

Milford advances Comprehensive Plan with focus on community, culture

By Scott Calzolaio

The Town of Milford is pressing forward with its 2024 Comprehensive Plan, as town officials and the Ad Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee work to shape the town's future while honoring its past.

At a Nov. 5 meeting, the focus was on community engagement, historical preservation, and strategies for addressing Milford's most pressing challenges.

Over the fall, Milford collaborated with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to host outreach events aimed at gathering resident input. Sessions with youth councils, adult ESL programs, and senior groups highlighted priorities like expanding cultural events downtown, addressing traffic congestion, and improving access to affordable housing.

"We're continuing to hear an awful lot about traffic congestion around town, so we'll be focusing with our trans-



Memorial Hall in one of several buildings that feature Milford pink granite, which can be found all around the country. Milford's Comprehensive Plan notes the quarrying industry and immigrant labor were important in shaping the town's character. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

portation team on that," said Josh Fiala, manager of the General Land Use division for MAPC. "We also heard from a population at the Senior Center who have had to move out of Milford because they could no longer afford to live here."

Feedback also emphasized the importance of new recreation spaces, such as parks and skate parks, and simplifying solar panel installations.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

continued on page 2

MHS 'Connections' program seeks mentors to assist first-gen students through college application process



Mentees and mentors of the Milford High School Connections Program pose at Milford Beautification Day in 2023. Mentor Brianna Rondeau (center, pink hoodie) and mentee Shadia Ssebyala (center, brown hoodie). Courtesy photo

By Theresa Knapp

The Milford High School Connections Program connects student mentees with community mentors to help students navigate the college preparation and application process.

Connections mentors help high-achieving MHS students explore academic and career

paths during high school to determine next steps following graduation. Mentees are often the first person in their family to consider attending college. Students are selected during the spring of their

CONNECTIONS

continued on page 14

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Pictured left to right is Michael Penner, Executive General manager Imperial Cars, Ms. Natalie Webb, Air Force veteran and Thanks To Yanks Volunteer, Michael Shain, president, and founder of Thanks To Yanks. Yearly around Veteran's Day Imperial partners with Thanks To Yanks with their Hope For Heroes program, with a collection of important items for veterans that are in need of assistance. Shain says, "We are so very grateful for the commitment that Imperial makes to support our veterans." For more information on Thanks To Yanks, please like them on Facebook. Courtesy photo

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

continued from page 1

Milford's history was another focal point, with the town boasting nearly 600 documented historic properties. Officials highlighted its transformation from an agricultural base to an industrial hub, with granite quarrying and immigrant labor shaping the town's character. Goals include integrating preservation into zoning laws, strengthening cultural diversity, and enhancing public art and events to foster community pride.

Officials highlighted Milford's transformation from an agricultural base to an industrial hub, with granite quarrying and immigrant labor shaping the town's character.

"We want to be able to tell the whole story [of Milford], being able to expand the historic resources to categorize these different historic themes in town," said Sarah Scott, Senior Regional Land Use and His-

toric Preservation Planner for MAPC. "This is also about seeing arts and culture as assets, not something that's nice to have, but foundational to the work that the town is doing."

Infrastructure challenges remain significant, including aging sewer systems, outdated public facilities, and space limitations at Town Hall. Additional pressing concerns include rising costs to maintain services and increasing language accessibility demands in schools.

Looking ahead, officials plan to refine draft goals and strategies, drawing on continued public feedback through community meetings and surveys.

With the final plan scheduled for adoption in Spring 2025, Milford aims to balance growth with preservation, creating a vision for the town that reflects its values and diverse community. The current plan can be found at bit.ly/MilfordCompPlan2025.

For residents, opportunities to engage in shaping the town's future will be available through public forums, surveys, and meetings. To take the latest survey, visit tinyurl.com/MilfordCompPlanSurvey.



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Town-wide leaf removal program ends Dec. 13

The Town of Milford's annual residential leaf removal service will end on Dec. 13.

The leaves will be picked up by the day of the week by route number: Monday (Route 5), Tuesday (Route 3), Wednesday (Route 4), Thursday (Route 1), and Friday (Route 2). Pickup is between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., weather permitting.

Leaves must be raked to the edge of the sidewalk or front property line (if no sidewalk exists). Do not rake leaves onto the sidewalk or into the street. The bulk of leaves will be vacuumed, any remaining leaves are the responsibility of the homeowner.

The leaf dump off Fiske Mill Road is also available.

For more information, visit www.milfordma.gov/227/Leaf-Removal-Schedule

Milford pink granite helped shape town's character

By Theresa Knapp

One of the key findings in the Milford Comprehensive plan is the importance of the quarrying industry in the Town of Milford.

The plan states, "By 1860, Milford pink granite was discovered...[it] has been used in prominent buildings such as the [steps of the] Lincoln Memorial, New York Penn Station, and the Boston Public Library."

As detailed in a recorded Quarry Walk with Milford Historical Commission member Anne Lamontagne in 2014, Milford pink granite can also be found in New York City at Union Station, Grand Central Station, the American Museum of Natural History, U.S.S. Maine National Monument in NYC's Central Park, and the former New York City Penn Station (1910-1963).

In Boston, Milford's pink granite can also be found at South Station and the former Flour and Graine Exchange Building at 177 Milk Street.

Throughout Massachusetts, other buildings featuring Milford pink granite include the Bancroft Memorial Library and Town Hall in Hopedale (General William F. Draper brought immigrants to work at the Milford quarries and his Hopedale factory), and Worcester City Hall. And in Milford, the famous granite can be found several places including Memorial Hall, the Unitarian Universalist Church, and the



Milford's Irish Round Tower at Saint Mary's Cemetery is one of several buildings in town that feature Milford pink granite. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

Irish Round Tower at Saint Mary's Cemetery.

There is a 590-million-year-old piece of Milford pink granite on display at the Smith-

sonian National Museum of Natural History, whose base is made of Milford pink granite as are the walkway walls at the south entrance of the museum.



The Boston and Albany Railroad Depot was built in 1909 of Milford pink granite. The building is located at 170 Central Street and is a business today. Photo source: Public domain bit.ly/BostonAndAlbanyRailroad-DepotMilfordMA

"Milford pink granite" is light pink with black flecks, and can be found from Framingham to Woonsocket, RI.

During the 2014 Quarry Walk, Lamontagne said the quarries were run by immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Sweden, and Armenia; they were Catholic and Protestant, and worked together well.

The video of the walk can be found at bit.ly/MilfordQuarryWalk2014, and more information is available at the Milford Historical Museum inside Memorial Hall every Thursday.



Milford pink granite is light pink with black flecks, and can be found from Framingham to Woonsocket, RI. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

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Milford safety log

Police and fire calls include road rage, indecent exposure, pedestrian accidents, shots heard, several juvenile arrests

The Milford Police Department provided a wide range of services between Oct. 21 and Nov. 25 related to motor vehicle stops, traffic enforcement, community policing, disabled motor vehicles, vehicle collisions including hit and runs, erratic operators, parking violations, towed vehicles, VIN checks, suspicious activity, road hazards, property checks, property damage, general and noise complaints, threats, disturbances, disputes, fireworks violations, building and vehicle lockouts, alarms, 911 misdials and hangups, k9 and drone deployment, radar enforcement, suspicious and unwanted persons, trespassing, harassment, fraud, identity theft, shoplifting and larceny, lost/found property, well-being checks, assist citizens and follow-up investigations, dog issues (bites, injured, strays, barking, deceased), funeral traffic and escort, assist schools, and court business. They also provided mutual aid to Bellingham, Concord, Franklin, Medway, Mendon, and North Reading.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Entries of note include:

Police Department

Oct. 21 at 9:06 a.m., Medway Rd., pedestrian accident

Oct. 21 at 9:46 a.m., Bow and Central Sts., criminal application. A 33-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed/suspended operation of a motor vehicle, permit. A 22-year-old Milford man was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Oct. 21 at 1:49 p.m., Milford High School, disturbance

Oct. 21 at 7:10 p.m., Congress St., past breaking and entering

Oct. 21 at 7:15 p.m., West St.,

unwanted person. A 53-year-old Millis woman was issued an arrest warrant.

Oct. 22 at 2:33 p.m., Medway Rd., criminal application issued for 35-year-old Worcester man, leaving scene of property damage

Oct. 22 at 10:24 p.m., Milford Hospital, assault. A 53-year-old Medfield woman was charged with assault and battery.

Oct. 23 at 1:12 p.m., Fortune Blvd., suspicious person. A 22-year-old Mendon woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise

Oct. 23 at 4:46 p.m., E. Main St., trees down

Oct. 23 at 6:44 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting. A 17-year-old juvenile was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Oct. 24 at 3:53 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting. A 30-year-old Whitinsville man was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Oct. 24 at 4:15 p.m., Plains Park, motor vehicle stop. A 37-year-old Watertown man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and failure to stop/yield.

Oct. 25 at 3:37 a.m., Dilla St., motor vehicle accident. A 38-year-old Milford man was charged with OUI-liquor (2nd offense), negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended for OUI, marked lanes violation, motor vehicle not meeting RMV safety standards, leaving scene of property damage, resisting arrest.

Oct. 25 at 1:45 p.m., N. Bow and Jefferson Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 34-year-old Milford man was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended for OUI.

Oct. 26 at 2:17 a.m., Fruit St., motor vehicle accident, two juveniles were arrested. A 15-year-old juvenile was charged with use of a motor vehicle without authority and obstruction of justice/misleading a police officer. A 16-year-old juvenile was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper, failure to drive in right lane, obstruction of justice/misleading a police officer.

Oct. 26 at 1:37 p.m., Milford High School, tagging

Oct. 27 at 1:30 p.m., Beaver St., road rage

Oct. 27 at 2:59 p.m., Milford High School, erratic operator

Oct. 27 at 4:46 p.m., Meadowview Ln., neighbor dispute

Oct. 28 at 12:11 a.m., Water St., fight, protective custody. A 44-year-old Milford man was charged with disorderly conduct, and assault and battery.

Oct. 28 at 6:07 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting. A 39-year-old

SAFETY LOG

continued on page 10

Suspect under arrest following West Street brush fire

Devonte Johnson, 28, of Dorchester was arrested on Nov. 2 on charges related to a brush fire that damaged Town of Milford owned land in the wooded area near 296 West Street.

At approximately 8:48 a.m., the Milford Public Safety Communications Center received calls reporting a brush fire and a male, later identified as Devonte Johnson, running away from the scene.

Following a short foot pursuit, Johnson was taken into custody without further incident. Johnson was held on \$1,500 bail and transported to the Worcester House of Corrections to await arraignment on the following charges: burn land/tree/



On Nov. 2, Devonte Johnson of Dorchester was charged with setting a brush fire on town-owned land off West Street.

Photo source: Milford Police

lumber/produce, set fire on another's land, set fire in open, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.

Source: www.milfordpolice.org

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Consider these year-end financial moves



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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As we enter the holiday season, your life may well become busier. Still, you might want to take the time to consider some financial moves before we turn the calendar to 2025.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Review your investment portfolio.** As you look at your portfolio, ask these questions: Has its performance met my expectations this

year? Does it still reflect my goals, risk tolerance and time horizon? Do I need to rebalance? You might find that working with a financial professional can help you answer these and other questions you may have about your investments.

- **Add to your 401(k) and HSA.** If you can afford it, and your employer allows it, consider putting more money into your 401(k) before the year ends — including “catch-up” contributions if you’re 50 or older. You might also want to add to your health savings account (HSA) by the tax-filing deadline in April.
- **Use your FSA dollars.** Unlike an HSA, a flexible spending account (FSA) works on a “use-it-or-lose-it” basis, meaning you lose any unspent funds at the end of the year. So, if you still have funds left in your account,

try to use them up in 2024. (Employers may grant a 2½ month extension, so check with your human resources area to see if this is the case where you work.)

- **Contribute to a 529 plan.** If you haven’t opened a 529 education savings plan for your children, think about doing so this year. With a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax deferred, and your withdrawals are federally tax free when used for qualified education expenses — tuition, fees, books and so on. And if you invest in your own state’s 529 plan, you might be able to deduct your contributions from your state income tax or receive a state tax credit.
- **Build your emergency fund.** It’s generally a good idea to keep up to six months’ worth of living expenses in an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a

fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your retirement funds to pay for short-term needs, such as a major car or home repair.

- **Review your estate plans.** If you’ve experienced any changes in your family situation this year, such as marriage, remarriage or the birth of a child, you may want to update your estate-planning documents to reflect your new situation. It’s also important to look at the beneficiary designations on your investment accounts, retirement plans, IRAs and insurance policies, as these designations can sometimes even supersede the instructions you’ve left in your will. And if you haven’t started estate planning, there’s no time like the present.
- **Take your RMDs.** If you’re 73 or older, you will likely need to take withdrawals — called required minimum

distributions, or RMDs — from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA. If you don’t take these withdrawals each year, you could be subject to penalties.

These aren’t the only moves you can make, but they may prove helpful not only for 2024 but in the years to come.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

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Milford Town Library hosts Mitten Tree Drive through Dec. 28

The 2024 Mitten Tree Drive is going on through Dec. 28 at the Milford Town Library.

Donations of new or hand-made winter weather accessories can be dropped off at the main entrance.

Items being collected include mittens, hats, scarves, and socks. All donations will be provided to local partners to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

Source: www.milfordtownlibrary.org



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NORTH POLE — Santa Claus announced today that he has chosen **Medway Oil & Propane** as the exclusive resource for high-quality Reading Anthracite coal throughout the greater MetroWest region and eastern Worcester County.

According to one of Santa’s elves, it was very important that Santa chose a company he could count on this winter. “We were delighted that Santa chose us again this year,” said Jeffrey Mushnick, owner of **Medway Oil & Propane**. “We have coal that is quite suitable for keeping people warm this winter — and also for filling stockings and decorating snowmen! We offer the best quality coal in the region.”



Even the Naughty Will Get Something!

In a telephone interview this week, Santa Claus elaborated further on his decision. “We know that **Medway Oil & Propane** has been offering high-quality Reading Anthracite coal to their customers since 1954,” said Santa. “It was natural for me to select the region’s best coal supplier to handle all of the MetroWest requests we get for a lump of coal.” Based on Santa’s happiness with **Medway Oil & Propane**, the “naughty and nice” will want to consider them for coal, fuel oil and propane service.

One FREE Bag of Coal!

Homeowners who heat with coal are invited to receive a FREE bag of coal with any coal delivery before January 31, 2025. Call **(508) 533-6561** or **1-800-649-5949**. Anyone wanting a few free lumps of coal for stocking stuffers should call for details. Santa hastily ended his press conference to return to his shop in preparation for visiting the MetroWest area later this month.

Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

80 Spruce Street, Milford • 508-473-2145 • MilfordTownLibrary.org • HOURS: Mon. – Thurs. 9-9 • Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 9-5 • Sun. CLOSED

By Reference Department Holiday Hours

The library will close at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and will be closed Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25. In addition, the library will close at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 for New Year's.

Self-Serve Wrapping Station

Come enjoy our second annual self-serve holiday wrapping station available now through Saturday, Dec. 21. We provide the paper, bows, tissue paper, tags and tape. You may use our two designated tables for wrapping away from prying eyes as well as the hustle and bustle of home at the holidays. Supplies are plentiful thanks to generous donations from patrons. In the spirit of the season, we ask that you tidy up the station for the next person when you've finished your wrapping.

ESL Drop-in Classes

The last ESL classes for 2024 will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. (beginner) and Thursday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. (intermediate) and 7 p.m. (beginner). Classes will return on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 at 7 p.m.

As últimas aulas de ESL para 2024 serão realizadas na terça-feira, 12 de dezembro às 19h (iniciante) e quinta-feira, 14 de dezembro às 17h30 (intermediário) e 19h (iniciante). As aulas retornarão na terça-feira, 14 de janeiro de 2025 às 19h.

Las últimas clases de ESL de 2024 se llevarán a cabo el martes 12 de diciembre a las 7:00 pm. (nivel inicial) y el jueves 14 de diciembre a las 5:30 pm. (nivel intermedio) y a las 7:00 pm. (nivel inicial). Las clases regresarán el martes 14 de enero de 2025 a las 7:00 pm.

Puzzle Swap!

We're hosting a winter jigsaw puzzle swap on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Puzzles will be available on the round display table by our front entrance. Take one or more puzzles home and leave a puzzle if you want. Refresh your stash and share your favorites with others. Some people will even leave notes for the next puzzler to inspire and urge them on to complete a difficult one!

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group will meet Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. to discuss James McBride's novel *Deacon King Kong*.

Set in 1969 in Brooklyn, this raucous tale of a cranky old church deacon, members of the Five Ends Baptist Church, drug dealers, the mob and police officers, really takes readers for a ride. McBride, author of *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, *The Good Lord Bird* and *The Color of Water*, among others always marries vivid storytelling and acute social commentary.

In November, the group voted to donate the "Christmas

Jar" to both the Daily Bread Food Pantry and the Salvation Army. Members can opt to make small donations at monthly meetings to contribute to the community purse.

December's discussion will be the last meeting of Center Book Group for 2024. The group will take a short winter hiatus and will meet in March 2025. The book selections for 2025 will be announced in January.

Dignity Matters Menstrual Product Drive

Response to our menstrual products drive to support Dignity Matters has been amazing and we've collected 4 large boxes to donate to this Metrowest based organization that provides pads and tampons to homeless and disadvantaged women.

Sadly, food stamps can be used to buy candy, but not tampons. This effort is greatly needed and important to those women managing limited resources. We thank our patrons for understanding and supporting this drive.

COMING UP IN 2025

The following virtual programs are offered in partnership with the Ashland Public Library. To register for either or both programs, see the library's events calendar for a Zoom link.

Virtual - How Birds Created the World and other Stories

Join author Randi Minetor for a free virtual program, *How Birds Created the World and Other Stories* on Monday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.

Birding expert Minetor will speak about her new book *The Complete Language of Birds* and draw on extensive research covering the science, mythology, folklore of our avian friends. A prolific author of more than 90 books including *Backyard Birding* and *Butterfly Gardening*, Minetor will make you see birds in new ways.

Virtual - Encounters with Killers with True Crime

Author and Professor of Forensic Psychology Dr. Katherine Ramsland recounts her most memorable interactions with serial killers over the course of her life in this free virtual program on Monday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

Ramsland taught forensic psychology and criminology at DeSales University in Pennsylvania, has appeared as an expert on more than 250 crime documentaries and has consulted on the shows CSI, Bones, and The Alienist. She is the author *The Forensic Science of CSI*, *The Forensic Psychology of Criminal Minds*, *How to Catch a Killer*, *The Psychology of Death Investigations*, *The Serial Killer's Apprentice*, and *Confession of a Serial Killer: The Untold Story of Dennis Rader*, *The BTK Killer*. Ramsland actually spent time speaking with Rader. She is currently writing a fiction series based on a female forensic psychologist who manages a private investigation agency.

January & February: The library will hold a pet food & supply drive to benefit the Milford Humane Society. See the library website and social media for additional information.

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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 deci-

sions. 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 ophthal-

mologists create biased referral patterns. 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 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

GOVERNMENT
continued on page 8

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GOVERNMENT
continued on page 9

Henry David Thoreau Foundation scholarship applications now available

Each year, the Henry David Thoreau Foundation awards scholarships to eight to ten top-ranking high school seniors from Massachusetts who demonstrate the potential for environmental leadership and intend to pursue interdisciplinary environmental studies in college.

Each Henry David Thoreau Scholar receives a four-year scholarship of up to \$25,000. In addition, Thoreau Scholars are eligible for an environmental internship stipend, which usually takes place between junior and senior year.

For more information, visit www.thoreauscholar.org. The deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2025.

Source: www.thoreauscholar.org

Join Speech Invaders Toastmasters and work on presenting skills

Speech Invaders Toastmasters welcomes you to join our club or just attend a few meetings to help you become a more effective communicator, public speaker and presenter. We are a supportive (and fun!) club open to all who are interested in improving self-confidence, networking, or communication skills.

The group meets every Thursday from 12 to 1 p.m., in-person at Waters Corporation, 5 Technical Drive, Milford, or virtually through Microsoft Teams. To see the club calendar and to get the meeting link to join virtually, visit speechinvaders.toastmastersclubs.org/calendar.html.

For more information, contact abigail_epplett@waters.com.

GOVERNMENT

continued from page 7

- 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?
- 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 licensed 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 7.

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Milford Family & Community Network CFCE Dec. events

This past month was a busy time at the Milford Family & Community Network CFCE! In addition to our weekly registered playgroups, we held four amazing programs for our families. Early in the month we taught children yoga poses and deep breathing exercises in our Find Your Calm program.

Children and seniors enjoyed making their own instruments and singing along with a live guitarist, Alleigh Crocker at our Intergenerational Play program. We had a wonderful music and movement class with our friends at Cornerstone at Milford.

Our monthly facilitator-led program, Desserts and Discussions, engaged numerous parents and caregivers in lively discussions about the challenges and successes of parenting.

Children and caregivers spent time in a fun cooking class in early December! Our Mini Chefs developed a positive connection to different

foods, gained practical experience, and worked on hand-eye coordination.

Do you have a little one at home from birth through age 5? Are you interested in participating in our weekly playgroups? As our Session I playgroups are coming to a close at the beginning of January, we would like to welcome you to register for Session II playgroups that run from the end of January through the end of May. Playgroup registration begins January 6, 2025 in the Milford Family & Community Network Office. Please call our office for more information, or if you would like to be added to our waitlist. We call families on the waitlist when we know we will have absences in one of our groups.

Questions? Call 508-277-4981 or email us at familynetwork@milfordma.com. Don't forget to find, like and follow us on Facebook at Milford Family & Community Network CFCE.

Keep an eye out for signs of a rodent infestation this fall

WPC Pest and Termite Control and the National Pest Management Association are sharing the top seven signs that rodents have taken up residence in your home

PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

It's that time of year again — football season, trips to your local farm, and crisp, fall weather.

But before you break out your favorite pumpkin spice-flavored treats, it's important to remember to keep alert for uninvited guests looking to join in on the fun. As temperatures begin to cool,

WPC Pest and Termite Control, in partnership with the National Pest Management Association, is sharing signs homeowners should look out for that could signal a rodent infestation.

"Disgusting odors that permeate from insulation in attics and basements are a sure sign that rodents are present," said Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC. "While rodent infestations are common throughout the year, they are particularly troublesome as colder weather arrives and food sources diminish. These stark changes to their environment make homes the ideal spot for them to hide out in.

Rodents are able to transmit more than 35 diseases to humans, posing a serious health threat to you and your family should they find their way into

your homes insulation. Contamination from urine and droppings will cause serious respiratory issues, such as the deadly **Hantavirus**.

To help keep your family protected this fall, WPC is offering **FREE** rodent inspections and suggestions on decontaminating your home.

WPC and the NPMA have identified the following top seven telltale signs of a rodent infestation:

- **Droppings:** Finding droppings in the home is one of the most common signs of a rodent infestation. Homeowners often find these where food is stored, such as kitchen cabinets or pantries, as well as under sinks, inside chewed cardboard boxes and along baseboards.
- **Gnaw marks:** Rodents will chew through almost any type of material to obtain food or water, causing serious damage to a home. Rats are also known to gnaw on wires behind walls, potentially resulting in dangerous house fires.
- **Nests:** Rodents prefer to hide in dark, secluded areas of the home and will use any materials available to build their nest. If you see items such as paper products or cotton strewn about, it

might be a sign of a rodent infestation.

- **Tracks or rub marks:** As rats follow a trail between their nest and food sources throughout a home, they will often leave dark grease or dirt marks along walls and floorboards.
- **Strange noises:** Hearing strange noises at night could be attributed to a family of mice scurrying about the house, between the walls and up in attics and crawlspaces.
- **An actual rodent:** Mice are known to reproduce quickly, as a female house mouse can give birth to a half-dozen babies every three weeks or up to 35 young per year. Chances are, if you see one mouse in the house, there are more hidden behind the walls!
- **Contamination:** Odors and



staining of ceiling tiles and basement insulation is a sign of what could be droppings and urine caused by nesting rodents having their young.

For more information about rodent infestations, visit www.nobugsnopests.com or CALL

508-435-2211 or contact a licensed pest control professional.

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SAFETY LOG

continued from page 4

Providence woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Oct. 29 at 9:35 a.m., Medway Rd., motor vehicle stop. A 34-year-old Franklin woman was charged with no inspection/sticker, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

Oct. 29 at 10:25 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop. A 23-year-old Providence man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle.

Oct. 29 at 11:43 a.m., Water and Thayer Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 22-year-old Milford woman was charged with motor vehicle not meeting RMV safety standards, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation.

Oct. 29 at 1:53 p.m., Jefferson and N. Bow Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 19-year-old Milford woman was charged with unregistered motor vehicle, and operating a motor vehicle in violation of license class.

Oct. 29 at 2:03 p.m., Front St., motor vehicle stop. A 54-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and a number plate violation.

Oct. 29 at 2:33 p.m., N. Bow St., motor vehicle stop. A 19-year-old Milford woman was charged with operating a motor vehicle

with license suspended, window obstructed/nontransparent, and operating a motor vehicle with modified height.

Oct. 30 at 8:02 p.m., Congress and W. Walnut Sts., motor vehicle stop. An 18-year-old Milford man was charged with speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Oct. 30 at 8:54 a.m., Nolan Ave. and Green St., suspicious motor vehicle. A 37-year-old Milford man was charged with leaving the scene of property damage.

Oct. 30 at 10:03 a.m., Main and Spring Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 17-year-old juvenile was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured motor vehicle, number plate violation, improper operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with modified height, window obstructed/nontransparent, and tire outside fender.

Oct. 30 at 11:06 a.m., Hayward St., neighbor dispute

Oct. 30 at 5:21 p.m., Rolling Green Dr., dispute

Oct. 30 at 5:32 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting, arrests made. A 56-year-old Woonsocket woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise. A 31-year-old Blackstone woman was charged with an outstanding arrest warrant. A 31-year-old Woonsocket man was charged with two outstanding arrest warrants.

Oct. 30 at 5:57 p.m., Jefferson St., motor vehicle accident. A 29-year-old Milford man was charged



with failure to stop/yield, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Oct. 30 at 6:59 p.m., Grant St., gunshot response, unable to locate

Oct. 30 at 10:07 p.m., S. Main St., well-being check. A 46-year-old Billerica man was taken into protective custody.

Oct. 31 at 10:12 a.m., Main and Park Sts., motor vehicle stop. An 18-year-old Framingham woman was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, number plate missing, window obstructed-nontransparent, number plate violation, and operating a motor vehicle with modified height.

Oct. 31 at 12:36 p.m., Medway Rd., road rage

Oct. 31 at 8:16 p.m., Main and Prospect Sts., motor vehicle accident. A 24-year-old Hopkinton woman was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Nov. 1 at 4:44 a.m., West and High Sts., motor vehicle stop, two arrests made. A 27-year-old Milford man was charged with un-

licensed/suspended operation of a motor vehicle, permit. A 48-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, failure to yield at intersection, and operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended.

Nov. 1 at 10:10 a.m., E. Main and Free Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 35-year-old woman was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and using an electronic device while operating a motor vehicle.

Nov. 1 at 1:58 p.m., Carroll St., vandalism

Nov. 1 at 2:35 p.m., Highland St. and Glennon Dr., motor vehicle stop, two arrests. A 45-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed/suspended operation of a motor vehicle, permit. A 17-year-old juvenile was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Nov. 2 at 8:48 a.m., West St., brush fire. A 28-year-old Dorchester man was charged with burning land/tree/lumber/produce, set fire to another's land, set fire in open, disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.

Nov. 2 at 5:33 p.m., Walker Ave., neighbor dispute

Nov. 3 at 12:30 a.m., Main St., A 35-year-old man, town unknown, was charged with assault, threat to commit crime, and malicious damage to a motor vehicle.

Nov. 3 at 12:31 a.m., Cedar St., well-being check. A 24-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Nov. 3 at 2:02 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting, three arrests. An 18-year-old Franklin woman was charged with shoplifting, and two 17-year-old juveniles were charged with shoplifting.

Nov. 3 at 11:24 p.m., Medway Rd. and Naples St., motor vehicle stop. A 26-year-old Milford woman was charged with speeding rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper, and operating a motor vehicle in violation of license class.

Nov. 4 at 11:08 a.m., Camp St., trespass. A 54-year-old Milford woman was charged with trespassing.

Nov. 4 at 10:32 p.m., E. Main St., well-being check. A 46-year-old Billerica man was taken into protective custody.

SAFETY LOG

continued on page 15

Man arrested after striking woman and child with motor vehicle

On Nov. 20, at approximately 5:21 a.m., Luis Cajilema Tene, 28 of Milford, was arrested on a Continental United States Warrant by the Milford Police Detective Bureau, Massachusetts State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section, and the US Marshals Service.

On Nov. 10, at 8:15 a.m., Cajilema Tene struck a female pedestrian, carrying her 2-year-old child, with a grey sedan he was operating on Central Street. The suspect fled the scene and the state of Massachusetts to avoid capture.

Over the following 10 days, a coordinated investigation between the Milford Police Detective Bureau, VFAS, and US Marshals Service, tracked the suspect's movement before receiving information he would be returning to Milford.

On the morning of Nov. 20, while conducting surveillance on Central Street, Milford Police Detectives, VFAS, and US Marshals took



On Nov. 20, Luis Cajilema Tene of Milford was arrested after striking a pedestrian, who was carrying a two-year-old child, with his vehicle. Photo source: Milford Police

Luis Cajilema Tene into custody without incident. He was later transported to Milford District Court for arraignment on the following charges: assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on a child under 14, reckless endangerment of a child, and two counts of assault and battery.

Source: www.milfordpolice.org



Wishing you a happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

Please note our special holiday hours

<p>Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24th 8:30 AM to Noon</p> <p>Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25th Closed</p>	<p>New Year's Eve Tuesday, December 31st 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM</p> <p>New Year's Day Wednesday, January 1st Closed</p>
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It's the most wonderful time of the year to use Affordable Junk Removal

By Linda Chuss

With so much to do around the holidays, give yourself the gift of space by using Affordable Junk Removal to help prepare your home for the season. "Life is hectic, we are all so busy in our daily lives that we don't notice how quickly we are being overrun with junk" said Jason Schadler, who founded the business in this area 20 years ago. "It's nice to park your car in the garage during the cold months, but maybe you need to make room there first, and we can help with that."

With Affordable Junk Removal, you can rent a dumpster or have their Junk Removal Professionals come to haul away items that have been gathering dust and taking up precious space. Setting an end-of-year or New Year's resolution to clean up a neglected basement or attic is a

great start. You can even put a dumpster rental on your gift list. Sometimes the biggest challenge is not knowing where to begin, and that is where Affordable comes in.

"You can load your own dumpster or have our truck guys do all of the work for you," Schadler explained. "And rest assured, we don't just take everything to the landfill. We try and recycle as much as possible. Clothing and household items are donated to local organizations that help our friends and neighbors. We also take some items to Resellables secondhand store in Bellingham. That keeps them out of landfills, gives them a new life, and helps us keep our prices down. We're always looking for ways to be more cost effective because customers appreciate our reasonable prices."

Changes in legislation have made it increasingly more diffi-

cult to dispose of certain items, like mattresses, for example. It is now state law that most textiles and mattresses must be recycled. "Finding places to take mattresses is a challenge and the fees for disposal have gone through the roof," said Schadler. Items like these carry a separate recycling fee that the commercial transfer stations charge because of how labor intensive that recycling is. "People are usually shocked at the cost, and we find ourselves educating the customer as to why these fees exist. Here at Affordable, we view ourselves as an avenue our clients can turn to when they have these items and want them disposed of le-



gally, safely and properly."

Affordable has many repeat customers. "When people call, they reach me, not some automated corporate call center," he said. "They know me and the crew and trust us. We do a good job, are fast, efficient, and reliable. We come when we say we will and if anything unexpected comes up, we communicate. We live here too, we are your friends and neighbors, we

sponsor your little league teams and run into you at the grocery store. We are your local guys." A quick look at the many years of positive online reviews attests to this.

For more information, visit AffordableJunkRemoval.com. For an estimate or appointment, call or text 774-287-1133.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Cornerstone at Milford to host Alzheimer's support group

"Hearts, Hugs & Hope: An Alzheimer's Support Group" will take place on Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. at Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch Street, Milford.

This group for caregivers meets in person. Dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia isn't easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal experiences with oth-

ers who completely understand what you're going through.

You will also learn about proven strategies to help you better care for your family member. This month's topic will be "Preparing for the Holidays."

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

Do you need help paying for fuel?

Milford residents who need help paying for fuel in 2024-2025, are asked to contact the Milford Senior Center at 508-

473-8334.

Staff can help residents apply to the SMOC Fuel Assistance Program.

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Meet Shade

Are you a superhero on the lookout for a masked sidekick? Shade is ready to show you just how loyal he can be. He will be by your side no matter what the adventure and, if you can't take him with you, he will wait patiently by the door until you return.

Shade is as charming as he is striking, with a sleek grey and white coat that gleams like polished steel. His whiskers seem to go on forever, complemented by ear tufts and, of course, the signature mask that adds to his mysterious allure. But don't be fooled by his good looks—Shade is no ordinary sidekick. With a sharp mind and a voice that

commands attention, he's as intelligent and vocal as they come. Ready to save the day, one purr at a time.

Everyone knows that a superhero only needs one sidekick which suits Shade just fine. Shade was surrendered with a group of cats and kittens when the owners moved. Now he is ready to be someone's one and only companion.

Shade has been perfecting his sidekick pose! All he needs now is a cape and his own superhero. Could that be you? If Shade sounds like your right-hand man, please visit the Milford Humane Society at www.milfordhumane.org.



Milford BVT students receive Adams Scholarship

9 students earn free tuition to public college or university in Mass.

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 Scholarship. Adams Scholars receive free tuition for up to eight semesters of undergradu-

ate 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 BVT Class

of 2025 students from Milford are among 78 BVT students to earn a John and Abigail Adams Scholarship:

- 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
- Joel Puri, Engineering

Submitted by BVT



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Christmas Brass Concert on Dec. 20

The Birch Alley Brass Ensemble will present a concert at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge on Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

The brass ensemble, directed by William Moffett, is made up of 35 student and professional musicians from area towns including Uxbridge, Upton, Hopedale, Mendon, North-

bridge 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 Milford, Hopedale, and Uxbridge Cultural Councils.

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Milford School News

Important Dates:

December 23 - January 1: No School - Winter Break
January 2 - School Resumes

District

Substitute teaching can be a wonderful opportunity for those interested in education and our schools. Substitute teachers can choose when and where they want to work. Even if a person is available only one day each week, this can still be a great opportunity. For information on how to apply, please check out the Milford Public Schools website. Our first Multilingual Parent Advisory Council (MPAC) meeting of the year was held at MHS in the Media Center on Wednesday, Oct. 30. Over 100 parents and caregivers were in attendance, and over 40 children were in our childcare room. What a great turn out! We had a dual language programming update and formed smaller groups to facilitate discussions. Our interpreters, notetakers, and EL Coordinators joined the small groups to facilitate conversation and support notetaking and discussions.

Woodland School & Stacy

School held different ceremonies on Nov. 10 to recognize Veterans' Day, while other schools commemorated the event with other activities. At Woodland, students gathered to hear about different branches of military service, sing patriotic songs, and hear from Mr. Art Caswell, Woodland staff member and veteran. Thank you to Woodland's student leaders, staff, and chorus for organizing this tribute. Meanwhile, at Stacy, there were 8 veterans who attended an event and shared their service experiences. Thank you to the Stacy Student Council and their advisors, Ms. Burke and Ms. Barrett; the 8th Grade band; chamber choir; and, all of the Veterans' Day essay or poster entries.

Milford High School

Congratulations are in order for Mr. Neal Sherman, Math Teacher at Milford High School. Mr. Sherman was presented the Promising Practices in Education Award by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents' and Curriculum Consortium at a breakfast awards reception this morning. Mr. Sherman showcased his "Rethinking Assessment Practices" approach to grading, in which feedback to students and opportunities for revision are prioritized over a singular, "one time only" grade. This approach emphasizes building toward mastery of content over

time, and providing students and teachers with actionable strategies for growth and improvement. Congratulations Neal on this recognition!

Stacy Middle School

Stacy had two very successful and fun dance parties right before Halloween. Students were dressed in great costumes, enjoyed many snacks, and had a lot of fun!

Stacy is also celebrating their ELA/Reading teachers! They've implemented a new program to teach our curriculum. While it has been a learning experience for everybody, the teachers have been hard at work and flexible in their approaches to instruction, while the students have been engaged and exposed to different genres and texts.

Woodland Elementary School

The Christa McAuliffe Center for Integrated Science Learning, located at Framingham State University, has hosted our Woodland 5th Graders numerous times over the past several years. In addition to many rich opportunities to explore STEM concepts and learning, it also features the Challenger Learning Center Mission, which allows students to virtually experience a space launch, and the Framingham State University Planetarium program. We want to thank the McAuliffe Center for sponsoring our visit, and the Milford Cultural Council for taking care of the transportation costs associated with our visit. Also, thanks to Mr. Wood, Dr. Gilmore, and the 5th grade staff for organizing things. This "free of charge" trip was a wonderful opportunity for our students to do some community-based learning, and experience some pretty cool simulations!

Woodland Elementary School and the Woodland PTO held the "Fun Run Fundraiser" on November 6th. The proceeds from this event will go to support enhanced learning experiences for our students such as field trips and guest presentations. Woodland raised over \$10,000, so Principal McGovern was pried in the face by a lucky Woodland student

Woodland School welcomed about 150 guests to their annual Multilingual Family Potluck Dinner on Nov. 7. The Milford Public Library and Milford Public Schools passed out donated books for families. There was also a steady line of parent-conference sign-ups all evening. The Youth Center and Community Use brought programs and calendars

to distribute. Three MHS Spanish Honor Society members helped interpret at the tables with teachers/families, and as always, our Family Resource Center interpreters were there as well! A local dance group, "Virgen de la Nube," performed a beautiful, traditional Ecuadorian dance. It takes a village, and the village showed up!

Brookside Elementary School

Brookside classrooms created a Pumpkin Book Report, decorating the pumpkin as the main character of a read aloud book their class chose to read. Brookside hosted a family/community Pumpkin Gallery Walk along the Brookside Bus Loop, featuring 30-35 pumpkins.

Brookside sends a shout out to Dee Risio and Gel Gambardella, two of our ST Math Champions for attending the ST Math Champion Day! We look forward

to them sharing with staff ideas that they learned. Nine ST Math and One Eight Foundation guests visited Brookside to observe the great ways ST Math is being implemented in Milford.

Memorial School

On Nov. 21, a drop-in informational session for the Kindergarten Dual Language Program was held, attended by the program's Kindergarten teachers, as well as district and building administrators, and interpreters. The session welcomed several Spanish- and English-speaking families, many of whom expressed strong interest in enrolling their children in the program for the upcoming school year. Some attendees already have children attending Memorial School, while others learned about the program through their preschool networks. The evening included a raffle, with a gift basket of bilingual books and fun school supplies as the prize, creating a

welcoming and engaging atmosphere. The event provided valuable insights about the program, fostering connections between families and educators.

Shining Star Early Childhood Center

Shining Star wants to recognize some students who displayed outstanding character traits. Way to go Stars!

- **Cooperative:** From Mrs. Verdura's class Natalie.
 - **Kindness:** From Mrs. Austin's class: Jhon and Darshith; from Ms. Pedersen's class: Cody and Gabriel; and from Mrs. Gray's class: Lupita
 - **Bravery:** From Mrs. Riordan's class: Harrison
 - **Responsible:** From Mrs. Austin's class: Lisa and Redit; from Mrs. Riordan's class: Maeve; from Mrs. Waltsak's class: Zaniya; and from Ms. Pedersen's class: Bernardo
- Submitted by Milford Public Schools*



Southwick's Zoo
PRESENTS
Winter Wonderland
NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 29

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SouthwicksZoo.com

Learn More

The poster features a dark blue background with a starry night sky. At the top left is a yellow sun-like logo. The title "Southwick's Zoo" is in large yellow letters. Below it, "PRESENTS" is in small white letters, followed by "Winter Wonderland" in large, stylized white letters. The dates "NOVEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 29" are in large white letters. At the bottom, there are two glowing reindeer and two Christmas ornaments. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

CONNECTIONS

continued from page 1

freshman year. Enrollment is prioritized for high achieving, first generation students. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher to be considered.

The program currently serves approximately 30 students with 25 mentors. The goal is to add up to 10 students and mentors each year. More mentors are needed.

Amanda Masotta is a guidance counselor at the high school.

"The Milford Connections Program matches selected, qualified and motivated Milford High School students with accomplished Milford area mentors, to assist and encourage the students in realizing their full educational potential and personal growth," said Masotta. "It truly is a wonderful and unique opportunity for our students and our community. Milford is so diverse and has incredibly successful and helpful professionals who want to share their knowledge and insights with the next generation of students.

"I think this is a great way for our students to also get important skills in networking, relationship building and goal setting by professionals with real life experience. Some students might not have access to people who work in these careers so don't even think of them as options. Having these connections opens up more areas of discussion and possibilities they may not have encountered otherwise."

MHS junior Shadia Ssebyala joined the program in her freshman year, and she plans to be a labor and delivery nurse.

Ssebyala says the college application process is a "bit overwhelming" but her mentor has been very helpful.

"I love my mentor, she is

very easy to talk to," said Ssebyala. "I have three older siblings, but only one went to college. I really wanted someone to be able to support me throughout the college process because I don't really know what I am supposed to be doing...My parents went to college outside of the US, so the process was very different for them."

Ssebyala says her mentor helps her work through challenges related to college and otherwise. They have been talking about essay topics and making a list of colleges to attend in the spring; her mentor will go with her.

Ssebyala highly encourages community members to think about becoming a mentor. "It is a great opportunity that is really beneficial for both parties, mentors and mentees. You are helping someone who likely doesn't have that help otherwise. Providing that support while building a relationship is so great."

Brianna Rondeau is Ssebyala's mentor.

Rondeau grew up in Milford and is a licensed social worker/child clinician in town. She joined Connections in 2022.

"It has been really wonderful. I am able to volunteer and give back to the school I graduated from," said Rondeau. "I enjoy the connection with my mentee, building community relationships with other mentees, and being part of the 'what's next' discussion as a member of the program committee."

She is helping Ssebyala "on what she pictures her next chapter in education and career will look like. She is driven and dedicated and has a good idea of where she'd like to attend college and what profession she'd like to go into."

Rondeau navigated her own college prep alongside her twin sister with the help of her parents who were familiar with higher education. .

"Some students don't have adults in their family to help them with these processes and it doesn't mean they are less deserving. It is rewarding to get to know a young person, build a connection with them, and walk with them on their journey into adulthood."

Rondeau believes in giving back to her community, and she encourages others to consider joining Connections.

"Even if you are unsure about being a mentor, I believe it was worth the leap of faith I took. We have a community of mentors who share ideas and work together, so you're truly never on your own. We also have a strong connection with MHS and the newest addition to that has been Amanda Masotta... This has been a tremendous help for the program."

Masotta, the MHS guidance counselor, says about 60% of MHS graduating seniors enroll in a two-year or four-year college. "I absolutely believe that [Connections] impacts their preparation and confidence going through the college application process... The support they receive and skills they learn by being mentees gives them a stronger foundation in determining their goals and also in understanding the various options available in their post-secondary pathways."

Masotta says student interest in Connections is high, but MHS has had to limit the program because they do not have enough mentors to support all students. She says multilingual mentors are especially needed.

"Many of our non-English speaking families feel so much more connected to the school and to their child's education when they can openly communicate with stakeholders. Bringing multilingual professionals from the community to work with families is an incredible way to have students and families feel more empowered in the child's academic and college planning."

Volunteer mentors are adults in the community ranging in age and career experience. Some have just completed the college search process with their own children, some have recently graduated from college and are looking for opportunities to support the next group of learners, and others are

Milford High School 'Connections' Program

What is it?

The program matches high achieving, first generation students, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher with a community mentor.

The program currently serves approximately 30 students with 25 mentors. More mentors are needed.

Why be a mentor?

"For mentors, it is an opportunity to give back to the community. All mentors are connected to the Milford community in some way and it serves as a method to stay connected and get to know the next generation of learners. Our hope is that it cultivates a rewarding experience for mentors."

Why be a mentee?

"For mentees, it is a great opportunity to network with professionals in the area, get to know more about different career options and to have great one-on-one support through the college application process. For most students, they are the first in their family to attend college. College searches and applications can be very daunting. Something like going on college visits might be an enormous barrier for these students. Giving students an additional resource through the mentor experience will hopefully allow them to feel empowered and prepared throughout the process."

Amanda Masotta,
Guidance Counselor, Milford High School

retired and want to give back to their community.

On average, mentors volunteer a few hours each month to work one-on-one with their mentee. The mentors help their mentee identify post-secondary goals and build their resume for college applications with a focus on community service and extracurricular activities. Training is generally online and there are monthly mentor meetings.

Laura Mann and Mike Hazeltine have co-chaired the Program Committee for the last five years. The committee oversees the mentoring program, makes the matches, and helps support mentors in training and development.

"Many mentors comment on the positive relationships they have established with their mentees who generally are from cultures that they would not normally interact with on a regular basis," said Mann. "Mentors have enjoyed sharing their career experiences and knowledge with first-gen students, and from their participation they have learned so much about the lifestyles and challenges faced by so many MHS students living in their community. Mentors have often said they feel they have gained much more than

they give and it is a great feeling being part of the Milford community in a new way."

Mann says another great value to the mentor/mentee connection is the ability to help students meet guidelines and eventually analyze financial packages they might receive.

"Having a one-on-one mentor allows deadlines to be met, which unfortunately are easily missed without someone working closely with the student. Usually, it is the parents doing this, but as first-gen students, their parents often are unaware of how to help. That is where the mentor can help," said Mann.

Previous Connections students have attended Merrimack College, Middlebury College, Northeastern University, Bridgewater State University, Florida Institute of Technology, Framingham State University, Salem State University (biology), University of Massachusetts (Amherst and Lowell), University of New England, University of North Carolina, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, or learning more about Connections, please contact milfordconnections@gmail.com.



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SAFETY LOG

continued from page 10

Nov. 5 at 9:40 a.m., Main and Exchange Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 27-year-old Worcester man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

Nov. 6 at 6:12 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop. A 25-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and motor vehicle lights violation.

Nov. 6 at 11:20 a.m., Greenleaf Ter., motor vehicle stop, two arrests. A 42-year-old Woonsocket man was charged with possession of a Class B drug. A 46-year-old Woonsocket man was charged with possession of a Class B drug.

Nov. 6 at 12:48 p.m., Camp St., neighbor dispute
Nov. 6 at 2:12 p.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop. A 32-year-old Milford man was charged with number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and number plate violation.

Nov. 6 at 6:47 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop. A 52-year-old Milford man was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m., Prospect St., stolen motor vehicle
Nov. 8 at 7:29 a.m., Bandy Ln., larceny from motor vehicles (several addresses).

Nov. 8 at 12:15 p.m., Medway Rd., well-being check. A 46-year-old Billerica man was taken into protective custody.

Nov. 8 at 2:44 p.m., Grant St., neighbor dispute

Nov. 8 at 3:21 p.m., Fortune Blvd., motor vehicle accident. A 46-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and a marked lanes violation.

Nov. 9 at 2:12 p.m., W. Walnut St., assault

Nov. 9 at 2:21 p.m., Fruit St.,

neighbor dispute

Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m., Medway Rd., unwanted person. A 46-year-old Billerica man was charged with disorderly conduct, and disturbing the peace.

Nov. 10 at 12:01 p.m., Westley Ct., missing person

Nov. 10 at 5:52 p.m., Cedar and Deer Sts., motor vehicle accident. A 32-year-old Framingham woman was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, and failing to yield at an intersection.

Nov. 11 at 7:29 p.m., Prospect St., well-being check. A 22-year-old Hopedale woman was charged with reckless endangerment of a child.

Nov. 13 at 6:14 a.m., Main St., motor vehicle accident, two arrests. A 30-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. A 22-year-old Milford man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Nov. 13 at 4:23 p.m., Congress St., stolen motor vehicle

Nov. 13 at 6:12 p.m., Medway Rd., trespass. A 46-year-old Billerica man was charged with trespassing, shoplifting by asportation, and an arrest warrant.

Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m., Central and S. Bow Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 49-year-old Milford woman was charged with unlicensed motor vehicle, and unregistered motor vehicle.

Nov. 14 at 2:37 p.m., Birch St., motor vehicle stop. A 25-year-old Worcester man was charged with unregistered motor vehicle, and uninsured motor vehicle.

Nov. 14 at 4:47 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting, two arrests. An 18-year-old Upton woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise. A 21-year-old Jefferson woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Nov. 14 at 8:29 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting. A 23-year-old Medway woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Nov. 15 at 7:36 a.m., Grant St., neighbor dispute

Nov. 15 at 11:33 a.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting. A 39-year-old Hopkinton woman was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

Nov. 15 at 1:15 p.m., Central and Depot Sts., motor vehicle stop. A 27-year-old Milford man was charged with no inspection/sticker, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Nov. 15 at 7:55 p.m., Main St., indecent exposure. A 33-year-old Brockton man was charged with disorderly conduct.

Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m., Windsor Rd., animal bite

Nov. 16 at 6:34 p.m., Dilla and Cedar Sts., well-being check. A 30-year-old Uxbridge woman was charged with operating a motor vehicle with suspended license.

Nov. 17 at 4:45 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting. A 17-year-old juvenile was charged with shoplifting by asportation.

Nov. 19 at 6:06 p.m., Jefferson St., arrest. A 39-year-old Milford man was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault (spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend/etc.).
Nov. 20 at 5:21 a.m., Central St., arrest. A 28-year-old Milford man was picked up on an arrest warrant.

Fire Department

The Milford Fire Department also responded to many outdoor fires, several medical emergencies (many transported to hospital), unruly patients, several alarms and odor investigations, motor vehicle and building lockouts, and more. This is not an exhaustive list. Items of note include:

Oct. 21 at 3:17 p.m., Congress St., medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 21 at 3:59 p.m., Maria Cir., medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 21 at 5:44 p.m., W. Walnut St., medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 21 at 5:59 p.m., Mt. Pleasant St., outside fire

Oct. 21 at 6:29 p.m., Hayward St., outside fire

Oct. 21 at 10:58 p.m., Colonial Rd., natural gas leak odor

Oct. 21 at 11:44 p.m., Main St., natural gas leak odor

Oct. 22 at 10:07 a.m., Milford District Court, medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 22 at 6:46 p.m., Dilla St., medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 23 at 2:51 a.m., Amanda Cir., alarm

Oct. 23 at 4:25 a.m., Railroad St., medical, patient refusal

Oct. 24 at 1:25 a.m., Iadarola Ave., medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 24 at 12:48 p.m., Mill Pond Cir., medical, patient refusal

Oct. 24 at 5:01 p.m., Silva St., structure fire

Oct. 25 at 1:24 p.m., Manoogian Cir., transformer fire

Oct. 26 at 3:56 p.m., Medway Rd., outside fire

Oct. 26 at 7:23 p.m., Milford Library, medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 27 at 10:17 a.m., Read St., smoke investigation

Oct. 28 at 12:07 a.m., outside fire

Oct. 28 at 8:49 p.m., Main St., odor investigation

Oct. 29 at 4:16 p.m., Congress St., structure fire

Oct. 30 at 12:54 p.m., E. Main St., medical, transported to hospital

Oct. 30 at 2:12 p.m., Milford Hospital, unruly patient

Oct. 30 at 3:46 p.m., Pearl St., natural gas leak odor

Oct. 30 at 4:44 p.m., Sumner St., outside fire

Oct. 30 at 5:02 p.m., Whitewood Rd., outside fire

Oct. 30 at 5:15 p.m., Capital Rd. and Congress St., outside fire

Oct. 31 at 6:07 p.m., Bancroft Ave., outside fire

Nov. 1 at 9:55 a.m., Tanglewood Dr., gas spill or leak

Nov. 2 at 4:25 a.m., Fortune Blvd., carbon monoxide alarm

Nov. 2 at 8:48 a.m., West St., brush fire.

Nov. 2 at 1:34 p.m., Milford Hospital, unruly patient

Nov. 2 at 2:45 p.m., West St.,



brush fire

Nov. 2 at 4:29 p.m., Fortune Blvd., carbon monoxide alarm

Nov. 2 at 4:41 p.m., Medway Rd., pedestrian accident

Nov. 3 at 2:03 p.m., 495 north-bound, motor vehicle fire

Nov. 3 at 6:59 p.m., Cormier Cir. and Eben St., outside fire

Nov. 4 at 8:01 a.m., Ramble Rd., smoke investigation

Nov. 5 at 3:16 p.m., Sumner and Mechanic Sts., brush fire

Nov. 6 at 6:46 p.m., Veterans Memorial Dr., medical, transported to hospital

Nov. 8 at 6:29 a.m., Adams St., brush fire

Nov. 8 at 11:55 a.m., North St., smoke investigation

Nov. 9 at 8:10 a.m., Sousa Cir., outside fire

Nov. 9 at 8:21 p.m., Union St., outside fire

Nov. 10 at 8:53 a.m., Purchase St., outside fire

Nov. 10 at 11:04 a.m., Beach St., outside fire

Nov. 11 at 10:03 a.m., Shadowbrook Access Path, brush fire

Nov. 12 at 12:32 p.m., Walker Ave. Ext., motor vehicle fire

Nov. 12 at 8:55 p.m., Maher Ct., neighbor dispute

Nov. 14 at 7:11 a.m., Shadowbrook Ln., water problem/flooded

Nov. 14 at 5:17 p.m., Maple St., outside fire

Nov. 14 at 6:35 p.m., Congress and Walnut Sts., structure fire

Nov. 15 at 1:45 p.m., Fortune Blvd., odor investigation

Nov. 15 at 2:45 p.m., Fortune Blvd., outside fire

Nov. 18 at 3:15 p.m., Green St., outside fire

Source: www.milfordpolice.org/daily-call-log

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Milford High School Term 1 Honor Roll

TERM 1 HIGH HONOR ROLL

Year of Graduation - 2025
Aquino, Kelvyn Martins; Baglione, Olivia Rose; Ballard, Tyler James; Belina, Ethan Matthew Damalerio; Bethel, Taryn Janet; Bilodeau, Tyler Constantine; Boulanger, Michael Domenic; Brannigan, Audrey Jane; Brickley, Mallory Janet; Brown, Molly Marie; Buckley, Jack Stephen; Callahan, Logan Sumner; Carter, Ian Raymond; Casman, Lindsay Taylor; Collins, Aiden Bruce; Comisky, Jason Bradley; Cruz, Jennifer Poyer; De Sousa, Alexia Allana; De Souza, Nicole Braga; DeGasperis, Robert Evan; Donovan, Declan Robert; Donovan, Riley Janice; Dulak, Brianna Lillian; E Souza, Lucas Gabriel Jacob; Eddins-Smith, Christasia Charelle; Enright, Owen Matthew; Fabry, Lex Connor; Felix, Kauan Santos; Fernandes, Gabriela Rose; Ferreira, Alexandra Cailyn; Ferreira, Sofia Lynn; Ferretti, Beatrice; Furnari, Francesco; Genelhu, Kauan Bomfim; Gonzalez, Eliza Hope; Goulet, Adriana Barbra; Haley, William Daniel; Hay, Tristan Patrick; Hough, Edward Wesley; Howland, Brighid Abigail; Koch,

Nicholas Charles; Kudrikow, Jayden True; Landry, Alexa Helen; Landry, Kaitlin Heather; Letendre, Miles George; Maietta, Anthony Joseph; Mairs, Sean William; Martinez Mazariegos, Yasmin Elizabeth; Martinez, Tahlia Yesenia; Mayancela Acosta, Miriam Maritza; Medina Sa, Isadora Goncalves; Merrill, Ava Marie; Morais, Jennifer Chaves; Niro, Gianna Marie; Nunes, Gabriel Almeida; Obolar, Thabata Sangy; O'Brien-Morais, Matthew John; Ostertog, Todd Joseph; Pasacane-Gallagher, Gianna Marie; Pavento, Nora Margaret; Pezza, Benjamin Michael; Rattray, Corey Logan; Raval, Vedi Nitant; Rentas Figueroa, Julianys Angelick; Saad, Sarah Maged; Santos, Maya Miguel; Santos, Railany Rodrigues; Sifien, Jolia Anwar; Sweeney, Ava Rose; Sweeney, Liam Patrick; Teixeira, Sabrina Fagundes; Vootla, Keerthana; Webster, Jessica Sarai; Windsor, Lincoln Paul; Zheng, Yu Xin; Allemao, Sabrina Rose.

Year of Graduation - 2026
Andrade, Amanda Samara Teles; Araujo, Anna Maria; Baldic, Henry Bennet; Best, Isaiah Nathaniel; Bonina, Angelina

Rose; Breen, Reilly James; Brooks, Connor Sheldon; Brown, William Noferi; Buckley, Mary Eileen; Burns, Ryan Paul; Cahill, Andrew Joseph; Carter, Sadie Ethel Marie; Coelho, Natalie Passos; Costa, Sergio Gabriel; Cunin Granda, Jose Efrain; Daquilema Daquilema, Jordy Isaac; Dos Anjos, Larissa Lima; Eastman, Aidan Matthew; Feijo, Franka Emilia; Haughey, Emma Katherine; Hausmann, Benjamin Mark; Jacques, Tori Simone; Kalber, Dale Michael; Kearnan, Katelyn Mary; King, Robert Dale; Lalangui Ponce, Nicholas Enrique; Loscerbo, Isabella Marie; Macalpine, Lauren Adriana; Majkut, Jonathan Nehemiah; Mastroianni, Anthony Seth; Medeiros, Tyler Isaac; Murdock, Chloe Grace; Norris, Anthony James; Oliveira, Thiago Bastos; O'Toole, Riley Michelle Anna; Parrott, Tyler James; Pereira, Ana Julia de Almeida; Ramirez, Victoria Elena; Ramnauth, Caleb Viran; Renaud, Sophie Brianne; Rodriguez, Dionicio Esiah; Sanaguaray Moyon, Jhofre Gonzalo; Souza, Gustavo Silva; Talamini, Taylor Lynn; Teixeira Silva, Thaysla Emanuel; Trotta-Dias, Kyla; Weiner, Giovanna Lucia; Aminmentse,

Lorella Fuanjia.

Year of Graduation - 2027
Amorim, Gustavo Laurindo De Paula; Atilho, Ashley Ranne; Balzarini, Joshua Alfredo; Barrientos, Jocelyn Emely; Belot, Orelia Maxence; Boccia, Cloe Emma; Boulanger, Matthew Paul; Brown, Jack Thomas; Caguana Caguana, Jennifer Maridsa; Cartier, Elise Nicole; Cavaliere, Cayla Jean; Chapman, Angelina Maria; Coelho, Sophia Alves; Cortese, Ava Mariella; Costa, Guilherme Lopes; da Cunha, Giana Alexis; Da Paz, Miguel Ribeiro Cordeiro; De Oliveira, Gheovanna Santos; De Paula, Fernando Tayller Teixeira; Delaney, Catherine Margaret; Denietolis, Brayton James; DeTore, Lilliana Rose; Estrada, Aryana Elise; Figueroa, Sofia Merianna Manoogian; Fromlowitz, Henri Clemens; Gaspard, Naedsa Levania; Gomez Garcia, Mazie Maria Virginia; Guaman, Eric Santiago; Hall, Alexis Marie; Hayes, Connor Brian; Hodges, Emily Claire Seo; Howland, Connor Ethan; Jansons, Emily Kim; Jencks, Melanie Rose; Jenkins, Christopher Nathaniel; Kenton, Nicholas Jonathan; Kinter, Amy Lynn; Langevin, Wilbur Ivan; Lentini, Fiona Rose; Lyubkin,

Lina Olivia; Machado, Julia Carla Souza; Maldonado, Elle Sol; Maldonado, Emma Luz; Maloney, Amelia Grace; Mandrik, Nathan Peter; Mastroianni, Raphael Phol; Matthews, Francesca Madonna; McCarthy, Viviana Marie; McGrath, Michael James; Miller, Lucia Melina; Miranda, Julia Sa; Murphy, Abigail Mykal; Nakirega, Irene Faustine; Ordenez Zecena, Erick Angel; Peniche, Nathan Fernandes; Portes, Kevin Barbosa; Putnam, Nicole Ann; Ricca, Lucas Stephen; Richard, Lucas Eric; Rocha, Gabriel Morais; Roy, Mackenzie Dorothy; Samuelson, Annabelle Lynn; Sanborn, Madison Ryann; Sanchez Guaman, Kelvin Santiago; Scioli, Ava Rose; Seyfarth, Alexander Logan; Silva Hughes, Sophia Andrea; Simao, Maria Eduarda Rocha; Smith, Danielle Frances; Soares, Brenda Alves; Stachowski, Alex John Ansara; Vo, Justin Honk; Walthers, Charlotte Ann; Webster, Julia Elizabeth; Whalen, Faith America; Wright, Dylan Scott; Zou, Benjamin; Allen, Ainsley Caroline.

MILFORD HONOR ROLL
continued on page 17

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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MILFORD HONOR ROLL

continued from page 16

Year of Graduation - 2028

Anala, Karthi Sree Anish Aatherya; Arnold, John Michael; Asembo, Eddie Benson; Ason-gafac, Glenn Njifua; Ateawung, Matthew Asonganyi; Balvoa Granda, Clara Ines; Brown, Amaia Solana; Brown, Andrew Charles; Carlos, Esther Gabrielly Pereira; Castro, Ilda Rocimver; Charczenko, Maya Joanne; Cruz, Sofia Joy; DeOliveira, Pedro Silva; DeTore, Gabriella Maria; DeTore, Jadyln Olivia; DiGi-ando, Samuel Dennis; Doyon, Khryss Pascual; Evandro, Lucas Magalhaes; Ferreira, Estefany Gomes; Flinkfelt, Caroline Lou-ise; Geoffroy, Cody Michael; Golla, Rupinika; Graca, Nicholas Pessoti; Ha, Tina; Hally, Ethan Ralph; Kedski, Hailey Rae; Kerr, Nathaniel Anthony; Lakkadi, Anjan Bharath Reddy; Lalangui Ponce, Christopher Alexis; Lass, Daniel Bueno Simoes; Loures Da Silva, Lauryn Laureano; Macchi, Avery Marie; Machado, Gustavo Alves Lana; Mackey, Alexander Scott; Magalhaes, Samuel Fegler; Majkut, Daniel Steven; Martin, Cydney Jaide; Miller, Giovanna Ronnie; Murphy, Keira Leigh; Murray, Autumn Catherine; Natende, Pauline Maximilan; Oliveira, Jordan Peres; Otero, Jarlin Arely; Pires, Emali Maria; Raney, Riley Jayde; Renaud, Gi-anna Germaine; Rizzo, Logan Anthony; Rocha, Rykelme Miguell Dos Reis; Saguay, Bryan Alexander; Santos, Isabella Ferreira; Shaw, Payton Logan; Stoney, Josephine Lee; Sweeney, Grace Vivienne; Tobar, Valeria Nicole; Usher, Annabel Kather-ine; Vervil, Yarlle Maricka.

TERM 1 HONOR ROLL

Year of Graduation - 2025

Aboalanin, Youssef Has-san; Abreu, Rebecca; Addagiri, Lokesh Pranav; Archer, Owen Samuel; Bermeo Cazho, Angel Ivan; Braga, Emily Vitoria Melo; Butler, Joseph Anthony; Caetano, Phillip Honorio Sousa; Caldon, Paige Diane; Carvajal Santana, Mikaela Salome; Carvalho, Daniel Oliveira; Chuqui Munoz, Katherine Elizabeth; Collazo, Lorena Mikeila; Cordon, Ivan Alejandro; Crim, Danica Alison; Da Silva, Victor Gabriel; Dias, Hiago Pereira; Do Carmo, Joao Marciano Abreu Ferreira; Dono-van, Sean Charles; Dornelas, Vitoria Ongaro Carvalho; Fabry, Luke Maxwell; Fazo, Samantha Frances; Fernandes, Jianna Eliza-beth; Fernandes, Kemilly Prates; Gergis, Eve Lillian; Gove, Madi-son Emma; Greeley, Mia Jordan; Gualpa, Marco Javier; Hipolito,

Zachary Ryan; Lebron-Mussulli, Gianna Elizabeth; Lioce, Mat-thew Nicholas; Loja Castro, Daysi Veronica; Mace, Leo Robert; Magalhaes, Jhonatan Arthur Medeiros; Martins, Jully Batista; Morais, Mikayla Santos; Murray, Ava Katherine; Nakai, Jewelisa Diamond; Neuman, Tyler Joseph; Okhipo, Aloiy Oluwafiiyikunmi; Ortiz Ortiz, Jahdiel Antonio; Pellegrini, Cae Marie; Peniche, Antonio Julio; Pereira, Gustavo Lourenco; Pereira, Sarah Quin-tao; Prevelige, Sean Reilly; Ricker, Billie Jennette; Rmsis, Madelyn Amad; Rodrigues, Debora; Sa-guay, John Michael; Santiago, Gianna Grace; Santiago, Jade; Sargius, Marcellino Maher; Sena, Edward Soares; Souza, Mathews Silva; Wheelock, Ian Malone; Abadli, Chihab Eddine.

Year of Graduation - 2026

Anderson, Jack Paul; Araujo, Abigail Elizabeth; Arnold, Avery Evelyn; Baisley, Summer Philo-mena; Boulos, Thomas Sherif; Burns, Dylan Edward; Burrows, Lillian Elizabeth; Chahwan, Chloe; Charczenko, Ethan Brian; Costa, Camilla Tavares; Cruz, Luciana Grace; Da Silva, Dan-iel Thomas; Da Silva, Gustavo Oliveira; Day, Joseph John; De Jesus, Matheus Lacerda; De Matos, Thayla Gomes Fernandes; De Souza, Kainan Flamini Danton; de Souza, Lohayne Karla Goncalves; DeBarros, Eli Gabriel; DiGiallonardo, Avalina Valia; Driscoll, Sullivan Robert; Duah, Innocent Nana Kwame; Ferreira, Sofia Cruz; Fiedler, Ethan Luke; Fraunfelter, Gar-ren Jay; Fries, Grayson Michael; Gomes da Silva, Marcelo; Gomes, Diego Rafael Da Cruz; Hamil-ton, Madeline Margaret; Kerr, Alexander Michael; Kudrikow, Addyson Nathan; Lala Castro, Nixon Eugenio; Lopez Lopez, Yessica Yadira; Luster, Julia Caro-lyn; Maforte, Layanne Andrade; Magalhaes, Gabriel Ricotta De Melo; Mahanta, Abhirup; Mainini, Caleb William; Mar-celino, Alicya Liborio; Marcotti, Matthew Peneda; McCarthy, Lucia Rose; McGee, Joseph Wil-liam; Miranda Carvalho, Kamyllie Maryanne; Morataya, Valerie Dianne; Morin, Kayleigh Anne; Moses, Lola Marie; Nashawaty, Richard Josep; Pagan Ramirez, Carlos Yabdiel; Paiva, Joyce Kel-len; Palombo, Nadia Flora Marie; Perdomo, Christopher Geovani; Pierce, Chloe Anne; Pizarro, Jay-lani Ibette; Rice, Audrey Louise; Ridolfi, Emma Louise; Rivera Abrego, Carlos Josiah; Rocci, Kai-byn William; Rodrigues, Laura Oliveira; Sampaio, Yago Teixeira; Seri, Talya Victoria; Shannon, Ike Thomas; Soloman III, Alan Rich-ard; Stoker, Molly Jane; Stokes, Jason Alexander; Sweet, Nicole Isabelle; Ureta, Yamileth Araceli;

Utino, Annyana Yassuko Almeida Queiroz; Velasco-Aguaiza, Gen-esis Yadhira; Willard, Isabella Grace; Zheng, Selina; Alvarado, Tyler Christopher.

Year of Graduation - 2027

Blankenship, Luke Patrick; Cappelli, Roberto Carneiro; Carter, Cameron James; Cun-ningham, Reagan Rebecca; Da Silva, Kaua Caetano Lemos; Da Silva, Matheus Filipe; Dickhut, Cameron Christopher; D'Orazio, Jefferey Albert; England, Tylie Anne; Espinoza Loja, Alex; Fa-rina, Rose Diane; Fazo, Reagan Linda; Ferreira, Samantha Haley; Flis, Ryan Christopher; Freeman, Jay Emanuel; Gualan Cango, Leonardo Xavier; Guaman Gua-man, Lisseth Alexandra; Hally, Skylar Susan Maggie; Hannigan, Austin Nicholas; Kedski, Madi-son Rose; Leite, Julia De Paula Souza; Lewis, Jayla Mary; Loja-Mayancela, Danny Scott; Lyons, Hanorah Yvonne; Marques, Ales-sandra Talia; Meacham, Haley Elisabeth; Mutegyeki, Kaylah Katrina; Nashawaty, Kyla Eliza-beth; Naula, Jenyne; O'Donnell, Josalynn Elaine; Olegario, Miguel Moody; Oliveira, Alexia Leigh; Pierre, Brandy Marie Dania; Pomaquiza Quito, Nathalia Anahi; Ribeiro, Maria Allice Lemos; Souza, Matheus Da Silva; Strafello, Kaylynn Ann; Tenen-holtz, Olivia Anna; Umenhofer, Katherine Sarah; Annantuonio, Brianna Leigh.

Year of Graduation - 2028

Araujo, Ronan Oliveira; Arquillano, Wielz Jehuven La-buca; Avelar, Rachel Guadalupe; Barbosa, Gabriel Gomes; Boc-cia, Brayden Henry; Campos, Aaliyah; Carvalho, Daniel Alves; Cavagnaro, Nathaniel Joseph; Cifuentes Pineda, Diego Jacob; Croeber, Kailyn Elizabeth; Day, John Brendan; De Alvarenga, So-phia Fraga; Ettahiri, Sami; Flis, Callan Joseph; Gomes, Ana Luisa da Silva; Gomes, Davi Marinho de Lima; Grucelski, Brooklyn Mia; Haser, Michael Quentin; Hough, Amelia Jean; Jerez Anga-marca, James Stib; Lins, Emily Goncalves; Loscerbo, Vincent Jeremy; Luca, Savannah Lee; MacKenzie, Katelyn Brielle; Martinez Menendez, Brian Elias; Martins, Lucas Fernandes; Miles, Cody Jacob; Nosek, Gabriella McCarthy; Oliveira, Davi Alves; Patel, Jiya Mitulkumar; Perez, Juelz Anthony; Rane, Robert Philip; Raney, John Kenneth; Rosa, Luana Fraga; Sanaguaray Moyon, Jhover Gabriel; Smith, Ethan James; Stacey, Camille Marie; Sweeney, Rosemary Violet; Teixeira, Kalebe Ramos; Villalobos, Alani Raquel; Villeda, Bella Gisselle; Voss-Leal, Brian Anthony; Williams, Lauren Grace; Zicherman, Cameron Jacob.

Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
11/27/2024	57 Mount Pleasant St.	\$500,000
11/27/2024	73 Fruit Street Ext.	\$610,000
11/26/2024	27 Purdue Dr.	\$485,000
11/26/2024	3 Wood St.	\$442,500
11/25/2024	4 Domenick St. #4	\$425,000
11/22/2024	85 Purchase St.	\$420,000
11/21/2024	12 Otis St.	\$550,000
11/15/2024	9 Oak Ter.	\$785,000
11/15/2024	5 Trinity Dr.	\$576,000
11/15/2024	196 Medway Rd.	\$610,000
11/15/2024	296 Central St.	\$635,000
11/15/2024	3 Hillside Ave. #1	\$465,000
11/14/2024	195 Purchase St.	\$479,000
11/14/2024	45 Harding St.	\$550,000
11/14/2024	13 Middleton St.	\$410,000
11/08/2024	3 Westchester Dr.	\$560,000
11/07/2024	7 Goodrich Ct.	\$380,000
11/04/2024	55 Village Ct. #55	\$485,000
11/01/2024	8 Shadowbrook Ln. #40	\$314,900
11/01/2024	20 Emmons St.	\$516,000

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



The 3-bed, 3-bath, 2,152-square-foot house at 296 Central Street in Milford recently sold for \$635,000. Image credit www.zillow.com

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SPORTS

Milford Baseball players make college plans

Trio of Scarlet Hawks sign Letters of Intent

By Chris Villani

Tyler Ballard, Ian Carter, and Nick Koch have played baseball together since they were little kids and helped Milford High to the final four in the state last season. The three were together recently when they signed their Letters of Intent to continue their baseball careers at the collegiate level.

“It was really nice,” Ballard said. “I think I prefer it that way because you get to share the spotlight with your friends. It was a great experience.”

Ballard plans to pitch for Wheaton College. Carter will join the pitching staff at Bryant University, and Koch hopes to be a top of the order hitter and a center fielder at Merrimack University.

Carter said he was drawn to Bryant because they showed that they wanted him to be part

of their program. He received a text from the coaching staff on the very first day that college coaches are allowed to reach out to recruits. When he went to visit the Rhode Island school, the interest became mutual.

“I loved the complex, the school, everything about it,” Carter said. “It’s in a really nice area, and it’s close to home.”

Koch said he was impressed by Merrimack’s campus and also the coaching staff, adding that they seem like they want to work hard to build a successful program. He also had a good feeling when he met his future teammates.

“They have a really nice tight-knit team,” Koch said. “It’s a really good family feel.”

Ballard said he hopes to be able to earn some innings when he heads to Wheaton next year. His role, he said, will be “what-



Teammates surround Tyler Ballard (left), Nick Koch (center), and Ian Carter as they signed their collegiate letters of intent. Photo source: Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher

ever he makes it out to be.” He and Carter will be a formidable duo on the mound for

Milford this year as the Hawks look to make another deep tournament run despite losing nine seniors from last spring’s team.

“I think we have the motivation to do well this year,” Carter said. “We did lose a lot of seniors, but we are definitely going to come in hot, I can tell you that.”

Koch agreed there is work to

be done as a team, and for him individually as he looks to get faster to be able to adjust to the speed of the college game. But, for now, he and his teammates are enjoying their success.

“I’ve played with them since back in the day in Little League and throughout middle school and high school,” Koch said. “Playing in college, this is something we all dreamed about.”



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SPORTS

Milford caps season with Thanksgiving Thriller

Scarlet Hawks improve to 4-0 vs. Taunton



Milford knocked off Taunton 42-41 to win for the fourth straight year in the brand new Thanksgiving rivalry.
Photo source: Milford Athletic Director Peter Boucher



By Chris Villani

In a game featuring two stellar offensive efforts, a defensive stop led Milford to finish its season with a 42-41 win over Taunton in the fourth installment of the two schools' fledgling Thanksgiving rivalry. After the Tigers scored to pull within a point in the game's final seconds, the Scarlet Hawks forced an incomplete pass on the two-point conversion bid to earn the one-point victory.

"I was proud of the kids," MHS coach Dale Olson said. "They scored in the end and we knew they were going to go for two. We got just enough pressure on the QB that he overthrew a kid who was open and we won the game." The final play was the product of some strategizing by Olson and the rest of the coaching staff. Taunton had the ball inside the one with time running down. Milford had a time

out and considered letting the Tigers score to preserve time on the clock. Instead of worrying about the potential game-tying touchdown, Milford's coaches called a play to successfully defend the two-point try and seal the victory in a game played on Thanksgiving Eve due to the impending bad weather on Thursday. MHS quarterback Jack Buckley earned offensive MVP honors with four touchdown passes. Each team returned a kickoff for a touchdown, with Jason Stokes' 80-yard return accounting for Milford's first score of the game. In the end, neither team punted the ball once. Olson said several of his players stood out not only against Taunton, but throughout the season, including Buckley, Stokes, Thomas Sousa, Andrew Rivera, Daniel Carvalho, and Ryan Burns,

among others. "Those kids played really well down the stretch and gave us an opportunity," Olson said. "They all played their part." Despite a 5-6 record, Milford came within a few plays of earning a fourth straight trip to the state's final four. The Scarlet Hawks beat Masconomet in the first round of the playoffs before falling to Reading by three. Four of Milford's losses this season came by a total of 12 points. "We played a lot of Division 1 teams, some really good teams that went to the playoffs," Olson noted. "It was great for the seniors though to go out with a win." Milford also made the most of having barely 30 players on the roster this fall. "I am proud of the kids," Olson said. "They gave me everything they had."



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2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4 #46796L • CUSTOM, 2.7L TURBO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$54,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,477	2021 NISSAN ROGUE AWD #TM24-1177A • ALLOYS, SV TRIM NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$31,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,977	2022 JEEP TRAX LT AWD #46610 • TURBO, PREMIUM AUDIO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$27,565 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$19,977	2022 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4 #TM24-1235A • LIMITED, SUNROOF NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$58,405 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$47,977	2019 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4 #TP4798A • LIMITED, ALLOYS, V6 NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$18,977
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2023 BMW X1 xDrive28i #TP4816 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$51,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$31,977	2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN #124-476A • 4X4, V6, ALLOYS NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977	2023 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER #ST0665A • LE TRIM, ALLOYS, CPO NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,775 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$33,977		

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