

MHS french student competes in Oratory Contest

Milford High School junior Natalie Coelho (Class of 2026) recently participated in the Club Richelieu French Oratory Contest. Natalie wrote and presented a speech on how Francophone countries are facing the challenges of climate change. Natalie was one of only five students from high schools in Massachusetts to compete in the annual contest.

Natalie, her family, and MHS French Teacher Ms. Lydia Buckley attended the Club Richelieu dinner on March 12 at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem.

Ms. Buckley commented, "I am very proud of the hard work Natalie has put in learning to speak French with such skill. Her enthusiasm and initiative are very impressive! Bravo, Natalie!"

Source: Milford Public Schools



Milford High School student Natalie Coelho with Donald Harlow-Powell, the president of the Club Richelieu of Salem. Courtesy photo

MHS junior awarded scholarship to Washington, D.C. Leadership Program

Milford High School is pleased to share that MHS student, Ericka Zamora Daquilema (Class of 2026), was awarded a scholarship to attend the week-long CloseUp Washington D.C. Program. This scholarship is provided by CloseUp partner Johnson&Johnson.

This fully funded opportunity is only awarded to nine students in the state of Massachusetts, one from each of the nine congressional districts. Ericka was chosen to represent MA District 4 for her passionate application and civic interest. Ericka is also 1 of 300 students from across the country participating in the program.

"We are very proud of Ericka. She took the initiative to apply for this scholarship opportunity, and followed the process on her own. Her successful application speaks to the kind of student and person Ericka has been at Milford High School. She is a conscientious student, a good classmate, and an engaged citizen in our school community. This oppor-



Milford High School student Ericka Zamora Daquilema, Class of 2026, was awarded a scholarship to attend the week-long CloseUp Washington D.C. Program. Courtesy photo

tunity is a wonderful chance for Ericka to represent MHS and her family, and to further her goals. The Close Up Program is an opportunity for students to travel to Washington D.C. and experience the nation's capital. Through

D.C.

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Milford safety log includes animal cruelty, needles, elevator entrapment, multiple arrests

The Milford Police and Fire Departments provided a wide range of services between Feb. 25 to March 15 related to motor vehicle stops, traffic enforcement, medical emergencies and unruly patients, community policing, checking open doors, disabled motor vehicles, vehicle collisions (including hit and runs), erratic operators, parking violations, towed vehicles, suspicious motor vehicles, suspicious activity, road hazards and obstructions, property checks, loud music and general noise complaints, threats, disturbances, vehicle lockouts, alarms (residential, commercial), carbon monoxide alarms, 911 misdials and hangups, k9 deployment, radar enforcement, natural gas leak odors, suspicious and unwanted persons, harassment, fraud, shoplifting and larceny, identity theft, loitering, soliciting, lost and found property, well-being checks, assist citizens and schools, follow-up investigations,

animal issues (injured, strays, deceased), funeral traffic, family services, and court business. Also provided mutual aid to Hopedale, Hopkinton, Medway, Mendon, and others.

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

Feb. 25 at 9:25 a.m., S. Main St., motor vehicle stop, arrest.

A 23-year-old Milford Male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, no inspection sticker, operating a motor vehicle with modified height

Feb. 25 at 9:56 a.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 29-year-old Milford female was charged with no inspection sticker, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

Feb. 26 at 8:48 a.m., Pearl St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 45-year-old Milford female was charged with a marked lanes violation, unsafe operation of a motor vehicle,

unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

Feb. 26 at 12:00 p.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 41-year-old Milford male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation

Feb. 26 at 12:48 p.m., Grove St., motor vehicle stop, arrest made.

A 22-year-old Milford female was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, fail to signal

Feb. 26 at 9:24 p.m., Sumner St., noise complaint

Feb. 27 at 1:54 a.m., Mt. Pleasant St., oil burner fire

Feb. 27 at 2:05 a.m., Mt. Pleasant St., carbon monoxide alarm

Feb. 28 at 9:47 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 23-year-old Milford female was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, window obstructed/nontransparent child under 8 years and under 58" without carseat

Feb. 28 at 10:51 a.m., N. Bow St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 27-year-old Woonsocket male was charged with failure to stop/yield, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

Feb. 28 at 11:21 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 75-year-old Grafton male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation

Feb. 28 at 11:27 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 31-year-old Milford male was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, unregistered motor vehicle, unsafe operation of a motor vehicle

Feb. 28 at 11:47 a.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 24-year-old Milford male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, improper operation of a motor vehicle, child under 8



years and under 58" without carseat

Feb. 28 at 2:17 p.m., Main St., credit card fraud

Feb. 28 at 5:23 p.m., Purchase St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 38-year-old Milford female was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, fail to stop/yield

Feb. 28 at 6:22 p.m., S. Main St., neighbor dispute

March 1 at 12:30 a.m., pro-

SAFETY LOG

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Rotary Club honors Carlos Sousa with Paul Harris Community Award

Sousa is Milford's Deputy Chief of Police

By Scott Calzolaio

“Service above self” - Three small words that contain infinite weight in the eyes of Rotarians across the globe. It’s this simple motto that drives the Rotary Club members forward, and it’s this mindset that makes Carlos Sousa, Deputy Chief of the Milford Police Department, the perfect recipient of this year’s Paul Harris Community Award.

Though not a member of the Rotary Club himself, Sousa embodies the club’s motto and has spent his life in service to the community, said Milford Rotary Club Foundation Chairperson Josh Lioce.

“He’s had a heck of a journey,” Lioce said. “His impact on Milford, and his actions, have proven him to be a truly compassionate person, an empathetic leader, and an officer of tremendous value.”

Sousa is the first named recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Award outside of the Milford Rotary Club. This, Lioce said, will mark a new annual tradition in town.

“He has set the bar very high for this award,” Lioce laughed.

Sousa is a first-generation American. Growing up in a bilingual household, he excelled at soccer, and spent much of his youth watching over his little brother while his parents worked hard to keep the lights on, Lioce said.

At a young age, Sousa found himself drawn to public service. When he was 16, he became a Milford Police Explorer with the Milford Police Department's Law Enforcement Exploring Program of 1996.

“We were on the same path of law enforcement at the time,” Lioce said.

Lioce and Sousa grew close during their time in the program, sparking a lifelong friendship.

Along with spending years volunteering at places like the Milford Youth Center, Sousa graduated from Milford High School in 1998, and was hired as a full-time dispatcher at age 19.

“He’s bilingual, English and Portuguese, which was a huge factor, because we had a very fast-growing Brazilian population in town,” Lioce said.

At age 22, Sousa was appointed as a full-time police officer. In 2008, he became a detective, and began working on his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. In 2017, he became a sergeant, where he stayed for six years before becoming deputy chief.

Sousa will be honored at the Community Award Dinner on Sat., April 12, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel in Milford. Tickets are \$50. The event includes dinner and live jazz music by Claflin Hill Symphony.

To buy tickets, visit milford-marotary.org.

"Sousa will be honored at the Community Award Dinner on Sat., April 12, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel in Milford. Tickets are \$50."



Carlos Sousa is this year’s recipient of the Rotary's Paul Harris Community Award. Photo source: Milford Police Department

What is the Rotary Club?

The mission of the Rotary is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

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world’s most persistent issues. Our more than 45,000 clubs work together to promote peace; fight disease; provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; save mothers and children; support education; grow local economies; and protect the environment.

Source: www.rotary.org

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McIntyre to retire as MPS Superintendent, leadership transition underway

Dr. Kevin McIntyre, Superintendent of Milford Public Schools, has announced his planned retirement in August 2026. In a move that sets a new standard for educational leadership transitions, Dr. McIntyre will step down as Superintendent on July 1, 2025, while remaining on staff to mentor, assist, and support the new superintendent throughout the transition period. This approach underscores the Milford School Committee's commitment to ensuring continuity and stability in district leadership—a process that is truly atypical in today's education landscape.

“By planning his retirement well in advance and continuing to support the transition, we are demonstrating our commitment to the future of Milford Public Schools and to a process that prioritizes academic excellence and thoughtful succession,” said Matthew Zacchilli, Chair of the Milford School Committee.

Dr. McIntyre's career spans several decades in educational leadership across urban, suburban, and rural districts in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and California. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the State University of New York at Albany, a master's degree in administration, planning, and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Northeastern University. His extensive experience and deep commitment to student engagement, school culture, and innovative leadership have made a significant impact on the Milford community.

Dr. McIntyre's academic and professional interests have included educational leadership, instructional technology, diversity and inclusion, innovative recruiting practices, and strategic communication. Beyond his duties in the classroom

and boardroom, he served on several community boards, including the United Way of Tri-County, the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, and the Bi-County Collaborative. In his personal time, he enjoys playing and watching basketball, cycling, traveling, and indulging in a good book.

A search is underway for a new superintendent.

In line with the upcoming leadership transition, the Milford School Committee has officially posted the position of Superintendent of Schools with a start date of July 1, 2025. The district is now accepting applications until 12 p.m. on March 18, 2025. The ideal candidate will be a seasoned educational leader with experience in a diverse, multi-lingual district that has a proven record of fostering academic excellence, operational efficiency, and culturally responsive learning environments. For further details on



the position and key selection criteria, interested applicants may refer to the complete job description provided by the district.

The Milford School Committee's forward-thinking approach is set to not only honor Dr. McIntyre's considerable contributions but also pave the way for a seamless transition that benefits students, staff, and the wider community.

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

April update from Milford Community School Use Program

Adult Ed Programs

Two more dates are available for our Boating Safety Course with the Coast Guard Auxiliary on May 3 and June 7. Massachusetts boaters should take note of an important upcoming change: starting in 2026, all boat operators born after 1989 will be required to hold a boating certificate license. All operators born before 1989 will be required as of April 19, 2028. In preparation for this require-

ment these sessions will cover the latest boating safety guidelines and regulations specific to Massachusetts waterways. This ensures that our community's boaters are well-prepared for a safe maritime adventure.

Spring Fitness Programs are also underway. We invite you to try any of our fitness programs one class for FREE. We are offering a free one time use pass to anyone in our fitness programs. You can choose from Boot

Camp, Swim Programs, Zumba, Circuit Fusion, Chi-Walking and Yoga. These programs emphasize proper technique, with special attention to posture, body alignment, mindfulness, and injury prevention. Most of these programs are available to register at a drop in rate or can be prorated if you decide you would like to join the remainder of the session after giving one a try. Please note that a completed liability waiver and Pre-Regis-

tration is required to participate so please contact our office if you are interested in trying one of these fabulous classes.

The popular Learn to Play Mahjong class will be back this Spring with our fabulous instructor Fran Morcone. Open for registration now, this is a fun social game that offers many

COMMUNITY
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Explore, create and inspire – Summer programs for young artists now available at Hopkinton Center for the Arts

By Jennifer Russo

It's never too early to start thinking about summer activities for the kids during their vacation months, and Hopkinton Center of the Arts (HCA) is already on top of it. Hopkinton Center for the Arts is a regional art center, a non-profit organization that aims to foster joy and engagement through various forms of art. They serve the MetroWest community through classes and events that inspire and celebrate creative expression in all its forms.

With an exciting variety of programming that includes everything from ceramics to dance, HCA brings an opportunity to learn something entirely new, build skills with immersive experiences, explore expression through different artistic mediums, and spark creativity in young minds throughout the area.

"We know families have a lot of options for summer programs and for those with kids who love art or want to mix it up or try something different than the traditional summer camp, we really have so much to offer," shares HCA Operations Director Sandee Buckley.

"Whether a kid comes in just in love with creating or is unsure of what they are interested in, we meet them where they are at. We have amazing instructors who work professionally in what they are teaching or who are used to working in a classroom setting, so they are very adept at working with students of all levels and abilities. They encourage and inspire students to be their very best and find the thing that they connect with personally."

Do you have a child or teen with a flair for drama? HCA offers acting and theater classes, including the preparation and performance of musicals including Alice in Wonderland and Frozen Jr, which includes workshops on performance, prop and set design, and filmmaking. The performances are open to the public so the community can enjoy the shows and students can show off their hard work to an audience. A Middle-School Intensive Theater pro-



gram focusing on the work of Stephen Schwartz (Wicked, Pippin, etc.) is also available.

Younger kids who love to dance will learn to celebrate stories like Snow White and Beauty and the Beast through movement, where teens can participate in dance workshops featuring ballet, jazz, contemporary dancing, and more, exploring techniques and artistry. Additionally, there is a choreography workshop for kids in grades 6-12 who want to try their hand at creating dances themselves, which really begins to hone project management and collaboration skills too.

For the young visual artist, there are ceramic and clay workshops, which have become very popular in recent years. There are also classes on illustration and cartooning, printmaking, drawing faces, oil painting, fiber art, sculpture, and even designing a board game with characters and maps.

"Every week, we also bring in an entertainer for a special performance for all the campers, from musicians to puppeteers to storytellers. It's really fun and colorful and we work around different themes each week. We also have an art exhibition during the summer that is intended to be interactive and child friendly. As part of the program, students are



able to meet the artists and learn from them. It really enriches their experience," shares Sandee.

In addition to the summer programming for kids and teens, there is also adult programming available for those who want to expand their interests, abilities, or knowledge in the arts.

"Summer is a wonderful time for an adult who wants to dabble in an art form because it's a shorter commitment. We encourage adults to not ignore themselves and try something new," says Sandee.

The HCA also offers a weekend concert series in the sum-

mer for people of all ages to enjoy, which are "Pay what you can" events. Held outside in the amphitheater, bands and artists planned for this year include Hit the Bus, Professor Harp, Chris Fitz, the Fat City Band, and more.

Summer programs through HCA are an exciting chance for children and teens to immerse themselves in a creative environment, foster their passions for art, make new friends, and create lasting memories. If you are looking for an opportunity for kids to receive expert instruction and learn new skills but also gain confidence and learn how to express their individuality in

a unique way, consider signing them up!

Full and half day programs are available beginning June 30th for kids from age four to eighteen, and both single and multi-week options are ready to book. Pricing varies and can be found on the HCA website at www.hopartcenter.org and there is a scholarship program available for those who may need some assistance. The HCA is located at 98 Hayden Rowe St. in Hopkinton, MA. Email info@hopartcenter.org or contact them by phone at 508-435-9222 with any questions.

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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.

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stocks, bonds, CDs or non-cash items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. You can then decide how to invest the money, possibly following a strategy suggested by the DAF sponsor organization you’ve selected. The next step involves choosing which charities to support, how often to provide support (such as once a year) and how much to give each time. You’re essentially free to direct the money to any charities you like, provided they’re IRS-approved charitable organizations.

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years’ worth of giving into one contribution to a DAF and take a larger deduction in that tax year. And you can claim that deduction, even though the DAF may distribute funds to charities over several years.

• **Tax-free growth of earnings** – Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or the charitable groups that receive grants from the DAF.

• **Avoidance of capital gains taxes** – When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or for that matter, virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid paying the capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due if you were to simply sell the asset and then donate the proceeds to charitable organizations. Plus, by receiving the appreciated asset, rather than the proceeds from a sale, the charitable groups can gain more from your contribution. And you can also take a tax deduction for your donation.

While these potential tax benefits can certainly make a DAF an attractive method of charitable giving, you should be aware of some potential tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable, and you can’t access the money for any reason other than charitable giving. Also, your investment options are limited to what’s available in the DAF program you’ve chosen. And DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to the fees charged on the underlying investments.

You may want to consult with your financial professional about other potential benefits and tradeoffs of DAFs and whether a DAF can help you with your charitable giving goals. Also, different DAF sponsors offer different features, so you will want to do some comparisons. And because DAFs can have such significant implications for your tax situation, you should consult with your tax professional before taking action.

If a DAF is appropriate for your situation, though, consider it carefully — it might be a good way to support your charitable giving efforts for years to come.

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

Mark Freeman, CEPA
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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Hopkinton, MA
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continued from page 2

tective custody. A 23-year-old Milford male was charged with forgery of document, vandalize property
March 1 at 7:57 a.m., Spruce St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 23-year-old Milford male was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, no inspection/sticker
March 1 at 10:39 a.m., Main St., stolen motor vehicle, criminal application. A 20-year-old Worcester male was charged with larceny of a motor vehicle
March 1 at 1:29 p.m., Depot St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 38-year-old Brockton male was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, window obstructed/nontransparent, registration not in possession
March 2 at 11:29 a.m., Luby Ave., suspicious motor vehicle. A 24-year-old Southbridge female was charged with unregistered motor vehicle, uninsured

motor vehicle
March 2 at 4:28 p.m., Brookfield Rd., animal cruelty
March 2 at 4:49 p.m., Mt. Pleasant St., hypodermic needles found
March 2 at 6:48 p.m., hit and run accident. A 24-year-old Milford male was charged with leaving scene of property damage, marked lanes violation
March 3 - log not available
March 4 at 7:32 a.m., Walden Way, harassing phone calls
March 4 at 4:28 p.m., W. Walnut St., harassing phone calls. A 53-year-old Milford male was charged with annoying telephone calls/electronic communications
March 4 at 5:06 p.m., Colonial Rd., natural gas leak odor
March 4 at 5:26 p.m., Fortune Blvd., natural gas leak odor
March 4 at 8:50 p.m., Depot St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A Milford female was charged with operating a motor vehicle with license suspended, speeding
March 4 at 9:13 p.m., Yale Dr., fire odor investigation
March 5 at 7:19 a.m., Parker Hill Ave., report of stolen li-

cense plate
March 5 at 7:59 a.m., E. Wood St., fire-smoke investigation
March 5 at 2:21 p.m., Cedar St., fire-gas spill/leak
March 5 at 2:38 a.m., Spruce St., fight
March 6 at 4:59 p.m., Medway Rd., motor vehicle accident, criminal application. A 51-year-old Lawrence resident was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle
March 6 at 9:06 p.m., W. Walnut St., neighbor dispute
March 7 at 4:53 a.m., W. Walnut St., disturbance
March 7 at 9:43 a.m., E. Main St., neighbor dispute
March 7 at 9:53 a.m., Cedar St., trespass, criminal application. A 46-year-old Hopkinton male was charged with trespass
March 8 at 3:07 p.m., S. Main St., outside fire
March 8 at 8:37 p.m., S. Main St., motor vehicle accident, criminal application. A 24-year-old Milford male was charged with OUI liquor .08%, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, leaving scene of property damage (2 counts), unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle

March 9 at 7:58 p.m., Fruit St., motor vehicle accident, criminal application. A 34-year-old Milford male was charged with leaving scene of property damage, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle
March 10 at 10:28 a.m., Fruit St., outside fire
March 10 at 12:16 p.m., Parkhurst St., outside fire
March 10 at 1:53 p.m., Water St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 39-year-old Milford male was charged with unregistered motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle
March 10 at 2:21 p.m., Prospect St., fight
March 10 at 4:27 p.m., Main St., elevator entrapment
March 10 at 5:34 p.m., Medway Rd., protective custody. A 62-year-old Milford male was taken into protective custody
March 10 at 11:51 p.m., Greenwood St., k9 deployment
March 11 at 2:48 a.m., Claudette Dr., motor vehicle, message delivered
March 11 at 10:31 a.m., Prospect St., unruly patient, criminal application. A 28-year-old Whitinsville female was charged with assault and battery (2 counts), disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace
March 11 at 11:18 a.m., Quinlan St., neighbor dispute
March 11 at 7:34 p.m., Oxford St. N., drone deployment
March 12 at 6:00 p.m., E. Main St., pedestrian accident
March 12 at 7:14 p.m., Spruce St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 52-year-old Milford male was charged with uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with license suspended
March 13 at 12:16 a.m., Prospect St., assault, criminal application. A 47-year-old Mendon male was charged with assault and battery (2 counts), disor-

derly conduct
March 13 at 1:59 a.m., Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 39-year-old male from Rochester, NY, was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, warrant arrest
March 13 at 4:10 p.m., Dilla St., road rage
March 13 at 8:38 p.m., S. Main St., outside fire
March 14 at 6:36 p.m., St. John Ln., fire/appliance malfunction
March 14 at 10:03 p.m., Main St., arrest. A 30-year-old Milford male was arrested on a warrant
March 15 at 9:24 a.m., W. Fountain St., drone deployment
March 15 at 4:06 p.m., Fortune Blvd., shoplifting, two arrests. A 30-year-old Fitchburg male and a 30-year-old female were both charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise, and conspiracy.
March 15 at 8:15 p.m., E. Main St., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. A 49-year-old Hopedale male was charged with unregistered motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, illegally attaching number plates, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle
March 15 at 8:46 p.m., 495 northbound, vehicle fire

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



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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.

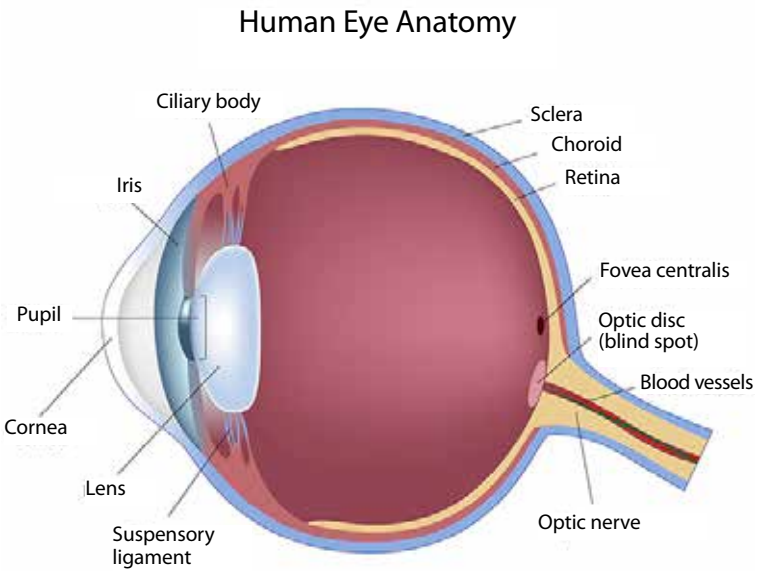
Who needs a corneal transplant?

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 increasingly 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.

What is a corneal transplant?

In diseases in which the cornea cannot be repaired with

EYES
continued on page 10

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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 Saturday, April 12, at 1 p.m. at the HCA, 98 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton.

The itinerary includes the land acknowledgment ceremony, the story of the Three Sisters, and a drum ceremony. This 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 Director 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.

For more information, and to RSVP, visit hopartscenter.org/event-details/nipmuc-territory-land-acknowledgment-ceremony

EYES

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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 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 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 9.

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D.C.
continued from page 1

the schedule, students make personal connections with the people, institutions and iconic sites that embody our nation’s past and present. Students spend time in small and large group workshops throughout the week that focus on current issues facing our nation today and engage in meaningful discussion with students from across the country. They debate and deliberate as if they were Congressmen and Congresswomen and then meet with their elected officials the following day on Capitol Hill.

Students will discuss their educational experience and discuss the issues they care most about with the experts, policymakers, and members of Congress. The program doesn’t end after students return home. Students will be able to join an alumni network and continue to use their voice and what he learned in D.C. to take action in their community and school. Ericka has the opportunity to join the Close Up Civic Ambassador program. Civic Ambassadors encourage students to remain active, engaged citizens and a responsible leader for their communities.

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

Milford Family & Community Network CFCE

Last month we successfully held our 27th annual Family Fun & Disability Awareness Fair at the Milford High School. Over 100 families interacted with 50 different exhibitors, danced to the DJ and enjoyed learning about community resources in the area. It was a fantastic family event!

Do you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten this fall and are wondering how to best prepare them? Start the journey early with our upcoming “Kindergarten Bootcamp” program designed for children who will be 5 years old by 8/31. This 4-week series will provide structure, routines and activi-

ties that take place in a typical kindergarten classroom to help you and your child learn what to expect, while having fun. This program requires registration, please call the office for more information.

Join us for our monthly Deserts & Discussions program, a round table parent led discussion! This will take place on Wednesday, April 30 at the Bancroft Memorial Library in Hopedale.

Questions? Call our office at 508-277-4981 or email family-network@milfordma.com. Don’t forget to find, like and follow us on FaceBook at Milford Family & Community Network CFCE.

MAPC scholarship deadline April 18

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is offering a new scholarship to a high school senior, in the Greater Boston region, who is interested in the field of planning.

The \$1,000 “Planning Our Communities: Reimagining the Region” scholarship can be used at a college or university of the recipient’s choice.

Graduating high school seniors from a secondary school from Milford, or any of the 101 cities and towns in the Greater Boston region (see full list at bit.ly/MAPCScholarship), who are committed to advancing a more equitable, sustainable, collabora-

tive, and climate-friendly region through studies in the fields of Climate; Community Engagement; Community, Housing, and Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Geographic Information System (GIS) and Spatial Analysis; Inclusive Mobility and Transportation; Municipal Governance; Planning; Public Health; Public Policy; and/or Sustainable Development and Preservation.

The deadline to apply is April 18, 2025.

For more information, including the application and guidelines, visit bit.ly/MAPC-scholarship.

Milford Historical Commission to present Life of Ulysses S. Grant



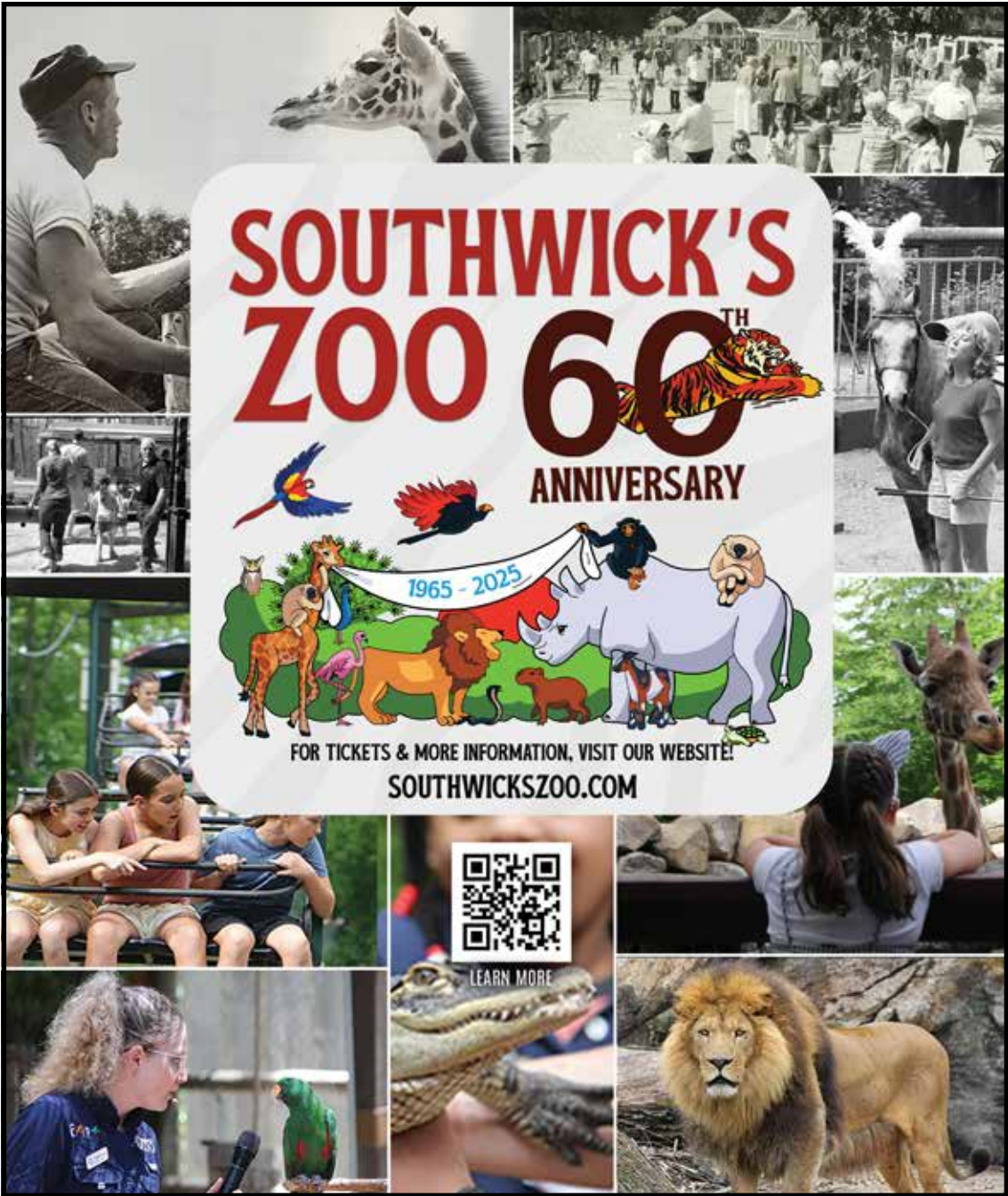
The Milford Historical Commission will present a program on the life of Ulysses S. Grant on Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m. at Memorial Hall, 30 School Street. Professional actors will portray Grant.

In 1865, Grant, as commander general, led the Union Army to victory in the American Civil War. He was the 18th president of the United States, serving from 1868 to 1877. He was born in Ohio and graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1843. His spouse was Julia Dent.

Everyone is welcome to attend, free of charge. Students are invited to the program as it is both educational and entertaining.

For more information, call 774-462-3316 or 508-473-8571.

Submitted by the Milford Historical Commission



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The collage features various images of zoo animals and visitors. At the top left is a giraffe. Below it is a man in a cap. To the right is a group of people walking. Below that is a woman with a horse. At the bottom left is a woman looking at a parrot. In the center bottom is a QR code. To the right of the QR code is a lion. At the bottom right is a woman looking at a giraffe.

Milford firefighter graduates from Firefighting Academy

In February, State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership announced the graduation of 33 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program. Graduates included Michael Bodio with the Milford Fire Department.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,” said Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Dennis A. Ball. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

The graduating firefighters of Class #327 represent the fire departments of Acton, Arlington, Ashland, Burlington, Dracut, Fall River, Holden, Littleton, Lowell, Melrose, Methuen,

Milford, Natick, Plainville, Watertown, Westborough, and Wilmington.

The Richard N. Bangs Outstanding Student Award, which is presented to one recruit in each graduating career recruit training class, was presented to Firefighter Michael Bodio of the Milford Fire Department. The award is named for the longtime chair of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and reflects the recruit’s academic and practical skills, testing, and evaluations over the course of the 10-week program.

Basic Firefighter skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts



Michael Bodio of the Milford Fire Department is a recent graduate of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Source: Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

Today’s Firefighters do much more than fight fires

Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills. They may be

called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in

public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridgewater.



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Milford Comprehensive Plan final community meeting on April 30

The Milford Comprehensive Plan process is almost complete, but there’s still time to share your input! Over the past year, the Milford town officials and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council have heard from many community voices through public meetings, surveys, focus groups, and conversations with community-based organizations, town departments, and local leaders. Your feedback has helped guide the development of the town’s next Comprehensive Plan. At the meeting, there will be a brief overview of the planning process and highlight key pieces of the draft Comprehensive Plan, including the vision statement and draft chapters.

Source: Metropolitan Area Planning Council



Image source: Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Milford Public Schools

Important Dates:
April 18 - No School - Good Friday
April 21-25 - No School - April Vacation

District
Have you registered your child for Kindergarten? If you have not, please visit as soon as possible: The Family Resource Center, 189 Main St. 2nd Floor, Milford, MA 01757. Students must be five (5) years old on or before August 31 to enroll in Kindergarten.

This year, we are pleased to offer Grade 8-12 students enrolled in select World Language and English Language Development (ELD) courses the opportunity to take the AAPPL World Language assessment, which satisfies the World Language requirement of the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy and the Biliteracy Pathway Certificate. This grant-funded opportunity will be offered free of charge. Students' assessment results will be shared with them in class and will not impact their grade in their World Language or ELD course. This data will also be reviewed with the goal of improving our World Language programming at Stacy and MHS. The Seal of Biliteracy is offered to any student in Grades 11 or 12 who demonstrates proficiency in English and any other language, whether they speak or sign the language other than English at home, learned it at school, or in the community. The Seal of Biliteracy is a significant accomplishment and will reflect extremely well in the college admission process or for future employers. More information on this opportunity can be found on our website in the Digital Backpack.

Milford High School
Sending a shoutout to the MHS wrestling team! The team captured their third Division 2 State Championship in the last four years. Three MHS wrestlers earned individual state championships (Derek Marcolini, Aidan Baum, Mikey Boulanger), while four other wrestlers finished second in their divisions. Additionally, coach PJ Boccia was named Coach of the Year. Additional congratulations

to Mikey Boulanger and Aidan Baum, who won titles as the All State champions in their weight class. Mikey Boulanger then went on to win the New England championship! These hard working athletes and coaches represent MHS well on and off the mat! Go Hawks!

Our performing arts students are very busy! The MHS Theater Workshop presented "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee: The Musical" to rave reviews from the audience. This team of performers, stage hands, and staff all worked very hard to put on a great show!

The MHS Percussion Ensemble performed at the RI Percussion Festival at URI. They played in front of judges, a full audience, and listened to other ensembles from around New England. MHS musicians received a "Superior" rating, which is the highest level! Sending congratulations to the following Ensemble members: Michela DiGiallono, Stephanie Azor, Diego Gomes, Marcelo Gomes da Silva, Nick Lalangui Ponce, Maggy Zou, Kayla Pierre, Brenda Soares, Jeff D'Orazio, and Chris Lalangui Ponce.

Milford High School will be hosting a College and Career Fair on April 16 from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. in the MHS Library. Check out our website for information and who is expected to be in attendance!

Milford has long had a very proud history in high school athletics, dating back well over a century. Many young men and women have proudly competed against area athletes wearing Milford's red and white uniforms on the field, on the track, on the mat, in the pool, or on the court. Not only have many individual athletes been successful, but many teams have competed for league, sectional, and state championships over the years. The MHS Athletic Hall of Fame pays tribute to those athletes and teams - and to Milford's history - with a new class of honorees every other year. The 15th class of inductees is set to be enshrined in November 2025. New nominees for this prestigious honor are being sought now! Nominations can be submitted on

the MHS website, under the "Community" heading. More information about the MHS Athletics Hall of Fame is also available at this site.

Stacy Middle School
Stacy Middle School Theater Club performed "Willy Wonka Jr." in March. The cast and crew were outstanding, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed their Golden Ticket to a great show!

Woodland Elementary School
Woodland Elementary School third graders are experienced the Windows on Wildlife presentation. Each classroom participated in the presentation learning about birds and getting to see some great artifacts. Thank you to Ms. Bishop, the Woodland PTO, and the Milford Cultural Council for supporting and organizing this experience for our students.

We want to recognize Mr. Dan Cushing, STEM teacher

at Woodland, who recently was awarded a grant from MassCUE, a group that promotes technology usage and education in the school setting. Mr. Cushing was one of five awardees from across Massachusetts, recognized for promising practices and creative ideas in the use of technology. His proposal, "Bringing 3D Printing to Elementary STEM," will allow Woodland students the opportunity to "conceptualize, design, and produce 3D models, enhancing their understanding of engineering principles and computational thinking while fostering creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills." A pretty cool experience for our future scientists, designers, engineers, and inventors!

At Woodland, more than half of the students are learning a musical instrument. Fourth and Fifth grade strings students, along with Fifth grade band students from Woodland, did an amazing job at the district Band and Orchestra vertical



concert. All of the ensembles sounded great! A huge shout out to Woodland music teachers Mr. Abe Myler and Ms. Rebecca Knapp for their hard work and dedication.

Woodland students started their "March Mathness" tournament. Classes are competing to see who can make the most progress in ST Math during the competition. Students are really excited to earn visits with Jiji; especially the opportunity to shoot hoops with our penguin friend! A huge shout out to the Woodland ST Math Steering

MILFORD SCHOOLS
continued on page 17

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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

Patriots' Day

The library will be closed on Monday, April 21 in observance of Patriots' Day. Regular hours resume on Tuesday, April 22 at 9 a.m.

AARP Tax Aide Program

The AARP Tax Aide Program just concluded another successful tax season. Between February and April, over 250 people had their taxes prepared by trained volunteers at the Milford Town Library. The AARP Tax Aide program operates nationwide at thousands of sites helping seniors as well as lower to moderate income people.

Friends Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Milford Town Library will hold their spring book sale on Friday, April 25 from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Friends members only) and Saturday, April 26 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the general public.

The book sales offer a massive selection of gently used books in all genres for all reading tastes and ages. DVDS, games and puzzles are also available.

Please note that there is a price increase this year: adult books, puzzles, CDs and games are \$2 each, and all children's and young adult books are 50 cents each. Memberships may

be purchased or renewed at the door.

Proceeds from the book sales help fund the summer reading programs for both children and adults as well as programs, events, concerts, and more throughout the year.

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.

Ask a Financial Expert: Drop in with Milford Federal

April is Financial Literacy Month! On Thursday, April 10 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Thursday, April 24 from 4 - 7 p.m., experts from Milford Federal will be available to answer all your burning money questions, right here at MTL! Just drop in anytime, and visit our Lobby table. Feeling lucky? Enter to win Milford Federal's Kindle raffle!

For even more information - or if you prefer a more confidential setting - Milford Federal will be hosting an Open House event at their 67 Medway Road branch, on Thursday, April 17 from 12 - 4 p.m.! Our raffle prize winner will be drawn following this event.

Virtual: Interpreting Bird Behavior with Mass Audubon

Visit the library's events calendar to register for this virtual program on Friday, April 11 from 2 - 3 p.m. Why do birds fuss with their feathers so much? Are those two birds fighting or courting? Why are some birds more comfortable feeding on the ground while others feed flying? Bird behaviors can be quirky, surprising, and sometimes confusing. From flight to feeding, you'll learn how to interpret some of the most common behaviors. Once you tackle these basics, the value of your birdwatching transforms from admiring their beauty to appreciating their complex lives. Led by Scott Santino, the Education Manager and Teacher Natural-



ist at Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield. This event is offered in partnership with the Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library

Maximize Your Meal Preparation Workshop with Pauline Estey

Join us on Monday, April 14 at 7 p.m. for a fun and interactive workshop on mealtime preparation with personal trainer and nutritionist Pauline Estey of Motus Training. Learn how to save time, money, and pack macro-nutrients into your meals. Whether you're feeding yourself or your family, you will come away with some new strategies for the perennial question: "what's for dinner?" This event is free and sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library.

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group meets next on Tuesday, April 15 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. The April book selection is *The Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich. Set in the Red River Valley of North Dakota, this novel combines Erdrich's Native American heritage and her ability to create fully dimensional characters having both a human and spiritual existence.

It's 2008, during a recession and the farming community is feeling the pressure. Teenagers Gary and Kismet are debating marriage, even as another boy yearns for Kismet's affections. Set to inherit two farms, Gary and his family employ Kismet's mother, Crystal who works overnights hauling crops in her truck. Crystal isn't so sure about their prospects. The novel is authentic, unexpected

and deeply moving.

The author of nearly 30 books of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, Erdrich's work has won multiple awards including the Pulitzer Prize for *The Night Watchman* in 2021 and the National Book Award for *The Round House* in 2012.

To reserve a copy of *The Mighty Red*, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2, order online or email: ab-erard@milfordma.gov. Copies are available in regular, larger print and via the Libby App an e-book or e-audio.

Virtual Program: Spring Migration with Mass Audubon

Visit the library's events calendar to register for this virtual program about spring bird migration on Friday, April 25 from 2 - 3 p.m. After a cold winter, spring bird migration is welcome-in both sight and sound. Migration starts early with species like Turkey Vulture and American Woodcock arriving as early as late February. March and April bring ducks as inland waters melt. May is when we reunite with most songbirds, including beautifully colored warblers. Some birds remain in our area for nesting while others continue migrating north.

Learn about migration flyways, which dates to expect which species, suggested times and places to witness migration, and how we can help our avian neighbors in the wake of climate change and habitat loss. Led by Patti Steinman, the Education Coordinator for Mass Audu-

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MILFORD LIBRARY

continued from page 14

bon's Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries.

This event is offered in partnership with the Friends of the Tewksbury Public Library.

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.

Mahjong Comes to MTL

A newly formed Mahjong group meets twice a month at the Milford Town Library. This group welcomes players familiar to Mahjong to join for enjoyment of the game, not for high stakes competition! The group meets on select Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at the library in the Quarry Room. The spring meeting dates are;

- April 22
- May 6
- May 22
- June 10
- June 24

Those who are interested can join any of the meetings. Mahjong sets are provided. Questions? Please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

COMMUNITY

continued from page 4

benefits including improved cognitive function, enhanced social connections and stress reduction. This class fills up quickly so register early.

Thinking about getting a pet? As a responsible pet owner, ensuring the health and safety of your furry companion is a top priority. While regular vet visits and a healthy diet are essential, knowing how to handle pet emergencies can be just as crucial. This is where pet first aid training comes in. This Spring we are offering a Pet First Aid class April 28 and 29. Investing time in a pet first aid class is one of the best decisions a pet owner can make. Emergencies are unpredictable, but being prepared makes all the difference. Sign up for a class today and take the first step in becoming a more responsible and capable pet owner.

Youth Activities and Vacation Programs

Available this Spring to our young community members we have a STEM Club at Woodland, Robotics and Minecraft with Snapology, Structured Nerf activities with Sports Zone and Intro to Taekwondo.

Lifeguard certification class available over April vacation week for ages 15+.

April vacation week is open for registration now for children grades K-7. We will be hosting another engaging week featuring swimming, arts and crafts, sports, games, movies, and special surprise activities.

For specific program details, schedules, and registration information, please visit our Website at milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com

We are always looking to add more program opportunities to our Adult Ed and Children's Program schedule, so if you or someone you know has a hobby or interest and you would like to offer a program with us please email our office at community-use@milfordma.com Let's grow together as a community.

Virtual Program: No More Curse! A History of the Red Sox with Author and Historian David Kruh

Visit the library's events calendar to register for this virtual program on Monday, April 28 from 7 - 8 p.m. Based on his research for his musical, The Curse is Reversed! (A musical tribute to the Red Sox), David takes us to the roots of Boston baseball. We will look back at the real story behind Harry Frazee and his sale of slugger Babe Ruth. Relive the (sometimes frustrating) saga of the Boston Red Sox and their ultimately successful struggle for a World Series championship. This program is offered in partnership with the Ashland Public Library and other Massachusetts libraries.

Virtual Program: Job Search Help

Visit the library's events calendar to register for this virtual program on Wednesday, April 30 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Tammy Gooler Loeb, author of *Work from the Inside Out: Break Through Nine Common Obstacle and Design A Career That Fulfills You*, will offer insights as a career and executive coach.


Tammy inspires people to build careers that are fulfilling and meaningful. Over two decades, Tammy has shared her expertise with audiences and clients, focusing on career transitions, networking, leadership strategies and team development. Since 2018, Tammy hosts

a weekly podcast, "Work from the Inside Out," showcasing inspiring stories and practical lessons of noteworthy professionals who made transitions to more satisfying work. She's published articles in *The Harvard Business Review*, *Ascend*, *Forbes*, *Fast Company*, *US News* and *World Report*, and *The Boston Globe*.


Coming Soon:


Saturday, May 10, 2 p.m.
- Celebrate Haitian Heritage Month with Lecturer and Storyteller Charlot Lucien. Free and open to all.


Monday, May 12, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- May Monday Metalsmithing with Heather Beck - Copper Bookmark Workshop. Registration recommended.




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Milford Public Schools receives \$8k grant to support STEM career learning

Milford Public Schools will expand Project Lead The Way programs to provide hands-on, applied learning and in-depth teacher professional development

The Milford Public Schools recently received \$8,000 in grant funds from the One8 Foundation to offer new applied learning curricular programming from Project Lead The Way (PLTW) that will better prepare students for school and career success. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for PreK-12 students and teachers through coursework in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. With PLTW curriculum, students apply what they have learned to solve real-world problems. Milford Public Schools are more than 12,000 schools across the country offer-

ing PLTW programs to millions of students. “The One8 Foundation has provided so many valuable opportunities for the Milford Public School District. We are fortunate to have their partnership and support as we continue to invest in project based STEM programming. Project Lead the Way modules prepare students for the ever evolving STEM world while contributing to the growth of the many soft skills necessary to navigate the world including critical thinking, collaboration and adaptability. By starting PLTW in Kindergarten, we will provide many opportunities for students to engage in modules in com-

puter science, engineering and biomedical science so that they can choose a pathway to pursue in high school and beyond,” said Craig Consigli, Assistant Superintendent for the Milford Public Schools. Since 2017, the One8 Foundation alongside the Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council, the Workforce Skill Cabinet, and the Massachusetts Life Science Center have provided support to expand PLTW programming for students across the Commonwealth to better prepare them for a rapidly changing, data-rich world. PLTW coursework in the areas of biomedical science, engineering, and com-

puter science provides students with many of the skills they will need to access opportunities in sectors that are powering the state economy. “Students are hungry for experiences that allow them to apply what they are learning to solve real-world, meaningful problems. Providing equitable access to hands-on applied learning programs that deliver academic gains while building critical thinking and complex problem-solving skills ensures students are engaged and interested in school and prepared for success in this ever-changing world,” said Joanna Jacobson, President of the

One8 Foundation. The Milford Public Schools will use grant funds to strengthen its PLTW programs. Funds from the grant will support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in PLTW courses. In addition, as a school with PLTW programming in Massachusetts, the Milford Public Schools will have access to a regular set of teacher professional learning opportunities, student project showcases, and connections to industry professionals offered by the Mass Learning Project and the One8 Applied Learning Hub.

10th annual Milford Beautification Day April 26

All Milford residents and groups invited to volunteer to help clean our community. Citizens for Milford is organizing the Tenth Annual Milford Beautification Day, Milford’s annual clean-up event, which enables area residents, organizations, and businesses to work together to beautify our community by picking up trash around town. Milford Beautification Day will be held Saturday, April 26 (rain or shine)

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All interested citizens are invited to meet with organizers anytime between those hours in the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart Church (5 East Main Street) to get supplies, instructions, and assignments. Families, community groups, churches, local businesses, and teenagers who need to perform service hours are all invited to participate. Younger children

are encouraged to attend as long as they are accompanied by a supervising adult. Beautification Day Chairperson Nancy Wojick says, “I hope that many people, young and old, join us to clean up the streets of Milford on April 26. It is a great way to meet others from the community who take pride in our town.” All Beautification Day volunteers are invited to a free lunch courtesy of the Milford Lions Club and Milford’s Rail Trail Flatbread Company to thank everyone’s efforts to beautify our community. Lions Club members will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs on site, and folks from Rail Trail will be serving samples of New City Microcreamery ice cream.

To help ensure the organizers can plan the clean-up routes for volunteers, the group is asking residents to report streets and neighborhoods that are of particular concern. Residents can submit their recommendations by emailing them to CitizensforMilford@gmail.com or by messaging them to the Citizens for Milford Facebook page (@CitizensforMilford) before 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 24. Community involvement with Beautification Day continues to grow. Citizens for Milford is sincerely grateful to the Milford Highway Department, Friends of the Milford Upper Charles Trail, Milford Lions Club, and volunteers from Milford Federal Bank who are continuing their partnership with



us. In addition, Citizens for Milford is pleased to welcome volunteers from Planet Aid and the Milford Doubletree Hotel, who will be joining our clean-up efforts this year. Combined with the work of all residents who continue to volunteer on Beautification Day, this event is a true demonstration of community pride. Questions regarding any of the Beautification Day efforts may be submitted by email to CitizensforMilford@gmail.com. Citizens for Milford is a volunteer, nonpartisan, grassroots organization, which includes a diverse group of citizens who care about our community. Participation in our projects and events is open to everyone in Milford. More information is available on the group’s website CitizensforMilford.com.

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Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
03/21/2025	59 Godfrey Lane	\$447,000
03/21/2025	85 Depot Street	\$410,000
03/19/2025	4 Cormier Circle	\$665,000
03/14/2025	72 High Street	\$367,000
03/13/2025	18 Stallbrook Road	\$470,000
03/12/2025	48 Zain Circle	\$640,000
03/11/2025	6 Grove Street	\$422,500
03/07/2025	12 Ravenna Street	\$645,000
03/06/2025	10 Walnut Street #1	\$257,000
03/06/2025	47 Grove Street	\$500,000
03/06/2025	23 Courtland Street	\$555,000
03/05/2025	1 Northbrook Circle	\$578,000
03/03/2025	14 Shadowbrook Lane #27	\$285,000
03/03/2025	36 Country Club Lane #A	\$460,000
02/27/2025	19 Woodridge Road	\$720,000
02/27/2025	3 Bodio Circle	\$655,000

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



The 4-bed, 4-bath, 3,139-square-foot house at 19 Woodridge Road in Milford recently sold for \$720,000. Image credit www.zillow.com

Milford Town Park mural unveiling scheduled for June

By Theresa Knapp

A ceremony will be held on June 21 to reveal a new mural at Milford’s Town Park Fitness Court. The event will take place from noon to 4 p.m.

The mural has been a year in the making. In 2024, the Milford Cultural Council chose artist Carol Abram to design the mural, which will be featured on a 32-foot-wide and 7-feet-high multipurpose training wall.

According to the MCC Facebook page, “Carol’s design shows the story of wellness and fitness in Milford and reflects

the mural’s immediate location and Milford’s history, community, and identity. Her design is colorful, vibrant, and energetic, and we are confident this new public art piece will enhance Milford Town Park for years to come.”

This project is a partnership between the National Fitness Campaign, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and the MCC as part of its “Art in the Parks” initiative.

The rain date for the event will be June 22 from noon to 4 p.m.

MILFORD SCHOOLS

continued from page 13

Committee for organizing this event!

Memorial Elementary School

Memorial welcomed Grooversity to their school. Grooversity is an innovative drumming network envisioned and led by Brazilian percussionist Marcus Santos. Grooversity’s goal is to promote Afro-Brazilian percussion as an educational resource, entertainment, and as a catalyst for social change. Grooversity focuses on community outreach for positive outcomes while targeting global diversity awareness.

Brookside Elementary School

Brookside had an amazing Cultural Music Event for K-2 students called “Brazilian Beats” put on by Grooversity. Students and staff learned about Brazilian culture and music, played drums, danced the Samba, and engaged with the drummers and dancer. Thank you to our music teachers for setting this up and our PTO for funding this event!

Brookside kicked off their ST Math March Mathness Chal-

lenge with a visit from Jiji the Penguin. Classes are challenged to increase their percentages by 14% by the end of March to earn extra recess time! Brookside teachers are proud of our six Kindergarteners, six Grade 1 students and six Grade 2 students that earned certificates for completing 100% of their ST Math journeys last month!

At Brookside, as part of Music in Our School month, music teachers Ms. Gabrielle Goodale and Ms. Kathryn Anderson presented a great night of music and learning. Brookside students showed their families what they’ve been learning in music class!

Brookside’s Boosterthon Fundraiser has kicked off. The Boosterthon Team is aiming to have as many students register as possible. In addition to raising money, our students run laps, get exercise, and have fun!

Brookside second graders have been learning about the importance of being able to get clean water and how water can move from one place to another. They used everyday materials to build a well.

Shining Star Early Childhood Center

The SSECC preschool students participated in a Yoga



and Movement program with Little Beats.

Shining Star early Childhood Center would like to give a big shout out to the following students for displaying strong character traits in March. Way to go STARS!

- *Cooperative*: James from Ms. Pedersen’s class and Paul from Ms. Tomaso’s class
- *Brave*: Otavo from Ms. Tomaso’s class and Ivy from Mrs. Austin’s class
- *Kindness*: Aurora from Mrs. Austin, Natalie from Ms. Tomaso and Marian from Mrs. Pedersen’s class.

Families interested in registering their child for the 2025-2026 school year should email the Shining Star Main Office for a registration packet. Email us at: sseccoffice@milfordma.com. Registration is currently underway. All students must be 3 years old by 8/31/25 in order to register for a placement.



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SPORTS

Young MHS softball team looks to gel quickly

Four veteran Scarlet Hawks expected to lead way

By Chris Villani

Milford head softball coach Steve DiVitto welcomes back a young but athletic squad to the field this spring, with a small group of experienced players expected to guide a roster with numerous younger players stepping into big roles.

"We are going to need them to lead the younger group," DiVitto said of his captains, Cae Pellegrini and Olivia Baglione. "They did a nice job in the off-season, and we are going to need to bring that into the season."

The pair have been named Hockomock League all-stars in each of the last three seasons and DiVitto said they have been effective table setters for their entire careers. In addition to that duo, Ava Baglione, a two-year starter in center field, and fellow speedy outfielder Katelyn Kearnan, are among MHS's most experienced players.

"Defensively, there is nothing that drops in that outfield between the two of them," DiVitto said.

Milford will have four pitchers vying to replace Maeve Driscoll, who graduated after a stellar career in the circle. Freshmen Brook Stokes, Avery Macchi, and Lauren Williams will all see time along with Angelina Bonina. They will be throwing to a new battery mate, with Bella Loscerbo set to take over catching duties.

"She is quick, knowledgeable, and intense," DiVitto said. "She doesn't shy away from things, and, as a catcher, that's what you want to see."

With Pellegrini set to play corner infield, the rest of the infield will be staffed by newer players including Lucia Testa, Amelia Maloney, and Lilah Driscoll. Kyla Nashawaty can play both infield and outfield, and Gianna

Santiago is another veteran player in the program who will be called on to provide leadership.

"We know there is going to be a learning curve early on with a lot of new faces on the field and in the lineup," DiVitto said. "I think the biggest thing for us is knowing that we can't just dwell on being young in a lot of spots because we have a good mix of youth and veterans, and we are going to rely on the vets to guide the younger kids who are getting thrown right into the mix."

In addition to needing "quick learners," DiVitto said success will depend on Milford being able to lean on its collective versatility.

"These girls can play different positions and it's going to breed a lot of competition," DiVitto said. "That's going to make my life difficult when I'm making the lineup, but I am fine with that."



Milford softball is hoping a mix of youth and experience will lead to some wins on its home field. Courtesy photo

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SPORTS

Milford Baseball built on pitching this spring

Scarlet Hawks return several college-bound players

By Chris Villani

The Milford High baseball team is back on the diamond this spring after a 2024 season that saw the Scarlet Hawks advance to the state's final four.

While MHS lost several talented seniors, head coach Alex Dion's team also has some players back this spring who are going to be continuing their baseball careers at the college level.

"We lost a lot, but I would say we have enough coming back," Dion said. "We have guys who are experienced and we have similar expectations, year in and year out."

The players who are expected to drive the MHS team this spring also played large roles in the team that went to the state semifinals a year ago and the one that reached the round of 16 in 2023.

"These are all guys who have significant varsity experience," Dion said. "They have been to the playoffs and won some big games."

Ian Carter returns to the Scarlet Hawks as a first baseman and pitcher, and is headed off to Bryant University after he graduates from MHS and plans to play baseball there.

Nick Koch is committed to play at Merrimack and will see time on the mound and in center field for Milford.

Wheaton College-bound Tyler Ballard is another pitcher



Nick Koch (16) and Ian Carter (6) figure to be two of Milford's top players this season. Photo credit: JP Media

who will also see time in the outfield and Joey McGee returns for his third season as the starting shortstop and will also see some time on the mound. The Scarlet Hawks will also return Joe Butler, who started every game in left field last season and could hit in either the middle or at the top of the MHS batting order.

"Those five guys are certainly stepping into new roles because they are all very talented players and, before this year, they just had to be good players and

didn't have to worry about the other stuff because we had so much senior leadership," Dion said.

"This year, there are some added responsibilities because they need to pull along the younger players and show them how to do things, what the expectations are, and how we carry ourselves."

Even in the preseason, Dion

said he has seen his veteran players become more vocal. He is also excited about the amount of pitching and the solid defense he expects to put out on the field. Dion acknowledged that this is not the type of team to sit around and wait for a home run or a big extra-base hit, but they may have to instead manufacture runs. Still, he sees this as another team with the talent



Photo credit: JP Media

to compete in the Hockomock League and potentially battle for a state title.

"We have that end goal in mind," Dion said. "From a day-to-day perspective, we are just trying to get better, and compete."

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<div><h4>2022 CHRYSLER VOYAGER</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$82/WK</p><p>#D14902 • LX TRIM, HEATED SEATS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,265 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2021 TOYOTA TACOMA 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$110/WK</p><p>#TP5005 • SR TRIM, DBL CAB, 3.5L</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$42,605 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$30,677</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 DODGE DURANGO GT</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$120/WK</p><p>#25149A • ALLOYS, AWD, 3.6L</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$48,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$33,677</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 GENESIS GV70 3.5T</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$145/WK</p><p>#TP4468 • NAV, HEATED LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$64,700 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$40,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 TOYOTA CAMRY LE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p><p>#TP5050 • 25/34 MPG CITY/HWY</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,625 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$124/WK</p><p>#C46767 • CUSTOM, 2.7L TURBO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$54,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$34,977</p></div>
<div><h4>2025 CHEVY TRAX 2RS</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p><p>#125025A • HEATED SEATS, SUNROOF</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,565 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2024 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$173/WK</p><p>#TP5047 • SR5, CPO, ALLOYS, V6</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$58,405 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$48,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2018 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$71/WK</p><p>#46893A • TRAILHAWK, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$18,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$92/WK</p><p>#D14852L • AWD, HEATED SEATS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$36,750 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2023 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p><p>#TP4677 • 32/41 MPG CITY/HWY</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$26,589 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2018 CHEVY CRUZE</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$46/WK</p><p>#46886A • PREMIER, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$12,977</p></div>
<div><h4>2021 FORD EDGE SEL</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p><p>#P17266L • 2.0L TURBO, SUNROOF</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$40,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2024 VW JETTA SPORT</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p><p>#47000 • TURBO, HEATED SEATS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,550 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2020 LINCOLN CORSAIR</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p><p>#124361A • SUNROOF, LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$46,645 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$134/WK</p><p>#124-199B • TURBO, BIG BEND</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$43,995 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2019 SUBARU OUTBACK</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$64/WK</p><p>#TP4638A • AWD, MOONROOF, V6</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,695 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$17,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2021 MERCEDES GLC 300 SUV</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$118/WK</p><p>#TM25-197A • TURBO, LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$50,800 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$32,977</p></div>
<div><h4>2022 CHEVY COLORADO</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$110/WK</p><p>#47270L • WT TRIM, 4X4, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$39,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$30,677</p></div>	<div><h4>2018 HONDA CR-V EX-L</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$71/WK</p><p>#TM25-075A • 27/33 MPG CITY/HWY</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,190 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$19,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2021 BUICK ENCORE AWD</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$83/WK</p><p>#46830 • GX SELECT, 1.3L TURBO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,225 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,377</p></div>	<div><h4>2021 MAZDA MAZDA CX-5</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p><p>#46823 • MOONROOF, LEATHER</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,899 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2023 BMW X1 xDrive28i</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$113/WK</p><p>#TP4816 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$51,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$31,977</p></div>	<div><h4>2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$131/WK</p><p>#TP5159 • 4X4, HEMI, ALLOYS</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$36,977</p></div>
<div><h4>2023 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER</h4><p>AS LOW AS \$127/WK</p><p>#TP4692 • LE TRIM, ALLOYS, CPO</p><p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,775 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,977</p></div>					

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