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Vol. 10 No. 8

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December 2024

## Field Hockey Girls Go Undefeated



The Hopedale/Milford 1/2 team played an undefeated, perfect season!

The girls worked with teamwork, heart and soul and ended their season on top! We have many skilled players who will be ones to watch as they grow

throughout the sport.

Leading scorers throughout the season were Brynn Knox, Elly Pessotti, Giuliana Leone and Emilia Nelson.

## Medway commemorates Veterans Day with Dr. Vincent Arone, former member of 42nd Bomber Squadron

### 103-year-old Hopedale resident recognized by local and state officials, shared memories

By THERESA KNAPP

Medway VFW Post #1526 held a ceremony on Nov. 11 to commemorate Veterans Day, also known as Armistice Day. Their guest speaker was World War II veteran Dr. Vincent Arone of Hopedale.

The program also included local and state officials, religious leaders, patriotic songs sung by Medway High School students, and a presentation of a flag in memory of Marine John Kingsbury, Jr. (1923-1943), Medway's first veteran killed in action.

As is customary, the ceremony began on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to commemorate the 106th anniversary

of the end of World War I.

Junior Vice Commander Robert Saleski served as Master of Ceremonies; he is also the Chairman of the Medway Memorial Committee.

Post Commander Kevin Bellows welcomed the crowd.

"We gather today to show our gratitude to the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Here, and across the nation, Americans are marking this day with expressions of respect for all who have worn the uniform of our country. This is a day of honor...We remember those who served America by fighting and dying on the field of battle, and we remember those veterans who have lived to serve America



**Dr. Vincent Arone, age 103, of Hopedale was the guest speaker at Medway's Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. He is the last surviving member of his aircrew from the Belle of Texas. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp**

and their communities in many ways," said Commander Bellows.

"Veterans know that duty and sacrifice are more than words,

### VETERANS

continued on page 2

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VETERANS

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they know the cost of freedom, they know the time spent away from family and friends and the names and faces of the men and women who have paid for it. If you are a veteran, you stand

State Proclamation

Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka thanked the VFW for hosting the event and presented a proclamation, signed by Governor Maura Healey, declaring the day to be Veterans Day. She also thanked Dr. Arone for his service, noting her father

Sen. Spilka said Massachusetts is known nationwide as having the strongest laws related to its 300,000 veterans and their families. She said the state legislature, in August, passed the "HERO Act" which is "the most comprehensive veterans legislation in over 20 years." It expands benefits to Massachusetts veterans and their families. [see page 4]

"In Flanders Field"

Medway Memorial Committee's Richard Parrella, wearing a red poppy on his lapel, read the poem "In Flanders Field" by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

According to the American Legion Auxiliary, after the poem was published in 1915, the red poppy became a symbol of the blood shed by those who fought and those who continue to fight for our country.

"Missing Man Table"

JVC Saleski explained the significance of the empty table set for one at the front of the room. "That is set up in remembrance of what they consider to be a missing man or POW [prisoner of war]."

Commander Bellows read the poem "Remember," which explains the significance of each part of the display, including the small table, white tablecloth, single red rose, red ribbon, lighted candle, slice of lemon, salt, inverted glass, and empty chair.

Town Proclamation

Medway Select Board member Glenn Trindade read a proclamation from the board extending its deepest gratitude to all United States veterans and their service.

Guest Speaker Dr. Vincent Arone

Mr. Parella introduced Dr.



Private First Class Marine John G. Kingsbury, Jr. of Medway was the town's first veteran killed in action. The Kingsbury family presented the memorial flag and purple heart presented to the family after the soldier's death to VFW Post #1526 and the Medway Memorial Committee. Here, VFW Post Commander Kevin Bellows accepts the gifts and entrusts them to Medway Historical Society President Sheila Dubrawski for permanent preservation. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

Arone who was a member of the Army Air Force from Sept. 22, 1942 to Dec. 31, 1945.

Dr. Arone served in the Central Pacific Theater as a radio operator and belly gunner on the aircrew of the 42nd Bomber Squadron on a four-engine bomber aircraft. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and received many decorations and commendations. At 103 years old, he is the last surviving member of his aircrew on the Belle of Texas.

"I appreciate you inviting me to be here," said Dr. Arone. "I've got some very interesting stories to tell but, with time constraints, I can't tell them all."

Dr. Arone was born and raised in Watertown, Mass. He knew he would be drafted so he

had his father take him to enlist. The government asked what job he wanted and he said he would like to fly an airplane. He had one year of extensive training and was then sent to the Central Pacific.

He told many stories, and included many fun facts - including many U.S. planes were named after characters in the comic strip Li'l Abner by cartoonist Al Capp - but he primarily focused on his time in Funafuti, part of the Ellice Group; and Tarawa, part of the Gilbert Islands in the Central Pacific. He recalled the physical strength needed to navigate the plane (it took two men), and the logistics of being able to fly only 1,000 miles before running out of fuel.

He told the story about invading Tarawa.

"The United States decided that, because [Tarawa] was such an important fortified island, that they would have to invade it and they sent, believe it or not, 17 aircraft carriers, 12 battleships, 12 cruisers, 66 destroyers, 36 transporters to get the soldiers on the island, and it was just a horror," said Dr. Arone. "We lost 1,037 boys, American boys were killed in the first hour because of the riptide."

He said the transporters were supposed to bring 1,000 men to shore but could not because of



Medway High School students Nora Keavany and AnneMarie Schmitt sang patriotic songs at the event. Photo credit: Medway Cable

watch over the memory of great events and of brave Americans... You have a special place in the life of America and America is proud of you," he said.

had served in World War II. "It's really special to have you here, Dr. Arone, to share; and thank you so much from the bottom of all of our hearts."

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**VETERANS**

*continued from page 2*

the coral reef, so the soldiers had to wade to shore, carrying 60 pounds of equipment.

“The short of it is that 1,037 boys were killed the first hour, it was horrible,” said Dr. Arone. “And here we were in the sky looking for a place to land because we didn’t have enough fuel [to get back to Funafuti after a bombing mission in Nauru]. And we were told Tarawa was 700 miles closer to our home base so let’s go to Tarawa. We didn’t know we were supposed to invade on the same day.”

Dr. Arone recalled trying to rescue fellow soldiers in distress. “The Dog Patch Express was one of the ships that was hit. For some reason or other, the Japanese were waiting...They shot the plane down and I took pictures of it going down and cracking up into three places and sank immediately.”

Dr. Arone’s commanding officer said they would go back to help. “We knew all of the 10 guys, I still remember their names - Shopko, Paradise - and they all died. I think they were saying their rosary beads at the waist windows when they realized it was the end. And they did, they sank, immediately.”

Dr. Arone recalled making

history when they landed the Belle of Texas with the help of parachutes.

The aircraft had come under heavy fire on one of their return trips and they had to make an emergency landing. The hydraulic system was out, and the guns and radio weren’t working.

“We had the tail gunner and the two waist gunners blow parachutes to slow us down because the runway was only 4,400 square feet and you need at least 5,000 to land a plane...We landed with the parachute and there were some Seabees swimming, in their birthday suits, who saw the parachutes open and they rushed to the scene.”

Dr. Arone was stuck in the ball turret and it took some time to get him out. The Seabees helped repair the aircraft. “They counted 300 hits on the airplane, it’s unheard of.”

Dr. Arone summarized his speech by saying, “The short of it is that we took the island back, we kept it, and we won the war.”

**Marine John Gilbert Kingsbury, Jr., Medway’s first veteran killed in action**

Private First Class Marine John Gilbert Kingsbury, Jr. was Medway’s first veteran killed in action (July 1943). At the event on Nov. 11, PFC Kingsbury’s cousins donated the memorial



**Senate President Karen Spilka presented a proclamation from Governor Maura Healey declaring Nov. 11, 2024, to be Veterans Day. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp**

flag and purple heart that were given to the Kingsbury family after the soldier’s death. The items were presented to the VFW and the Medway Memorial Committee, and were then given to the Medway Historical Society for permanent preservation.

Medway Historical Society President Sheila Dubrawski accepted the donation. “We’re honored to hold these and preserve these and cherish these items along with the other military items from our brave soldiers from Medway, thank you.”

The hour-long program concluded with a luncheon.

To watch a full recording of the event, visit [bit.ly/Medway-CableArone2024](https://bit.ly/Medway-CableArone2024).

**Massachusetts’ HERO Act was signed into law in August 2024**

The HERO Act is the most comprehensive and expansive legislative package dedicated to the welfare of veterans in Massachusetts history, according to [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

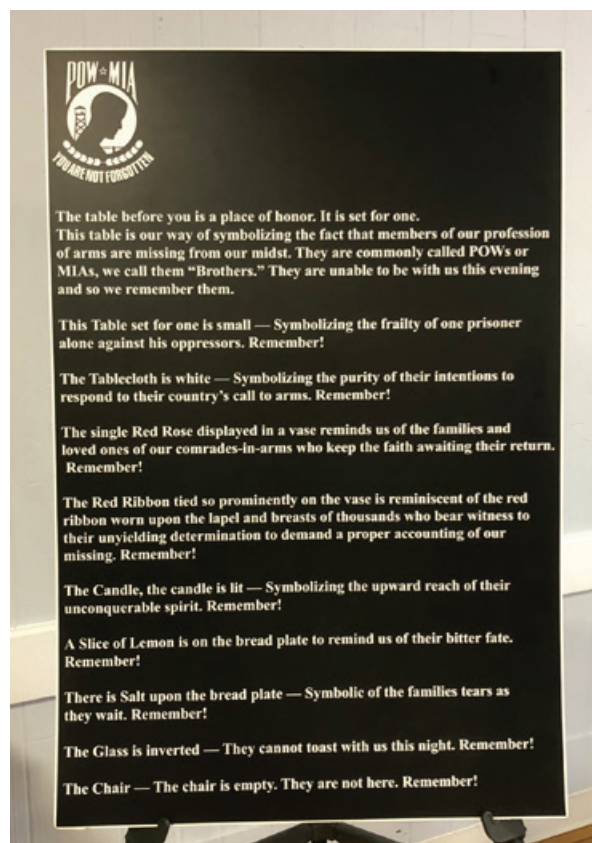
Benefits include:

- Expands behavioral health treatment
- Increases the disabled veteran annuity
- Increases the Vet-Hire Tax Credit
- Extends Active-Duty Buyback Program
- Prevents the [cost of living] “COLA Cliff”
- Increases local flexibility for veterans property tax exemptions
- Protects access to sales tax exemption
- Increases support for military-connected students
- Creates a Military Family Advocacy Program
- Broadens the Chapter 115 definition of veteran
- Expands the scope of the Veterans Equality Review Board
- Expands the definition of veteran dependent
- Codifies dental assistance benefits
- Codifies medical assistance benefits
- Codifies authority for veterans cemeteries
- Modernizes statute language
- Initiates a study on alternative therapies for mental health
- Expands Gold Star Families Recognition
- Establishes United States Space Force Day (Dec. 20)
- Establishes United States Merchant Marine Day (May 22)

The HERO Act also updates the half-staff flag requirement which requires flags to be flown at half-staff from the day of death until the day of interment for any military service member residing in Massachusetts.

For full details, visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/hero-act](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/hero-act).

An empty table was set at the event. The “Missing Man Table,” sometimes referred to as the “Fallen Comrade Table,” is meant to remind viewers of those fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. military service members, according to [www.warmemorialcenter.org](http://www.warmemorialcenter.org). The poem “Remember” (right) explains the significance of each item at the table. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp



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# The 2024 Career Fair

On Friday, November 8th the Hopedale Jr. Sr. High School held their 4th annual Career Fair for students in grades 7-10, the fair was organized by Seniors Madelyn DiMaio and Alexandra



Student interview that took place during the Mock Interview portion of the fair.

Fair to further educate students on potential career options and what it takes to be a part of the working world. Featuring events

Goode, and Junior Avery Miller. The fair was organized under the guidance of Talitha Oliveri and Mackenzie Dyke, the dedicated advisors of Hopedale DECA and educators at HJSHS. The Career Fair aided students in career exploration by allowing them to network with business professionals, expose them to soft skills, and practice the interview skills necessary to enter the professional workforce.

The Career Fair featured various smaller events to provide a fuller look into the professional world such as the Career Booths, a mock interview session, a soft skills workshop, and

the Executive Panel with business professionals. The Career Booths featured all 16 career clusters where students were given the opportunity to speak with 50 professional volunteers. Students could gain knowledge by conversing with the professionals about their respective careers where they learned how to pursue featured careers and what qualifications are required to enter that specific field.

In addition to the Career Booths, mock interviews were conducted with all Freshman and Sophomore students. This event simulated what a professional interview would be like, and was designed to provide them with the necessary skills to earn a job in the future. These interviews were conducted by upperclassmen who helped the Freshman and Sophomores find their confidence, providing them with feedback to help them in their future. This feedback targeted both their strengths and weaknesses to allow them to feel better prepared for when the time comes.

To break up their time, the Freshman and Sophomores also participated in a soft skills workshop that featured lessons in email etiquette and first impressions, which were designed to help prepare students for important interactions in professional settings.

The final activity that the Freshman and Sophomore students participated in was the



The 2024 Career Fair Event Organizers from left, Alexandra Goode, Avery Miller and Madelyn DiMaio.

Below, students visiting business professionals during the Career Booth portion of the Fair.



Executive Panel. This activity featured 6 professional volunteers, one from each of the 6 career fields, who spoke about their careers and the pathways that led them to their current jobs. Guided questions were posed by the Career Fair team to benefit the younger students and provide them with insight into their future outside of high school.

Overall, the 2024 Career Fair was very successful. The fair featured the highest volunteer turnout in its four year history, and was well organized. The Career Fair team would like to thank everyone who allowed this day to happen. They are also very grateful for all of the support they have received from the community and students.

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# BVT honors award recipients

On Friday, November 17th, educators throughout the Blackstone Valley gathered at the Three Seasons Restaurant at the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School to honor our Promising Practices Award Recipients for 2024.

Nominated by curriculum directors and endorsed by building principals, Promising Practices in Education recipients are selected because they motivate and in-

spire students. Their lessons are snapshots of instruction that are engaging, encourage collaboration between students and staff, and demonstrate best practices in meeting student academic and social-emotional needs. Most important, the recipients' lessons serve as exemplars in cultivating higher order thinking skills across all content areas.

to school to become a teacher after being inspired while volunteering in her sons' classrooms. She earned her Masters in Elementary Education from Lesley University and has previously taught 4th, 3rd and 1st grade before coming to Memorial. Mrs. Slook's unit focuses on establishing reading routines at the beginning of the school year. Students start the year with weekly lessons that focus on how to read



At the Promising Practices celebration, the recipients give an overview of their lessons and try to "plant a seed" of new and innovative teaching practices into the minds of the other educators attending the event.

At the event, Hopedale was pleased to honor Memorial Elementary second grade teacher, Laura Slook. She was nominated for her unit entitled Monthly Reading Challenge. Mrs. Slook has taught second grade at Memorial Elementary school in Hopedale since August of 2020. In 2014, she decided to go back

independently, how to choose a "just-right" book, how to look for word parts that students know, using schema to make predictions, paying attention to punctuation and reading with expression. In October, students start participating in a monthly reading challenge that runs until the end of the school year and throughout the summer. By the end of 2nd grade, the goal is to have students read for a sustained 20 minutes in school and at home each day. This helps build reading stamina, builds vocabulary and fluency and my reading challenges provide motivation for the students to reach that goal. Families have provided feedback such as, "Thank you for doing the reading challenge, we have noticed a huge difference in --'s reading! In the fall she was reluctant to read and now this spring she has turned into a little bookworm!"

Congratulations to Mrs. Slook on the incredible honor.



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# Town Preschool Celebrates STEM”

The Bright Beginnings Center, preschool for the Hopedale Public Schools, recently joined schools across the state in celebrating STEM Week from October 21st through October 25th. The 2024 celebration of STEM focused on encouraging STEM learning and opportunities for Massachusetts students from

birth to post-secondary education and beyond.

An initiative that stems from the Massachusetts Governor’s Office and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, many organizations across the state offered resources and learning opportunities for students throughout the week in-

cluding Boston’s Museum of Science.

At the Bright Beginnings Center, pre k STEM learning centers around the Wee Engineers program, which is a curriculum program developed by the Boston Museum of Science. Given the yearlong incorporation of STEM topics and learning, it was easy for teachers to incorporate STEM Week into their October plans.

“We love incorporating hands on, play based learning at BBC,” said Principal Kristen Poisson, “and STEM lessons lend themselves so well to that. In our Wee Engineers units we often see children become so invested in solving a problem using materials. It’s wonderful to see that kind of



Pre K student Evan Dailey explores which items will sink and float in his classroom.



Above, Pre K student Stephen Tosches examines the difference between pumpkin sizes using a scale. Left, Mrs. Hughes’ preschool class experiment with rolling different size pumpkins down a ramp.



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agency at such a young age.”

Throughout STEM Week at BBC, students across the school’s eight classes participated in lessons that focused on science, technology, engineering, and math. One favorite across many classrooms was the task to building a structure for the five little pumpkins to sit on. This assignment was in conjunction with the early childhood fall favorite poem, “Five Little Pumpkins.”

Cross curricular learning is

often a trademark at the preschool, says Poisson, “teachers often work a social studies or science theme into their ELA and math lessons and the entire day of curriculum just has that nice flow. Pumpkins and autumn are a big focus right now but things have changed where preschoolers aren’t just learning about pumpkins being a symbol of the season, they’re using cubes to measure them or comparing their size using scales. Our young

students are really able to explore these great STEM concepts.”

As part of the public school system, the Bright Beginnings Center follows the curriculum frameworks set out by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for pre k students. These frameworks set standard learning objectives for all curricular areas, including social emotional learning and approaches to play for early childhood students.

“We find this sets our students up for success in kindergarten,” says Poisson, “because the Standards continue in a progressive way across the curriculum and across the grade levels.”

As for STEM learning, BBC students will continue to learn and grow as scientists, engineers, and mathematicians throughout their school year beyond STEM Week.

“It was a great celebration and acknowledgement of STEM,” says Poisson, “and we look forward to recognizing it each year.”



# Girl Scouts Honor Founder Juliette Gordon Low



Upton – On Nov 1, Girl Scouts from Mendon, Hopedale and Upton, ages 5 to 16 came together to celebrate the birthday of founder Juliette Gordon Low. The girls had ice cream and played minute-to-win-it games. They also collected over 300 items including menstrual products and undergarments and over \$300 for Dignity Matters to help girls and women in Massachusetts affected by period poverty. Dignity Matters provides free menstrual care to 16,500 people every month in Massachusetts through a network of 175 nonprofit partners across the state. From Springfield to Hyan-

nis, Haverhill to Fall River, and everywhere in between, these shelters, schools, food pantries, and clinics – and the women they support – can count on Dignity Matters every month.

Mendon Hopedale Upton Girl Scout Service Unit serves girls in grades K-12 and is part of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves with the mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. For more information, please visit [www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org).

# Greater Milford Ballet Company Presents The Nutcracker

You won't want to miss this holiday season's 44th annual "The Nutcracker" which returns to the Milford High School stage and is being presented by the Greater Milford Ballet Company on December 14 and 15, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Milford High School auditorium, Milford, MA. The Greater Milford Ballet (GMBA) and the Deane School of Dance were founded by the late Miss Georgia Deane.

This state-of-the art ballet production includes local dancer and performer talent from Hopedale, Bellingham, Blackstone, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Uxbridge and Wrentham, MA and Cumberland and Newport, RI. The production is under the Artistic Direction and Choreography by Cynthia Marnik and Susanna Vennerbeck.

This production has been a traditional favorite for many who return yearly because every year

something new is introduced such as a new costume, new set feature or new character to add to the element of surprise. The adult cast members and young dancers in the production play multiple roles in the production dancing in scenes and corps numbers often requiring precision timing backstage quick changes. The production is complete with special effects like dolls that magically grow to adult size, a magical dancing bear, vanishing furniture, a growing tree, falling snow, and lively duel between the Nutcracker Prince and the Mouse King.

Previous guest appearances with the Greater Milford Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" in the role of Sugar Plum have been played by Misty Copeland of the American Ballet Theatre, Ashley Murphy from the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Emily Loscocco of Festival Bal-

let Providence and Ashley Ellis from Boston Ballet to name a few. Our guest performers this year are Lauren Difede as Sugar Plum Fairy along with Azamat Asangul as the Cavalier from the Newport Contemporary Ballet.

Samantha Novelli, from Hopedale, plays the roles of Columbine, Candy Cane Lead and is in Snow and Waltz Corps in this year's Greater Milford Ballet's production of The Nutcracker.

Other Hopedale residents that are performing in this year's production as families are: Paula Cerulli (who also plays The Fairy Godmother) and her husband Doug Lock as Party Parents; Lorelei Lefever as Party Child, Soldier, Lady in Waiting, Angel and Chinese and Marzipan Corps; Josiah Lefever as Arabian Consort; and Lorelei and Josiah's father Jason Lefever as a Party Parent.

At intermission, holiday raffle items will be available including

gift certificates from local restaurants, retailers and themed gift baskets.

Tickets are priced at \$25 and \$30. Ticket sales are available by calling the Deane Dance Studio at 508-473-3354 or at Charles River Bank located at 16 Hastings Street in Mendon. Tickets

at Charles River Bank will be available from November 19 until December 14. Discount sales for Council on Aging and non-profit 501(c)3 groups of (10) or more can be arranged by calling Colleen O'Brien at (508) 954-4756. Tickets will be sold at the auditorium depending on availability.

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# Winter Stroll and Shop Hop

Snowflake Selfie Wall November 25 - December 13  
Hopedale Winter Stroll and Shop Hop December 7  
Hopedale Holiday Lights Contest December 13 - 22

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Buy your Hopedale merchandise and support the museum!
- 2 Adin Ballou Park**  
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Dawn til dusk: Take your pic at the Snowflake Selfie Wall
- 3 Bancroft Memorial Library**  
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- 6 Hopedale Police Station**  
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- 7 Curiosity Shoppe of Hopedale**  
2 Depot Street  
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- 8 Beyond Full**   
76 Hopedale Street  
Open 8am - 8pm Stop in to refuel while strolling!  
Free kids meal w/purchase
- 9 Hopedale Unitarian Parish**  
65 Hopedale Street  
Noon - 6pm Shop Local Vendors, Raffles & enjoy soup by the firepit or inside! (\*\*vegan option)  
Noon - 5pm Cub Scout Wreath Sales!  
4:30pm - 6pm Free S'mores w/BSA Troop #1  
3:30 & 5:30 Playing of the Church Bells  
4pm & 5pm Holiday Organ Music by Carol Devendorf  
5pm - 7pm S'mores by the fire w/Boy Scouts Troop #1



- 10 Hopedale Community House**  
43 Hope Street  
1pm - 3pm - Main Hall: Free Make & Take Crafts for kids  
1:30pm & 3pm - Front Lawn: Performance by SNE Witch Dancers  
2pm - 5pm - Downstairs:  
\*Free Balloon Characters\* Sponsored by NE Holiday Lighting  
\*Free Face Painting\* Sponsored by DMG Trucking & Paving  
2pm - 5pm - Main Hall: Visit the Grinch & Cindy Lou Who!  
2pm - 5pm - Visits with Bluey\* Sponsored by Friends of the Elders  
5:30pm - 6:30pm - Front Lawn: Hot Cocoa from the Hopedale Police  
5:45pm - Front Steps: High School A Capella Caroling  
6pm - Main Hall: Photos w/Santa  
-Santa's Porch accepting donations  
6:20pm Santa Arrival w/ Hopedale Fire Dpt & Tree Lighting
- 11 Draper Gym**   
13 Dutcher Street  
Noon - 6:30pm Friends of Historic Hopedale sales of Hopedale Socks & Candles, plus raffles!  
Shop Local Vendors - vintage, handmade, artisan, jewelry, artists & gifts!  
Permanent Jewelry & DIY trucker hat bar!  
Food trucks and mobile Irish Pub!  
Live Music w/David Penza  
Dog photo booth from the Cozy Nook  
Warming fire w/Montgomery Lodge Milford & William F Ray Lodge Odd Fellows Franklin  
4 - 6pm Cocoa Crawl Starting Point
- 12 Hopedale Union Evangelical Church**   
25 Dutcher Street  
Open Noon - 7pm  
Noon - 4pm Foster Care Essentials Free Raffle  
Shop Local Vendors & Waffles w/toppings bar!  
2 - 5pm Visit w/ Olaf! Sponsored by Small Town Athletic Center



- 13 Hopedale Jr Sr High School**   
25 Adin Street  
Noon - 4pm Shop & Support 4 School Groups In One Location!  
DECA: selling school store merchandise  
Class of 26: paint your own ornaments  
Women in STEM: selling jewelry  
Class of 2030: DIY Grinch ornaments
  - 14 Hopedale Package Store**  
130 Mendon Street  
10am - 7pm Stop in to enter a Free raffle for a gift card! Open to our 21+ customers!
  - 15 Stonewall Farm Soap Company**   
4 Evergreen Lane Unit 5  
9am - 5pm Free Holiday Scented Guest Soap! Shop for gifts for everyone on your list!
  - 16 Flock & Flourish**   
2 Evergreen Lane Unit 7/8  
10am - 4pm  
10% off Sale and Make & Take activities!
  - 17 Jam Packed Thrift Store**   
4 Evergreen Lane Unit 2  
10am - 5pm Take \$5 off a \$25 or more purchase!
  - 18 Flying Eye Tattoo**  
1 Menfi Way  
Noon - 8pm  
Open for walk in tattoos
- Downtown Parking:**  
25 Dutcher Street  
78 Hopedale Street  
25 Adin Street  
13 Dutcher Street
- Shuttle Bus Stops:**  
25 Adin Street  
12 Hopedale Street  
13 Dutcher Street  
4 Evergreen Lane
- Shuttle Bus Runs Noon - 5pm**
- thank you FOR SHOPPING SMALL!*



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(508) 381-0249

43 Main Street, Hopkinton  
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## Help Us Make Our Snowflake Selfie Wall

Want to help us with a fun, group town project? Pick up your snowflake from the display at Adin Ballou Park (43 Hopedale St) starting November 25th, decorate it, then hang it back on the display by December 6th. If you want it back you can pick up after December 7th. Display will be removed by December 13th.

All Ages \* All Skill Levels  
www.friendsofhistorichopedale.com



**Your Money, Your Independence**

# Holiday Cheer and Roth Conversions: A Gift to Your Future Self

Ah, the holiday season... a time for joy, gratitude and (un-



**Glenn Brown, CFP**

fortunately) for some the ritual of cramming late nights to ensure they don't pay more in taxes than necessary now and in retirement.

Sure, they could be planning for family get-togethers, attending holiday parties with friends or enjoying eggnog by the fire. But no, that's all too festive and cheerful.

Instead, they build spreadsheets, search IRS interpretations, and obsess about miscalculating their household adjusted gross income (AGI) and threshold \$ amount to convert to a Roth IRA. Then when the time comes to execute the conversion, there is a feeling of dread. Like that of being outside in the freezing cold and "triple-

dog-dared" to stick their tongue to a metal pole.

Let's discuss a better (and safer) way.

**What Is a Roth Conversion?**

At its core, Roth conversion is like wrapping up retirement savings into a tidy, tax-advantaged gift package. You take funds from a traditional IRA or 401(k) — accounts taxed when you withdraw in retirement — and convert them into a Roth IRA. In doing so, you pay taxes on the converted amount now at your income brackets.

However, once in a Roth, it gifts:

- Tax-free growth
- Tax-free withdrawals in retirement
- Removal of Required Minimum Distributions
- Tax-free distributions for non-spousal beneficiaries

**Make Modeling a Roth Conversion Joyous.**

Just as giving perfect holiday gifts require planning, so does Roth conversion.

In working with clients, ideally we build or update their Roth conversion model in February or March using prior year data with intentions of waiting until December to run again with actual tax data and execute.

Beyond the adage "measure twice, cut once" and making it

less stressful during the holidays, this provides readiness for opportunities. One such example is converting in a steep market decline during the year. If you're going to hang onto the same security/strategy, why not convert some at a lower value (equals less taxation) and allow for time to bring price recovery inside the Roth IRA instead?

**How You Model Makes a Difference**

Modeling a Roth conversion is like preparing a delicious holiday feast - attention to detail and coordinated foresight can make all the difference. Beyond current tax situation, age, goals, and cash to pay taxes, there are several future questions to answer in analysis.

In the near-term, will future years have lower taxable earnings to more favorably convert? Will your state of residence change and if so, does your taxation change? What are projected growth rates for Roth, are they more aggressive? Should they be?

For retirement, have you

projected RMDs at age 73 (75) and resulting new tax bracket? Does conversion help or hurt Social Security and Medicare taxation?

What's your expectation of future taxation by governments?

What are your estate planning wishes?

**Respect The Grinch**

The pro-rata rule. When converting, the IRS combines all traditional IRA balances and asks about nondeductible contributions, as this portion is not taxable. Understand the IRS doesn't allow for conversion of just after-tax money.

It is what it is. Once a Roth Conversion is done, it's done, as IRS no longer lets you unwind (recharacterize).

Not all-or-nothing. You can develop a plan to spread conversions over several years, even skip a year or two as needed pending AGI levels and ability to pay the IRS with non-IRA assets.

**The Gift of Time and Independence**

Consistent and well-timed Roth conversions can be the gifts that keeps on giving — tax-free growth, tax-free withdrawals, and the peace of mind that comes with control.

May the holiday season bring you good cheer and health throughout the coming year.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, [www.PlanDynamic.com](http://www.PlanDynamic.com). Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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# Bancroft Memorial Library

50 Hopedale Street

Contact: Keely Bethel-Penny, Library Director

(508) 634-2209

kbethel-penny@cwomars.org

## Library News

The Library will be open 10am-2pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed the next day, December 25th for Christmas. The Library will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day.

## Santa's Porch Drop Off Location

The Bancroft Memorial Library is a drop off location for Santa's Porch! Donations of new, unwrapped gifts will be accepted through Friday, December 13th.

## Giving Tree

We invite our generous patrons to donate handmade knitted items (hats, mittens, scarves, etc.) that will be given to the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Milford. Donations will be collected until Wednesday, December 18th.

Hopedale Downtown Winter Stroll – Saturday, December 7th from 10am-6pm

The Library will be open from 10am-6pm as part of the annual Winter Stroll. There will be crafts for all ages from 10am - 5:30pm and hot cocoa and mulled cider starting at 1:00pm. The Friends of the Hopedale Library invite you to hear the sounds of the season starting at 1:00pm with the local acapella group Holiday Harmony Quartet. This free event will take place

in the upstairs Reading Room. To register, please sign up online on the Library's Event Calendar, at the Circulation Desk, or call 508-634-2209. Limited spots are available!

## Helen Symonds Book Group

Wednesday, December 4th at 1:00pm  
The group will be discussing How to Walk Away by Katherine Center

Community Conversations – Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30pm

Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about "Critical thinking in the education system."

## News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library:

Shop Our Ongoing Book sale During the Winter Stroll on December 7th

Be sure to stop by the Ongoing Book sale area downstairs in the Library during the Winter Stroll. We will have holiday books of gift-giving quality and puzzles starting at \$1.00. There will be homemade holiday decorations including pine swags and birch candle holders starting at \$7.00 and our Bancroft Memorial Library 125th Anniversary glass ornament sun catchers will be available for \$20.00. Don't forget you can shop for books, puzzles, and ornaments any time the Library is open. We are constantly refreshing the selection, and all funds raised go right

back to the Library to support museum passes and Library programming.

Maker Mondays – Monday, December 16th at 6:00pm  
This month in the adult crafting workshop called "Planting Seeds of Intention," you will learn about the benefits of crystals and assemble a terrarium using small plants, soil, crystal chips, sands and our own individual seeds of intention. Registration is required. To register, please sign up online on the Library's Event Calendar, at the Circulation Desk, or call 508-634-2209

Commemorative Glass Ornament Special Fundraiser  
Help us celebrate Bancroft Memorial Library's 125th Anniversary by purchasing a commemorative glass ornament featuring the Library. These handcrafted ornaments by Becker Glass are available in blue or clear for \$20. They are boxed for gift giving and perfect for the holidays. To purchase, simply stop by the Library. Cash and checks will be accepted; any checks should be made out to The Friends of the Hopedale Library. All monies raised help support the Library in paying for museum passes and adult and children's programming.

## About the Friends of the Library

We are a volunteer, non-profit organization. Our purpose is to stimulate interest in the use of the Library, focus attention on community services the Library offers, and raise funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the Library's regular operating budget. Our fundraising supports the museum pass program and children's and adult programming, including Summer Reading. Our meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month from September through June at 6:30pm at the Library. We love new members!

## News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room:

### Special event:

Noon Year's Eve! – Wednesday, December 31st 10:30am – 12:30pm  
All are welcome to drop in for a scavenger hunt to welcome in a new year, make a fortune teller craft and watch

a classic New Year's movie.

## Weekly Programs:

Tummy Time Play – Tuesdays 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17 at 10:30am, ages 0-18 months  
Join us for some infant fun in a safe environment! Along with a story there will be fun, developmentally appropriate toys that encourage gross motor development. Drop in!

Letter Explorers – Tuesdays 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17 at 11:30am, ages 4+  
Did your child miss the cut off for Kindergarten but is ready for classroom learning? This class will focus on a different letter each week. We will read a book highlighting the letter, review items that begin with the letter, make a craft of the letter and complete worksheets about the letter. For school readiness, we will also work on reading and listening skills, classroom expectations and organization, socialization, self-regulation, time management, communication, and writing.

Toddler Tunes – Thursdays 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19 at 10:30am, ages 18 months–3 years  
This program is perfect for energetic toddlers! Along with a story, we will work on gross motor skills and play with balls, a parachute, instruments, bean bags, scarves and more. Drop in!

Rhyme Time – Thursdays 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19 at 11:30am, ages 3-5 years  
Each week we will build early reading skills as we learn a new rhyme, dance and sing, do finger plays, play musical instruments and engage in other activities. Each class will end with a craft that is a reminder of our rhyme. Drop in.

## Monthly Programs:

HQ Crew Book Club – Monday 12/2 at 4pm, Grades 4-6  
Do you like the Who Was/Where Was/What Was series of books? Join this club and build your own HQ Scrapbook! Read a book from these series and when we gather you will be given a composition notebook to create entries for the books you read. All materials will be provided; just come to the meeting, share information about the book you read and work on your scrapbook. Drop in.

Book Buffet Book Club – Monday 12/2 at 6:30pm, Grades 7-12

Book Buffet is a monthly book group for tweens and teens. Read a book of your choice and create your own Mini Book Library Jar. All materials (and snacks!) will be provided. Drop in.

Genre Book Club – Wednesday 12/18 at 4pm, Grades 1-3  
Here's a book club for kids in Grades 1 - 3 who want to discover what they love about reading. Miss Laura will help participants find a right-for-them book in a genre of their choice. Each month the readers will earn a new genre badge to add to their personal bookmark as they explore all the different types of stories offered! Drop in.

TACO: Teen Advisory and Community Organization – Wednesday 12/18 at 6:30pm  
TACO is the advisory and activity planning organization for teen patrons here at the Library. Open to students in Grades 7-12, we will meet once a month to discuss specific programming, ideas and opportunities for the Young Adult residents of Hopedale. Drop in.

Volunteer Saturdays for High School Students – Saturday 12/21 11:00am-1:00pm  
Each month there will be an opportunity for high school students to earn 2 hours of volunteer time from 11am - 1pm. Registration is required. Please register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events or call the Library at (508) 634-2209. We will provide all necessary supplies, you just bring your energy and motivation.

Desserts & Discussions – Wednesday, December 18th at 6:00pm  
Desserts and Discussions is a program of the Milford Family Community Network CFCE that is meeting in the Program Room. Come connect with other parents to share stories, challenges and triumphs. This is a fun night for parents/caregivers only and will be a participant led discussion, so bring your questions, concerns and advice! Coffee and desserts will be provided; please call 508-277-4981 to register.

For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook and sign up at www.wowbrary.org to discover the Library's newest books, movies and music. Our webpage is <https://www.hopedale-ma.gov/bancroft-memorial-library>.

## NOTICE OF INITIAL SITE INVESTIGATION & TIER CLASSIFICATION

November 2024  
16 Warfield Street  
Hopedale, MA

Release Tracking Number 2-22501

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0480), and Initial Phase I Site Investigation has been performed at the above referenced location. A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at the location, which is a Disposal Site (defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, Section 2). The site has been classified as Tier I, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. Response/Assessment Actions at this site have been and will be conducted by Margaret Johnson and Brina Johnson, who have employed Mr. Kurt Klages, LSP (7770) to manage the response actions in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0000). M.G.L. c. 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan provide additional opportunities for public notice of and involvement in decisions regarding response actions at the Disposal Site: 1) the Chief Municipal Official and Board of Health of the community in which the site is located will be/have been notified of major milestones and events, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1403; and 2) upon receipt of a petition from ten or more residents of the municipality in which the site is located, or of a municipality potentially affected by a site, a plan for involving the public in decisions regarding response actions at the site will be prepared and implemented, pursuant to 310 CMR 40.1405.

To obtain more information about the Disposal Site and the opportunities for public involvement during its remediation, please contact: Mr. Kurt Klages, LSP, Jewel Environmental Corp., 508-207-8879.



# Sports

## Young Girls Introduced to Field Hockey in Hopedale

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Over the past few years, the Hopedale field hockey team has found its way into the Division 4 State Tournament. Having lost in the Round of 32 in 2021 and 2022 the Blue Raiders were able to advance into the Quarter Finals last year only to fall to Manchester Essex.

Being that the Hopedale field hockey team has had some success on the field, they are finding out that the younger girls are starting to gravitate to the sport. Hopedale/Milford, a team made up of first and second graders, put together a successful season this year under the guidance of Head Coach Katie Gallerane

ham 5-1 and Medway 4-0.

“The girls played tough and dominated the field,” Assistant Coach Knox said.

When the season got underway the Blue Raiders started off strong, something that shocked the coaching staff and the girls continued to play extremely well and put up wins in the Commonwealth League.

“Last year’s team had a mix of returners and strong players with the girls working hard during the off-season,” the Assistant Coach said. “The girls took part in other programs to help themselves get better for this season.”

In the past the Hopedale/Milford team would have approximately 12 girls on their roster during any given year, but



League each and every girl on the Blue Raiders roster gets the opportunity to play. Throughout their undefeated season Hopedale/Milford rarely found themselves in a tough fought battle. The only game that was close came against Holliston, the team to eventually beat the Blue Raiders in the jamboree. During the regular season Hopedale/Milford walked off the field with a hard fought 8-7 victory.

According to the Assistant Coach, the girls were continually working hard as a team throughout the season, thus the ability to go undefeated. During practices

they are not only learning the basic skills of the game but they are participating in drills, in addition to learning how to properly handle their sticks giving them the tools they need to be able to advance though the sport and eventually play as they get older.

Hopedale/Milford is always looking for those younger players who want to learn about the game of field hockey to join the team for next season. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Hopedale/Milford field hockey team can follow the team on their Facebook page.

Leone and her assistant coaches Becky Knox, Brittany Pessotti and Sarah Greco. The coaching staff is made up of high school field hockey players themselves as well as still playing in women’s recreational leagues now thought the area.

The Blue Raiders went an impressive 8-0 during the regular season before heading into the jamboree, a tournament style of play to round out the season. In the jamboree the local team opened with their first loss of the season falling 2-0 to Holliston but bounced back to win their final two games by defeating Belling-

this season the Blue Raiders were able to field 17 girls. Leading scorers through the 8-game regular season were Brynn Knox, Elly Pessotti, Emilia Nelson and Giuliana Leone.

“The whole concept of this program is to get the girls interested in the sport of field hockey while having fun and hopefully they will continue to play it as the years go on,” Knox said. “We’re hoping that a lot of them decide to stick with the sport and continue to grow while building their skills and eventually moving on to play on the high school level.”

Playing in the Commonwealth





# Living Healthy

## Government Oversight in Ensuring Ethical Referrals Between Optometrists and Ophthalmologists

Ethical referral practices between optometrists and ophthalmologists are vital to maintaining trust in the medical profession and safeguarding patient welfare. However, financial incentives, kickbacks, and other self-serving practices often threaten these principles. In such cases, government intervention becomes essential to uphold ethical standards and enforce legal compliance. High-profile cases, such as those in Rhode Island, Texas, and Louisiana, highlight the significance of government oversight in addressing violations and protecting patients.

### The Importance of Patient-Centered Referrals

Optometrists are ethically and legally obligated to prioritize patient well-being when making referrals. Considerations like quality of care, proximity, and insurance network compatibility should guide these decisions.

Unfortunately, certain practices undermine this ethical standard:

### Referrals Outside the Insurance Network

Some optometrists refer patients to providers outside their insurance networks, leading to avoidable out-of-pocket expenses. When motivated by financial gain or kickbacks, such referrals prioritize profits over patient interests.

### Conditional Referrals Based on Financial Agreements

In some cases, referrals are tied to agreements where ophthalmologists return patients post-surgery, regardless of clinical necessity. Often, these arrangements include expectations of eyeglass purchases from the referring optometrist's office.

### Quid Pro Quo Referrals

Financial incentives between optometrists and ophthalmologists create biased referral pat-

terns. These quid pro quo arrangements prioritize mutual financial benefit rather than the best interests of the patient.

### Referrals to Office-Based Cataract Surgery (OBS)

Optometrists sometimes refer patients to ophthalmologists performing surgeries in office-based settings instead of accredited centers. These office setups lack MD anesthesiologists, compromise emergency readiness, and charge extra fees not covered by Medicare. Patients are frequently unaware of these risks or additional costs, leaving them vulnerable to suboptimal care.

### Government's Role in Preventing Unethical Practices

To counter unethical referrals, federal laws like the Anti-Kickback Statute and the False Claims Act (FCA) play a crucial role:



### Anti-Kickback Statute

This law prohibits any form of payment or incentive to influence referrals. For example, in Rhode Island, Dr. Paul Koch faced allegations of accepting kickbacks for patient referrals. The government's investigation resulted in a settlement, underscoring the importance of holding violators accountable.

### False Claims Act (FCA)

Referring patients out of network for financial gain can lead to fraudulent billing practices. In Texas and Louisiana, healthcare providers faced legal action for filing false claims tied to unethical referral arrangements, resulting in significant settlements.

### Education and Monitoring as Preventative Measures

Governmental agencies like the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and state Attorneys General must promote transparency in referral practices. Routine audits, mandatory reporting, and educational initiatives help identify and prevent unethical behavior. Collaboration between professional societies, licensing boards, and regulatory bodies can establish clearer guidelines and ensure widespread compliance. If you sense unethical referral by your optometrist you are encouraged to refer this optometrist to the OIG.

### Ensuring Ethical Referrals: Questions Patients Should Ask

Patients can protect themselves by asking critical questions when receiving referrals from an optometrist to a specific ophthalmologist and no one else:

- Why are you referring me to this specific ophthalmologist or surgeon?
- Why aren't you giving me a choice of multiple ophthalmologists/ surgeons so I can choose based on my best interest?
- Is the surgeon you're referring me to within my insurance network?
- Why not refer me to a local ophthalmologist who is closer and in-network?
- Does the surgeon perform surgeries in a licensed, accredited center or an office-based setting?
- Are there additional out-of-pocket costs for the recommended surgery in this ophthalmologist office-based surgery center?
- Is the surgeon local, or part of a distant franchise practice?

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# Curbside leaf collection now through mid-December

The Town of Hopedale Highway Department started its annual leaf collection at the end of October, and it will continue, weather permitting, “to the second week of December,” according to the Town’s website.

Here’s how it works:

- Please rake leaves to edge of property line
- Sticks, stones, and grass clippings will not be collected
- Keep sidewalks clear of leaves
- Keep piles away from stormwater catch basins
- Keep pile at a distance from parked cars, trees, mailboxes, or utility poles

After the collection period ends, please use other options to dispose of your leaves.

Source: Board of Road Commissioners, [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov)



# Christmas Brass Concert

The Birch Alley Brass Ensemble will present a concert at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge on Friday, December 20th at 7:00PM. The brass ensemble, directed by William Moffett, is made up of 35 student and professional musicians from area towns including

Uxbridge, Upton, Hopedale, Mendon, Northbridge and Milford. This concert will feature Christmas music from around the world and is free and open to the public. This will be the 13th annual performance. The concert is funded in part by the Mil-

## EYES

*continued from page 12*

- Where will I be seen in case of an emergency—locally or hours away?
- My neighbors and friends had excellent results with local ophthalmologists—why not refer me to one of them?

Asking these questions empowers patients to make informed decisions about their care.

### The Milford-Franklin Eye Center Difference

At Milford-Franklin Eye Center and the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, our mission is clear: to provide ethical, patient-focused care in a licensed and accredited surgery center closer to home. Our local ophthalmologists are in-network, community-based, and have served the region for over 40 years.

Unlike office-based surgery models, our accredited and li-

censed surgery center features:

- A full-time MD anesthesiologist for every procedure.
- IV-based anesthesia for optimal safety and comfort.
- No hidden fees or out-of-pocket costs for Medicare-covered procedures.

Patients being referred for cataract surgery in office-based settings are advised to seek a second opinion. Always question what your optometrist recommends. If you have doubts, call us. We will answer your questions. At our center, you’ll receive world-class care close to home. Our commitment to your safety and well-being is unwavering. You always come first.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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 **MEMBER FDIC | NMLS #583135** <sup>1</sup> Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) effective as of 12/1/2024 and subject to change at any time after the account is open. The interest rate and annual percentage yield for your account depend upon the applicable rate tier. The interest rate and annual percentage yield for these tiers may change. If the eligibility requirements are not met the account will earn a lower interest rate and corresponding APY and will not be eligible for refund of ATM surcharge transaction fees. Fees may reduce earnings. The account does not have a maximum deposit limit. Minimum balance of \$10 to open the account. Other restrictions may apply, inquire for details.

- In order to be eligible for the disclosed Tier I and Tier II interest rate, Annual Percentage Yield (APY), and refund of domestic ATM Surcharges the following conditions must be met in a given statement cycle:
  - A minimum of 8 posted and settled debit card purchase transactions during the statement cycle. Not all purchase transactions post or settle on the day they occur.
  - Active enrollment in e-statements – you must sign into your online banking account at least once every 12 months to keep enrollment active. Limit one account per customer holding position of primary account holder.



# DESE Office of Public School Monitoring to Conduct an Integrated Monitoring Review at BVT

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Office of Public School Monitoring will conduct an integrated monitoring review of Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) during the week of December 9th. Each school district, charter, vocational, and virtual school undergoes an integrated Monitoring Review every three years. The areas addressed are according to either Group A Universal Standards or Group B.

BVT will undergo a Group B monitoring review that addresses licensure and professional development for special educa-

tion teachers and related service personnel, parent, student, and community engagement, including compliance with Child Find requirements, facilities and classroom observations, implementation and oversight of Individualized Education Programs, time and learning, and equal access. The review includes interviews with staff and administrators, policies and procedures, and school building visits. It may also include parent/caregiver, student, and teacher focus group meetings to gather additional information. Interpretation will be provided if needed.

BVT will host an orientation

about the review process in collaboration with the Special Education Parent Advisory Council. The Department will also send a survey, in multiple languages and formats, as needed, to parents/guardians of special education students to gather key information on the special education processes and procedures.

Parents/guardians and other stakeholders may call Moses Nduati, Monitoring Review Chairperson, at 781-338-3767 to request a telephone interview. If anyone requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the neces-

sary arrangements.

Approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the Chairperson will provide the school with an informational report that may require further actions. A public report will be accessible at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/default.html>.

## **About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):**

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. For more information about the school, visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us).

# BVT Class of 2025, 78 Adams Scholar Recipients Earn Option to Advance Career Training at MA State College or University

UPTON – The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides tuition at a Massachusetts state college or university. 78 Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School seniors are the proud recipients of an Adams Scholarship. The award allows these students an option to further their vocational and career training with additional education, advanced training, and credentials.

The first-time score on a high school MCAS exam determines eligibility for an Adams Scholar-

ship. Adams Scholars receive free tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts public college or university, renewable for eight consecutive semesters or four years. Recipients must use the tuition credit in the first fall semester following their high school graduation and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better.

The following members of the Class of 2025 have earned a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (students are listed alphabetically by town):

## **Bellingham**

Kiele Sarnie, Construction Technology; Blackstone; Braedon Ando, Culinary Arts; Nathaniel Cook, Biotechnology; and Keira Kelliher, Health Services.

## **Douglas**

Michaela Boulette, Biotechnology; Haley Chamberlain, Cosmetology; Conner Champagne, Information Technology; Justin Dooner, Engineering; Tyler Grybowski, Information Technology; Emily Muniz, Engineering; Om Patel, Engineering; Liam Peach, Multimedia Communications; Samantha Pinto, Health Services; and Willow Windoloski, Engineering.

## **Grafton**

Audrey Bell, Engineering; Raghav Dave, Electronics; Nora Iadarola, Multimedia Communications; Christopher Joiner, Biotechnology; Keyara Jones, Health Services; Ella McCann, Advanced Manufacturing; Owen O'Packi, Multimedia Communications; Brodie Remillard, Electronics; Joshua Siefert, Engineering; Carly Simpson, Health Services; and Daniel Warfield, Electronics.

## **Hopedale**

Kallie Allen, Biotechnology; Nathaniel Allen, Information Technology; Anthony Bucchino, Engineering; Eric Deppe, Engineering; Connor Griffin, Electrical; Gabriella Griffin, Health

Services; Riley Jackson, Information Technology; Jacob Noble, Engineering; Declan Reilly, Information Technology; and Christopher Russell, Biotechnology.

## **Milford**

Nicolas Alvarez-Benincasa, Construction Technology; Lacey Coffman, Multimedia Communications; Gregory D'Orazio, Advanced Manufacturing; Adriana Hawkins, Culinary Arts; Matthew Hunter, Biotechnology; Charbel Jebara, Electronics; Ryan McGuire, HVAC/R; Jack Nevens, Information Technology; and Joel Puri, Engineering.

## **Millbury**

Wyatt Darrell, Engineering; Mason Diosomito, Engineering; Joshua Gould, Information Technology; Jayden Quang, Engineering; and Luke Rutkiewicz, Engineering.

## **Millville**

Julia Trujillo, Health Services

## **Northbridge**

Ava Bates, Cosmetology; Steven Caya, Engineering; Sosie DerKosroffian, Health Services; Zabel DerKosroffian, Information Technology; Conner Gomez, Engineering; Mara Keane, Electronics; Dylan Leeds, Engineering; Haley Marston, Dental Assisting; Markas Petone, Health Services; and Alexa Seward, Engineering.

## **Sutton**

Jeffrey Brooks, Electronics; Emma Cliadakis, Culinary Arts; Colton Corash, Electronics; Morgan Gervais, Advanced Manufacturing; Benjamin Hicks, Electronics; William Kelly, Construction Technology; Caroline Martin, Engineering; and Jacob Rajotte, Information Technology.

## **Upton**

Samantha Carroll, Information Technology; Kylie French, Painting & Design; Cassidy Lyon, Health Services; Harmony Melendez-Torres, Biotechnology; Ryan Poirier, Advanced Manufacturing; and John Simas, Electronics.

## **Uxbridge**

Alexi Cox, Electronics; Samantha Fairhurst, Health Services; Dylan Ryan, Engineering; and Mikaela Swanson, Biotechnology.

## **About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):**

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# Real Estate Corner

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
11/18/2024	70 Jones Rd.	\$679,900
11/14/2024	2 Dennett St.	\$559,900
11/13/2024	65 Laurelwood Dr.	\$425,000
11/13/2024	12 Union St. #1	\$250,000
11/12/2024	4 Lower Jones Rd.	\$485,000
11/06/2024	124 Laurelwood Dr.	\$420,000
11/01/2024	66 Westcott Rd.	\$665,000
10/28/2024	23 Progress St.	\$385,000
10/25/2024	226 Mendon St.	\$370,000
10/24/2024	10 Haven Way	\$760,000







The 4-bed, 2-bath, 2,020-square-foot house at 4 Lower Jones Road in Hopedale recently sold for \$485,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

Source: www.zillow.com / Compiled by Local Town Pages

Looking to advertise in our Real Estate Corner?

Contact Susanne: 508-954-8148 sue@sodellconsult.com

### DECEMBER 2024 - HOPEDALE SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES (508)634-2208

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:00 pm Dance	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	<b>5</b> 10:00 Watercolor Classes 1:00 pm Tai Chi	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Strength and Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes  <b>Medicare Open Enrollment Ends Dec. 7, 2024</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:00 pm Dance	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm Senior Center Holiday Party   No Watercolor Classes 1:00 pm Tai Chi	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Strength and Balance 11:00 am Watercolor Class (Make-up Class)  12:00 pm Senior Center closes
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Yoga with Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:00 pm Dance	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 1:00 pm Cribbage	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Strength and Balance  12:00 pm Senior Center closes
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:00 pm Lunch at Senior Ctr. 12:30 pm Holiday BINGO	<b>24</b> <b>CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>  	<b>25</b> <b>CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>  	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Strength and Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	<b>31</b> <b>CLOSED FOR NEW YEARS' EVE HOLIDAY</b>  			





## Fatima Shrine Festival Of Lights Begins Dec. 11

Our Lady of Fatima Festival of Lights 2024 will be open Dec. 11 to 27.

Join Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Holliston for the traditional Christmas lights as they prepare this Advent for the Christmas season.

Hot chocolate, donuts, and more will be available. The lights are on from 5 to 9 PM every night. The event is wheelchair accessible, with a path that winds throughout the exhibit.

Our Lady of Fatima Shrine is located at 101 Summer St., Holliston. There is no charge for this event. Gift shop hours will be extended throughout the festival of lights: 11 AM to 9 PM.

## Senior Tax Work-off Applications Available at Hopedale Senior Center

Applications for the 2025 Senior Real Estate Tax Work-off Program are available at the Hopedale Senior Center. This highly successful program is open to seniors age sixty (60) and over who pay real estate taxes and reside in Hopedale.

The Program offers jobs in various town departments. Qualified seniors' job skills are matched to job requirements. In lieu of pay, seniors who com-

plete the required 84 hours of service will receive a \$1000.00 real-estate tax credit (minus required taxes and withholdings).

The deadline for applications is December 20, 2024. Application forms may be obtained at the Hopedale Senior Center, located in the Community House, 43 Hope St. Hopedale, MA. Seniors may call 634-2208 with any questions.

Prior participants may apply.

However, primary consideration is given to first time applicants. No individual is guaranteed return to a previously held position. All applicants must complete a new application and a CORI, annually. Please note, this is a Program announcement only. Full details of eligibility, policy and credit calculations are detailed in the application packet.

## Mudville Madrigal Singers Holiday Concert

The Mudville Madrigal Singers will perform in Holliston this holiday season at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Holliston on Friday night, December 13th. They are a ten person a cappella singing group. This is their thirty-first year singing together. The upcoming concert will feature Byrd, Elgar, Vittoria, Pärt, Ke-

rensa Briggs, and Tamsin Jones.

The group consists of Kate Connell, Leslie Randall-Dooley, and Jessica Schendel, sopranos; Susan Langer and Anne Priestley, altos; Steve Durning and John Howe, tenors.

The concert is supported by a grant from the Holliston Cultural Council.

The Lutheran Church is at 600 Central Street in Holliston. The concert will start at 8 pm. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. They hope you will join them to celebrate the holiday season.

# CareerCentral

This section will be a guide to the local job seeker looking for a career change or a new job! Editorial will focus on best resume writing techniques, how to answer top interview questions, changing careers and so much more.

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### ZONE 2

REACH 96,651

Ashland, Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Norfolk, Norwood and Wrentham

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