OF JULY

continued on page 8

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The Friends of the Milford Fourth of July Parade hosted another successful event this year. Photos by Tim Rice at bit.ly/MilfordJuly4th2024_TimRicePhoto

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Are you afraid of outliving your money?



Mark Freeman

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Do you worry about running out of money during your retirement years? If so, how can you help prevent this from happening?

In the first place, if you have this type of fear, you're far from alone. Consider this:

58% of retirement savers from all age groups, including current retirees, say that outliving their assets is their greatest retirement fear, according to a study by Cerulli Associates, a financial services

research organization.

This type of fear can certainly affect your quality of life when you retire. Still, there's no need to panic – because you can take steps to help prevent the running-out-of-money scenario.

Here are a few to consider:

- **Know how much you'll need during retirement.** You need to get a clear picture, or at least as good an estimate as possible, of how much money you'll need to support your retirement lifestyle. Once you do retire, some costs, such as transportation or other work-related expenses, might go down, while others – medical expenses, in particular – will likely go up. The fear of running out of money, like many fears, is caused largely by what you don't know, so having a good sense of how much you'll need in retirement can help reduce your anxieties.
- **Build financial resources**

before retirement. You're probably at your peak earning capacity in the years close to your retirement, so consider contributing as much as you can afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

- **Maximize your Social Security payments.** You can start collecting Social Security as early as 62, but your monthly benefits will be larger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, between 66 and 67. (Payments will "max out" at age 70.)
- **Re-enter the workforce.** Going back to work in some capacity is one way to possibly help build retirement resources and delay taking Social Security. If you have a particular area of expertise, and you enjoyed the work you did, you might be able to go back to it on a part-time basis or do some consulting. You could boost

your cash flow, and potentially extend your contributions to an IRA and to an employer's retirement plan.

- **Cut costs during retirement.** Possibly the biggest cost-cutting measure is downsizing – are you willing and able to move to a less expensive area or scale down your current living space? Of course, this is an emotional decision, as well as a financial one, and downsizing isn't for everyone, but it might be something to at least consider. As for the lesser ways of reducing expenses, take advantage of senior discounts, which are offered in many areas, including entertainment, public transportation, restaurants and retail establishments. And look for other opportunities, such as cutting out streaming services you don't use.
- **Look for more income from your investments.** As you get closer to retire-

ment, and even when you do retire, you might want to adjust your investment portfolio to provide you with more income-producing opportunities. However, even as a retiree, you'll want some growth potential in your investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.

Ultimately, the more you can bolster your financial security before and during retirement, the less fear you may have of outliving your money.

Contact Mark for assistance with your personal finances.

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One-side street parking proposed on several streets

Matter tabled while police chief gathers video, drone footage

By Theresa Knapp

At its meeting on July 29, the Milford Select Board considered amendments to the town's current traffic parking regulations, at the recommendation of Police Chief Robert Tusino in collaboration with the office of Town Administrator Richard Villani.

"We've been working on this quite some time, this isn't something we just shot from the hip," said Tusino. "In my opinion, the only way to mitigate certain problems is to just eliminate parking on the side of the street" on the first list proposed to the board.

Tusino noted they have divided the town into sections, and this is the first area on which they are concentrating.

The discussion centered around the following streets: Grove Street, High Street, Jefferson Street, Lee Street, Madden Avenue, Memory Lane,

North Bow Street, Pearl Street, School Street, South High Street, South Bow Street, South Richard Street, State Street, Union Street, West Maple Street, and West Spruce Street.

"What we tried to take into effect was pedestrian traffic, the proximity to stop signs, intersections, the side of the road that had the least amount of driveways... We didn't just throw a dart at a board and come up with these regulations, a lot of time and effort went into this," said Tusino, who was seeking input from the board.

Select Board Chairman Michael Walsh said he appreciated the expand the initial focus to prioritize trouble spots like Hayward Street.

Select Board member Tom O'Loughlin said, "I think residents should be able to park in front of their own home," and asked, "Are we just taking the

problem from Street A and moving it to Street B?"

Select Board member Paul Mazzuchelli said, "This is long overdue. There isn't a week that goes by that I don't get a complaint from someone about parking and the dangerousness of it... Again, the way they made streets back then, they didn't make them for five or six cars per family, and now parking on both sides makes this even worse, I think."

Mazzuchelli urged the town to continue reviewing parking issues, especially in areas where an emergency vehicle would have trouble getting by because "it's precious moments, seconds, that could keep someone alive or not; and for them just to have the convenience to park in front of their house doesn't really cut it when it comes to health and safety."

Tusino said, "The only

Milford Police Chief Robert Tusino proposed a "No parking this side/tow zone" sign for the following town streets:

- Grove St.: Odd side of street
- High St.: Odd side of street
- Jefferson St.: Odd side of street
- Lee St.: Change to odd side of street
- Madden Ave.: Event side of street
- Memory Lane: Even side of street
- North Bow St.: Change to odd side of street
- Pearl St.: Even side of street
- School St.: Odd side from Spruce St. to Walnut St.
- South High St.: Odd side of street
- South Bow St.: Odd side of street
- South Richard St.: Even side of street
- State St.: Even side of street
- Union St.: Even side of street
- West Maple St.: Even side of street to #16
- West Spruce St.: Odd side of street



No parking/tow zone signs (similar to this one) were recently proposed for various Milford streets. Town officials continue to discuss ways to mitigate parking issues that affect traffic flow.

“Are we just taking the problem from Street A and moving it to Street B?”

~ Tom O'Loughlin, member Milford Select Board

reason this even comes up is because I answer to the public like you do... We're trying to answer complaints and to be responsive to the citizenry."

After a 20-minute discussion, the issue was tabled while officials gather photos, video and drone footage for a future meeting.

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Back to school eye health and Computer Vision Syndrome

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

As the back-to-school season approaches, parents are busy preparing their children for the academic year ahead. From buying new clothes to stocking up on school supplies, the checklist can seem endless. However, one crucial aspect that often gets overlooked is eye health. Ensuring that children have optimal vision is essential for their academic performance and overall well-being. Additionally, with the increasing use of digital devices in education, understanding and addressing Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS) is more important than ever.

The importance of regular eye exams

Regular vision screening using evidence-based tools and procedures is essential to identify children with possible vision impairments. These screenings

educate parents and caregivers about the importance of vision care, ensure referrals to eye care professionals for comprehensive exams, and help parents understand the significance of following treatment plans.

However, the availability of appropriate vision screening varies depending on location and the specific schools or programs children attend. These discrepancies can lead to inequalities in children's vision care in the United States. Notably, 1 in 17 young children and 1 in 4 school-aged children have undetected and untreated vision disorders that can interfere with learning and development.

Untreated vision disorders can cause children to fall behind in school, exhibit behavioral problems, miss developmental milestones, and even suffer permanent vision loss. Therefore, a continuum of eye care that includes both vision screen-

ings and comprehensive eye examinations is recommended. All children, even those with no signs of trouble, should have their eyes and vision screened at regular intervals.

Five steps to eye health

- 1. Understanding the Importance:** Parents and caregivers need to understand the importance of vision screening and arrange eye exams if screening suggests a possible vision disorder.
- 2. Routine Screening:** Children should participate in routine vision screening conducted by trained and certified screeners using evidence-based tools and procedures.
- 3. Referral for Examination:** Children who do not pass vision screening should be referred to their medical home or an eye care professional for a comprehensive



eye examination.

- 4. Eye Examination:** Eye exams should be conducted by eye doctors trained and experienced in treating young children.
- 5. Follow-up and Treatment:** Parents and caregivers should follow the treatment plan, ensure ongoing care, and share eye examination results with school nurses or other relevant personnel.

Signs your child may need an eye exam

While annual eye exams are crucial, specific signs indicate a child may need to see an eye doctor sooner. These include:

- Squinting or tilting the head

to see better

- Complaints of headaches or eye strain
- Difficulty reading or doing close-up work
- Sitting too close to the television or holding digital devices close to the eyes
- Excessive tearing or sensitivity to light

If any of these symptoms are present, it's essential to schedule an eye exam as soon as possible. As always... "Moms know better". In doubt, schedule a comprehensive eye exam.

EYES

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MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER





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4TH OF JULY

continued from page 4

“So many smiling faces and festive moods,” said Ray Auger, co-chair of the Friends of the Milford Fourth of July Parade. “We ended up with more entries than we anticipated, so that was nice.”

Auger said the parade is funded by local sponsorships, fundraisers and two generous donations from Fiesta Shows from when Milford hosted their carnival a couple years ago. “But in the future, we’ll be relying solely on sponsorships and annual fundraisers like our pub crawls and bingo nights,” he said.

Auger said the Friends appreciate the efforts of everyone who turned out for, and participated in, the parade.

“We just want to thank everyone in attendance and those who brought so much entertainment and enjoyment to the spectators.”



The Friends of the Milford Fourth of July Parade hosted another successful event this year. Photos by Tim Rice at bit.ly/MilfordJuly4th2024_TimRicePhoto

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EYES

continued from page 7

The rise of digital device use in education

In recent years, digital devices have become integral to the educational experience. Research shows that 25 to 93 percent of computer users experience a problem so common there's a name for it: Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS).

Understanding computer vision syndrome

Computer Vision Syndrome, also known as Digital Eye Strain, refers to a group of eye and vision-related problems resulting from prolonged use of digital devices. Symptoms of CVS include:

- Decreased or blurred vision
- Burning or stinging eyes
- Sensitivity to light
- Headaches
- Neck and back pain

CVS is more common if there are more than two hours of continuous computer screen time a day. The most common causes include improper viewing angle or distance from the screen, glare, extended use, staring without blinking, and uncorrected vision problems.

Preventing computer vision syndrome

While it may not be possible to eliminate digital device use, these measures can help prevent CVS:

- **Adjust Viewing Angle:** The center of the monitor should be 20 to 28 inches from your eyes and 4 to 5 inches below eye level. Position reference materials so they can be seen without moving your head.
- **Reduce Glare:** Position your screen to avoid glare from lights or windows. Use glare filters if necessary.
- **Rest Your Eyes:** Follow the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes,

look away from your screen at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. After two hours of continuous screen use, rest your eyes for 15 minutes.

- **Blink Often:** Blink frequently and use lubricating eye drops to prevent dry eye.
- **Get Your Eyes Checked:** Ensure your prescription is correct, especially for computer use.

If symptoms persist, consult an ophthalmologist for a comprehensive evaluation and treatment plan.

Choosing the right eyewear

For children who need corrective lenses, selecting the right eyewear is crucial:

- **Durability:** Choose sturdy frames that can withstand daily activities.
- **Comfort:** Ensure the frames fit well and are comfortable.
- **UV Protection:** Consider lenses with UV protection for outdoor activities.

- **Blue Light Filters:** Several studies suggest that blue light-blocking glasses do not improve symptoms of digital eye strain. The American Academy of Ophthalmology does not recommend blue light-blocking glasses because of the lack of scientific evidence that blue light is damaging to the eyes.

Conclusion

As children head back to school, ensuring their eye health should be a top priority. Regular eye exams, attention to symptoms of vision problems, and strategies to prevent Computer Vision Syndrome can help safeguard their vision and support their academic success. By taking these steps, parents can ensure their children have the visual tools they need to thrive in and out of the classroom.

Computer Vision Syndrome is very common, and more eye strain can be expected as screen

work increases. Our center and optometrists have state-of-the-art equipment to diagnose and treat many eye problems, including CVS. With in-house ophthalmologists available, there is no need to seek outside referrals. Our seven dedicated eye care providers across three state-of-the-art facilities in Franklin, Milford, and Millis offer convenient Saturday and after-hours appointments. This back-to-school season, all new patients, children, and adults, receive a new pair of select eyeglasses. Our quality in-house optical shop has its own lab and experienced opticians ready to help. From basic eye exams to high-tech surgeries, we provide comprehensive eye care for returning scholars and the entire family.

For more details, see our ad on page 7.

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Seats available on School Community Use Board

The Milford School Committee is seeking residents who are interested in serving on the Community Use Board for the Milford Community Use Program.

Milford Community Use was organized in 1974 to provide the opportunity for the children, youth, adults, and senior citizens to use the town's school buildings when school is not in ses-

sion. Over the years, they have provided a wide range of education, athletic, cultural and civic programs to the public.

If you are interested in serving on the board, contact School Committee Chair Matthew Zacchilli at mzacchilli@milfordma.com. Appointments will be made by Sept. 30.

Source: Facebook @MilfordPublicSchools

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MHS

continued from page 1

six of those years I served with Jonathan Bruce. The one thing that we all have to realize is that, when you're on a committee, you're not always going to agree. It's okay to agree to disagree but one thing about Jonathan was, if he didn't agree with you or you didn't agree with him, you were able to work it out because what Jonathan stated earlier, in his heart always was the best interest of the students of this district," said Walsh.

"I was fortunate to serve two years as chairman of the Milford School Committee and, when I was chairman, Woodland School was under construction. And there were times when that project wasn't going very smooth, and it was

through the leadership of Jonathan and, God rest his soul Aldo Cecchi, that...they delivered the largest elementary school at the time in the state of Massachusetts and under budget."

Walsh added, "A project of this magnitude, of this scale, is going to need, not only a committee, it's going to need the leadership of that committee to move us forward at all times."

Committee member and Housing Authority member Patrick Holland, who is also a former School Committee member, supported the nomination, saying he has known Bruce for 40 years.

"What I can say about Jon is that he is honest, to a fault sometimes, and he would never let a project, that his name was attached to,

fail. And if Jon is confident that he can embody those qualities of Aldo [Cecchi] that made that [Woodland School] Building Committee so successful, then I'd be happy to offer my support."

Bruce accepted the nomination. "Thank you very much. I'm honored, humbled, moved to a certain point, by the confidence this community has put in me to lead this project forward."

Co-vice chairmen

Members Michael Aghajanian, a member of the Milford School Committee, and Alberto Correia, a member of the Milford Finance Committee, were elected co-vice chairmen.

A recording of the entire meeting is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSzyqgK4Kbk.

BLIND SPOT

continued from page 1

now force Spring Street traffic to make a turn at the intersection of Spring and Court Streets. Traffic will now only be allowed to flow one way from North Bow Street to the intersection of Spring and Court. It will allow cars to turn into Spring Street from North Bow, but not out of Spring into North Bow.

"There's a natural blind-spot there," said Milford Police Chief Robert Tusino in an interview with the Free Press. "There's a stone wall that curves, and you have to pull out too far to see if someone is coming... That's how we had that accident a few years ago."

Tusino was referring to a nonfatal car crash that left a vehicle pushed against the side of the Senior Center building. He said he proposed the small signage change so that it might help save a life in the future.

This move, Tusino said, will have a very minor effect on traffic, and will not cause too much trouble for the residents of Spring Street.

"Not having to go down Main Street, to get to Spring Street anymore, may even be a benefit to those who live there," he said.

This is just one minor signage change near the downtown area that marks the start of a much larger initiative from the Milford Police Department to make the town a safer place to drive, Tusino said.

"People parking in the streets is a huge problem. There are some streets where if a car is parked, you literally can't even get down," he said. "We're basically going to be redoing the whole town."

In the meantime, Tusino encourages people who live on narrow roads to use their driveways more often, as he sees many of the clogged streets have empty driveways.



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

“We’re basically going to be redoing the whole town.”

~ Milford Police Chief Robert Tusino regarding traffic safety improvements

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Summer cleanout is greener with *Affordable Junk Removal*

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

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

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

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

eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

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

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

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week

Business spotlight

and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

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

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

And speaking of pricing, Jay



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

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

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

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

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

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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 during the summer. Saturday hours will return after Labor Day on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Library Strategic Plan: Public Forums and Community Survey

Every five years, the library develops a strategic plan outlining its objectives for the next years of service to the community. The completed plan goes to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for approval.

As part of the process, we ask for community input. A strategic planning survey will be available in both electronic and paper forms in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. We invite everyone to complete this short survey and be entered into a drawing for one of two gift cards. The survey can be found at the library and also on our website, www.milfordtownlibrary.org and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Additionally, open public forums will be held on Wednesday, August 21 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. and 7 - 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and all are invited to participate.

Adult Summer Reading Program

The 2024 Adult Summer Reading Program wraps up

on Friday, August 16. So many adults have taken on the challenge of Adventure Bingo with the “Read, Renew, Repeat” theme while connecting with and enjoying all the wonderful resources that Milford has to offer!

Be sure to bring in your sheets once you’ve completed vertical, horizontal or diagonal rows to earn tickets for the Adventure Prize Drawing. Those who complete the entire Bingo card will be entered to win the Grand Prize. We’ve got FOUR amazing prizes to give away from several Milford businesses!

This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library and supported by our friends at Craft-Roots Brewing, Depot Street Tavern, Milford Bicycle, Rail Trail Flatbread Company, and TJ Cafe & Games.

Atelier Artists New Work 2024: Exhibit

An exhibition of new artwork by the Atelier Artists continues through the end of August. This group of senior artists are part of an artists’ collective founded by Sal Ferreira in 2007 to support and inspire each other in their artistic pursuits. Last month, Sal passed away and the exhibit is dedicated to him. The Ferreira family graciously lent paintings by Sal and also by his wife Vas Ferreira to be part of the exhibit. Vas passed away in 2023.

This year’s artists have worked primarily in oil and acrylic with some watercolor and photography as well. The artwork can be viewed anytime the library is open. Many of the pieces are available for purchase. The exhibit program includes contact information for the artists. Stop in and see the impressive local talent before the exhibit closes at the end of August.

ESL Drop in Classes Summer Schedule

This summer, we’ll be offering both day and evening English classes for adults at the library. These classes are free and drop-in style, no registration is necessary. Classes are held in the ESL classroom on the lower level.

Daytime classes will be held on Mondays at 2 p.m. on the following dates: August 12, and August 19.

Evening classes will be held on Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. for intermediate students and 7 p.m. for beginners on the following dates: August 8 and August 15.

Neste verão, oferecemos aulas de inglês diurnas e noturnas para adultos na biblioteca. Essas aulas são GRATUITAS e presenciais, sem necessidade de inscrição. As aulas são ministradas na sala de aula de ESL no nível inferior.

As aulas diurnas serão minis-



Milford Town Library. Photo Courtesy Wendy Watkins

tradas às segundas-feiras, às 14h, nas seguintes datas: 12 de agosto e 19 de agosto.

As aulas noturnas serão ministradas às quintas-feiras, às 17h30 para alunos intermediários e às 19h para iniciantes, nas seguintes datas: 8 de agosto e 15 de agosto.

Este verão, ofereceremos clases de inglés para adultos tanto diurnas como nocturnas en la biblioteca. Estas clases son GRATUITAS y sin cita previa, no es necesario registrarse. Las clases se llevan a cabo en el salón de ESL en el nivel inferior.

Las clases diurnas se impartirán los lunes a las 14 horas en las siguientes fechas: 12 de agosto y 19 de agosto.

Las clases nocturnas se llevarán a cabo los jueves a las 5:30 p.m. para estudiantes intermedios y 7:00 p.m. para principiantes en las siguientes fechas: 8 de agosto y 15 de agosto.

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group will meet on Tuesday, August 20 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center to discuss *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Based on the true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, this novel by the award-winning author Brooks, traverses three time periods and locations—Kentucky, 1850, New York City, 1954, and Washington, 2019. The epic novel grapples with art and science, love and obsession, and racism.

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

Virtual Program: How to

Improve Your Recycling Efforts

A free virtual program on how to improve your recycling efforts will be available on Tuesday, August 13 at 2 p.m.

Julia Greene, Municipal Assistance Coordinator from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, will discuss how to cut down on waste and how to recycle correctly. Julia will give practical advice on how you can improve your efforts to reduce, re-use and recycle in your day-to-day life. This program is offered in partnership with the Tewksbury Public Library.

Friends Bookstore & Book Table

Find great deals on books for the whole family by visiting the Friends of the Milford Town Library’s Bookstore and Book Table. Book Table items include paperbacks, DVDs and children’s books for 50 cents per item while the Bookstore offers new or near new hardcovers and quality paperbacks for \$1 per item. Proceeds help fund the youth and adult summer reading programs as well as programs, lectures, concerts and other programs.

Harry Platcow: Photographs

During August, local photographer Harry Platcow will exhibit some of his photographs in the adult display case across from the Information Desk. A larger exhibit of his photographs will be showing at the library in January 2025.

Harry’s fine and compelling photography used to be a staple in the pages of the Milford Town Crier. We can’t wait to see them again!






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Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
07/25/2024	28 Westbrook St.	\$525,000
07/19/2024	27 Shadowbrook Lane	\$285,000
07/19/2024	56 Pearl Street	\$599,700
07/17/2024	12 Parker Hill Ave.	\$560,000
07/16/2024	219 Congress St.	\$617,000
07/15/2024	143 W Spruce St.	\$462,500
07/12/2024	5 Geneseo Circle	\$720,000
07/12/2024	4 Country Club Lane #A	\$390,000
07/12/2024	8 Mayhew Slip	\$449,900
07/12/2024	143 Beaver St.	\$650,000
07/11/2024	10 W Pine St.	\$590,000
07/10/2024	7 Tomaso Road	\$457,000
07/10/2024	18 Lena Lane	\$410,000
07/02/2024	11 Shadowbrook Lane #22	\$270,000
07/02/2024	33 Sunset Drive	\$530,000
07/02/2024	1 Dartmouth Drive	\$625,000
07/02/2024	67 School St.	\$455,000
07/02/2024	69 Beaver St.	\$195,000
07/02/2024	72 Prospect Heights	\$255,000
06/28/2024	16 Shadowbrook Lane #31	\$240,000
06/28/2024	14 Penny Lane	\$700,000
06/28/2024	26 Cedarview Circle	\$610,000

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



The 4-bed, 1-bath, 1,226 square foot house at 69 Beaver Street in Milford recently sold for \$195,000. Image credit www.zillow.com

Free playgroups in Milford

Summer groups end soon, fall groups start in September

The Milford Family and Community Network (MFCN) CFCE is wrapping up their Summer Drop-In Playgroups. These playgroups are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., on a first come, first served basis, and will end on August 15. These groups are designed for children from birth to 60 months and their caregiver(s).

Did you know that the MFCN CFCE offers 15 weeks

of FREE registered playgroups in the Fall?

The Session I Playgroup registration will be taking place daily starting Monday, Sept. 9 through Thursday, Sept. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the MFCN Office. The lottery will take place on Sept. 17 and playgroups will start the week of Sept. 23.

For more information on any of our programs, feel free to call the office at 508-277-4981.

General 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 playgroups and/or programs, visit our website www.milfordpublicschools.com/milfordfcn, email us at familynetwork@milfordma.com or call 508-277-4981. You can always find, like and follow us on Facebook at "Milford Family and Community Network CFCE."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

editor@milfordfreepress.com



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- Toddlers and preschoolers learn to swim, roll to their backs to float and rest, then flip back over to swim to safety or an exit

Fall Session starts September 9!

774.277.1222

Dolphintailinfantaquatics@gmail.com

SAFETY LOG

continued from page 3

July 16 at 6:44 p.m., Medway Road, aid to business
July 17 at 3:41 p.m., Cook St., hit and run accident, arrests made
July 18 at 12:46 p.m., Central St., pedestrian accident, report filed
July 18 at 7:30 p.m., E. Main St., aid to business
July 19 at 3:32 p.m., S. Main St., hit and run accident, criminal application
July 19 at 7:49 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 19 at 8:27 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, arrest made
July 20 at 1:27 p.m., Central St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 20 at 2:04 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 22 at 12:29 a.m., S. Main St., attempted breaking and entering, report filed
July 22 at 1:03 p.m., S. Main St., K-9 deployed
July 22 at 1:20 a.m., Pond St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 22 at 2:22 p.m., Congress Terrace, road rage
July 22 at 3:59 p.m., 36 Main St., hit and run accident, criminal application
July 23 at 11:05 a.m., Beaver

St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 23 at 1:35 p.m., Highland St., missing person, checked and okay
July 23 at 10:15 p.m., Medway Rd., road rage
July 23 at 11:30 p.m., Beaver St., intoxicated person
July 24 at 10:20 a.m., Central St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 24 at 10:26 a.m., S. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 24 at 11:20 a.m., School St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 24 at 9:33 p.m., White-wood Rd., barking dog, checked and okay
July 25 at 9:33 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 25 at 10:14 a.m., Deer St., shoplifting, arrest made
July 25 at 10:18 a.m., Grant St. Ext., attempted breaking and entering
July 25 at 10:51 a.m., Congress St., funeral escort
July 25 at 1:15 p.m., Roland Way, motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 25 at 2:13 p.m., Main St., well-being check, arrest made
July 25 at 7 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 25 at 7:26 p.m., High St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application

The Milford Fire Department also had a busy month. They responded to several medical emergencies (many transported to hospital), alarms (fire, burglar, carbon monoxide, etc.), odor investigations, reports of fire, and building and motor vehicle lockouts. They also provided mutual aid to Medway. This is not an exhaustive list.

Other items of note include:
June 25 at 6:03 a.m., West St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
June 25 at 8:58 a.m., Pleasant St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
June 25 at 1:54 p.m., Pheasant Circle, medical emergency, patient refusal
June 26 at 8:16 a.m., Purchase St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
June 26 at 12:50 p.m., West Street, disturbance, transported to hospital
June 27 at 12:53 a.m., Prospects Heights, medical emergency, patient refusal
June 27 at 10:06 a.m., Maple St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
June 28 at 5:40 p.m., Whitney St., water problem/flooded
June 30 at 9:48 p.m., School St., outside fire, dispatched
July 1 at 9:15 a.m., Birch St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
July 2 at 1:19 p.m., Taft St., appliance fire
July 3 at 6:42 p.m., E. Main St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
July 4 at 6:33 a.m., Maher Court, medical emergency, transported to hospital
July 4 at 1:14 p.m., Water St., outside fire
July 5 at 12:33 a.m., Water St.,



Firetruck: Facebook @MilfordMAFire

medical emergency, criminal application, transported to hospital
July 7 at 7:35 p.m., Mt. Pleasant St., medical emergency, transported to hospital
July 8 at 12:44 a.m., Shadowbrook Lane, water problem/flooded
July 8 at 7:06 p.m., Main St., odor investigation
July 9 at 10:23 a.m., E. Main St., medical emergency, services rendered
July 9 at 11:40 a.m., Birmingham Court, smoke investigation
July 12 at 11:27 a.m., Jenn-Paul Way, motor vehicle fire
July 13 at 8:51 a.m., Cape Road, smoke investigation
July 13 at 3:13 p.m., motor vehicle accident, arrests made, Fire responded
July 15 at 2:42 p.m., Taft St., outside fire
July 16 at 7:47 p.m., Rolling Green Dr., vehicle fire
July 17 at 5:58 p.m., Congress St., natural gas leak odor
July 19 at 7:17 p.m., Fruit St., motor vehicle accident, Fire responded
July 20 at 5:20 p.m., Malden Ave., outside fire

July 20 at 7:10 p.m., John St., outside fire
July 20 at 9:36 p.m., Prospect St., neighbor dispute
July 20 at 11:23 p.m., Main St., fight, arrest made
July 20 at 11:46 p.m., Alfred Rd., noise complaint, peace restored
July 21 at 3:06 a.m., Prospect St., unruly patient
July 21 at 4:14 p.m., S. Main St., road rage
July 21 at 6 p.m., Elm St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 21 at 7:33 p.m., S. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application
July 21 at 7:48 p.m., Prospect St., unruly patient, criminal application
July 22 at 10:43 a.m., Main St., motor vehicle fire
July 23 at 5:19 a.m., Pearl St., hazardous material spill
July 25 at 1:25 p.m., Governors Way, non-emergency investigation
July 25 at 6:19 p.m., Hancock St., structure fire
Source: www.milfordpolice.org/daily-call-log

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Comprehensive Plan Committee hones vision statement

Group says current vision similar to that of 2003 plan

By Theresa Knapp

At a joint meeting of the Milford Planning Board and the town's Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee on July 16, the group worked to fine-tune the vision statement at the top of the Comprehensive Plan.

Town Planner Larry Dunkin said the town's current consultant, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), was the same entity that authored (with the help of UMass Amherst Planning Department) the town's last comprehensive plan in 2003.

To help finalize Milford's vision statement for its current plan, MAPC had provided the committee with examples of vision statements from Bellingham, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Medway, Upton, and Woburn for comparison.

The committee agreed those towns are not the same as Milford, especially in the areas of diversity and population size, and their vision statements do not fully align with that of Milford, which

the committee agreed is very similar to what it was 21 years ago.

Dunkin said, "I think, at least, that the [Milford] 2003 Comprehensive Plan vision statement is still better than those other examples that [MAPC] sent for comparison."

Committee and Planning Board member Joe Calagione agreed. "I don't know that any of the others, in terms of set up, are any better than what we have; and in terms of the actual wording, I think, with some minor modifications to the existing one, that our vision and certainly the purpose of the plan is probably the same as it was 20 years ago - and our vision is very similar - so, with minor changes, it still is probably the closest that I would expect to what we would end up with in the final plan."

The committee will meet again on Aug. 13 when they could finalize the vision statement.

The draft vision statement is available at bit.ly/3YtOpy1

The Milford Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee is working on a vision statement for the plan. The current draft, which will be revised, begins:

A Vision for Milford's Future

Milford has always occupied a position of regional importance in south-central Massachusetts, providing jobs, goods, and housing opportunities for surrounding communities as well as its own residents. This Comprehensive Plan is intended to aid the Town in transforming its identity by embracing important aspects of its past and reinventing them with an eye towards the future... Because much of Milford is already highly developed, this plan focuses on management of existing resources and redevelopment... It provides strategies that will allow Milford to make the most of its existing strengths, while proactively addressing its weaknesses.

This Plan is a guide for directing future growth and development; it is not a regulation or law. As such, it is up to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and Town Meeting to ensure that these recommendations are sensibly incorporated into Milford's bylaws and policies.

The draft vision statement is available at bit.ly/3YtOpy1

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Adult summer reading program 'Adventure Bingo' ends Aug. 16

There's still time to complete activities, enter to win prizes

By Theresa Knapp

The theme of this year's adult summer reading program at Milford Town Library is "Read, Renew, Repeat" and readers are playing "Adventure Bingo" to keep track of activities that extend outside the library into the community.

The program began in June and will finish on Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.

Library staff say the program has been wildly successful with approximately 100 adults participating.

"The program has far exceeded our expectations," said MTL reference librarian Kate Kazlauskas. "Apparently there is a hugely competitive population of library users in Milford who are thrilled to get started on their activities."

She said, "When you join the program, you can expect to experience library resources that you may not have been aware of (or that you may not be currently taking advantage of); learn about conservation of our natural resources, either through materials we own here at the library, or activities you can do throughout the town of Milford; and start conversations about books and reading with your friends, family, online community and other Milford community members."

"It was a goal of ours to generate some additional community spirit with this program, so the bonus is that you will also be supporting four locally-owned Milford businesses."

How to join

To join, people can visit the MTL Information Desk during regular hours of operation, or they can print a bingo card at home (bit.ly/MTLAdventureBingoCard2024) then visit the Information Desk at their convenience to officially join the program. Materials are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Adventure activities include:

- Read a book in public
- Talk to a Milford resident you don't already know about a book (or reading)
- Travel the Upper Charles Trail
- Fill your water bottle at the MTL drinking fountain
- Check Milford's recycling and disposal options
- And much more



Source: www.milfordtownlibrary.org

Everyone who participates will win a prize, but the more you participate, the more tickets you can earn. Each completed row ("Bingo") earns participants a ticket to contribute toward the Adventure Prize drawing, and three winners will be selected to receive those prizes. If participants "black out" their card (completing all 24 bingo squares), they will receive a ticket to enter the Grand Prize Drawing.

How it works

Fill out your Adventure Bingo card with everything you read, and activities you complete, before Aug. 16. When you have filled in at least one line

(horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) of five squares, you can present your card at the MTL Information Desk for verification and ticket(s).

All cards must be submitted prior to our 6 p.m. closing time on Friday, Aug. 16.

For guidelines regarding earning tickets, visit www.milfordtownlibrary.org/home/news/adult-summer-reading-program-2024

Prizes

Prize drawings and winner notifications will take place on

ADVENTURE BINGO

continued on page 17

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Exsultet! women's choral group seeks two sopranos

Auditions to be held on Aug. 26

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Exsultet! has two openings for Soprano 1 and 2 singers for the 2024-2025 season. Auditions will take place on Monday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston.

• Exsultet! rehearsals for the 2024-2025 season will be on Monday nights from 7 to 9

p.m. in preparation for our two concert weekends this year. We typically perform our Holiday Concert in early December and our Spring Concert in early May.

- To audition, download the audition piece from our website, and prepare to rehearse and sing it with the group. At the end of rehearsal, you will be asked to sing your part in a trio or quartet. Come prepared to sing, work hard, and have fun!
- Please contact Carrie Klimeczko at carrie7975@gmail.com for more information and to schedule a specific audition time.
- Visit www.exsultet.us to learn more about the audition process.



Courtesy photo

ADVENTURE BINGO

continued from page 16

Aug. 19. Prizes can be picked up at the MTL Information Desk anytime during regular library hours through Sept. 6. Prizes not picked up will be awarded to another winner.

This year's prizes include:
Prize 1: Bookworm Bag - Friends of Milford Town Library reusable tote bag, filled with an assortment of titles for all reading tastes, plus a \$50 gift certificate to TJ Cafe & Games
Prize 2: Night Out (Or In) Pizza & Beer Combo - \$50 gift certificate to Rail Trail Flatbread Company, plus a mixed

variety of beer from CraftRoots Brewing

Prize 3: Adventure Pack - \$50 Milford Bicycle gift certificate, plus some outdoor gear to help you explore more of Massachusetts

For more information on the Adult Summer Reading Program and/or to print your bingo cards, stop by the Information Desk, email reference@milfordtownlibrary.org, or call 508-473-2145.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library and supported by MTL friends at CraftRoots Brewing, Depot Street Tavern, Milford Bicycle, Rail Trail Flatbread Company, and TJ Cafe & Games.

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Stacy Middle School Third Trimester Honor Roll

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

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Grade 6
 Afonso-Veinotte, Ethan; Albert, Alexandra; Alsheikh, Jannah; Ateawung, Myra; Ballard, Evan; Brothers, Michelle; Bush, Layla; Caccin, Luigi; Carvalho, Kamilla; Cincotta, Regina; Connerney, Carter; Consigli, Rita; Cue, Olivia; Cunningham, Brooke; DeTore, Cameron; DiGiallonardo, Brandon; Earl, Kendall; Fagone, Elyse; Falk, Liam; Fonseca, Mason; Garay, Judah; Gkallios, Demos; Gomes, Matheus; Gross, Camden; Healey, Brandon; Howland, Finnegan; Hukanovic, Mirza; Keenan, Makayla; LeBlanc, Landon; Lefter, Jayden; Long, Sophia; Macchi, Emma; Mastroianni, Vincent; McGovern, Kennedy; McGrath, Logan; McNeil, Keagan; Metodiev, Georgi; Mojica, Solenn; Mutegyeki, Neriah; Naugler, Abigail; Nnyanzi, John; O'Toole, Emmett; Paguay Cela, Zaima; Pinto, Jackson; Powers, Alexandra; Purtell, Melanie;

Quickmire, Nicholas; Repella, Nicholas; Ross, Addison; Silva Hughes, Isabella; Sobers, Aria; Stokes, Madison; Tomas, Aiden; Underwood, Lily; Valenca, Marley; Villa, Mey; Walker, Jack; Wallace, Ellie; Walthers, Audrey; Webster, Samuel

Grade 7
 Barbosa, Gabriella; Bertoni, Jessica; Bien, Charlotte; Blackmar, Luke; Bourassa, Marcella; Bukonya, Nicholas; Cales, Mila; Capuzziello, Dante; Carey, Emily; Connors, Reese; Corbin, Jeffrey; De Faria, Miguel; De Oliveira, Emanuele; De Souza, Gabriel; Dias, Julio Cesar; Flanagan, Brian; Freeman, Junior; Guikema, Emelia; Held, Colin; Holland, Margaret; Hughes, Lily; Kandi, Anand Ananya; Kearnan, Meghan; Knapp, Ella; LaTour, Cameron; Lefter, Anela; Mauricio, Jordyn; Michel, Isabella; Murphy, Isabella; Naves, Grace; Oliveira, Beatriz; O'Mensah, Danique; Padilla Munoz, Sebastian; Persico, Tessa; Prevelige, Leah; Puri, Grayson; Ribas Da Silva, Arthur; Saad, Samarah; Saeteros

Loja, Katly Janet; Santomena, Mia; Tint, Soe; Vazquez, Emma; Vereker, Grant; Viera, Claire; Wright, Reagan; Wright, Riley

Grade 8
 Ateawung, Matthew; Avelar, Rachel; Ballard, Reese; Brown, Andrew; Buckley, Aubrey; Caetano, Adriana; Carvalho, Daniel; Charczenko, Maya; Correa, Iyanna; Croeber, Kai-

Gabriella; Parke, Hannah; Pinto, Gabriella; Pires, Emali; Powers, Victoria; Renaud, Gianna; Rizzo, Luke; Saguay, Bryan; Shannon, Gage; Sweeney, Grace; Sweeney, Rosemary; Tobar, Valeria; Voss-Leal, Brian; Webster, Nathan; Wild, Lilli

HONORABLE MENTION

Grade 6
 Campos, Alicia; Canenguez Alfaro, Roberto; Cruz Morales, Zabryna; De Assis, Yasmim; De Oliveira, Melissa; De Oliveira, Sophia; Delucia, Noah; Dos Santos, Emily; Dunham, Arya; Dwarampudi, Visishta; Falk, Nolan; Ferreira, Sarah; Fries, Noah; Gelmini, Samson; Geofroy, Cali; Ghansah, Kendall; Gonzalez Caraballo, Daniela; Gudiel Carias, Estrella; Guillaume, Christian; Iacovelli, Grace; Jaboin, Jordan; Jasson, Mariah; Lima, David; Mancina, Destinee; Mandrik, Cora; Merrill, Colton; Miller, Maeve; Neular, Ana; Oliveira, Alice; Perez, Rafael; Perez Sauca, Lesly; Reynolds, Tristan; Roderick, Cooper; Roderick, Logan; Sanampudi, Vi-

krant; Silva, Markus Jr; Simonds, Mac; Spell, James; Valentin, Nicholas; Vidal, Samuel

Grade 7
 Aboalanin, Rami; Abrantes, Benjamin; Acquafresca, Aleah; Asong, Rose; Auger, Annie; Brown, Jonathan; Corless, Shayne; Curley, Meagan; Da Cruz, Giovanna; Da Cunha, Leticia; David, Winchelle; Dominguez, Lucas; Duchi Quizhpilema, John; Ferreira, Madelynn; Gualpa Gualpa, Brithany; Harbachuck, Lily; Hausmann, William; Marin, Sophia; Marques, Leticia; Mayancela Guaman, Saywa; McDavitt, Adrian; Moreira Ocampo, Hellen; Oliveira, Pedro; Ore, Thanisha; Pellegrini, Santino; Prescott, Kiela; Reneau, Alexa; Richard, Benjamin; Ridolfi, Michael; Rodriguez, Aliyah; Sainvilus, Juniece; Silva, Ellen Kathleen; Stachowski, Sam; Sullivan, Isabella; Turner, Olivia; Valenca, Agostinho; Vootla, Aakash; Warnke, Kayleigh



Stacy Middle School

STACY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Milford Humane Society pet of the month, meet Fjord

This dapper dude is well dressed in a tuxedo with white boots, and he is always on the lookout for fun! Fjord is part cat, part dog and part Tigger! He is a bouncy, energetic young cat looking for a playmate and wrestling buddy.

Fjord is an expert toy hunter who can keep himself entertained with traditional cat toys or anything that can be batted and chased. Fjord does play

rough so his new family will need to work gently with him to curb this tendency.

A home where the resident animals have a similar temperament and play style, or with older children or adults looking for a playful companion, would be best for Fjord.

For more information on Fjord or the other cats at The Milford Humane Society please visit www.milfordhumane.org



High School Building Committee to engage consultant to assist with MSBA process

By Theresa Knapp

At its first meeting on July 25, the Milford High School Building Committee voted to hire a consultant to shepherd the town “from eligibility to feasibility.”

MHSBC chair Jonathan Bruce had a project manager in mind, the owner’s project manager for the former Woodland Elementary School project.

Bruce said, “We deal with MSBA [Massachusetts School Building Assistance] every 10 years, [the consultant] deals with them every day.”

The consultant’s rate is expected to be \$150 per hour, not

to exceed \$10,000. This person would not necessarily be the town’s project manager for the overall project, they would be required to apply through the regular Request for Proposals process.

By hiring a consultant, the town would be best prepared to submit its best application to MSBA when the time arrives, which could eliminate costly delays.

“The sooner we get done, the less expensive that school will be,” Bruce said. “Every week that this takes longer, the cost of this school goes up.”

Champagne students make Dean’s Lists

Olivia Champagne was named to Northeastern University’s Dean’s List for the 2024 spring semester. Olivia is a member of the class of 2025 at Northeastern where she is studying Architectural Studies and Design. She graduated from Milford High School in 2021.


Emily Champagne was named to Emerson College’s

Dean’s List for the 2024 spring semester. Emily is a member of the class of 2027 at Emerson where she is studying Journalism. She graduated from Milford High School in 2023.

They are the daughters of Dale and Michele Champagne of Milford, and the granddaughters of Michael and Elizabeth Mason of Milford.





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Run, Roll and Raise:

Support VOLT Hockey in the Space2Thrive 5K on Sept. 14

By Jennifer Russo

Coming up on Saturday, September 14 at the gorgeous West Hill Dam in Uxbridge, is an opportunity to be surrounded by nature's beauty, hang out with friends, and get those steps in, all while making it possible for people with disabilities to thrive.

The 5K, organized by Space2Thrive founder Helena Liedtke, raises money for VOLT Hockey, an adaptive team sport that enables people with physical disabilities to engage in a competitive and fun environment, learn the value of teamwork and sportsmanship, and connect with others.

"In contrast to traditional wheelchair hockey, a Volt Hockey wheelchair is equipped with a fixed stick of flexible material, which is mounted directly at the tip of the electric hockey chair's fender bracket. The chairs can be customized to adapt to an individual's needs

and to offer additional physical support. Therefore, Volt Hockey especially opens the world of participating in a team sport to an underserved population of people living with physical disabilities, who have limited upper and lower body mobility," explains Helena.

The sport, which originated in Denmark 40 years ago, is very popular in Scandinavian countries, but is rather new to the United States. This month, VOLT is running a camp in Oslo, Norway and Helena is excited to bring that knowledge back to the states to apply it here.

"As a parent, for the first time in my daughter's life I was able to cheer her on when she competed with her team at the North American Championship in Canada or the World Cup in Sweden. When you've spent 15 years supporting your child while they are going through and recovering from countless



medical procedures, having the opportunity to support her in such a positive way was exhilarating," shares Helena.

The goal for the upcoming 5K is to raise \$20,000 to enable more people to be able to play VOLT Hockey, support attendance at camps, and enable families to attend tournaments. Each chair costs between \$6K-10K and can be adapted to each person and their unique needs. The playing rink and accessories have additional costs associated. Helena hopes for 100-200 participants in the race this year, which is on a trail where one can easily run, walk, or use a wheelchair to participate in. There will be raffles and prizes, activities for kids, and a lemonade stand.

Her passion for bringing VOLT Hockey to the area and founding Space2Thrive comes from a personal understanding of how important it is to have equitable environments. One of her daughters was born with a

genetic condition that changed their lives and opened her eyes to the fact that there were less opportunities for her daughter to engage in activities with her sister or her friends.

"Through my daughter I realized how many social and environmental barriers still are prevalent in our communities. However, there was a moment when I attempted to sign my daughter up at a dance school where her younger sister was dancing. Wide-eyed, and with a bewildered expression on her face, the owner replied with a long drawn-out "no". It sounded like a rhetorical question, to which I, of course, should have known the answer. I think that was the moment when the idea to "just do it myself" started to

5K

continued on page 21

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5K

continued from page 20

form," shares Helena.

Space2Thrive started almost ten years ago with music and movement classes and events where all were welcome, and where families caring for children with disabilities invited peers with or without disabilities, and other friends and family members. Families were able to interact, and children learned the lesson that everyone can be a part of a community if they choose to.

"Every single person has the choice to create inclusive and equitable social and physical environments," says Liedtke.

"People with disabilities are people first and should be treated as such. Don't make assumptions. Believe people's experiences. In the end, we all just want to belong, be heard, and be loved regardless of the attributes accompanying our appearances. The more social and physical barriers we break down, the more we will focus on the person and not their impair-

ment," says Helena.

If you would like to participate in the Space2Thrive 5K, you can sign up through the Space2Thrive website at <https://www.space2thrive.org/5k-come-out-and-revive> - it is \$20 per entry (or \$25 the day of the race). If you would like to help in other ways, you can sign up to volunteer, donate funds or raffle baskets, help them connect with potential sponsors or share on social media channels.

Learn more about Space2Thrive and their VOLT Hockey team at: www.space2thrive.org or follow them on Facebook or Instagram @Space2Thrive.

Sign-ups are open for the VOLT session starting in September at the Hockomock Area YMCA in North Attleboro. Sign up is open to participants with physical disabilities ages 13+. Children 8-12 years with physical disabilities are encouraged to reach out if interested as consideration will be made for offering an additional practice time for this age group. If interested, please reach out to helena@space2thrive.org

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Source: milfordma.gov



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STACY MIDDLE SCHOOL

continued from page 18

Grade 8

Alemnkia, Faithful; Allen, Ainsley; Alvarado, Dylan; Andrade, Daniel; Asiedu, Emmanuel; Asongafac, Glenn; Avelar Aguilar, Jepherson; Boccia, Brayden; Campos, Aaliyah; Carlos, Esther; Casey, McKenna; Castro, Ilda; Cavagnaro, Nathaniel; Damata, Juliana; Day, John; De Souza, Heloisa; Dos Reis, Yasmim; Doyon, Khryss; Ettahiri, Sami; Ferreira, Gabriella; Flinkfelt, Caroline; Geoffroy, Cody; Gomes, Ana Luisa; Grabau, Jennifer;

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SPORTS

Milford Legion falls short of state tourney

Injury-plagued Post 59 eliminated in Zone 4 semifinal

By Chris Villani

Milford Legion manager Steve DiVitto said 2024 was one of the more trying seasons he has had at the helm of the summer baseball squad. Post 59 faced injuries from the start of the year through the final games, but never made excuses as the team still finished second in the Zone 4 regular season standings.

"They showed up every day," DiVitto said. "We had guys playing all over the place, but they really played hard. It's a testament to their character."

Milford's summer came to an abrupt end with back-to-back losses to a Hudson team that went on to earn a spot in the state tournament.

"A lot of guys were playing hurt, and I think we just ran out of gas. But it was not for

lack of trying," DiVitto said. "They put everything they had into it, and unfortunately the chips didn't fall where we wanted them to."

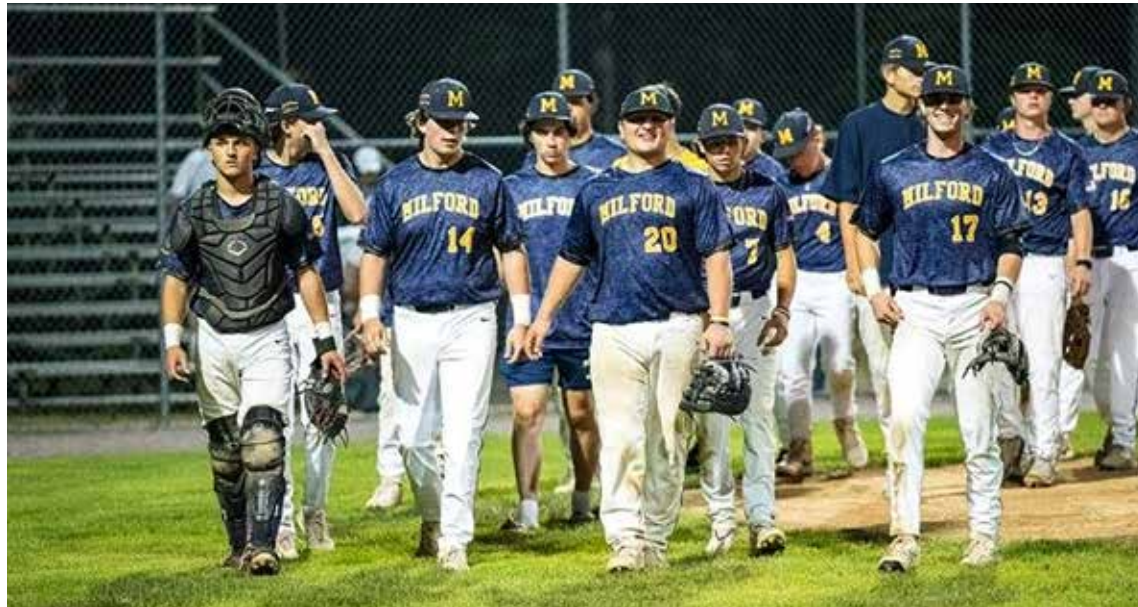
Milford's pitching staff was a driving force behind the team's success all summer. Brothers Ian and Damien Carter led the way in innings on the mound.

"They were rocks in the rotation," DiVitto said. "They were outstanding for us."

Anthony LaPierre is another player who had a strong season on the mound, despite battling a midseason injury.

DiVitto was also pleased with the performance of Blackstone Valley Tech student Jordan Mar- torano.

"I think we really found something in him," the skipper said. "He has a very, very bright future. He pitched in some big



Milford battled injuries this summer and still managed a second-place finish in the regular season standings. Courtesy photo

games for us, including on the Fourth of July, and he never wavered."

Two of Post 59's cornerstones were veteran players Sean McGee and Keith Lee.

"Sean was outstanding," DiVitto said. "You want to talk about a gamer. He is one of the toughest kids, mentally, I have ever coached."

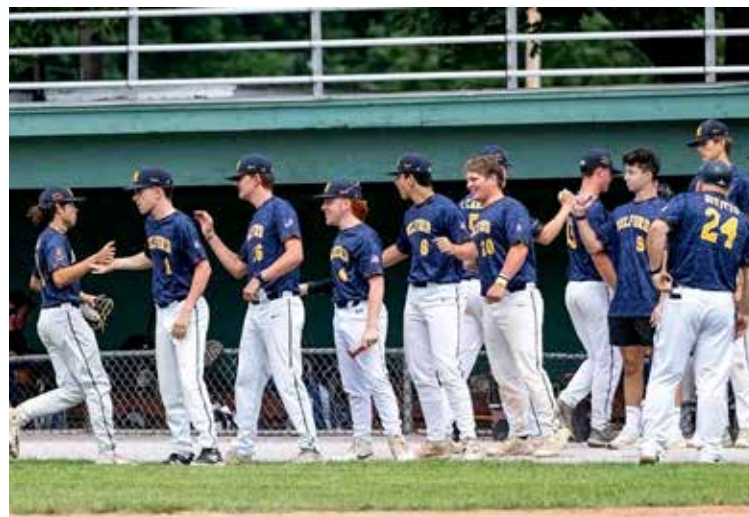
Lee battled a hand injury that made catching impossible for the last few weeks of the season.

"He could hit, even though I think he was in pain but wasn't saying it," his coach said.

Most of Milford's roster is

eligible to return next summer. Post 59 will lose Elijah Sylvia, an outfielder by trade who DiVitto said played nearly every position on the diamond. Milford will welcome back 14 of the 18 players on the roster, including Nipmuc rising junior Sean Burchard, who ended the year batting around .400.

"We are never sure how many are going to come back, but I know we have some good players who are eligible to come back," DiVitto said, "and we are excited about it."



Courtesy photo

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SPORTS

Milford's Koch commits to Merrimack

Leadoff hitter to continue baseball career in college

By Chris Villani

Nick Koch's summer started with a frustrating injury, and ended with a relief as he made what he called a "really tough" decision and decided that Merrimack College would be the place for him to play baseball in college.

"It felt like a great overall fit," the Milford High rising senior said. "It has great academics, and a really good baseball program."

Koch said one of the major factors that drove him to the North Andover school was the respect he has for head baseball coach Brian Murphy and the rest of the staff. He said he hopes to play centerfield and hit at the top of the order when he gets to the college level, which is largely what he has done through his high school career.

Koch was a driving force behind a Scarlet Hawks team that advanced to the final four in the state this spring. He was proud of his ability to be a consistent leadoff hitter throughout the

high school season.

"It's a big role to play, and I felt like I owed it to my team because my at bat could affect the energy and the intensity that my team brought throughout the rest of the game," Koch said.

The spring was filled with highlights. Koch made a diving catch with two outs and the bases loaded to end an inning in a win over Franklin. He also executed a suicide squeeze against St. John's that helped bring in a run. Koch felt he played his best during the Hawks' tournament run.

"Throughout the playoffs, that's when I started to turn my hitting on, a spark really hit me," he said. "I was at my peak, and I felt like it was a major part of us getting as far as we did."

Koch had hoped to bring that same spark to the field for Milford Legion Post 59, but his season was cut short when he dislocated his non-throwing shoulder while diving for a ball in the outfield. Koch said he recently had surgery to repair

the damage and expects to be back to full strength within a couple of months. He said he will focus on improving at the plate and getting stronger to not only make the most out of his senior season, but also to get ready for the college level. He is happy that his college decision is settled.

"It's a big relief going into my senior year knowing where I am going to be for college," Koch said. "And knowing that I get to keep playing baseball is really exciting."



Milford High School rising senior Nick Koch will play college baseball at Merrimack after his high school career. Courtesy photo



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