



## Hopedale DECA is sending 19 to the international competition in Orlando, FL

From February 27th to March 1st, 34 Hopedale DECA members participated in the 66th Annual Massachusetts DECA State Career Development Conference, held in the Boston Seaport District. Over 4,000 students attended this year's competition, with Hopedale students facing off against up to 45 competitors

per category.

Hopedale DECA students competed in the Project Management event, where they applied project management skills to organize events such as a Financial Literacy Fair and

**DECA**

*continued on page 2*

## April 14 hearing to discuss 'complete renovation' of Hopedale Town Park

**Proposed plan will be funded with 'free cash'**

BY THERESA KNAPP

On April 14, the Hopedale Selectboard will host a joint hearing with the Hopedale Parks Commission to discuss a complete renovation of Hopedale Town Park.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Draper Room at Town Hall, and will be accessible via Zoom. The Hopedale Cultural Council, Historical Commission, and Community Preservation Committee have been invited to attend, co-host, and participate.

In a memo to the Select Board on March 19, Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti said, "The purpose of this hearing is to receive public input about a proposed complete renovation of Hopedale Town Park, with work estimated to be completed in the Fall of 2025.

Ruscitti said the cost of the project – estimated "in the realm of \$4 million" – would be covered within the town's budget and would not require an over-



**A complete renovation is being proposed for Hopedale Town Park. These renderings, which are subject to change based on feedback, were designed by Tighe and Bond for the Parks Commission when they discussed this project two years ago. Source: Town of Hopedale**

ride or debt exclusion" though it would require Town Meeting's approval to borrow funds that would then be repaid with free cash over several years. His de-

tailed plan requires the Town to:

**TOWN PARK**

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**TOWN PARK**

*continued from page 1*

- authorize the borrowing for the project;
- develop a stabilization fund specifically for this project;
- allocate a recommended amount of Free Cash into said stabilization fund; and
- appropriate the free cash in the stabilization fund to pay for the annual debt service payments on the project.



Ruscitti’s memo explained that, specifically, the Town would borrow funds to complete the project all at once and then use free cash from the stabilization fund to make the debt service

payments on the bond for the project.

He said that, in 2032, the Town will have \$5 million in intermediate- and long-term bonded debt coming off the

books so, at that time, the project payments will be paid for through levy with no impact on municipal operations, as it will replace exhausted debt.

“Therefore, this project will

not require an override or debt exclusion and will have no impact on property taxes,” said Ruscitti, adding “Town parks are only revisited, really, once a generation; this is a fantastic oppor-

tunity for Hopedale residents to come together to put their stamp on the future of this Town.”

**DECA**

*continued from page 1*

a Career Fair for HJSJS students in grades 7-12, as well as a Growing Minds Activities Fair for elementary students. In the Operations Research category, students conducted thorough primary and secondary research on a business’s use of AI and explored ways to further integrate AI within the business.

Throughout the competition, Hopedale DECA members honed valuable networking and employability skills that will benefit them both in high school and in their future careers.

Accomplishments include:

Top 12 finalists: Rose Deering: Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling, Ryan Thompson:

Professional Selling, Financial Consulting: Charlie Gingras

Top 5 Award Recipients Heading to the International Career Development Conference this April in Orlando, Florida! Jonathan Araujo, Leah Hodgdon, Patrick Madden: Project Management Financial Literacy, Daniel Carroll, Ella Innocent, Riley Mulligan: Project Management Sales Project, Charlie Keyes, Nofer Meshreky, Emily Oliver: Sports and Entertainment Operations Research, Josiah Lefever: Restaurant and Food Service Management Role Play

In addition, Hopedale DECA received Gold recertification for the Raider’s Nest School Based Enterprise, Diamond level for their Chapter of Excellence sub-

mission (2nd place in the state), and earned 7 Leadership Spots for the Thrive and Engage Leadership Academies at the International Career Development Conference.

Moving on to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) are 19 Hopedale students! DECA members in attendance will expand their leadership skills and business knowledge while also networking with business professionals and peers from 50 different states, four U.S. territories, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Korea, and more. In addition to the Top 5 award recipients listed above, Alexandra Goode and Savannah Sene will be competing in the School Based Enterprise event. The following students will be participating in leadership academies: Rose Deering, Madelyn DiMaio, Emma Friesema, Kate Friesema, Charlie Gingras, Avery Miller, and Ryan Thompson.

Hopedale DECA would like to thank all who made attending the state conference possible, including the officer team, DECA members and competitors, parents, guardians, and HJSHS staff. Thank you also to the 2025 Hopedale DECA State Sponsors who reduced competitor costs for the event. Thank you in advance to the Hopedale community for the continued support of Hopedale DECA member competitions and experiences. Please reach out to Talitha Oliveri, advisor, at [toliveri@hopedaleschools.org](mailto:toliveri@hopedaleschools.org) with questions or to receive additional sponsorship information.

# Save the Date: May 20 Annual Town Meeting

Hopedale’s Annual Town Meeting will take place on Tues., May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School auditorium.

When the warrant is finalized, it will be available at [www.hopedale-ma.gov](http://www.hopedale-ma.gov).



*Image source: www.hopedale-ma.gov*

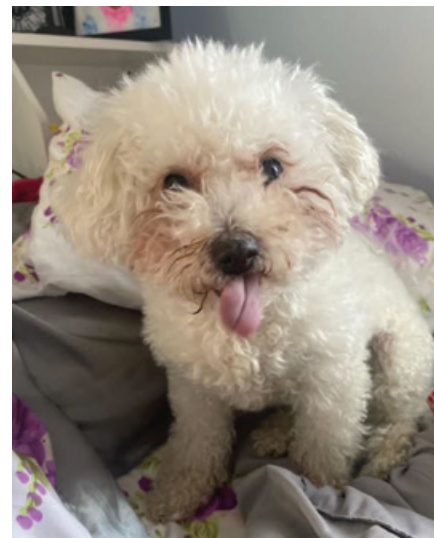
# Hopedale dog licenses were due March 31

Hopedale dogs were due to be licensed by March 31 or incur an additional \$20 fee per dog.

The cost, before late fees are applied, is \$25 per male/female dog; \$20 per spayed/neutered dog; plus the \$20 late fee per dog.

Also required is a rabies certificate, spaying/neutering certificate (if applicable), a check payable to the Town of Hopedale, and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The registration form can be found at [bit.ly/HopedaleDogLicense](http://bit.ly/HopedaleDogLicense).



**Hopedale residents must register their dogs before April 30. Photo credit: Kathryn Enos**

*Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov*

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# LRSM program highlighted evolution of Draper and Whitin families, businesses, impact on American Industrial Revolution

By THERESA KNAPP

On March 23, the Little Red Shop Museum hosted a standing-room-only program entitled Family Business: Drapers, Whitins, and the Rise of Industry, the role these families played locally and in the American Industrial Revolution.

Among the attendees were members of the Draper and Whitin families including Jill Cal-

fee Smith, a Draper descendant, and her cousins Harry Whitin and Jim Whitin. The two families became connected in 1934 by the marriage of George Draper and Sophie Whitin. After the program, Calfee Smith shared family trees that outlined how the families are connected.

The program presenter was Allison Horrocks, a National Park Service Ranger with the Blackstone River Valley Na-

tional Historical Park based at Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, “the first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill in the United States [1793],” according to [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

The intent of the program, Horrocks’ said, was to answer questions such as, “How did a fairly small amount of people create a textile powerhouse?” and “How do these places emerge from places that are essentially wooded land?,” among others.

She provided a thorough history of the area from the Indigenous Peoples and English settlers, the settlement of ‘Mother Mendon,’ the creation of the Whitinsville section of Northbridge, Adin Ballou’s short-lived utopian experiment (Hopedale), the rise of the Whitin Machine Works and the Draper Corporation in the textile industry, and much more.

The event lasted 2.5 hours with many questions from the audience after the presentation.

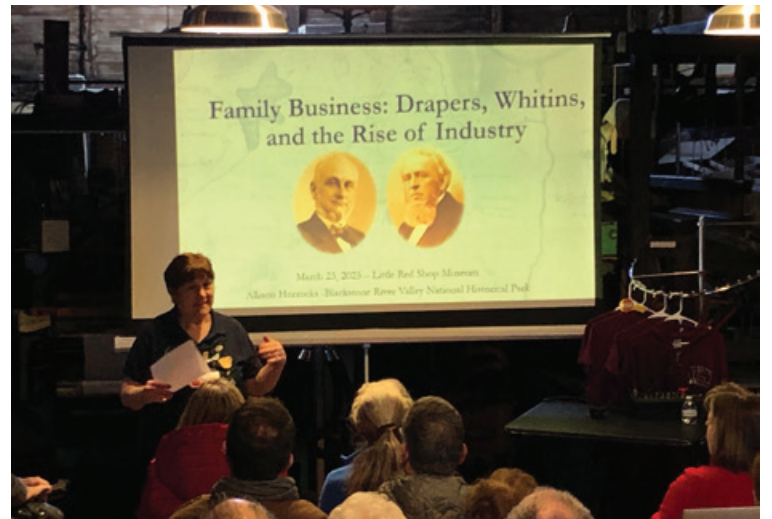
A full recording of the program is available on Hopedale Cable.



Above, from left: Jim Whitin, Jill Calfee Smith [a Draper descendant], and Harry Whitin attended the presentation related to their families. Photo source: Little Red Shop Museum



Right: Becca Draper King and her brother George Draper, who could not attend the event. Their parents, Sophie Whitin Draper (1912-2006) and George Draper (1908-1976), merged the two industrial families when they married in May 1934. Photo source: Little Red Shop Museum



From top: The Little Red Shop Museum is located on the Mill River, at the corner of Freedom and Hopedale Streets, and overlooks the site of the former Draper Mill Complex which was demolished in 2022; Sue Ciaramicoli, Volunteer Coordinator at the Little Red Shop Museum and a member of Hopedale’s Historical Commission, welcomes a large crowd, including members of the Draper and Whitin families, for a presentation on the history of the Drapers of Hopedale and the Whitins of Whitinsville; Allison Horrocks, a National Park Service Ranger based at the Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, presents “Family Business: Drapers and Whitins” at the Little Red Shop Museum, the original location of the Draper Corporation. Photos: Theresa Knapp

## The Draper and Whitin families merged in 1934

According to information provided to the Little Red Shop Museum by Becca Draper King, the Whitin/Draper connection came about when her parents married 90 years ago.

In 1934, Sophie Whitin (daughter of Paul and Rebecca) of Northbridge married George Draper (son of Clare and Grace) of Hopedale. Their parents knew each other and did business with each other in the textile industry, namely the Whitin Machine Works and the Draper Corporation.

Sophie and George met at the “coming out party” of Lilla Draper (George’s sister). The couple settled in Dover until 1967 when they moved to Boston after George’s retirement.



# Hopedale Jr.-Sr. High School receives \$3,200 financial literacy grant

BOSTON – The State Treasurer’s Office of Economic Empowerment (OEE), in partnership with the Division of Banks (DOB) and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR), announced the 2024-2025 recipients of the Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant.

Hopedale Junior-Senior High School received a grant in the amount of \$6,400.

Following a competitive application process that concluded in November, the state agencies awarded grants to 58 schools, totaling \$201,272. This funding will allow Massachusetts high schools and special education programs to host financial education fairs, known as Credit for Life Fairs, for their students.

Of the 58 recipient schools,

six received funding as Seed Applicants and will host fairs for the first time.

For the second year, participating schools that have a large population of low-to-moderate income students will receive an additional \$500. Seventeen schools received this additional funding to bring much-needed financial education to students in the state’s most vulnerable communities.

“Financial literacy is the foundation for a more stable future, and Credit for Life Fairs empower our students with the tools they need to succeed,” said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. “These hands-on experiences give young adults the confidence to navigate real-world financial challenges and make informed decisions as they step into adulthood.”

*Submitted by the Office of Economic Development, Office of the Treasurer and Receiver General of Massachusetts*

# Bancroft Memorial Library

50 Hopedale Street  
Contact: Keely Bethel-Penny, Library Director  
(508) 634-2209  
kbethel-penny@cwmar.org

## Library News

The Library will be closed on Monday, April 21st for Patriots’ Day

Check out our new website at [www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org)

Drawing for Southwick’s Zoo passes – April 1st through April 11th The Friends of the Hopedale Library are sponsoring a drawing for passes to Southwick’s Zoo! To enter, fill out a form at the Library from April 1-11th. The Friends will draw 25 names on Saturday, April 12th and will notify winners via telephone. NOTE: You must be a Hopedale resident and only one entry per family/address is allowed. Each winner will receive two free passes to the Zoo.

Community Conversations – Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30pm  
Community Conversations

will meet in the Program Room to talk about “Effective Means of Discourse.”

## News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library:

Ten Landscape Plants You Can Easily Propagate – Monday, April 28h 6:30pm

Join us as Hopedale Horticulturalist Walter Swift of Swift Creative Landscape shows us how to propagate more plants from what you or your friends already have! Walter will have plants and tools on hand for attendee participation. Registration required.

Maker Mondays – Monday, April 14th at 6:00pm This month the adult crafting workshop is Quilling. Registration is required. To register, please sign up online on the Library’s Event Calendar or call (508) 634-2209.

Book Donation Day – Wednesday, April 16th from 5:30-7:30pm

The Friends of the Hopedale Library would love your like-new books for our Ongoing Book Sale. Children’s books of any age are welcome. Due to space constraints, we ask that adult books be published within the last 10 years or later. Unfortunately, we cannot accept old books, textbooks, or cookbooks. We depend on books in saleable condition to raise money to support our programming.

Friends of the Hopedale Bag Sale – Tuesday, April 22nd through Saturday, April 26th Visit the Friends of the Hopedale Library book sale during regular Library hours and fill a paper bag for \$10.00!

DQ Fundraiser April 29th 5pm-8pm Support The Friends of the Hopedale Library at the Milford Dairy Queen at 190 West Street in Milford. The Friends will receive 10% of all purchases from 5-8pm; all monies raised will go

right back to support Library programs, summer reading, museum passes, and expenses not covered by the Library budget.

FlowerPower.org Fundraiser – now through May 15th Order spring flower bulbs and other plants online, have orders shipped directly to you and the Friends will earn 50%! Shop at <http://hopedalelibrary.fpfundraising.com/> and remember that all proceeds help fund equipment, materials and programs not covered by the Library’s budget.

Commemorative Glass Sun catcher Special Fundraiser Help support the Friends fundraising efforts by purchasing a commemorative glass sun catcher celebrating Bancroft Memorial Library’s 125th Anniversary. These handcrafted sun catchers by Becker Glass are available in blue and clear for \$20. To purchase, simply stop by the Library. Cash and checks will be accepted.

Free Seed Library!

Stop by the Bancroft Memorial Library and get free seeds from our Seed Library. There is no limit! If you don’t need a full packet, there are smaller envelopes available, just take what you need. Sponsored by The Friends of the Hopedale Library.

About the Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Hopedale Library, founded in 1983, is an active volunteer, non-profit organization with a town-wide membership and a representative executive board. We work with the library staff and the trustees to support the library in providing funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the library’s regular operating budget. The Friends of the Hopedale Library meets

**LIBRARY**

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# BCL Home Services – Leo is Ready to Tackle your “To-Do” List

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Homeowners have all been there - looking at an ever-growing list of things to complete around the house and being utterly overwhelmed by it. Whether it's a faucet that needs fixing, a bathroom or kitchen that needs an overdue remodel, walls that need a fresh coat of paint, a wobbly railing that needs to be secured, a new light fixture that needs hanging, a garden shed or piece of furniture that needs to be put together, or any other task that's just been put off again and again, people often don't have the time, expertise or motivation to get things done when they are busy with other responsibilities.

That's when you call Leo. Leo Doran is no stranger to great customer service. Having owned six Massachusetts Gymnastics Center (MGC) locations providing services to thousands of young gymnasts and their families over the years, he strongly believes that responsiveness, clear communication, and a positive attitude are pivotal when it comes to working with clients. Providing a high level of support is second nature to him and has made him highly suc-

cessful in his ventures. Though he is now ready to move on from the gymnastics world, he isn't ready to turn in the proverbial towel and retire either.

With a dad who was a firefighter and painter, Leo spent time on his summer breaks in high school and college to help with painting, and it's something that he found he was really great at. It started within him a life-long passion for making spaces even more functional and beautiful.

"I recently did most of the work to upgrade our entire kitchen here in Hopedale, knocking down walls, putting in new counters, cabinets, fixtures, flooring and windows. Investing in remodeling and home improvement projects greatly increases the equity of any home," shares Leo.

In fact, when Leo's parents moved into an assisted living facility from the home they built nearly 30 years ago in Harwich, he and his wife bought the house and Leo jumped right in to improve and renovate it.

"The home needed quite a bit of work, and I did most of those projects myself. The

## Business spotlight

truth is, I really do enjoy all of it – it's fun for me. So, when it came to thinking of what the next step in my career journey would be, I decided to apply my business and customer service background, get my handyman license, and start BCL Home Services – where I can actively work and do something I am truly enthusiastic about."

BCL stands for Better Call Leo, so clients can rest assured that he is going to stand behind his name.

"People need dependable workers who are going to do what they say they are going to do. Integrity is lost a lot of the time with these kinds of things, with people not showing up or doing shoddy work. I am going to be there when I say I'll be there and do the job right, whatever the task – because I care about providing a level of service that goes above and beyond expectations."



Leo provides a variety of services including, but not limited to painting, small repairs, furniture assembly, fixture installation, fence and gate repair, power washing, drywall repair, light carpentry, babyproofing, and other odd jobs. His attention to detail and dedication to providing quality results shines through in everything he does, ensuring that

every task is done with care and expertise.

BCL Home Services is based in Hopedale but provides services to all of the surrounding communities. To reach out to Leo for a work assessment and quote, call 508-922-8422 or email BCLLD063@gmail.com.

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# Moonlight Program in Practical Nursing

## Child Safety Fair & Open House on April 10

The Moonlight Program in Practical Nursing (Post-Secondary) will host a Child Safety Fair and Open House on Thursday, April 10, at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School at 65 Pleasant Street in Upton. The nursing students and staff invite you to join them for a fun, informative evening on safety awareness, followed by the annual Practical Nursing Open House for adults interested in a life-changing career in healthcare.

The Child Safety Fair will run from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the cafe annex. Nursing students will provide parents, children, and attending families with information and resources to help keep children safe in and outside the home. They will also offer engaging presentations and demonstrations on bicycles, car/booster seats, fire,

backyard/playground, and water safety. The free event includes fun activities to engage children and help them learn about safety. Meet your Upton police/firefighter/EMTs, an interactive vehicle display, and more.

The Practical Nursing Open House will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Nursing students will greet you and share more details about the part-time, 60-week evening program requirements, the admissions process, and how to enroll. Tour the practical nursing classrooms, speak with faculty and staff, observe the state-of-the-art equipment, and participate in a Q&A session.

The affordable program offers small class sizes and accepts in and out-of-district applicants. For more information about the program and to register for the Open House, visit

[www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/pnopenhouse](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/pnopenhouse).

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

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical

High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal

and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

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## Hopedale Cultural Council Seeks New Members

The Hopedale Cultural Council is a group of volunteers appointed by the Select Board. We award grants annually through the Massachusetts Cultural Council to qualified applicants for community projects and events. Some of the past recipients have been the Bancroft Memorial Library, the Council on Aging, the Hopedale School System, and other organizations in the Blackstone Valley area.

We also sponsor the summer band concerts, and our biggest event, the annual Day in the Park. (Saturday, September 20, 2025) In order to continue to provide these programs in our town we need more help. Some of our activities are in jeopardy

if we don't have more volunteers to serve on the council.

We meet a few times a year for planning purposes. Members work on projects on their own time and are present at our events. Please see our Facebook page (Hopedale Cultural Council- Community Organization) for photos and videos of our past activities.

Current members are: Treasurer Gail Brown, Secretary and Grant Coordinator Sally Decelles, Kelly O'Malley, Dee Hughes, and Jean Hill.

For more information contact Chairperson Billi Manning at 508-478-0929 or hopedaleculturalcouncil@yahoo.com

## Pet of the Month

### Meet Matt

Matt is a lovely young tiger tux who resides in the Special Needs Room at the Milford Humane Society. He's quite shy initially but warms up to people quickly. Once he's comfortable with you, all he wants is your attention. He loves to be by your side. When Matt first came to our shelter he was terrified of people. Nowadays Matt is the first cat to scamper down to the floor and wait quietly for pets when we walk into the room.

Matt would do best in a calm home as sudden movements still make him nervous. If you get down to his level and interact with him gently, you will be rewarded with his eager affection.

Matt enjoys spending time with his friends in the Special Needs room, so we could see him enjoying a home with another FIV+ cat companion. Cats with FIV can lead normal lives, both in quality and duration. They should be monitored closely for infections and dental issues. Like all cats, regular veterinary checkups and a high-quality diet are recommended to ensure that Matt remains happy and healthy.

Matt will be waiting patiently for his forever family to come and take him home.

For more information, visit [www.milfordhumane.org](http://www.milfordhumane.org).



### LIBRARY

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the second Wednesday of the month, September through June at 6:30pm. New members and ideas are always welcome.

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

Check Out Challenge Winners: Congratulations to the winners of February's Check Out Challenge! First place is awarded to Ms. Ryan, Second place is awarded to Ms. Romasco and Third place is awarded to Ms. Hockey. Over the span of 22 days, 911 books were checked out! That averages approximately 42 books a day!! We are so proud of all of our readers!

### Special events:

Create your own bookmark and decorate a canvas tote bag – Wednesday, April 9th from 2-7pm  
National Library Week is April 6th-12th! Decorate your own bookmark and canvas tote bag to use when you visit the Library. Drop in, we supply all of the materials and you supply your imagination!

April Vacation is Space Week! – Tuesday, April 22nd through Friday, April 25th

Tuesday 4/22 from 2:30-4:30pm: Make a paper mache Earth

Wednesday 4/23 from 2:00-4:00pm: Jedi Training Camp

Thursday 4/24 from 2:30-4:30pm: Join Miss Laura outside and take a peep at the sun with her special solar telescope

Friday 4/25 from 2:30-4:30pm: Decorate a box as a car and join us at our own Drive-In for a space movie! Bring snacks, your PJs, something to snuggle, a blanket and anything else you would like as you watch the show.

Sunny the Facility Dog – Saturday, April 5th from 10:00-11:00am  
In partnership with Bright Beginnings Center, we are thrilled to host Sunny, a one-year old English Golden Retriever who loves being read to! To register for a time slot, please sign up online on the Library's Event Calendar or call (508) 634-2209.

LEGO Days in April  
If you love Legos, we've got thousands to play with! Come in on Friday, April 4th from 3-4:30pm, Saturday April 5th from 11am-1pm and Monday, April 7th from 6-7:30pm and play with our Legos. All ages are welcome to drop in!

### Weekly Programs:

Tummy Time Play – Tuesdays 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22 & 4/29 at 10:30am, ages 0-18 months  
Join us for some infant fun in a safe environment! Along with a story there will be fun, developmentally appropriate toys that encourage gross motor development. Drop in!

Toddler Tunes – Thursdays 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 & 4/24 at 10:30am, ages 18 months-3 years  
This program is perfect for energetic toddlers! Along with a story, we will work on gross motor skills and play with balls, a parachute, instruments, bean bags, scarves and more. Drop in!

Rhyme Time – Thurs-

days 4/3, 4/10, 4/17 & 4/24 at 11:30am, ages 3-5 years  
Each week we will build early reading skills as we learn a new rhyme, dance and sing, do finger plays, play musical instruments and engage in other activities. Each class will end with a craft that is a reminder of our rhyme. Drop in.

Volunteer Saturdays for High School Students – Saturday 4/12 11:00am-1:00pm  
Each month there will be an opportunity for high school students to earn 2 hours of volunteer time from 11am - 1pm. Registration is required. Please register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events or call the Library at (508) 634-2209. We will provide all necessary supplies, you just bring your energy and motivation.

Desserts & Discussions – Wednesday, April 30th at 6:00pm  
Desserts and Discussions is a program of the Milford Family Community Network CFCE that is meeting in the Program Room. Come connect with other parents to share stories, challenges and triumphs. This is a fun night for parents/caregivers only and will be a participant led discussion, so bring your questions, concerns and advice! Coffee and desserts will be provided; please call (508) 277-4981 to register.

*For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook and sign up at [www.wowbrary.org](http://www.wowbrary.org) to discover the Library's newest books, movies and music. Our webpage is [www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org](http://www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org)*



## Steve's Corner Barbershop

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# Portfolios Care About Asset Allocation, Not Your Emotions.



**Glenn Brown, CFP**

Investing is a journey with greed, fear and uncertainty creating market fluctuations and volatility to portfolio values. While the cause always changes, one thing remains constant - portfolios don't care about your emotions.

**Sounds harsh? Maybe.**

Consider the last time your investments performed based on how you feel? This isn't the chicken or the egg. Investments don't react based on how you feel, they react to your actions and choice of asset allocation or lack thereof.

**What is Asset Allocation?**

Asset allocation is a foundational strategy of dividing an investment portfolio across different domestic and international asset classes—such as

stocks, bonds, real estate, hard assets, and cash equivalents—to balance risk/reward and reduce volatility. This allows investors to participate in returns over time by staying invested throughout market, macroeconomic and geopolitical cycles.

**This Time is Different!**

Really? Let's take a trip down memory lane the past 25 years.

Recall Y2K, Four Horsemen, Dot.com Bubble, 9/11 Recession, Iraq, No Income Verification Mortgages, \$150 Oil, Housing Bubble, Financial Crisis, 0.1% Cash, Great Recession, Quantitative Easing (QE), Flash Crash, QE2, Debt Ceiling, Government Shutdown, Greece, Taper Tantrum, QE3 - Shock & Awe, FANG, Brexit, 2016 Election, Tax Cuts, China Trade War, 9 Fed Rate Hikes, COVID Shutdown, 3X Stimulus, 9% Inflation, Ukraine, 10 Fed Rate Hikes, 2022 Non-Recession, Magnificent 7, Trump II. Throughout all these events, asset allocation ensures not all investments in a portfolio are moving in unison.

Asset allocation is not influenced by emotions; it is a strategically, diversified portfolio spread across different asset classes to help smooth out market fluctuations and reduce overall risk. For example, if stocks are down, then bonds or real estate or gold may be performing well to help offset.

**S&P 500 Index ≠ Asset Allocation.**

Many believe investing in the S&P 500 index is the same asset allocation. It's not.

Being broadly diversified across U.S. large companies represents one asset class. Due to an average annualized return of ~13.9% over the past 15 years, recency bias has investors "setting it and forgetting it".

**Asset Allocation at Work.**

Most under age 45 (and some older) don't recall "The Lost Decade" when the S&P 500 index total return including dividends from 2000-2010 was -9.1%. Correct, \$1 million invested on Y2K was ~\$910,000 ten years later.

Elsewhere from 2000-2010, positive returns and outperformance was captured in index funds of developed international stocks, emerging market stocks, U.S. small cap stocks, U.S. high-yield bonds, U.S. REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts), commodities, gold, cash and U.S. bonds.

Speaking of the U.S. Aggregate Bond index, \$1 million invested became ~\$1,840,000. Because of this divergence, the S&P 500 index didn't catch up to the U.S. Aggregate Bond index until 2017, or 17 years later. If you're in the distribution stage of your life (i.e. retirement), that's not good.

Asset allocation models vary and ideally are based on timelines for the need of funds in a financial plan, not your age. How one invests a Roth IRA, Traditional IRA or taxable brokerage account could be different and should align with "when" and "how much" the plan projects to draw from each account.

**Ignore at Your Own Risk.**

When investors ignore asset allocation, they risk making decisions based on emotion. During market highs, greed sells lagging asset classes. During downturns, fear sells into panic without a plan back into the long-term strategy. These emotional responses create market timing and remove your foundation.

So remember, during times like these, your portfolio cares about asset allocation — a founda-

tional strategy to help you manage risk, smooth out market volatility, and stay on track to meet timelines of your financial goals.

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

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

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## Nipmuc Territory Land Acknowledgement Ceremony on April 12

The Hopkinton Center for the Arts (HCA) and the Town of Hopkinton invite families to join a special land acknowledgment ceremony with us and the Nipmuc Tribe on April 12th at 1:00 PM. The event will be held at 98 Hayden Rowe Street in Hopkinton and is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to honor and learn about Hopkinton's indigenous history. The Natick Nipmuc Tribe will be organizing music, storytelling, an exciting drum performance, and more.

Kelly Grill, Executive Direc-

tor of HCA, shared, "This event allows us to acknowledge the land's original Nipmuc heritage while bringing the community together to explore the tribe's traditions. We are also very thankful to the Town of Hopkinton for their amazing support in making this event possible."

The ceremony is planned to take place outside in HCA's amphitheater, but if the weather doesn't cooperate, it will move indoors to the HCA performance space. It's completely free and welcomes people of all ages.

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# Sports

## Hopedale Boys Basketball, A Year To Remember

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Hopedale boys basketball team's 2024-2025 season was one to be remembered for a long time. The Blue Raiders finished the regular season with an 18-2 record earning a two seed in the Division 5 State Tournament where they cruised their way to the State Championship game.

Along the way, Hopedale dispatched the Hampton Charter School of Science 72-44, Monson 72-25, New Mission 54-50 and edged Westport 57-56 to earn their first State final visit since 2000 where they would fall to Newburyport 50-43. In 2020 Hopedale was named Co-State Champion with Abington when the finals were cancelled due to Covid.

Looking to capture the Division 5 State Championship is not going to be easy. In order to do so, Hopedale was going to have to slay the undefeated number one seed in the tournament in Pioneer Valley Regional, a team that not only averaged 70.6 points per game during the regular season but was beating up on their tournament opponents by an average of 39.5 points per game.

Hopedale knew in order to take home the title they were going to have to play solid defense and keep Pioneer Valley from scoring in transition, a staple of their game. The Blue Raiders opened the scoring with junior Keigan Murphy hitting a 3-point shot leading Hopedale to an 11-10 lead after the first quarter. Unfortunately, things would go downhill from there as the Panthers went on a second quarter 15-2 run, including the last 12-point heading into the

half with a 25-13 lead.

Brayden Thayer would lead all scorers with 26 points while teammate Alex McClland would add 13 points, 10 rebounds and 5 assists as Pioneer Valley took home the title with a 49-28 win. Hopedale would shoot themselves in the foot, killing all hope shooting 5-20 from beyond the three-point line.

"If you told me that we were going to be able to hold Pioneer Valley to 49 points in the State Championship game, I would have taken that and felt good about it," said Hopedale Coach Tony Cordani. "But they are an extremely good defensive team that forced us to shoot from the perimeter and unfortunately our shots were not falling. The experience was great for our kids and hopefully something they will take with them for the rest of their lives."

Prior to the season getting underway, Cordani and his coaching staff knew that they had a competitive team, but never in their wildest dreams did they think about making the State Finals. According to the Blue Raiders coach, this year's squad was a talented group that came together as a team with the aid of the senior leadership.

Senior captain and four-year athlete Patrick Madden was not only Hopedale's leading scorer, but also led the Dual Valley Conference in scoring this year, averaging 17.6 points per game.

"He is the heart and soul of our team," Cordani said. "He is an ultra-competitive individual who pushes his teammates to be better. He is the biggest part of the equation."

Hopedale opened the season rattling off eight wins before they lost to DVC rival Nipmuc. Following the loss, they would



Clockwise from top left: Brayden Lewis, Keigan Murphy, Robbie Manning and Patrick Madden

win five straight before once again hitting a wall and falling to Nipmuc before closing out the season with another five straight wins. Nipmuc was a nemesis and definitely had the number of Blue Raiders this season. Thankfully Hopedale did not have to face them in the tournament.

As the Blue Raiders were accumulating wins, the team started to realize they actually had something special brewing. However, all good things must

come to an end and the magical run the Hopedale team put together came to an end with Pioneer Valley at the Tsongas Center in Lowell.

In addition to the DVC's leading scorer, Hopedale will lose another three members of the starting lineup. The three senior starters and the final senior departing are co-captains Robbie Manning, Mike Rutkowski, Brayden Lewis and Danny Carroll.

Juniors Trevor Lachiatto,

Wyatt Bliss, Dyland Plouffe, JJ Douglas and Murphy as well as sophomores Nathan Montville and Nathan Rutkowski will all be back next winter.

Cordani believes the Blue Raiders will be returning a good core of players and if they put in the time and effort over the off-season then they will once again be competitive next year and looking to make another run at the State Championship, hopefully with a different ending.



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# Sports

## Blue Raiders Softball Looking For A State Championship

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Jim Casey is only entering his third year as the Blue Raiders softball coach, but Hopedale has flourished under his leadership over the first two seasons on the diamond. Hopedale has been the Dual Valley Conference co-champions the last two seasons and last year captured the Central Mass Championship while also making a run through the Division 5 State Tournament making it to the final four – but they want more.

“The goal each year is to first win the DVC; we’ve shared it with Nipmuc the last two years and we don’t want to share it anymore, we want it all to ourselves,” the Blue raider Coach said. “Beyond that, we want to build upon last year’s momentum (winning the CMASS Championship and making it to the Final 4); we want to go beyond that.”

During last year’s final four run, the Blue Raiders, who were ranked third behind their 17-3 regular season record, took out Pathfinder RVT 12-0, Millis 5-1 and West Boylston 2-0 before eventually falling to Turner Falls, the eventual State Champion, 4-1 in the Semi-Finals.

As Hopedale gets ready for this season, they will be without their two-time DVC Pitcher of the Year in the circle as well as their All Star second and third basemen. And while losing that type of talent from a team that had a deep tournament run, Casey is not in the least worried.

“The three girls that we lost are definitely big shoes to fill,” he said. “But we have plenty of talent in the pipeline. This will be a reloading season, not a rebuilding one.”

Although Hopedale said goodbye to three seniors, they will have three - two of them captains - more returning this spring in addition to five juniors. Leading the squad onto the field this season will be co-captains MacKenzie Reynolds and Layden MacDonald. The third senior coming back will be Maddie Diamio, who will be competing for a spot in the Blue Raider outfield.

MacDonald was the team’s right fielder last spring, but with

her versatility she will be taking over the vacancy at third base as a strong contributor. She will bring a solid glove and arm to the

wood pitched for the junior varsity squad and was dominate. According to Casey, if Hopedale didn’t have a two-time DVC



infield and will bat somewhere in the middle of the Hopedale lineup and should bring good production to it.

Reynolds is a lockdown centerfielder and will be the captain of the outfield, while also providing leadership to the team.

Adding five returning juniors to the seniors gives Casey a nice group of talented upperclassmen to take the field this spring. DVC All Star catcher Delaney Vaillette will be behind the plate as well as in the top of the batting lineup. The junior is fast and is one of many who can swipe a base or two.

“She will be a big leader for us in the transition from last year’s senior DVC MVP pitcher to our new pitcher, who happens to be an eighth grader,” Casey said. “She has been working hard with her and mentoring her to be able to take over the role. It will be tough to go from a senior with 600 strikeouts to an eighth grader, despite having a lot of experience on the AAU level.” As a seventh grader, Emily At-

MVP on the varsity roster, she would have been in the circle for the Blue Raiders.

Atwood is a power pitcher who brings multiple pitches which she is in command of and can throw for strikes.

“I don’t foresee any issues with her pitching on the varsity level for us, but we will see,” the coach said. “She’s had success on the AAU level, but again she is only 14 years old. I do have confidence that she’ll be able to slip right into the spot and fill it with success.”

With Atwood only an eighth grader, Casey will have junior Olivia Barroso as the team’s number two pitcher. Atwood will get 70% of the starts while Barroso will get the other 30%. Barroso is a strike thrower that pitches to contact and lets her defense do the work behind her. When she is not in the circle, she will most likely be patrolling right-field for Hopedale.

Junior Phoebe Carroll will play left field and provide a power bat in the middle of the

Blue Raiders lineup. Last year, she slugged a lot of doubles and triples, while adding three out of the park homeruns. According to the coach, as a sophomore last spring, she hit in the mid 300s and added around 20 RBI.

Hanna Gallerani was a utility player under Casey last spring, but this year she is looking to secure the opening at second. She is a sure handed middle of the field defensive player who will also bring some speed to the team. Playing between MacDonald at third and Gallerani at second another junior Mia Casey will return to take over as the starting shortstop. She too possesses sure hands in the middle of the infield with a strong arm. She is looking at being the team’s lead-off hitter giving Hopedale a speedster at the top of the lineup.

Possessing a lot of athleticism that can run like the wind, Casey is looking at improving upon Hopedale’s 98 steals from a year ago.

Sophomore Layla Huntley will once again be at first base for the team and is a slugger at the plate, according to the coach. Huntley will bat either third or fourth in the order and should once again pound the ball. Last spring, she had three home runs as a freshman and, along with Carroll, they are Hopedale’s RBI girls.

Hopedale will also have two or three solid freshman prospects on the squad who should be able to see some action from time to time.

The Blue Raiders non-conference schedule has added some top-notch teams, many that are above Hopedale in the upper divisions and went far in their respective tournaments. The quality opponents during the regular season should help Hopedale with their own post-season play.

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# EMASS Senior Softball League seeks players for 2025 season

## Form lasting friendships, enjoy balanced competition

Eastern Massachusetts Senior Softball (EMASS) is opening its annual registration campaign for men and women softball players age 50 and older. With almost 500 members, the league attracts players from towns across Eastern Massachusetts with games played primarily in Wayland, Medfield, and Framingham. The EMASS season runs from late April through late September, including playoffs. Interested players can register for the EMASS 2025 season at <https://e-mass.org/current-programs>.

EMASS has six divisions that accommodate a range of skill levels, two of which play on Saturday mornings and four

on weekday mornings. EMASS has many seniors in their fifties and sixties who can still hit a ball over a 300-foot fence, run down a deep drive in the outfield, or turn a double-play in the infield. There are other divisions in which players whose talents may have diminished over time can enjoy playing with similarly skilled friends.

“We are a group of folks who recognize how lucky we are to be able to play a game we love at the age we have attained and at a level that matches our abilities,” said Steve Bober, Commissioner of EMASS.

“I joined EMASS when I retired and didn’t know a single

person,” offered Joe Groden, an EMASS Division coordinator. “Six years later, the best thing about being part of this community has been the number of friends I’ve made. This is truly the essence of the experience.”

Division Coordinator Mike Mauceri added, “These friendships can expand, providing opportunities like playing in tournaments or going to Cuba to play in a friendship series. Whether you just want an outlet for fun and exercise or to build new friendships, there’s something for everyone.”

EMASS adds about 60 new players each year. “We shuffle up team rosters every year in all

divisions to enhance connections across our large softball-loving community,” said Division Coordinator Rich Goldberg. “Our members enjoy competing with and against their friends.”

EMASS players cherish their weekly double-headers and three-hour escape to the ballfield. “Aches and pains are easily tolerated when offset by the joy of playing and competing with friends,” said Walker Royce. “And, at a cost of roughly \$5 per game, there’s no better value for healthy recreation.”

For more information about EMASS Senior Softball League, visit [www.e-mass.org](http://www.e-mass.org)

*About EMASS Senior Softball League*

EMASS was founded in 1995



and offers active seniors of all skill levels a safe, well-organized opportunity to play competitive slow-pitch softball. Players can sign up for a division featuring players with similar abilities. With two Saturday divisions and four weekday divisions, players can play at a level most comfortable for them. All divisions play a double-header each week and many members play on different teams in multiple divisions.



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## Treasurer Goldberg Announces Latest Release of Unclaimed Property Listings

### Over 50,000 Names Added to Unclaimed Property List since August

Massachusetts State Treas-

urer Deborah B. Goldberg has announced the latest grouping of names added to the state’s list of unclaimed property owners. Over 50,000 new properties worth millions of dollars are owed to individuals and businesses throughout the Commonwealth.

“Massachusetts has over \$3.4 billion in unclaimed property, and some of it could be yours,” said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. “It is quick and easy to search for your name or a family member, friend, or even a business that might be listed. So go online or call our office to begin the process today.”

Unclaimed property includes forgotten savings and checking accounts, un-cashed checks, insurance policy proceeds, stocks, dividends, and the contents of unattended safe deposit boxes. Most accounts are considered abandoned and are turned over to the state after three years of inactivity. Last year, Treasury processed over 131,000 claims and returned \$191 million in

property to its rightful owners.

This newly released list includes only individuals and businesses with unclaimed property over \$100. Treasurer Goldberg urges all citizens to check the comprehensive list for all amounts at [www.find-massmoney.gov](http://www.find-massmoney.gov) or call our live call center at 1-888-344-MASS (6277).

The full list of the new individuals, businesses, and nonprofits added to the unclaimed property list will be published in the Boston Globe on March 2nd and in the Boston Herald on March 9th. In addition, the list of names will be published in regional and local papers in following weeks.

The Treasury releases an updated list of unclaimed property assets every six months as the new accounts are turned over to the Commonwealth. There is no time limit for a person to claim this property and, in many cases, claimants will receive interest.

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# Hopedale Public Safety Responds To Structure Fire



On March 5, Lt. Ricardo Lima of the Hopedale Police Department was the first to respond to a Hopedale house fire and put out the bulk of the fire with the fire extinguisher from his police cruiser. Photo source: Town of Hopedale

Photos from a Hopedale house fire on March 5, 2025. Photo source: Town of Hopedale

Hopedale, MA 3/6/25 – On Wednesday evening March 5th the Fire Department was dispatched to 230 Dutcher Street for a reported building fire. While enroute, the first due engine was advised that Hopedale Police reported that the exterior of the structure was on fire in the rear of the building. The first engine arrived and found the bulk of the fire knocked down by Hopedale Police Lt. Lima, who had used the fire extinguisher from his

cruiser to extinguish most of the fire.

The first due-engine stretched an attack-line to the rear of the building and completed extinguishment and checked the interior of the structure for any fire extension, which there was none. There was, however, a moderate smoke condition in the attic of the structure, which was ventilated by HFD personnel. Under the direction of Deputy Chief McMorrow, FD person-

nel performed overhaul tasks by removing the vinyl siding of the area involved in the fire, as well as using thermal imaging cameras to look for heat signature to ensure the fire was out. Fire Department personnel and apparatus remained on scene for approximately one hour, continuously performing these tasks as well as investigating the cause. The fire was determined to be accidental, and the damage is estimated at \$15,000.00.

The Hopedale Fire Department commends the swift action of Lt. Lima and his efforts to extinguish the fire. If not for his actions, the property damage could have been much worse.

In addition, it should be noted that an off-duty firefighter

happened to be at the firehouse at the time of the alarm which allowed the first-due engine to have three (3) firefighters instead of the usual two (2) that are on duty. Having this additional firefighter aided in the reduction of property loss as the attack-line was put in place faster and fire department members were able to perform additional tasks to ensure the spread of the fire was contained to the area of origin.

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# Living Healthy

## Eye-Opening Surgery: Corneal Transplant Gives Patients a Clearer Outlook on Life

DAN LIU, MD  
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

In May 2023, a landmark surgery was performed at NYU Langone Health: a whole eye transplant. During this surgery, the entire eye – in addition to a portion of the face – was transplanted from a donor into a living human recipient for the purposes of facial reconstruction. While we are likely decades away from performing eye transplants that can restore vision, there are more than 49,000 transplants of a different kind performed in the United States annually which can successfully improve vision and save sight: corneal transplants.

### What is the cornea?

The cornea is the transparent, dome shaped surface that acts as the front window to the

eye. It plays a crucial role in focusing light rays entering the eye in order to allow us to see clearly. When the cornea is damaged, it can become scarred, swollen, or opaque. In these cases, the visual effects can vary from increased light sensitivity, blurry vision, or even impaired vision to the point of blindness. Fortunately, for many individuals experiencing corneal damage, a corneal transplant, also known as a keratoplasty, may offer the opportunity to restore vision.

### Who needs a corneal transplant?

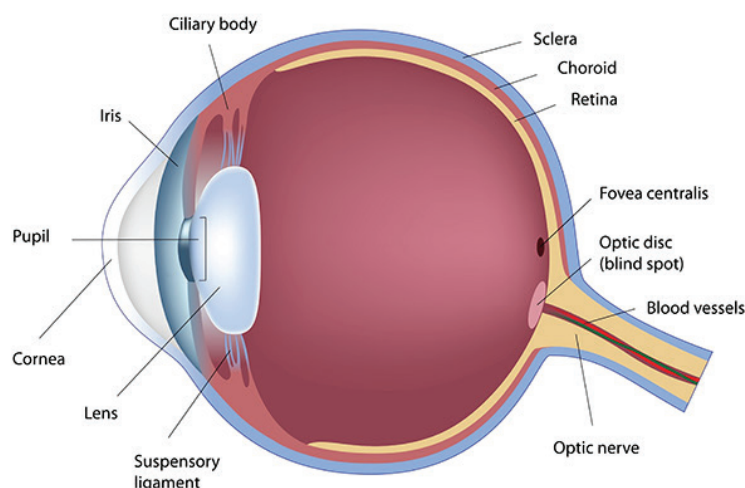
There are various conditions, both genetic and acquired, that can affect the cornea and necessitate a corneal transplant. Common conditions include:

- Corneal dystrophies: These

are inherited conditions that cause progressive clouding or scarring of the cornea. Fuchs’ dystrophy is the most common of these dystrophies, which often runs in families. This is a condition in which the innermost layer of cells in the cornea, the endothelial cells, no longer function in keeping the cornea clear. As a result, fluid can build up in the cornea, causing it to be swollen and cloudy. Some patients with Fuchs’ dystrophy experience debilitating glare, whereas other patients can experience significant loss of vision.

- Keratoconus is a common condition for which corneal transplants are performed. In patients with keratoconus, the cornea becomes in-

Human Eye Anatomy



creasingly cone shaped over time rather than remaining dome shaped. This can lead to loss of vision as light rays bend or refract aberrantly off the irregularly shaped cornea. Individuals with keratoconus may experience progressive astigmatism and a decrease in vision.

- Other acquired conditions that may affect the health and clarity of the cornea include eye infections which can cause significant scarring, or even previous eye surgeries that can result in damage to the cornea.

vision, enhance their quality of life, and reduce symptoms like pain or sensitivity to light. In this era of modern medicine, corneal transplants are very successful and last up to 10 to 15 years, with many lasting more than 30 years.

### Are there different kinds of corneal transplants?

Since the introduction of corneal transplants in the 1900s, these surgeries have evolved to become more efficient with faster healing times and better visual outcomes. Corneal transplants can be full thickness or partial thickness transplants.

#### • Penetrating keratoplasty (PK):

Also known as a full thickness corneal transplant, this is the most traditional form of corneal transplant. In PK, the diseased cornea is removed by the surgeon, the donor cornea is sized to fit the patient’s eye, and stitches are used to place the donor cornea in the eye. The surgery is performed when the cornea is severely scarred or damaged, affecting all of its layers.

#### • Descemet’s Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSEK):

In DSEK, only the innermost layer of the cornea, called the endothelium, is replaced. The rest of the

### What is a corneal transplant?

In diseases in which the cornea cannot be repaired with medications alone, an ophthalmologist who specializes in performing corneal transplants can restore the clarity and health of the cornea, as well as vision. In these sight saving surgeries, the diseased cornea is replaced with a clear, healthy cornea from a human donor who has generously chosen to donate their organs after death. Luckily, in the United States, there is a well established infrastructure for tissue procurement such that people who require corneal transplants do not need to be on a prolonged waiting list in order to have surgery. By replacing the damaged tissue, a corneal transplant can significantly improve a person’s

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# REAL ID Deadline Two Months Away: What Travelers Need to Know

If you don't have your REAL ID yet, be sure to check it off your to-do list before your next domestic flight. Starting two months from today — May 7 — travelers will need a REAL ID, or a REAL ID compliant credential to board domestic flights or enter certain federal buildings.

While a traditional license will remain a valid form of identification for driving purposes, domestic air travelers should ensure they possess a REAL ID or REAL ID compliant credential before finalizing travel plans. Although a valid, unexpired U.S. passport will remain acceptable by the Transportation Security Administration for domestic air travel, AAA recommends frequent domestic travelers upgrade their traditional license to REAL ID.

“The key to making the REAL ID process as smooth as possible is preparation and arriving at appointments with all the right documents,” said Mark Schieldrop, Senior Spokesperson for AAA Northeast. “Travelers should also know that they do not need a REAL ID simply to purchase airline tickets after the deadline, but will need to have a REAL ID to board any domestic flight after May 7.”

## How do I get a REAL ID in Massachusetts?

- A REAL ID requires an in-person visit to either the Massachusetts RMV or a AAA branch.
- During the visit, you'll need to



provide proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S., proof of Social Security number and proof of Massachusetts residency. A list of documents that apply to each category can be found on the Massachusetts RMV website.

- Once the process is complete, a REAL ID is renewed just like a traditional license — only the initial in-person appointment is required.

## What are the common challenges to getting a REAL ID?

- REAL ID requires in-person physical and electronic verification of all documents.
- Only original, un laminated, unaltered and accurate documents are accepted. You will not be successful if you de-

viate from Massachusetts' REAL ID checklist.

- Documents cannot be issued from a church, hospital or nongovernment agency.
- All name changes must be proven with legal documents from birth to current name if a person has had name changes. Therefore, people who have had changes in their name should bring all documents showing the name trail from their lawful presence/birth document to their current name on their driver license/state ID. These documents must be issued by a city or state; church marriage certificates cannot be used.
- All Social Security documentation must show the person's full name and full Social Security number. If you need a new Social Security card, visit SSA.gov to request a free

replacement card.

## What else is important to note?

- A REAL ID does not replace a passport for international travel. For international travel, AAA offers its members passport photo services.

• Travelers do not need a REAL ID to purchase airline tickets, even for trips after May 7. Travelers just need to have a REAL ID or REAL ID compliant credential to board a domestic flight after May 7.

• Be wary of fake RMV websites that emulate official state websites and may contain incorrect information. Always look for websites that end in .gov — phony websites often pay to show up at the top of search results.

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, financial and auto-related services.

## EYES

*continued from page 12*

corneal layers remain intact. This surgery is often used to treat conditions that affect the endothelium, such as Fuchs' dystrophy.

- **Descemet's Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK):** DMEK is a more advanced version of DSEK and is considered one of the most effective corneal transplant procedures for treating endothelial dysfunction. In

DMEK, only the thinnest layer of tissue with endothelial cells are transplanted. Because of its precision, DMEK has a faster recovery time and better visual outcomes than traditional PK or DSEK procedures.

## Do I need a corneal transplant?

To determine whether you would benefit from a corneal transplant, a thorough evaluation by an ophthalmologist is necessary to determine whether a transplant is appropriate. At Milford Franklin Eye Center,

we have corneal transplant surgeons who perform additional testing to evaluate the patient's eye health, including measurements of corneal thickness and imaging scans. We also have established relationships with eye banks, which are organizations that procure donated tissue and screen for quality.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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# Hopedale Senior Center

# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES



## 2025 APRIL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>01</b> 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance	<b>02</b> 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage	<b>03</b> 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm No Tai Chi Class	<b>04</b> 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes closes
<b>07</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	<b>08</b> 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance	<b>09</b> 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
<b>14</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Lunch at Sr. Center 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 3:30 pm Dance	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Nurse Clinic 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
<b>21</b> CLOSED FOR PATRIOTS' DAY 	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 1:30 pm Photography 3:30 pm Dance	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi 2:00 pm Sound Bath Meditation	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Free Panera 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO 1:00 pm AI Program	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 9:00 am Vol. Breakfast 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 1:30 pm Photography 3:30 pm Dance	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:00pm Lunch at Sr. Center TRIVA follows lunch 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage		



# Real Estate Corner

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
02/24/2025	171 Laurelwood Drive	\$349,900

Source: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com) / Compiled by Local Town Pages



The 2-bed, 2-bath, 2,052-square-foot unit at 171 Laurelwood Drive in Hopedale recently sold for \$349,900. Image credit: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com)

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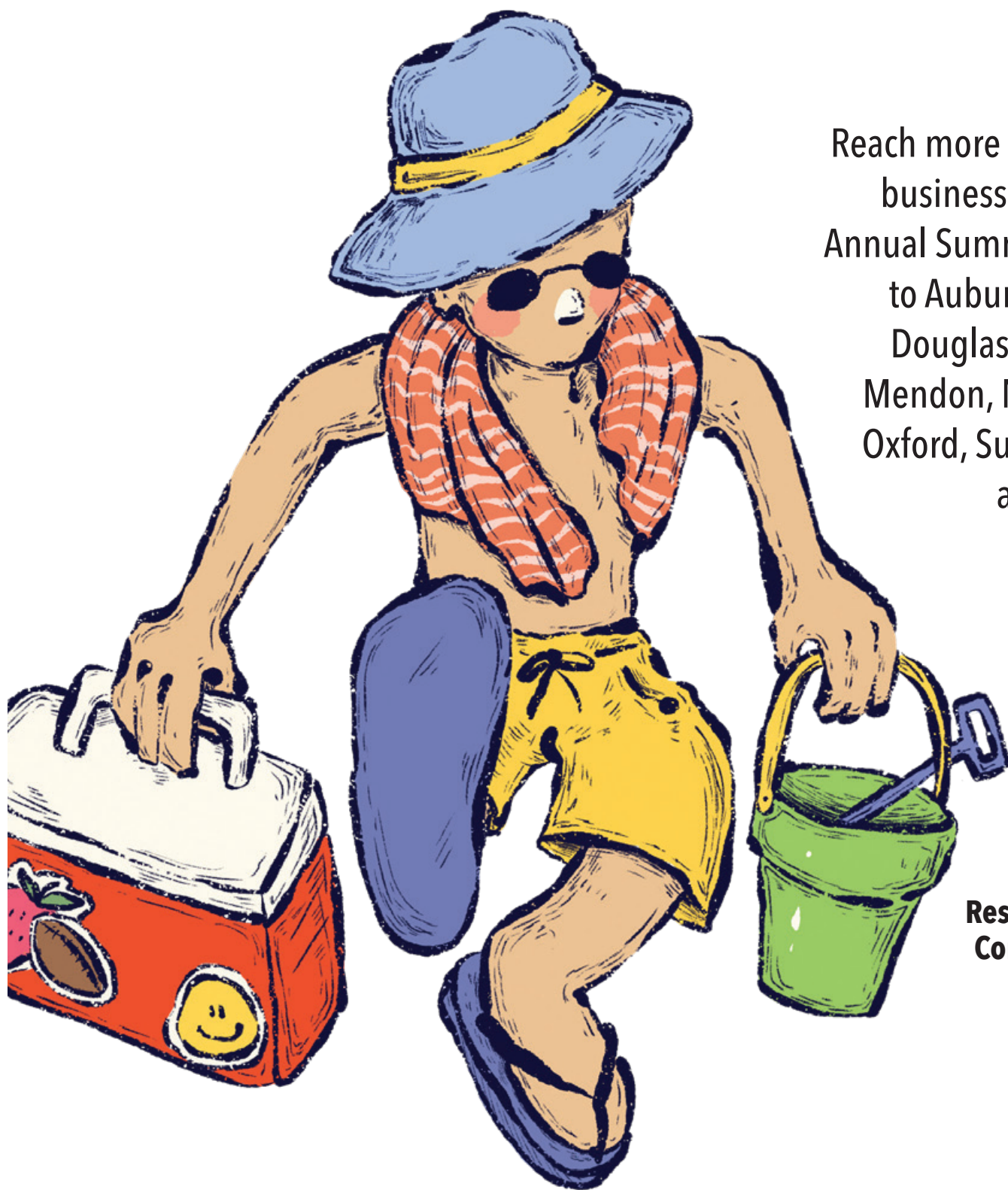
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