

## Jackie's Boutique offers free prom dresses

**Boutique in memory of MHS '15 Jackie Gray who died in 2016, offers more than 1,000 dresses**

By Theresa Knapp

With prom season just around the corner, Jackie's Boutique is getting ready to provide free gowns and accessories to girls in Milford and nearby communities.

The boutique is located inside Milford High School and is operated by Sandy Gray. Sandy and Ron Gray's daughter Jacqueline ("Jackie" and "Jax") Gray died at age 19 after a car accident on July 4, 2016. She was a 2015 MHS graduate.

"We do it to keep Jackie's spirit alive, it's all about Jackie for us," said Ron Gray. "There's a lot here; it can be painful, but it really fulfills us. Sandy finds her peacefulness here, you have to try to find it somewhere."

"When something like this



**One of Jackie Gray's favorite shows was "Say Yes to the Dress." Here, Sandy Gray, Jackie's mother and founder of Jackie's Boutique, holds a sign she shares with girls who choose a dress at the shop. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp**

happens, you learn that you need to find fulfillment, you need to do something," said Sandy Gray, a school nurse within the Milford school

district. "You ask, "What do I do now?" and I would

### JACKIE'S

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## Town Park renovations frozen until Spring



**Street hockey and basketball courts (left) and concrete pad (right) where fitness court will be installed. Photo source: Town of Milford**

By Scott Calzolaio

Work is halted on the Milford Town Park renovation project as the cold months leave the remaining work impossible until March. Construction will pick back up then, and is expected to be completed by the end of April, when a grand re-opening celebration will be held.

With the excitement on hold, Parks and Recreation Department Administrator James Asam took some time to reflect on the project vision.

"They worked pretty much straight through to the point where nothing else could really be done right now," he said. "But it's going to look great when it's done."

Rockland construction company R.A.D. Sports won the bid for the job last year, and have been integral to this project's success, Asam said.

"R.A.D. Sports have been

### PARK

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# Milford advances Comprehensive Plan to address community concerns

By Scott Calzolaio

The Milford Ad Hoc Committee, supported by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), convened on Jan. 7 to again discuss progress on the town's Comprehensive Plan.

The plan is set for completion in March and aims to address key concerns raised by residents, including economic revitalization, housing affordability, transportation issues, and environmental sustainability.

At its January meeting, the committee shared findings from a series of community engagement sessions held throughout the fall, which included public forums, surveys, and targeted discussions with groups such as the Youth Council, senior residents, and immigrant communities.

MAPC Manager of the General Land Use Division, Josh Fiala, said that by using ChatGPT, they were able to quickly isolate and break down themes in the data they've been

collecting.

"A lot of this information is feedback from specific goals," he said. "So we're seeing how these conversations will start to modify some of the goals as well."

Residents voiced support for initiatives to improve cultural integration, particularly as Milford continues to welcome growing populations from Brazil, Ecuador, and Haiti. Suggestions included expanding multilingual services, creating more inclusive community events, and ensuring cultural representation in town affairs.

Economic development emerged as another top priority, with many residents calling for a revitalized downtown area. The results show a widespread interest in transforming the town center into a hub of cultural and business activity with more restaurants, shops, and family-friendly spaces. Parking and traffic management also drew significant attention, with residents urging officials to ad-

dress safety concerns, reduce congestion, and improve public transportation.

Housing affordability remains a critical issue in Milford. Rising property values and limited rental options have made it increasingly difficult for families to secure affordable housing. Residents pointed to overcrowding in older properties, deteriorating housing conditions, and escalating rents as urgent problems requiring intervention.

Public services were another area of concern, particularly for underserved populations. Community members expressed the need for more robust resources, including afterschool programs, adult English classes, and expanded healthcare options.

The senior center was highlighted as a valuable resource, though residents called for more comprehensive services to address homelessness, food insecurity, and poverty.

The committee also emphasized the importance of

preserving Milford's natural environment and open spaces. Challenges such as stormwater management, development pressure on protected land, and gaps in park accessibility were identified. Proposed solutions include expanding neighborhood parks, connecting existing green spaces, and improving recreational facilities. Efforts to protect local water resources, such as the Charles River and Echo Lake, were also discussed, with officials noting the importance of addressing contamination risks and strengthening water management policies.

Overall, the plan aims to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and cohesive community, with targeted strategies for economic growth, improved public services, and environmental resilience, according to a vision statement. The final version will incorporate feedback from more upcoming forums and workshops, ensuring that residents' voices continue to shape the

town's priorities.

The Comprehensive Plan is on track for completion by March 2025, with a final community forum scheduled to review its goals and implementation strategies. For more information and updates, residents are encouraged to visit the plan's official website at Milford Plan 2024.

**The plan is set for completion in March and aims to address key concerns raised by residents, including economic revitalization, housing affordability, transportation issues, and environmental sustainability.**

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# What's happening at Milford Community School Use Program



The Milford Community School Use Program adult education class Stiff Man Yoga has been going strong for more than six years. (L to R) Paul Malnati, Len Morcone, Dave Tapscott, Keith Gattozzi, John Minichiello, Louis Piazza, John Constantino, Joe Calagione, Bob McCarthy, Jordon Bosse, Mike Wengal. Courtesy photo

We are turning the corner on the school year and diving into 2025. Our Extended Day after-school care programs are bursting at the seams, and our Travel Basketball leagues are playing their way to success with a whopping 21 teams, plus 19 Biddy Basketball teams. Biddy Basketball has been one of the longest running programs with Community Use. We are hoping to rebuild the program and have even more parent volunteer coaching involvement for the next season.

Loren Blanchard, the new Special Olympic activities coordinator, has been working hard putting together programming. Special Olympics Volleyball, Track and Field, and Swimming are upcoming for the spring. Thanks to our enthusiastic coaches and volunteers, these sports have been a big success!

This winter season, please check out our Milford Community School Use Children's Programs. From building epic creations in Snapology to becoming a mini veterinarian in The Pet Vet, there's no shortage of excitement. With The Kid's Test Kitchen program kids will whip up delicious delights. These programs are available after school and there are a few spots left.

Kids Night Out programs have been a big success this year with Community Use. This is a fabulous opportunity to have an adult night out with that someone special. The next Kids Night Out is Friday, Feb. 14, at the Milford High School from 5 - 9 p.m. open for children in grades K-5. Check out our website for all the details. All participants must pre-register to attend.

Attention parents we've got you covered during the February school vacation week with a reliable program at Milford High School. There will be plenty of fun and exciting activities for the kids to participate in such as swimming, arts and crafts, sports, games, movies, and surprise activities that no one will want to miss out on. Registration is open now.

New Year, new you! We will continue to offer Adult Ed Fitness Programs, designed to help you not just set, but smash those New Years resolutions. From Bootcamp, Swim, Zumba, Circuit Fusion Gentle Yoga and our ever popular Stiff Man Yoga, get fit while having fun, we've got you covered

This Spring you don't miss out on our free workshops focused on Senior Safety, Retirement Planning, and

Milford Community Use Calendar

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| BootCamp<br>5:30am-6:30am<br>Woodland Turf           | SplashHit<br>6:30am-7:15am<br>MHS Pool                        | BootCamp<br>5:30am-6:30am<br>Woodland Turf           | SplashHit<br>6:30am-7:15am<br>MHS Pool                        | BootCamp<br>5:30am-6:30am<br>Woodland Turf           | Open Swim/Lap Swim<br>1:00pm-3:00pm<br>MHS Pool |
| Lap Swim<br>5:45AM-7:15AM<br>MHS Pool<br>5:45-7:15pm |   | Lap Swim<br>5:45AM-7:15AM<br>MHS Pool<br>5:45-7:15pm |   | Lap Swim<br>5:45AM-7:15AM<br>MHS Pool<br>5:45-7:15pm |   |
| Gentle Yoga<br>4:15pm-5:15pm<br>Memorial Hall        | Circuit Fusion<br>6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Memorial Elementary School |  | Circuit Fusion<br>6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Memorial Elementary School |  |   |
| GMCC Chorus<br>6pm-9pm<br>Rehearsal Memorial Hall    | Zumba<br>7:00pm<br>Memorial Hall                              |  | Stiff Man Yoga<br>6:00pm-7:00pm<br>Memorial Hall              |  |   |
| SplashHit<br>MHS pool<br>6:30pm - 7:15pm             |   | SplashHit<br>MHS pool<br>6:30pm - 7:15pm             | Beginner Line Dancing<br>7:15pm-8:15pm<br>Memorial Hall       |  |   |

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We are always looking to add more program opportunities to our Adult Ed schedule, so if you or someone you know has a hobby or interest and you would like to offer a program with us please contact our office at communityuse@milfordma.com or call 508-478-1119 to discuss.

We would love to hear from you. For more information or to register and sign up for the email list, visit [milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity\\_t2.wcs](http://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs). For questions, call the office or email the Director at [chrisburns@milfordma.com](mailto:chrisburns@milfordma.com).

All Participants must pre-register for all programs. Calendar is subject to change.

Let's grow together as a community. Visit our website at [https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/client-page\\_t2.wcs](https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/client-page_t2.wcs)

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PARK

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great," he said. "The product is great, and I'm looking forward to the end result so people can use it."

The newly designed Town Park will feature all of the old amenities, along with a couple of new recreational options. Spanning from Congress Street to the middle of the park are two new basketball courts. Overlapping the courts, to be used at separate times, is a street hockey rink, spanning from the playground to the bandstand.

The lines of the courts are overlapped, so only one sport can be played at a time.

Asam said there will be set schedules for each sport, but the courts will be primarily used for basketball, as that season tends to span longer.

Additionally, two new tennis courts were laid, along with four pickleball courts, to avoid any conflict between the two sports.

Options to permit any of the courts will be available to book through the Parks Department as well. All booking and scheduling information will be available on their website after the renovations are complete, Asam said.

Other features of the renovation include new walkways, lighting fixtures, picnic tables, and benches along the path.

The bandstand and bathrooms are due for a makeover as well, but these two structures were bid out separately. According to Asam, money will be appropriated in May to renovate those structures over the next year.

According to the town website, after 18 months of planning, the construction phase began in mid-2024.

The project is being paid for by a Community Development Block Grant plus a few additional town appropriations.

Fenced-off areas around the construction area are off limits to the public, the town website warns.



Pickleball courts and light pole being installed. Photo source: Town of Milford

Milford safety log

Police and fire calls include kidnapping, shots fired, road rage, New Year's Eve fights and OUIs, car seat violation, and more

The Milford Police and Fire Departments provided a wide range of services between Dec. 20 and Jan. 15 related to motor vehicle stops, traffic enforcement, medical emergencies and unruly patients. community policing, disabled motor vehicles, vehicle collisions (including hit and runs), erratic operators, parking violations, towed vehicles, suspicious motor vehicles, suspicious activity, road hazards and obstructions, radar enforcement, property

checks, property damage, loud music and general noise complaints, threats, disturbances and disputes, vehicle and building lockouts, residential and commercial alarms, 911 misdials and hangups, drone and k9 deployment, natural gas leak odors, suspicious and unwanted persons, harassment, fraud, shoplifting and larceny, soliciting, lost/returned property, well-being checks, assist citizens and schools, follow-up investigations, animal issues (injured, strays, deceased), funeral traffic, family services, and court business. They also provided mutual aid to state police.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Entries of note include: Dec 20 at 10:05am, Medway Rd., road rage Dec 20 at 3:29pm, motor vehicle accident, criminal application. A 25-year-old Woonsocket female was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle Dec 20 at 4:16pm, Cedar St, criminal application. A 35-year-old Everett male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle Dec 20 at 10:41pm, Pond St, suspicious motor vehicle, arrest made. A 26-year-old Milford male was

charged with town bylaw violation-drinking on public way, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle Dec 21 at 3:39am, 495 southbound/Medway Rd, arrest made. A 36-year-old Brockton male was arrested for two outstanding warrants and a one-way violation Dec 21 at 6:57am, motor vehicle stop. A 42-year-old Holliston female was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle Dec 21 at 7:41 am, Deer St, natu-

SAFETY LOG

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# Key decisions for retired couples



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here a few of the most important ones:

- **How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts?** By the time you retire, you may

have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

- **When should you take Social Security?** The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income.

You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)

- **Should you downsize?** If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision,

but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.

- **Where should you live?** Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.
- **Have you finished your estate plans?** If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and

your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

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

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## Milford Town Library Strategic Plan 2025-2030

The Milford Town Library's Strategic Plan for 2025-2030 is now complete. This plan, which is a true community effort, details our future vision and priorities.

The Milford Town Library thanks library patrons, staff, the Board of Trustees, and the Strategic Planning Committee led by Director Susan Edmonds and consultant Mary E. Braney for their invaluable contributions to



Source: [www.milfordtownlibrary.org](http://www.milfordtownlibrary.org)

the plan's development in 2024.

To read the Strategic Plan, visit [bit.ly/MilfordTownLibraryStrategicPlan2025](http://bit.ly/MilfordTownLibraryStrategicPlan2025)

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## Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

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

### by Reference Department

The Milford Library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17 in observance of President's Day.

### AARP Tax Aide Program

The Milford Town Library is once again proud to partner with the AARP Foundation, which provides free tax help for low-to-moderate income taxpayers. Appointments are required, and are available on Saturdays, Feb. 8 through April 5, 2025. These appointments are 1 hour each, between 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. We will also have a limited number of Wednesday evening appointments, between 4 - 7 p.m. Returns are only prepared for e-filing. To ensure that volunteers can help those most in need, taxpayers with more complicated or lengthy returns may be asked to come back on a different day or time. Note that AARP cannot prepare the following types of returns:

- Out of state
- Rental property
- Clean vehicle tax credits

- Virtual currency or digital assets
- Home foreclosures
- Small businesses with inventory, losses, or employees
- Returns with more than 2 brokerage statements and/or more than 4 dividend and interest statements

### Tax Forms

All of the tax forms that have arrived are available on the Grab and Go table at the library entrance. Please note that additional forms and schedules are available at irs.gov or the Massachusetts Department of Revenue website.

### Cat Supplies Drive

The library is hosting a winter cat supplies drive to benefit the Milford Humane Society now till Feb. 14, 2025. Donations of wet and dry food, kitty litter and toys may be dropped off in the collection bin at the library entrance. The library cannot accept bedding, blankets or towels.

Established in 1990, The Milford Humane Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit, no-kill shelter for stray and abandoned cats. While most cats are housed at the shelter, others are cared for in foster homes until space becomes available at the shelter. Admission to the shelter is not based solely on adoptability but on need. The motto of the Milford Humane Society is to share the gift of unconditional love with as many cats and kittens as possible. The society also welcomes other donations and has a wish list on Chewy. To learn more, visit [www.milfordhumane.org](http://www.milfordhumane.org). Response so far has been great and we thank patrons for their generosity!

### Milford Area Wordsmiths

Looking for a quiet, dedicated time and place where you can write? Join the Milford Area Wordsmiths writers' group! We provide a safe place for adults (18+) to write and even share your work if you desire. All levels are welcome, from first-time

writers to published authors. All genres are welcome, too, from picture books to romantasy to nonfiction!

Established in November, the group meets the first and third Monday of each month (except holidays) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. The Milford Area Wordsmiths will be facilitated by Carol Allen, a first-time writer of children's books, lifelong bookworm, and recently retired middle-school teacher. For more information, please call 508-473-2145, ext. 2.

### English Classes

The library offers free drop-in classes for adults who want to learn and improve their English. Beginner classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m. An intermediate class is held on Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Classes are held on the lower level of the library in the ESL Classroom. Registration is not required. For more information, please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

Las clases gratuitas sin cita previa para adultos que quieran aprender y mejorar su inglés comienzan el martes 14 de enero de 2025. Las clases para principiantes se llevan a cabo los martes y jueves por la noche de 7 a 8 p.m. Una clase intermedia se lleva a cabo los jueves de 5:30 a 6:30 p.m. Las clases se llevan a cabo en el nivel inferior de la biblioteca en el aula de ESL. No es necesario registrarse. Para obtener más información, llame al mostrador de información al 508-473-2145 x 2.

As aulas presenciais gratuitas para adultos que desejam aprender e melhorar seu inglês começam na terça-feira, 14 de janeiro de 2025. As aulas para iniciantes são ministradas nas noites de terça e quinta, das 19h às 20h. Uma aula intermediária é ministrada às quintas-feiras, das 17h30 às 18h30. As aulas são ministradas no nível inferior da biblioteca, na sala de aula ESL. O registro não é necessário. Para obter mais informações, ligue para o balcão de informações em 508-473-2145 x 2.

### Citizenship Preparation

Citizenship preparation will be offered on Monday evenings

at 6:30 p.m. started on Monday, Jan. 27, in the ESL Classroom and continue through Monday, February 24, 2025. Since individuals may be at various stages in their citizenship path, all interested participants should come to the class to consult with the instructor to be screened. Using materials from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), this preparation course will review the N-400 citizenship application, English and civics test and discuss the naturalization interview. To learn more, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

### Center Book Group

The Center Book Group will be on winter hiatus during January and February 2025 and return on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. The March book selection is *Hello, Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. This novel by the author of *Dear Edward* and other titles is a sweeping story of the four Padavano sisters, a sort of modern retelling of *Little Women*. Napolitano's storytelling combines emotional depth and page-turnability.

To reserve a copy of *Hello, Beautiful*, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2, order online or email: [aberard@milfordtownlibrary.org](mailto:aberard@milfordtownlibrary.org).

### Catherine Marengi & Len Abram Reading/Signing

On Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m., Native Milfordians Catherine Marengi and Len Abram return to the Milford Town Library to read from their new books. Catherine's latest book is a volume of poetry *Things We Take, Things We Let Go*. Len's latest novel is *Killer Apps*, the third in a crime trilogy featuring Boston detectives Schwartz and Di Natale. His previous books include *Empty Doorways*, *The Medallion and Debris: A Novel of Love, War and the Lusitania*.

Catherine Marengi is an award-winning author of the historical novel *Our Good Name* (2022); and *Glad Farm: A Memoir* (2016) which President Jimmy

### LIBRARY

continued on page 11

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# Macular degeneration: What it is and how to treat it

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

Macular degeneration is one of the leading causes of vision loss, particularly among older adults, significantly impacting the quality of life for millions worldwide. This article examines macular degeneration, its symptoms and signs, diagnostic methods, current treatments, recent therapeutic advancements, and available care options.

## What is Macular Degeneration?

Macular degeneration, often called age-related macular degeneration (AMD), is a progressive eye condition affecting the macula, the small central area of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed central vision. AMD is categorized into two primary types: dry (atrophic) and wet (neovascular).

- **Dry AMD:** The more common form, comprising 85–90% of cases. It occurs due to gradual thinning of the macula and the accumulation of drusen, yellow deposits

under the retina. Vision loss progresses slowly in most cases.

- **Wet AMD:** Though less common, it is more severe, responsible for most advanced vision loss cases. It results from abnormal blood vessel growth under the retina, causing leakage, bleeding, and scarring, often leading to rapid vision loss without treatment.

## Symptoms and Signs

Symptoms of macular degeneration vary by type and stage. Common signs include:

- **Blurred central vision:** Early signs may include difficulty reading or recognizing faces.
- **Distorted vision (metamorphopsia):** Straight lines may appear wavy or distorted.
- **Difficulty adapting to low light:** Challenges in transitioning from bright to dim environments.
- **Central blind spots (scotomas):** Dark or empty areas in the central field of vision.
- **Reduced color perception:**

Colors may seem less vibrant over time.

## Diagnostic Testing

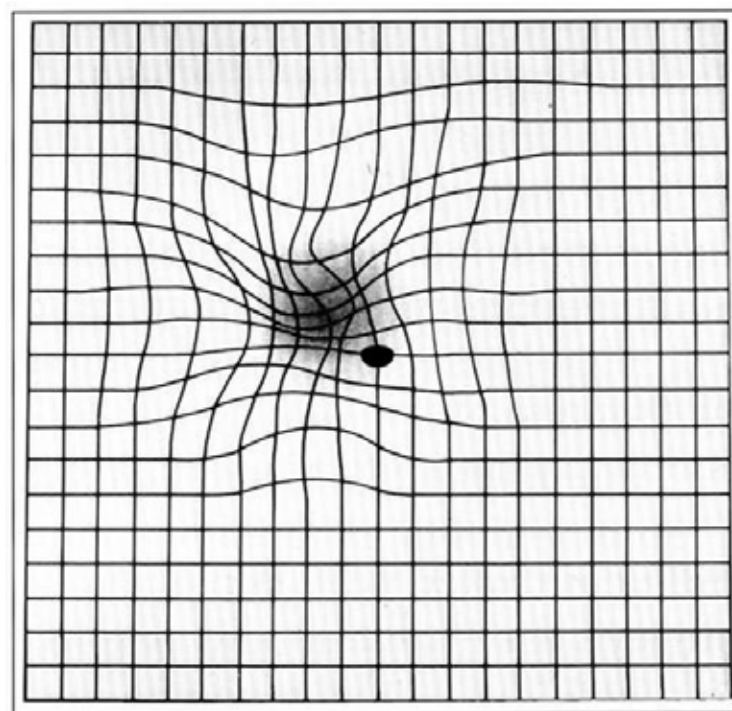
Accurate diagnosis is vital for managing AMD effectively. Key diagnostic tools include:

- **Comprehensive eye exam:** Identifies early signs such as drusen or retinal changes.
- **Amsler grid test:** Detects distortions or blind spots in central vision.
- **Optical coherence tomography (OCT):** Offers detailed cross-sectional imaging of the retina, highlighting thinning or fluid accumulation.
- **Fluorescein angiography:** Highlights abnormal blood vessel growth and leakage in wet AMD.
- **Fundus photography:** Captures high-resolution retinal images to monitor changes over time.

## Current Treatment Options

Treatment depends on the type and severity of AMD:

- **Dry AMD:** While no definitive



cure exists, lifestyle modifications and supportive care can slow progression:

- **Nutritional supplements:** The AREDS2 formula (antioxidants, zinc, and copper) reduces the risk of advanced AMD.
- **Lifestyle changes:** A

healthy diet rich in leafy greens, omega-3 fatty acids, avoiding smoking, and UV protection are es-

## EYE CARE

continued on page 8





# MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER





Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



Mark Barsamian, D.O.



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# Milford Public Schools District News

Important Dates: February 17-21 - No School, February vacation

## District News

On Jan. 17, the Milford Public Schools staff gathered at MHS for the third session in a lecture series with Dr. Sharroky Hollie from the Center for Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning (CCRTL). Dr. Hollie continues to work with our staff on the mindset, skills, reflection, and response that is required to build a community of learners amongst a group of students with vastly different experiences, backgrounds, cultures, and languages. Talking to, relating with, and teaching students who have such different lived experiences from ourselves and each other demands different approaches in the classroom and in our schools if we want our students to achieve the successful outcomes we all hope for them to achieve. Dr. Hollie has given us much to think about and work on in previous sessions, and we look forward to our continued partnership with him and the CCRTL.

## Milford High School

**Sponsors are Needed!** Milford High School Best Buddies will be hosting our 10th annual beauty pageant for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities from the Milford Area! We are looking for sponsors, all donations (raffle baskets, items, gift cards, etc.) and donations of time and service. If you are interested please reach out to Lexi Forgit (afor-

git@milfordma.com).

## Stacy Middle School

Starting off this new year with a giant thank you to Stacy Middle School staff members Dawn Craig, Meredith Purtell, Maddy Bonvino, Samantha Bonvino, and Aleks Gosz. These kind and compassionate staff members led the way for the Holiday Gift Giving Initiative this past season. This project brings so much joy to so many local children, and supports many families bringing happiness and warmth to their children during the holiday season. With generous donations and sponsorships from across the Milford Public Schools and Milford community, this team was able to help well over 500 children this year that were identified as being in need. Amazing work!

Stacy would also like to highlight the Grade 8 Red Cluster for their efforts sponsoring a canned Food Drive for the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Milford. Thank you to those students, families, and teachers!

The Mindsmatter Club at Stacy Middle School, under the leadership of Ms. Celeste Salley, visited the Blaire House prior to the Winter break. Students made gingerbread houses with the Blaire House senior residents. Everyone had a lot of fun and many friendships were made. Being mindful of others and making positive contributions to your community is good for everyone!

Stacy Middle School marked the 90th day of

school with a fun and nostalgic twist—students and staff dressed up in their best '90s-inspired outfits to celebrate the best decade ever! From flannel shirts and scrunchies to bright neon colors and baggy jeans, the school was filled with '90s vibes, bringing energy and excitement to the milestone day.

## Woodland Elementary School

On Jan. 17, Woodland students had the opportunity to virtually meet with Astronaut Clayton Anderson. Astronaut Anderson spent more than 167 days in space serving aboard the International Space Station completing 6 spacewalks. He has also served in various other roles with NASA. Thank you to Woodland STEM Teacher Mr. Kurt Shady for organizing this event and thank you to the Woodland PTO for supporting it.

Woodland Fourth Graders visited Gillette Stadium to learn about architecture and bridge design while also taking a tour of the Patriots Hall of Fame. Thank you to Ms. Pivonka and the fourth grade faculty for organizing this trip! A huge shout out goes to the Woodland PTO for financially supporting it.

## Brookside Elementary School

Brookside classrooms have hosted some fun events lately.

## SCHOOLS

*continued on page 9*

## EYE CARE

*continued from page 7*

- **Wet AMD:** Treatment focuses on halting abnormal blood vessel growth:
  - **Anti-VEGF therapy:** Medications like ranibizumab (Lucentis), aflibercept (Eylea), and brolucizumab (Beovu) inhibit vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), reducing abnormal vessel formation.
  - **Photodynamic therapy (PDT):** Combines a light-sensitive drug with laser activation to target abnormal vessels.
  - **Laser therapy:** Less commonly used, this destroys abnormal blood vessels with laser energy.

## New Therapeutic Advancements

Advancements in AMD research are offering improved outcomes:

- **Gene therapy:** Experimental approaches aim to deliver protective genes to the retina, reducing the need for frequent anti-VEGF injections.
- **Long-lasting drug delivery systems:** Innovations like the Port Delivery System (PDS) with ranibizumab provide sustained medication release, minimizing injection frequency.
- **Stem cell therapy:** Research explores using stem cell-derived retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells to replace damaged macular cells.
- **New pharmacological agents:** Drugs like complement inhibitors (e.g., pegcetacoplan)

target previously untreatable stages of dry AMD and geographic atrophy.

## Living with Macular Degeneration

Managing AMD extends beyond medical treatment and includes:

- **Low vision aids:** Magnifiers, special glasses, and electronic devices maintain independence.
- **Support networks:** Connecting with groups and counseling provides emotional and practical support.
- **Routine monitoring:** Regular follow-ups ensure timely interventions and management adjustments.

Macular degeneration presents significant challenges, but early detection and proactive management can preserve vision and improve quality of life. If you experience symptoms or have risk factors, schedule a comprehensive eye exam with an eye care professional.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we use state-of-the-art technology to address a variety of eye conditions, including macular degeneration. Our dedicated retina specialist focuses on treating retinal eye diseases and AMD, utilizing the most recent treatment modalities discussed in this article. With advanced equipment rivaling the best teaching eye hospitals, we proudly offer world-class eye care close to home.

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**SCHOOLS**

*continued from page 8*

The MHS Italian Language students visited Ms. Oliva's classroom prior to break to discuss Italian Christmas traditions with students. Meanwhile, Ms. Cueroni's Kindergarten class were special guests at a wedding between letters Q and U. The happy couple have pledged to stay together!

Look for Brookside students' poems downtown! Brookside Second Graders will be writing their own poems to be displayed on the windows and flat bread boxes at the Rail Trail Flatbread Co. Restaurant for Valentine's Day.

**Memorial Elementary School**

Memorial School and Jiji celebrated our ST Math Mathematicians. 24 students already met their 100% puzzle progress goal! Memorial staff will continue to celebrate students

who meet their ST Math puzzle progress goal. They will also celebrate students who persevere in problem solving on ST Math. Students will take a photo with Jiji and the photo will be shared with families.

**Shining Star Early Childhood Center**

SSECC is very proud to congratulate the January Star Student Character Traits for the month of January! Congratulations to the following Responsible Star Students: Yaksha from Ms. Pedersen's class, Kai from Mrs. Riordan's class, and Hailey from Mrs. Verdura's class. Hip-hip hurray to the following Star Students who displayed Acts of Kindness to their peers: Mason from Ms. Tomaso's room, Gabriel and Joao from Mrs. Austin's room, Vada from Mrs. Riordan's class, and Nicolas from Mrs. Gray's room. Finally, way to go, Star Student Kaylee from Ms. Pedersen's room for displaying Cooperative traits.

# Family Fun and Disability Awareness Fair to be held on March 15

Milford Family & Community Network CFCE's biggest community event of the year, The Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair, will be held on March 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Milford High School cafeteria. The family resource fair sponsored by The Milford Commission on Disabilities, Open Sky Community Services, and the Milford Family & Community Network CFCE. It is free and open to all ages.

There will be a wide range of exhibitors who work with families from the prenatal stage through adolescence. Exhibitors will include health care professionals, social services, community and educational programs, daycare providers, and small businesses. There will be a DJ, bounce house, face painting, and door prizes throughout the day. Join us for fun for the whole family!

Looking to beat the winter

blues during school vacation? Head to the Milford Town Library for a free puppet show. The Network Helpers are sponsoring The Pumpernickel Puppets rendition of "Peter Rabbit" on Friday, Feb. 21.

If you have any questions, call the CFCE's office at 508-277-4981 or email [familynetwork@milfordma.com](mailto:familynetwork@milfordma.com). And don't forget to find, like and follow us on FaceBook at Milford Family & Community Network CFCE.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
 Email us about an upcoming event or a concern about things happening around town  
[editor@milfordfreepress.com](mailto:editor@milfordfreepress.com)

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Visit [dean.edu/summeratdean](http://dean.edu/summeratdean) or scan the QR code to learn more about Dean's 2025 Summer Programs and secure your spot by registering today!



# Pet of the Month: Giorgio Armani

When this well-dressed man arrived at the Milford Humane Society with his stunning green eyes, his perfect tuxedo markings and his aristocratic airs, it was obvious he was Giorgio Armani.

Giorgio Armani had a difficult time adjusting to life at our humble shelter. He cannot tolerate mixing with his subordinates. While Giorgio has mellowed over the years, he still has very exacting standards and he likes his things just so. Much like the most demanding boss you have ever worked for, he has been known to lash out when his standards aren't met. He may have you walking on eggshells until you learn his ways. Soon you will understand that the demands he places on you are for the good of the company, or home, and he will reward your

loyalty with love.

Once he trusts you, Giorgio will be delighted to welcome you into his office. He will rub against your legs purring and he will follow you around checking your work as you go.

Currently, Giorgio is looking for a very special assistant, we mean adopter. Requirements for the position:

- Previous experience working for an exacting boss or with difficult pets.
- No small children or other pets
- A quiet home with a space Giorgio can call his own
- Patient and thick-skinned

This position may require a second and third interview.

To meet Giorgio Armani, please visit the Milford Humane Society at [www.milfordhumane.org](http://www.milfordhumane.org)



**The Milford Town Library is holding a Cat Supplies Drive to benefit the Milford Humane Society. Wet or dry cat food, kitty litter, and toys can be dropped off in the collection bin in the library lobby though Feb. 14.**

**For more information, call 508-473-2145 (ext.2) or visit [milfordhumane.org](http://milfordhumane.org)**

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| 01/15/2025 | 73 Taft Street        | \$430,000 |
| 01/14/2025 | 2 Grace Street        | \$549,000 |
| 01/14/2025 | 8 Maria Circle        | \$480,000 |
| 01/07/2025 | 24 Harvard Drive      | \$570,000 |
| 01/02/2025 | 167 West Street       | \$600,000 |
| 12/30/2024 | 5 Rosenfeld Avenue #B | \$588,000 |
| 12/27/2024 | 4 Park Lane Avenue    | \$440,000 |
| 12/27/2024 | 27 S Main Street      | \$360,000 |
| 12/26/2024 | 32 Glines Avenue #1   | \$275,000 |
| 12/24/2024 | 10 Lantern Lane       | \$615,000 |

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**The 2-bed, 2-bath, 2,023-square-foot house at 73 Taft Street in Milford recently sold for \$430,000. Image credit [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)**

## LIBRARY

continued from page 6

Carter called “inspiring.” It tells of a life rooted in poverty on a former gladiolus farm, and the power of a house to change our destiny. Her historical novel *Our Good Name* is based on her Italian immigrant ancestors.

Her three books of poetry are *Breaking Bread* (2020), *Unfurled: Love Poems* (2023), and her latest, *Things We Take, Things We Let Go* (2024). This latest poetry collection is a meditation on the things we carry with us through life—both physical and emotional cargo—and the things we inevitably leave behind during times of transition and change. Her life-altering move from Massachusetts to Mexico infuses this text with joy, humor, inspiration, longing, and love.

Among her writing awards are first-place honors from the Academy of American Poets university poetry prize program and a Pushcart Prize nomination. The acclaimed poets Richard Blanco and Jennifer Clement each selected her poems as first-place winners of separate poetry contests sponsored by Crossroads Magazine. Her work has appeared in numerous international publications. She has served on the board of the San Miguel Poetry

Café and also co-founded Poetry Mesa, an international poetry community.

Catherine divides her time between San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Len Abram is the author of four novels: three featuring Boston based detectives Schwartz and DiNatale including his latest *Killers App* (2024), *Empty Doorways* (2019), and *The Medallion* (2014) as well as the standalone, *Debris: A Novel of Love, War and the Lusitania* (2015). His short story “A Cup of Kindness” was included in Adam Patcher’s collection *Final Fenway Fiction: More Short Stories from Red Sox Nation*.

Len has also published numerous articles in *The Belmont Patch*, including “*The Race Is Canceled. Bombs: A First-Person’s View of the Boston Marathon*” and book reviews in *The Jewish Advocate*. He earned a PhD in American literature, and taught at three universities, including the University of Maryland armed forces program overseas (Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, and Bermuda). Later, he wrote technical documents for BBN Communications, the Federal Reserve in Boston, and Fidelity Investments, also earning a broker’s license. He also wrote articles for its financial services magazine and interviewed Suze Orman and Larry Kudlow.

## Raval named US Presidential Scholar nominee for Massachusetts

Milford High School is pleased to announce that VEDI Raval, Milford High School Class of 2025, has been selected by Acting Commissioner Russell D. Johnston and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to represent the state as one of 25 students from across the state as a U.S. Presidential Scholar nominee from Massachusetts. This year’s selection process was highly competitive, with many outstanding submissions from around the Commonwealth. To be named as a state nominee is a highly prestigious honor earned by Ms. Raval.

According to Milford High School Principal Joshua Otlín, “VEDI is an extraordinary student, a talented leader, and a person of great compassion. She is very deserving of this honor and we are so proud of her many accomplishments.”

The DESE review team was highly impressed with VEDI’s submission and is proud to have



**Milford High School student VEDI Raval has been named US Presidential Scholar Nominee for Massachusetts.** Photo source: Milford High School

her represent Massachusetts as one of the nominees for this distinguished award. Scholars are chosen based on their accomplishments in many areas — academics, leadership, and involvement in their school and the community — and represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America’s youth. U.S. Presidential Scholars are honored dur-

ing the National Recognition Program each June.

Nominees selected by DESE, including VEDI, will be invited by the U.S. Department of Education’s (USED) national review team to complete a new application for consideration for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation’s most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, approximately 160 students from across the country are named by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students.

For additional details about the program, please refer to <https://www.doe.mass.edu/scholarships/pres-scholars/> as well as <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/recognition-programs/us-presidential-scholars-program>

## Deslaurier-Tate of Milford earns Dean’s List with Distinction at Arizona State University

Cee-Cee Deslaurier-Tate of Milford completed her freshman first semester at Arizona State University on the Dean’s List with Distinction, for earning a 4.0 GPA.

Cee-Cee is a member of the W.P. Carey School of Business Leaders Academy, majoring in Entrepreneurial Leadership. A Barrett Honors College student, she is minoring in Theater with a concentration in Acting.

Cee-Cee graduated from Greater Commonwealth Virtual School with High Honors, receiving the President’s Award for Educational Excellence, the



nation’s most prestigious award for individual academic recognition from the President and the U.S. Secretary of Education.



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# Poetry tour stops at Milford Town Library

The Shawna Foundations Library Poetry Tour Returns in 2025 with readings at the Milford Town Library and the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

The featured poets are Kathy Stoker and Nanayaa Dadzie.

We are very excited to announce our new Host and Director of the Shawna Foundation's Poetry Program. Kathy Stoker, a poet and educator, joins the fold as we kick off the 2025 Library Poetry Tour in February with readings continuing in Milford and Uxbridge.

We thought the best way to introduce Kathy is with her poetry — she'll be headlining the February Library Poetry Tour. And joining her will be Nanayaa Dadzie.

We want to thank award-winning Worcester poet Tony Brown for his time as the Foundation's Poetry Program Director for the past two years.

Here's a little more about Kathy: She is a 25+ year secondary English/Journalism teacher, adjunct college professor of communications and English, and education consultant. She currently is in the role of education coordinator for New England Medical Group (an adolescent behavioral health program). Kathy is a former high school slam poetry coach as well as a poetry club advisor. She has written poetry, short stories, and letters since her middle

school years (many decades ago!). After teaching incarcerated individuals in a medium security prison, Kathy is writing a collection of poems and vignettes to humanize her former students and break down the stigma surrounding incarcerated individuals. Kathy loves watching all New England sports, spending time with family and friends, drinking tea, and listening to podcasts and music. She lives in Milford with her family, including the cat Wallace.

Nanayaa Dadzie is a 20 year old poet who is currently earning her associate degree in liberal arts at Quinsigamond Community College. She is a first generation Ghanaian American and an equal rights advocate. When Nanayaa was in high school, she led an equal rights movement in Westborough, MA to implement a non-discrimination, no-tolerance policy in the student handbook for Westborough High School. Nanayaa loves anything and everything to do with art. She grew up with her Grandpa Henry playing the trumpet and his record collection. He gave Nanayaa and her brother their love for music. In 2022, she won the Senior Library Award. Recently, Nanayaa has been performing her poetry at local open mics. She currently lives in Westborough with her family.

The readings will be held on

**Poet  
Kathy Stoker  
lives in Milford  
with her family,  
including her  
cat Wallace.**

Feb. 19, 7 p.m. at the Milford Town Library and Feb. 27, 7 p.m. at the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

The program is financed in part by the Milford Cultural Council, the Uxbridge Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit who believes the arts and education are essential to creating a vibrant, healthy community and world.

The mission of the Shawna Foundation is to equitably promote and support students through scholarship and showcase artists in filmmaking, performance arts, poetry and other creative endeavors with a focus on underrepresented communities.

For more information visit the [shawnafoundation.org](http://shawnafoundation.org)  
*Provided by the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation*

## The Shawna Foundation's Library Poetry Tour



**Presents**

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Kathy Stoker</b><br/><b>Milford</b></p> <p>February 19th<br/>7:00PM<br/>Milford Town Library<br/>80 Spruce St<br/>Milford, MA 01757</p> |  <p><b>Nanayaa Dadzie</b><br/><b>Uxbridge</b></p> <p>February 27th<br/>7:00PM<br/>Uxbridge Free Public Library<br/>15 N Main St<br/>Uxbridge, MA 01569</p> |
|--|--|

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- Davis Farmland

- EcoTarium
- Harvard Museums of Science & Culture
- Historic New England
- Institute of Contemporary Art Boston
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Massachusetts State Parks

- Museum of Fine Arts
- Museum of Science
- New England Aquarium
- Peabody Essex Museum
- Providence Children's Museum
- Roger Williams Park Zoo
- Salem Witch Museum
- State Police Museum & Learning Center
- The Patriots Hall of Fame
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden
- Trustees of Reservations
- USS Constitution
- Worcester Art Museum
- Zoo New England

For more information, visit [milfordtownlibrary.org/friends-library/pages/museum-passes](http://milfordtownlibrary.org/friends-library/pages/museum-passes) or contact the Circulation Department at 508-473-2145 ext. 1830.  
*Source: www.milfordtownlibrary.org*



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## SAFETY LOG

continued from page 4

ral gas leak odor

**Dec 22** at 4:07am, Poplar St, fight**Dec 22** at 4:24am, Maple St, drone deployment**Dec 22** at 4:26am, Maple St, k9 deployment**Dec 22** at 4:43am, Purchase St, natural gas leak odor, fire dispatched**Dec 22** at 6:15am, Princess Pine Ln, oil burner fire, fire dispatched**Dec 22** at 1:36pm, Water St, parking violation, criminal application. A 42-year-old male was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle**Dec 22** at 6:49pm, Jillson Cir, outside fire, fire dispatched**Dec 23** at 12:36am, Fortune Blvd, motor vehicle accident, criminal application. A 29-year-old Brentwood, Tenn., male was charged with leaving scene of property damage, marked lanes violation**Dec 23** at 3:03pm, Medway Rd, motor vehicle accident. A 27-year-old male was charged with operating a motor vehicle with license suspended**Dec 23** at 6:23pm, Medway Rd, motor vehicle stop. A 30-year-old male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, electronic device use while operating a motor vehicle (1st offense)**Dec 23** at 10:29pm, Milford Hospital, unruly patient. A 52-year-old Franklin male was taken into protective custody**Dec 24** at 3:43pm, Fortune Blvd, dispute**Dec 24** at 8:41pm, Purchase St, motor vehicle stop. A 19-year-old Milford male was charged with failure to stop/yield, operating a motor vehicle with license suspended (subsequent offense)**Dec 25** at 4:31am, Dilla St, motor vehicle accident. A 19-year-old Framingham male was charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle**Dec 25** at 8:19pm, Cheddar St, motor vehicle accident. A 24-year-old Framingham male was charged with failing to stop/yield, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Dec 26** at 11:42am, Main St, follow-up investigation. A 43-year-old Milford male was charged with rape and kidnapping**Dec 26** at 12:46pm, Geneseo Cir, structure fire**Dec 26** at 1:02pm, Veterans Memorial Dr, assault**Dec 26** at 1:54pm, Congress St, assault**Dec 26** at 3:19pm, Western Ave, tagging**Dec 26** at 6:17pm, Fortune Blvd, shoplifting. A 20-year-old Hopkinton female was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise**Dec 27** at 12:02pm, West St, water problem/flooded, fire dispatched**Dec 27** at 5:12pm, Exchange St, motor vehicle stop. A 29-year-old Blackstone male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop/yield**Dec 27** at 5:35pm, Medway Rd, shoplifting. A 36-year-old Bellingham female was charged with larceny under \$1200 and shoplifting by asportation**Dec 27** at 6:34pm, Main St, motor vehicle accident. A 38-year-old Milford male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Dec 28** at 2:16pm, Main St, well-being check, arrest made. A 45-year-old Milford male was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault (spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend/etc), threat to commit crime**Dec 28** at 5:02pm, N Vine St, road rage, peace restored**Dec 28** at 6:25pm, Medway Rd, shoplifting. A 48-year-old Clinton female was charged with shoplifting by asportation**Dec 28** at 6:32pm, Fortune Blvd, shoplifting. A 23-year-old Milford male was charged with shoplifting by asportation**Dec 28** at 6:33pm, Depot St, erratic operation, arrest made. A 22-year-old Blackstone male was charged with OUI liquor, operating a motor vehicle with license suspended (subsequent offense), failure to stop for police**Dec 29** at 6:49pm, road rage, gone on arrival**Dec 29** at 11:40pm, E Main St, motor vehicle fire, Fire dispatched**Dec 30** at 6:29am, Lyndon Rd, accident, hit and run with no personal injury**Dec 30** at 1:59pm, Grove St, motor vehicle stop. A 34-year-old Milford male was charged with no inspection/sticker and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Dec 30** at 6:20pm, Main St, motor vehicle accident. A 25-year-old Milford male was charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Dec 31** at 6:48am, Front St, natural gas leak odor, fire dispatched**Dec 31** at 7:11am, Purchase St, stolen license plate**Dec 31** at 2:07pm, S Main St, investigation. A 36-year-old Milford male was charged with shoplifting by asportation, larceny under \$1200, trespassing**Dec 31** at 2:17pm, Harding St, structure fire, fire dispatched**Dec 31** at 3:22pm, Medway Rd, shoplifting. A 42-year-old Milford female was charged with shoplifting by asportation**Dec 31** at 8:18pm, E Main St, motor vehicle accident. A 40-year-old Waltham male was charged

with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

**Jan. 1, 2025**, 12:25am, Main St, motor vehicle accident. A 38-year-old Milford male was charged with OUI liquor (or .08%), unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, following too closely, operating a motor vehicle negligently so as to endanger, unregistered motor vehicle, possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle**Jan 1** at 1:45am, Beach St, fight, arrests made. A 25-year-old and a 29-year-old Woonsocket male were taken into protective custody**Jan 1** at 12:48pm, Sumner St, stolen motor vehicle reported**Jan 1** at 4:59pm, Medway Rd, motor vehicle stop. A 24-year-old Milford male was charged with no inspection/sticker and operating a motor vehicle with license suspended**Jan 1** at 10:31pm, Milford Hospital, assault**Jan 2** at 1:51pm, Congress St, family services. A 64-year-old Milford male was charged with assault and battery (spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend/etc), assault and battery

on +60/disabled with injury

**Jan 2** at 5:59pm, E Main St, motor vehicle stop. A 38-year-old Milford male was charged with operating a motor vehicle with license suspended**Jan 2** at 8:44pm, Fortune Blvd, shoplifting. A 23-year-old Revere female was charged with shoplifting by asportation**Jan 2** at 9:18pm, S Main St, motor vehicle stop, vehicle towed. A 27-year-old Milford male was charged with number plate violation, unregistered motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Jan 2** at 11:24pm, motor vehicle stop. A 43-year-old male [town unknown] was charged with motor vehicle lights violation, unregistered motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Jan 2** at 11:56pm, Cedar St, motor vehicle accident. A 32-year-old Framingham male was charged with negligent operation of motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, speeding rate of speed exceeding posted limit**Jan 3** at 9:09am, Main St,

motor vehicle stop. A 37-year-old Whitinsville male was charged with operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, uninsured motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

**Jan 4** at 11am, Beach St, motor vehicle stop. A 28-year-old Milford female was charged with operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, uninsured motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle**Jan 5** at 9:03am, Jefferson St, motor vehicle stop. A 35-year-old Whitinsville female was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle**Jan 5** at 12:39pm, N Bow St, motor vehicle stop. A 27-year-old Milford male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop/yield**Jan 6** at 8:35am, Main St, motor vehicle stop. A 28-year-old Milford

## SAFETY LOG

continued on page 15

*Sunday*  
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**JACKIE'S**

*continued from page 1*

like to give to people who have a need, whether it's financial, social-emotional, special needs, whatever it is, because I know how much it's appreciated and because I know that's what Jackie would be doing."

The boutique opened in 2017 and helped many girls the first few years, says Sandy. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened and students did not go to school or prom. Since then, the boutique – which is only open by appointment during school off-hours – remains relatively unknown to many students. The majority of current MHS students did not know Jackie and likely do not know the story behind the large set of dark doors on the second floor (Upper A-Wing) that read "Jackie's Boutique" in purple paint, Jackie's favorite color.

The space is a former custodial closet that the Gray family and friends worked to turn into a "vintage boutique" space with racks of dresses in various styles from size 0 to 28; shelves for shoes, bags, and jewelry; a dressing room; and lots of Jackie's influence (including her prom photos).

"With the help of lots of people, that's how this came about," said Ron.

"Little by little, I just spent time up here," said Sandy, organizing the space. "Jackie was a dancer and all about 'bling' so we incorporated a lot of bling in her honor."

There are more than 1,000 available, many in a satellite storeroom; all are donated and some are brand new with tags.

Shopping is by appoint-



**Jackie Gray at her prom in 2014.**  
*Courtesy photo*

ment only.

"Some girls come in alone, some with their friends, some with their moms, and most of them want my help which is nice," said Sandy, adding visits can last one hour to a few hours. "I will stay up here until we can make something work, it's their moment. This is very individualized, I want them to have fun and take their time."

She added, "Most, if not all, of the girls really appreciate this and the parents are grateful for not having to spend money on a dress, which can be really expensive especially if the girls are going to more than one prom (or they get asked at the last minute)."

Sandy says the private shopping experience during off hours in a quiet secluded space can also be ideal for students who might be shy or get overstimulated by the big-dress-shop ex-

## Jackie Gray worked at JJ's in Upton

Jackie ("Jax") Gray worked at JJ's Ice Cream Shoppe in Upton while in high school and during vacations from Quinnipiac University where she was studying psychology.

There is a park bench dedicated to Jackie in the outdoor seating area at JJ's whose owners, John and Johnna Gorman, share Jackie's memory each year on Facebook, like this post from July 4, 2024.

"We lost this beautiful soul eight years ago today. Jackie was a loving daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin and friend to many. Her work with the Best Buddies organization at Milford High School highlighted her compassion and willingness to give back to her community. Jackie was an excellent student and accomplished dancer who then taught herself to skate so that she could be part of the Quinnipiac University Ice Cats dance team. Jackie had a passion for life that was extraordinary and contagious. We're missing Jackie Gray today and every day."

*Source: Facebook @JJ's Ice Cream Shoppe #jjsforjax*

Each year, the Grays offer free ice cream to a limited number of customers around July 4th.

"Those people are just an incredible family," said Ron Gray, adding JJ's sponsors various fundraisers throughout the year, including a fall golf tournament, in Jackie's honor.

Each July, JJ's Ice Cream Shoppe in Upton remembers Jackie "Jax" Gray who worked at JJ's during high school and college and who died after a car crash in 2016.  
*Source: Facebook @JJ's Ice Cream Shoppe*




**There is a bench in memory of Jackie "Jax" Gray in the outdoor seating area at JJ's Ice Cream Shoppe.**  
*Source: Facebook @JJ's Ice Cream Shoppe*

perience. "At Jackie's Boutique, they can come in here, and hopefully be relaxed."

Sandy will help make arrangements for alterations, often at a very low cost.

They ask that dresses be returned to Jackie's Boutique and suggest a nominal fee to cover the cost of dry cleaning.

Jackie's Boutique lends dresses not just for proms but for other community events as well, including the Milford Youth Center Fashion Show and the Best Buddies Pageant – Jackie was a member of the MHS Best Buddies chapter while in high



**Jackie's Boutique offers an individual salon-style experience to girls looking for prom dresses.** *Photo credit: Theresa Knapp*



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**JACKIE'S**

*continued on page 15*



In addition to more than 1,000 dresses to loan, Jackie's Boutique inside Milford High School also loans accessories. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

**SAFETY LOG**

*continued from page 13*

- male had an arrest warrant
- Jan 6** at 3:35pm, Water St, stolen bicycle
- Jan 6** at 4:42pm, Green St, neighbor dispute
- Jan 6** at 9:53pm, Medway Rd, shoplifting. A 53-year-old Wrentham female was charged with larceny under \$1200, shoplifting by asportation
- Jan 7** at 4:09pm, Main St, pedestrian accident, taken to hospital
- Jan 7** at 7:20pm, Poplar St, missing person
- Jan 8** at 12:37pm, Fortune Blvd, brush fire
- Jan 8** at 5:50pm, Codger Ln, Fire-Tech Team Rescue, fire dispatched
- Jan 9** at 3:32pm, 495 N/B, motor vehicle fire
- Jan 10** at 10:25am, Beach St, motor vehicle stop. A 47-year-old Framingham male was charged with operating a motor vehicle with license suspended, no inspection/sticker
- Jan 10** at 11:56am, Fortune Blvd, motor vehicle stop. A 51-year-old Uxbridge male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, motor vehicles lights violation
- Jan 10** at 12:28pm, E Main St, motor vehicle stop. A 24-year-old

- Hopedale female was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with license suspended, electronic device use while operating motor vehicle (1st offense)
- Jan 10** at 12:38pm, follow-up investigation. A 34-year-old Staten Island, NY, male was charged with larceny over \$1200, identity fraud
- Jan 10** at 12:54pm, Fortune Blvd, shoplifting. A 39-year-old Hopedale female was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise
- Jan 11** at 8:49am, Cedar St, hit and run accident. A 25-year-old male from East McKeesport, PA, was charged with leaving scene of property damage
- Jan 11** at 9:55am, Cedar St, motor vehicle accident, arrest made. A 44-year-old Whitinsville male was charged with OUI-liquor or .08% (2nd offense), operating a motor vehicle with license suspended, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, number plate violation to conceal ID, unregistered motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, intoxicated licensee carrying a firearm
- Jan 11** at 2:54pm, Howard St, motor vehicle accident. A 30-year-old Hopedale male was charged with leaving the scene of property damage
- Jan 12** at 11:38am, Gibbon Ave,

- bylaw violation, arrests made. A 22-year-old Milford male and a 24-year-old Milford male were both charged with (1) disorderly conduct, (2) disturbing the peace, (3) alcoholic beverages-drinking on public property
- Jan 13** at 1:03pm, Fortune Blvd, shoplifting. A 37-year-old Auburn female was charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise
- Jan 13** at 2:37pm, Rolling Green Dr, fight
- Jan 15** at 12:39pm, Fortune Blvd, follow-up investigation. A 47-year-old Pawtucket male was charged with larceny under \$1200, shoplifting by asportation
- Jan 15** at 7:41pm, Green St, erratic operator. A 35-year-old Westwood male was charged with possessing a firearm without an FID card, possessing ammunition without FID card, OUI-liquor or .08%, negligent operation of motor vehicle
- Jan 15** at 8:35pm, Luby Ave, stolen motor vehicle. A 36-year-old Mattapan male was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle
- Jan 15** at 11:07pm, Beaver St, threatening. A 32-year-old Blackstone male was charged with threat to commit a crime, violation of abuse prevention order, annoying phone calls

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

**JACKIE'S**

*continued from page 14*

school. They hope to increase their work with other community organizations in the near future.

"It's things like this that make me happy we can offer this," said Sandy, who runs the shop herself but often has help from MHS students who need community service hours and Girl Scouts working on badges and awards.

To donate dresses or to request an appointment (girls do not need to be Milford residents), contact Sandy Gray at 508-245-2973.

**"If you get a chance to sit it out or dance, I Hope You Dance"**  
 ~Jackie's Boutique motto



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# Milford High School - Term 2 High Honor Roll

**Milford High School -  
Term 2 High Honor Roll -  
Average of 90 with no grade  
below 85**

## Class of 2025

Aquino, Kelvyn Martins  
Baglione, Olivia Rose  
Ballard, Tyler James  
Bilodeau, Tyler Constantine  
Boulanger, Michael Domenic  
Brannigan, Audrey Jane  
Brickley, Mallory Janet  
Brown, Molly Marie  
Butler, Joseph Anthony  
Callahan, Logan Sumner  
Carter, Ian Raymond  
Casman, Lindsay Taylor  
Collazo, Lorena Mikeila  
Collins, Aiden Bruce  
Comisky, Jason Bradley  
De Souza, Nicole Braga  
DeGasperis, Robert Evan  
Donovan, Declan Robert  
Donovan, Riley Janice  
Eddins-Smith, Christasia Charelle  
Enright, Owen Matthew  
Fabry, Lex Connor  
Felix, Kauan Santos  
Fernandes, Jianna Elizabeth  
Fernandes, Kemilly Prates  
Ferreira, Alexandra Cailyn  
Ferreira, Sofia Lynn  
Furnari, Francesco  
Genelhu, Kauan Bomfim  
Gonzalez, Eliza Hope  
Goulet, Adriana Barbra  
Gove, Madison Emma  
Haley, William Daniel  
Hay, Tristan Patrick  
Hough, Edward Wesley  
Howland, Brighid Abigail  
Koch, Nicholas Charles  
Kudrikow, Jayden True  
Landry, Alexa Helen  
Lebron-Mussulli, Gianna Elizabeth  
Letendre, Miles George  
Maietta, Anthony Joseph  
Martinez, Tahlia Yesenia  
Mayancela Acosta, Miriam Maritza  
Medina Sa, Isadora Goncalves  
Morais, Jennifer Chaves  
Morais, Mikayla Santos  
Niro, Gianna Marie

Obolar, Thabata Sangy  
O'Brien-Morais, Matthew John  
Ortiz Ortiz, Jahdiel Antonio  
Ostertog, Todd Joseph  
Pasacane-Gallagher, Gianna Marie  
Pavento, Nora Margaret  
Pellegrini, Cae Marie  
Peniche, Antonio Julio  
Pezza, Benjamin Michael  
Prevelige, Sean Reilly  
Raval, Vedi Nitant  
Rentas Figueroa, Julianys Angelick  
Rodrigues, Debora  
Santos, Maya Miguel  
Sena, Edward Soares  
Sifien, Jolia Anwar  
Sweeney, Ava Rose  
Vootla, Keerthana  
Webster, Jessica Sarai  
Zheng, Yu Xin

## Class of 2026

Allemao, Sabrina Rose  
Andrade, Amanda Samara Teles  
Araujo, Anna Maria  
Ateawung, Madison Nyiawung  
Bonina, Angelina Rose  
Breen, Reilly James  
Brooks, Connor Sheldon  
Burns, Ryan Paul  
Cahill, Andrew Joseph  
Carter, Sadie Ethel Marie  
Coelho, Natalie Passos  
Cruz, Luciana Grace  
Daquilema Daquilema, Jordy Isaac  
De Sena, Felipe Martins  
DeBarros, Eli Gabriel  
Eastman, Aidan Matthew  
Feijo, Franka Emilia  
Hamilton, Madeline Margaret  
Haughey, Emma Katherine  
Hausmann, Benjamin Mark  
Kalber, Dale Michael  
Kearnan, Katelyn Mary  
Kudrikow, Addyson Nathan  
Luster, Julia Carolyn  
Mainini, Caleb William  
Majkut, Jonathan Nehemiah  
Marcelino, Alicya Liborio  
Martinez Ardon, Christian Alejandro  
McGee, Joseph William  
Melendez, Yamileth Araceli  
Norris, Anthony James

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  
Shannon, Ike Thomas  
Soloman III, Alan Richard  
Trotta-Dias, Kyla  
Utino, Annyana Yassuko Almeida Queiroz  
Weiner, Giovanna Lucia

## Class of 2027

Alvarado, Tyler Christopher  
Aminmentse, Lorella Fuanjia  
Anala, Siddhi Sree Vignesh Athreya  
Atilho, Ashley Ranne  
Balzarini, Joshua Alfredo  
Barrientos, Jocelyn Emely  
Blasco De Almeida, Ines  
Boccia, Cloe Emma  
Boulanger, Matthew Paul  
Caguana Caguana, Jennifer Maridsa  
Campos, Kayllane De Souza  
Cartier, Elise Nicole  
Cavaliere, Cayla Jean  
Chapman, Angelina Maria  
Coelho, Sophia Alves  
Cortese, Ava Mariella  
Cunningham, Reagan Rebecca  
da Cunha, Giana Alexis  
De Oliveira, Gheovanna Santos  
DeTore, Lilliana Rose  
Driscoll, Lilah Rae  
England, Tylie Anne  
Espinoza Loja, Alex  
Estrada, Aryana Elise  
Farina, Rose Diane  
Flis, Ryan Christopher  
Gaspard, Naedsa Levania  
Gomez Garcia, Mazie Maria Virginia  
Guaman Guaman, Lisseth Alexandra  
Guaman, Eric Santiago  
Hall, Alexis Marie  
Hayes, Connor Brian  
Hodges, Emily Claire Seo  
Howland, Connor Ethan  
Jansons, Emily Kim

Jenkins, Christopher Nathaniel  
Kedski, Madison Rose  
Kenton, Nicholas Jonathan  
Kinter, Amy Lynn  
Langevin, Wilbur Ivan  
Lentini, Fiona Rose  
Lyubkin, Lina Olivia  
Machado, Julia Carla Souza  
Maldonado, Emma Luz  
Maloney, Amelia Grace  
Mandrik, Nathan Peter  
Marques, Alessandra Talia  
Mastroianni, Raphael Phol  
Matthews, Francesca Madonna  
McGrath, Michael James  
McIsaac, Gavin Joseph  
Miller, Lucia Melina  
Miranda, Julia Sa  
Murphy, Abigail Mykal  
Nakirega, Irene Faustine  
Peniche, Nathan Fernandes  
Pina, Kiannalese Rose  
Portes, Kevin Barbosa  
Putnam, Nicole Ann  
Ricca, Lucas Stephen  
Richard, Lucas Eric  
Rowlands, Kingston Kelley  
Roy, Mackenzie Dorothy  
Samuelson, Annabelle Lynn  
Sanborn, Madison Ryann  
Sanchez Guaman, Kelvin Santiago  
Seyfarth, Alexander Logan  
Simao, Maria Eduarda Rocha  
Smith, Danielle Frances  
Soares, Brenda Alves  
Souza, Matheus Da Silva  
Stachowski, Alex John Ansara  
Vernet, Jabina  
Vo, Justin Honk  
Walters, Charlotte Ann  
Webster, Julia Elizabeth  
Whalen, Faith America  
Zou, Benjamin

## Class of 2028

Allen, Ainsley Caroline  
Anala, Karthi Sree Anish Atherya  
Andrade, Daniel Teles  
Arquillano, Wielz Jehuven Labuca  
Asembo, Eddie Benson  
Ateawung, Matthew Asonganyi  
Avelar, Rachel Guadalupe  
Brown, Amaia Solana  
Brown, Andrew Charles

Carlos, Esther Gabrielly Pereira  
Carvalho, Daniel Alves  
Casey, McKenna Marie  
Castro, Ilda Rocimver  
Charczenko, Maya Joanne  
Cruz, Sofia Joy  
DeOliveira, Pedro Silva  
DeTore, Gabriella Maria  
DeTore, Jady Olivia  
DiGiando, Samuel Dennis  
Ettahiri, Sami  
Flinkfelt, Caroline Louise  
Geoffroy, Cody Michael  
Golla, Rupinika  
Gomes, Davi Marinho de Lima  
Grucelski, Brooklyn Mia  
Ha, Tina  
Hough, Amelia Jean  
Ibrahim, Maryama Ayman Ibrahim  
Kedski, Hailey Rae  
Kerr, Nathaniel Anthony  
Lakkadi, Anjan Bharath Reddy  
Loscerbo, Vincent Jeremy  
Macchi, Avery Marie  
Mackey, Alexander Scott  
Magalhaes, Samuel Fegler  
Majkut, Daniel Steven  
Martins, Lucas Fernandes  
Miller, Giovanna Ronnie  
Murphy, Keira Leigh  
Otero, Jarlin Arely  
Passos, Erick Nascimento  
Pires, Emali Maria  
Rocha, Rykelme Miguell Dos Reis  
Saguay, Bryan Alexander  
Sanaguaray Moyon, Jhover Gabriel  
Stoney, Josephine Lee  
Sweeney, Grace Vivienne  
Sweeney, Rosemary Violet  
Tobar, Valeria Nicole  
Voss-Leal, Brian Anthony  
Webster, Nathan Burke  
Wild, Lilli Abigail  
Williams, Lauren Grace

**Milford High School -  
Term 2 Honor Roll - Average  
of 85 with no grade below 80**

## Class of 2025

Baum, Aidan William  
Bermeo Cazho, Angel Ivan  
Bethel, Taryn Janet  
Braga, Emily Vitoria Melo  
Buckley, Jack Stephen  
Caldon, Paige Diane  
Carvalho, Daniel Oliveira  
Chuqui Munoz, Katherine Elizabeth  
Crim, Danica Alison  
Da Silva, Gabrielly Victoria  
DeJesus, Jalise Mia  
Do Carmo, Joao Marciano Abreu Ferreira

## HONOR ROLL

continued on page 17

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**HONOR ROLL**

*continued from page 16*

Donovan, Sean Charles  
 Dualu, Ansumana Onahfuon  
 E Souza, Lucas Gabriel Jacob  
 Fernandes, Gabriela Rose  
 Jack, Amani Seaana  
 Jackson, Jaiah Sylvia  
 Landry, Kaitlin Heather  
 Leite, Esther Dos Santos  
 Leiva Lemus, Gladys Stephany  
 Longdaue, Aaron Tat Khai  
 Mace, Leo Robert  
 Mairs, Sean William  
 Martinez Mazariegos, Yasmin Elizabeth  
 Merrill, Ava Marie  
 Murray, Ava Katherine  
 Muyuvizhnay Morocho, Naida Alice  
 Neuman, Tyler Joseph  
 Rattray, Corey Logan  
 Rmsis, Madelyn Amad  
 Saad, Sarah Maged  
 Santos, Railany Rodrigues  
 Sargius, Marcellino Maher  
 Sawyer, Harrison John  
 Teixeira, Sabrina Fagundes  
 Vieira, Pedro Henrique Da Silva  
 Williams, Luiza MacKenzie  
 Windsor, Lincoln Paul

**Class of 2026**

Araujo, Abigail Elizabeth

Baglione, Ava Rose  
 Baldic, Henry Bennet  
 Baptista, Alicia Lindsey  
 Best, Isaiah Nathaniel  
 Buckley, Mary Eileen  
 Burns, Dylan Edward  
 Catrambone, Domenico  
 Collazo, Nicolas Enrique  
 Costa, Sergio Gabriel  
 Cota, Christian Giuberti  
 Day, Joseph John  
 De Jesus, Matheus Lacerda  
 De Matos, Thayla Gomes Fernandes  
 Diorio, Leonardo Ellis  
 Dos Anjos, Larissa Lima  
 Ettahiri, Sarah  
 Fiedler, Ethan Luke  
 Flores Garcia, Melany Yazmin  
 Fries, Grayson Michael  
 Gomes da Silva, Marcelo  
 Gonzalez, Michael Ruben  
 Jacques, Tori Simone  
 Kimba, Celeste Kiseme  
 Lala Castro, Nixon Eugenio  
 Maforte, Layanne Andrade  
 Magharous, Juliana Emad  
 McCarthy, Lucia Rose  
 Moran Silva, Melanie Sophia  
 Pagan Ramirez, Carlos Yabdiel  
 Palombo, Nadia Flora Marie  
 Rivera Abrego, Carlos Josiah  
 Rocci, Kaibyn William  
 Rosario Rodriguez, Keishly Angely

Ruby, Manuela Goncalves  
 Sagastume Cordon, Henner Geovani  
 Sampaio, Yago Teixeira  
 Seri, Talya Victoria  
 Stokes, Jason Alexander  
 Veo, Laraine Jane  
 Willard, Isabella Grace  
 Zamora Daquilema, Ericka Katherine

**Class of 2027**

Abreu, Samuel Luccas  
 Angamarca-Parra, Randy Josue  
 Blankenship, Luke Patrick  
 Cappelli, Roberto Carneiro  
 Carter, Cameron James  
 Casseiro, Kayla Marques  
 Castro, Josseline Mirella  
 Clayton, Aolani Dolli  
 Costa, Guilherme Lopes  
 Da Paz, Miguel Ribeiro Cordeiro  
 Denietolis, Brayton James  
 Dias, Daniel Silva  
 Dickhut, Cameron Christopher  
 Fazo, Reagan Linda  
 Ferreira, Samantha Haley  
 Figueroa, Sofia Merianna Ma-noogian  
 Freeman, Jay Emanuel  
 Fromlowitz, Henri Clemens  
 Glaure, Ruben  
 Hally, Skylar Susan Maggie  
 Leite, Julia De Paula Souza  
 Lioce, Nicholas Rocco

Mayancela-Agualema, Jessica Veronica  
 Murphy, Amaya Lynn  
 Mutegyeki, Kaylah Katrina  
 Naula, Jenyne  
 Oliveira, Alexia Leigh  
 Oliveira, Bryan MacKenzie  
 Ordonez Zecena, Erick Angel  
 Pomaquiza Quito, Nathalia Anahi  
 Rocha Viturino, Giovanna  
 Rocha, Gabriel Morais  
 Roldan Gualpa, Evelyn Tatiana  
 Scioli, Ava Rose  
 Silva Hughes, Sophia Andrea  
 Tenenholtz, Olivia Anna  
 Umenhofer, Katherine Sarah  
 Wright, Dylan Scott

**Class of 2028**

Arnold, John Michael  
 Avelar Aguilar, Jepherson  
 Beals, Savannah Leanne Braz  
 Boccia, Brayden Henry  
 Campos, Aaliyah  
 Cagnano, Nathaniel Joseph  
 Damata, Juliana Irene  
 Daniels, Anthony James  
 Day, John Brendan  
 De Santis, Isabella Palma  
 Doyon, Khryss Pascual  
 Gomes, Ana Luisa da Silva  
 Graca, Nicholas Pessoti  
 KokEnnen, Aiden Charles  
 Lalangui Ponce, Christopher  
 Alexis



Lindsey, Jaxen Brady  
 Lopes, Thierry Evandro  
 Luchini, Talia Rose  
 Machado, Gustavo Alves Lana  
 MacKenzie, Katelyn Brielle  
 Martin, Cydney Jaide  
 Merrill, Nolan Patrick  
 Michalewski, Emma Jo  
 Natende, Pauline Maximilan  
 Nosek, Gabriella McCarthy  
 Oliveira, Jordan Peres  
 Rizzo, Logan Anthony  
 Senna, Juliana Lee  
 Shaw, Payton Logan  
 Smith, Ethan James  
 Soares, Sabrina Machado  
 Tabares Restrepo, Melanie Antonella  
 Usher, Annabel Katherine  
 Vervil, Yarlle Maricka  
 Vieira, Geovanna Braga  
 Villalobos, Alani Raquel  
 Villeda, Bella Gisselle  
 Zicherman, Cameron Jacob

**BVT 2024 Annual Report now available**

**Document highlights facts, figures, student achievements, and more...**

UPTON – Blackstone Valley Tech is proud to announce that copies of its 2024 annual report, Generation to Generation, are now available for residents of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District to view. The report spans the FY24 fiscal year and highlights the distinctive achievements of students and staff, as well as financial information.

"As responsible stewards of your regional vocational-technical school system, we oversee and protect your investment with numerous cost-saving measures," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "The informational document goes beyond the facts and figures of our day-to-day operation to illustrate how the

budget is maximized and used to prepare our students to be career- and life-ready by the time they graduate."

**Browse the Annual Report!**

The annual report includes a profile of Tom Kuik, a 1982 graduate of the Electrical program at BVT. Learn how he discovered his true passion by looking to his past, following a childhood curiosity, and paying attention to what he finds engaging. As BVT graduates share their craft and passion for their trade, they pass on the foundation for future career success, and ultimately their legacy, from generation to generation. This and so much more is in the annual report. It is available on the school's website at [www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/annualreport](http://www.valley-tech.k12.ma.us/annualreport).

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SPORTS

# Rivera sets all-time Milford High scoring record

## MHS Senior is 7th 1,000 point scorer In MHS basketball history

By Chris Villani

Andrew Rivera had no idea exactly how far away he was from history. The Milford High senior saw a school resource officer the day of a recent game against Franklin and was asked how many points he needed to set the school's all-time basketball scoring record.

"I told him 'I don't even know,'" Rivera said.

Later that day, the officer told him he was only three points away from breaking the 23-year-old record. A few hours after that, Rivera caught a pass off a high ball screen, spun to the middle of the court, faded away, and knocked down a jump shot to give him 1,185 points.

Despite being on the road, Franklin's coaching staff had been made aware of Rivera's proximity to the record,

and the game was stopped so that he could get the game ball and pose for a quick photo with his parents, Pamela and Jorge.

"It was really cool," Rivera said of the moment. "It was great to have a lot of people there who have been by my side."

Despite a successful basketball program over the years, Milford's list of 1,000-point scorers in basketball is relatively small. Ernie Kapatoes became the first player to surpass that barrier in 1982. Craig Radcliffe set the new program record by a point in 1988. Rivera, who scored his 1,000th point during a home game earlier this season, became the all-time leading scorer in boys' basketball when he topped Radcliffe's 1,071-point total. He then surpassed Kate Irwin's 1,077 point mark

and then, finally, bested the record set by Macchi, who did not play during her senior year. Trevor Walker and Tyler Washington are Milford's only other 1,000-point scorers.

Rivera said he has seen Macchi, a graduate of the class of 2003, at events and kidded her about his nearing of her record.

"I have been poking at it a little bit, telling her I was going to break her record," he said. "She said 'Yeah, but I did it in three years,' and I said 'Okay, I got to give it to her.'"

Rivera said he was pleased to reach the 1,000-point mark at home, especially since that was what his mother had hoped would happen.

"My mom was big on my being acknowledged for my accomplishments," he said. "Having my classmates there to see it



Andrew Rivera, with his parents Pamela and Jorge, after becoming Milford High's all-time leading scorer. Photo source: Milford AD Peter Boucher

at home was cool."

Rivera is averaging more than 18 points per game this season after scoring around 19 per game last year. He is more focused on the team's success heading towards the playoffs. A

dual-sport athlete, Rivera said he is hoping to eventually play either football or basketball at the collegiate level.

And how many points is he up to now? "I have no idea," Rivera said.



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SPORTS

# Strong performances for Milford Indoor Track

## Talented sprinters lead way for Scarlet Hawks

By Chris Villani

The Milford High winter track team is heading toward the home stretch of the season with several athletes having already qualified for the state tournament, and a few more right on the cusp.

Head Coach Don Bishop had high praise for the sprinting crew on the boys' roster. Five athletes have collaborated on the four-member 4x200 relay team. That team, and all five individuals, have earned spots in the state meet.

Shawn Pierce has one of the top times in multiple events and has earned state slots in the 55, 300, and 4x200. Bishop said Pierce has a shot to qualify for the regional meet.

"He is a multipart athlete and he is very competitive," Bishop said. "He wants to improve all the time, so I am very happy with his work ethic."

John Arruda is another member of the 4x200 team and also a state qualifier in the 55 and 300. Taylor Feliciano has earned spots in both the relay and the 300 and entered the Hockomock League meet vying for a spot in the 55 as well.

"He is kind of a hidden missile," Bishop said. "He is fantastically dedicated to speed. He is quiet and just does his workouts."

The other two members who rotate into the 4x200 lineup are Aloiy Okhipo, who is also the team's fastest hurdler and a potential regional qualifier, and Jarrett Brown, who is near state qualifying times.

In addition to the sprinters,



Madison Ateawung, Iyanna Correa, Julianys Rentas, and Keira Murphy are all among MHS top scorers. Courtesy photo

Folahanmi Ojolayo is a stellar jumper in both the high jump and long jump.

"All the other coaches want to compete against him," Bishop said. "He just keeps getting better. He is a good kid and a hard worker, he just loves jumping."

The girls' roster also has

several standout performers. Freshman Iyanna Correa has run the dash and the 300 and quickly moved to within inches of a state-qualifying mark in the high jump. Madison Ateawung is close to state-qualifying times and is a top performer in the 55, 300, and the 4x200. Julianys Rentas is another top sprinter,



Shawn Pierce, Taylor Feliciano, Aloiy Okhipo, Jarrett Brown, and John Arruda have been a formidable sprint team this winter. Courtesy photo

and Keira Murphy, another freshman, is continuously setting personal bests and entered February just two seconds away from a qualifying time in the 600.

"Our girls have been pretty consistent," Bishop said. "We had four personal records against Taunton in the first

meet, and now we are doing around 10 per week, so they are constantly getting better."

Bishop is particularly happy that so many of his top athletes are freshmen and sophomores.

"If we can keep these girls healthy and with the program," he said, "they will be great examples going forward."

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| <b>2021 FORD EDGE SEL</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$88/WK<br>#P17266L • 2.0L TURBO, SUNROOF<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$40,395</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</b>     | <b>2024 VW JETTA SPORT</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$78/WK<br>#47000 • TURBO, HEATED SEATS<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$29,550</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</b>         | <b>2020 LINCOLN CORSAIR</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$88/WK<br>#124361A • SUNROOF, LEATHER<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$46,645</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</b>     | <b>2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$134/WK<br>#124-199B • TURBO, BIG BEND<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$43,995</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,977</b>     | <b>2019 SUBARU OUTBACK</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$64/WK<br>#TP4638A • AWD, MOONROOF, V6<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$34,695</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$17,977</b>      | <b>2021 MERCEDES GLC 300 SUV</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$118/WK<br>#TM25-197A • TURBO, LEATHER<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$50,800</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977</b> | <b>2022 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL</b><br><br>AS LOW AS \$78/WK<br>#TP5021 • 27/37 MPG CITY/HWY<br>NEW RETAIL PRICE: <del>\$28,680</del> <b>WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</b>    |
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