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Vol. 1 No. 13

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May 2025



Fairy Walk In Its Ninth Year

Join the Friends of Historic Hopedale & the Hopedale Park Commission for the 9th Annual Hopedale Fairy Walk on Saturday, June 14!

Join us as we turn the Hopedale Parklands into an enchanted forest & temporary home for fairies, gnomes, trolls, elves and all magical folk!

You'll stroll the pathways with your family & friends while discovering magical homes, doors & fairies tucked into the landscape.

Find a new adventure around every corner with performers & vendors placed throughout. Truly an event for all ages of folks who believe in magic! Watch for exciting updates here on the event page as we announce what's new for this year!

<https://friendsofhistoric-hopedale.com/hopedale-fairy-walk>

HOUSE BUILDERS may sign up on our website. The event is rain or shine.

'Draper Loom Research LLC' shares photos of loom transport



Last fall, the Town of Hopedale donated one of its Draper looms to Draper Loom Research, at the University of Minnesota, which is "committed to the highly collaborative research, education, and hands-on restoration of the Draper Corporation's Model X-D Textile Weaving Loom" (source: www.draperloomresearch.org/). Draper Loom Research recently provided these photos from the loom's transport.

Photo source: Draper Loom Research, LLC

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Boards Meet To Discuss Park Project, Gather Community Input

The Hopedale Selectboard hosted a joint hearing with the Hopedale Parks Commission on April 14.

The Hopedale Cultural Council, Historical Commission, and Community Preservation Committee were also invited to attend, co-host, and participate. The purpose of this hearing was to receive public input about a proposed complete renovation of Hopedale Town Park, with work estimated to be completed in the Fall of 2025. The office of the Town Administrator will begin a campaign consisting of social media posts, mailings, and other mechanisms designed to spur public engage-

Town Election to be held May 13

The Hopedale Annual Town Election will take place on May 13 during the hours from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. At its meeting on April 7, the Select Board shortened the hours because there are no contested races. The last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM. The last day to request a mail-

in ballot (absentee or early) is Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 5:00 PM. The last day to post the warrant for the Annual Town Election is Tuesday, May 6, 2025. If you would like to confirm your voter registration, you can do so at www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx.


ment and feedback. **HOW WE ARE PAYING FOR IT** The financial difficulties in operational funding in Hopedale are well known. However, steps have been taken in prior years to fix longstanding structural issues within the Hopedale budget. Healthcare and education costs continue to rise quicker than prop 2 1/2 allows concerning municipal spending and will continue to be major cost drivers moving forward. Last year, the Town was able to lower the health premium split that the Town was paying, bringing it in line with the rest of the Commonwealth and providing some financial relief. Further, last year the Town did not use free cash to fund the operating budget, the first time in the past 26 years that this has happened. Free Cash, or unexpected annual revenue, is best used for capital projects as it is not a reliable source of operational income. Historically, the Town's use of free cash to balance the operating budget

has led to a lack of investment in Town capital including parks and buildings. To fund this project, I have developed a plan that recommends the following steps be taken at Town Meeting (should the public choose to move forward with the project): That the Town authorize the borrowing for the project; That the Town develop a stabilization fund specifically for this project; That the Town vote to allocate a recommended amount of Free Cash into said stabilization fund; That the free cash in the stabilization fund be appropriated to pay for the annual debt service payments on the project What does the above mean? The Town will borrow to complete the project all at once and will use free cash from the stabilization fund to make the debt service payments on the bond for the project. In 2032, the Town has \$5 million in intermediate- and long-term bonded debt coming off the books; 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. As of now we estimate the total project cost to be in the realm of \$4 million but will have specific numbers in the coming weeks to share. **SUMMARY** My office is personally excited at presenting this as an opportunity for the boards, commissions, and residents of Hopedale to consider. Offering new possibilities for families is personally rewarding for me, and I look forward to hearing from all of you as we work together to move this forward. Enclosed with this memo are three renderings completed by Tighe and Bond for the Parks Commission about two years ago, the last time this project was discussed. These do not represent final designs and are subject to change based on feedback. Stay tuned for information regarding the Town Park renovation project initiative and for ways to get involved! TownParkProject@hopedale-ma.gov

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Senior Center searching for volunteers

The Hopedale Senior Center needs your help! Consider being a Hopedale Senior Center volunteer, it's meaningful work and a lot of fun. There are opportunities for Meals on Wheels delivery, activity volunteers, congregate meals worker, BINGO Caller, newsletter helpers, and class instructors. Individuals who have as few as two hours a month can help out at the Senior Center. Volunteer work between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays. For more information, call the Senior Center at 508-634-2208.

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Hopedale receives fire safety grant for gear

In April, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that more than 300 Massachusetts fire departments would receive over \$3 million in grants to support safety equipment for firefighters and life safety education for kids and older adults.

“Massachusetts firefighters do much more than fight fires – they’re our first line of defense in any emergency,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “These grants will help firefighters protect themselves from injury and illness, rescue people in danger, and keep our most vulnerable residents safe from fires and other hazards at home. We are proud to be able to support these vital first responders who never hesitate to answer a call for help.”

The Town of Hopedale received a \$2,863.71 grant for safety equipment.

The awards are drawn from three grant programs coordinated by the Department of Fire Services.

The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program (SEG) reimburses local fire departments for purchases of turnout gear, hazardous gas meters, SCBA components, accountability systems, thermal imaging cameras, and more. This round of grants will provide \$1.63 million in funding to fire departments in 266 communities. In many cases, the reimbursed purchases will help them attain compliance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards.

“Firefighters train tirelessly for every conceivable emergency so that they can be prepared to help those in need,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Through this program, we acknowledge that tremendous commitment by investing in the equipment they need to be safe in any situation.”

Submitted by the Department of Fire Services

Burning Season ends May 1

The burning season in Hopedale ends on May 1. The hours to burn are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A permit is required to legally

burn debris. For more information or to obtain a permit, visit <https://permiteyes.us/hopedale/burningpublichome.php>

How to Control the Deadliest Animal on the Planet!

Mosquito and tick populations are on the rise again as the country transitions to the Spring season. While these pests are certainly nuisances, they can also transmit harmful diseases like Zika virus, West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and more, which is why WPC Pest Control is helping to advocate for increased awareness of mosquito and tick prevention this season.

“One of the best ways to fight off mosquito and tick bites and subsequent disease transmission is to apply insect repellent before going outside,” said Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest Control.

Yet, many people don’t make it a priority to protect against these biting pests by taking this simple action. Those who do may not realize that there is a correct way to use repellent for it to be effective.

To properly apply insect repellent for maximum protection against mosquitoes and ticks, follow this five-step method from the National Pest Management Association (NPMA):

1. Look for a product containing an active EPA-registered ingredient, such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon-eucalyptus or IR3535.
2. Read the product label and follow the instructions carefully. If sunscreen is

also being worn, repellent should be used over top of sunscreen.

3. Shake the product well. Then, hold it about 6-8 inches away from exposed skin and spray evenly in a sweeping motion.
4. Spray the palms of hands to apply the repellent to the face and ears, being sure to avoid eye and nostril contact.
5. Apply the repellent over clothing, which should completely cover feet and ankles.

“Another great way to avoid contact with mosquitoes specifically is to remove any standing water around the yard to deter mosquito breeding,” said, Jim Mazzuchelli of WPC Pest Control.

A licensed pest control professional can work with a homeowner to help identify these hot spots. The ultimate protection



Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest Control

would be to have your yard treated by a professional pest control operator. You will get the knowledge and protection needed to combat these dangerous threats. Your loved ones deserve it.

For more information, visit nobugsnopests.com to schedule a complete inspection and treatment.

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BVT Students Earn 82 SkillsUSA Medals at District V Competition

31 Gold, 28 Silver, 23 Bronze, and 8 Sweeps

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) students put the systems voc-tech mission on full display. During the first of three SkillsUSA competitions, students test their vocational-technical competency by competing with other trained career and technical education students from six vocational high schools. On March 12th, 220 BVT students competed in the annual SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Competition with outstanding outcomes.

The competition allows students to demonstrate their vocational-technical education, skills, and knowledge with SkillsUSA employment and trade tests. Successfully demonstrating their ex-

pertise in their career technical area of study, employability skills, and safety. Student competitors from BVT proudly claimed 31 gold, 28 silver, and 23 bronze medals, and swept eight categories.

Sixty-six students will advance from districts to compete amongst the most talented vocational-technical students in the Commonwealth at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts State competition held at BVT in late April. The two qualifying State Officer Candidates, Emily Kee and Maria Clara De Oliveira, will move forward joined by 44 leadership competitors and 20 student delegates who will represent BVT. The complete list of medalists is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

BVT students who earned medals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts District V Leadership Conference are listed by hometown:

BELLINGHAM

Gold: Tan Tran, Restaurant Service.

Silver: Kiele Sarnie, Carpentry; and Matthew Skarin, Welding.

BLACKSTONE

Gold: Mia DelVecchio, Baking & Pastry Arts; Haley McKinnon, Photography; Isabella Olsen, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Ella Ruth, Welding.

DOUGLAS

Gold: Tyler Grybowski, Cyber Security; and Caitlin Kelly, First Aid/CPR.

Silver: Celina Cutler, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Devin Drumheller, Mechatronics.

Bronze: Leah Boudreau, Plumbing; Haley Chamberlain, Cosmetology (over 500 hours); and Sean Stevens, Mobile Robotics.

GRAFTON

Gold: Brooke Grabau, Welding Sculpture; Karolina Malkowski, Medical Math; Connor McInerney, HVAC/R; Cooper Often, Mechatronics; and Dan-

iel Warfield, Electronics Technology.

Silver: Luke Keenan, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Robert Lazo, Mechatronics.

Bronze: Nathaniel Nelson, Technical Computer Applications; and Kaylee Schlanger, Natural Hair & Braiding.

HOPEDALE

Gold: Nathan Allen, Cyber Security; Gabrielle Griffin, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Ethan Novelli, Television (Video) Production.

Silver: Ryan McGovern, Television (Video) Production; and Declan Reilly, Computer Programming.

Bronze: Joe Bache, Photography; Evan Griffin, Internetworking; and Edward Holland, Robotics & Automation Tech.

MENDON

Gold: Kaylann Bellefontaine, Nursing Assisting; Phoebe Burke, Robotics & Automation Tech; and Cassidy Lyon, Health Knowledge Bowl.

Silver: Charles Lozeau, Mobile Robotics; Nathan Lucey, HVAC/R; and Aiden Quimby, Mobile Robotics.

MILFORD

State Officer Candidates: Maria Clara De Oliveira and Emily Kee.

Gold: Jack Auger, Television (Video) Production; and Lacey Coffman, Advertising Design.

Silver: Julien Awuku-Asante, Electronics Technology; Davi-

Dalla Dea, Additive Manufacturing; Matthew Naves, Technical Computer Applications; and Arianna Turner, Robotics & Automation Tech.

Bronze: Olivia Guido, Painting & Design Technology; Anthony Pinsonault, Diesel Equipment Technology; and Dominic Quintino, Cyber Security.

MILLBURY

Gold: Ethan Ikeda, Carpentry; Robyn Repekta, Telecommunications Cabling; and Jonathan Tremblay, Diesel Equipment Technology.

Silver: Lily Kelley, Advertising Design; and Gianna Piscitelli, Nail Care.

Bronze: Gavin Quang, Medical Math; and Isabella Raymond, Nursing Assisting.

NORTHBRIDGE

Gold: Esther Alves, Robotics & Automation Tech; Tarek Bensellam, Internet of Things; Sosie Derkosroffian, Medical Terminology; Zabel Derkosroffian, Technical Computer Applications; and Olivia Medina, Painting & Design Technology.

Silver: Autumn Gromelski, Restaurant Service; and Victoria McKelvie, Health Knowledge Bowl.

Bronze: Liliana Carpenter, Restaurant Service; Nora Layden, Medical Terminology; and Haley Marston, Dental Assistant.

SUTTON

Silver: Killian Farrer, Additive Manufacturing; Cole Garand, Diesel Equipment Technology; Keira Lavine, Robotics & Automation Tech; and Michael Osowski, Architectural Drafting.

Bronze: Benjamin Hicks, Electronics Technology; and Owen Jolley, HVAC/R.

UPTON

Gold: Justin Fransen, Mechatronics; and Leila Leyvas, Health Knowledge Bowl.

Silver: Alexa Ladd, Photogra-

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Advertising Sales

Susanne Odell Farber

508-954-8148

sue@sodellconsult.com

Advertising Director

Jen Schofield

508-570-6544

jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout

Michelle McSherry

Kim Vasseur

Wendy Watkins

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Mock OUI Accident Training

Please be aware that on Thursday May 1, 2025, from 9:00am to 12:00pm, the Hopedale Police Department and Hopedale Fire Department will be participating in the annual Mock OUI accident for the JR/SR Classes.

This annual training helps demonstrate the dangers of driving impaired. Adin Street will be closed from Dutcher St. to Hopedale St. for that time period. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in advance.

Sludge-Thickening Bids Sought

Sealed bids for construction of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Sludge Thickening Improvements for the Town of Hopedale, Massachusetts, will be received at the Town of Hopedale office of the Clerk at 78 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747 until 11:00AM prevailing time, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at which time and

place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Mahan New School Resource Officer

Introducing our new school resource officer, Sgt. Steve Mahan, a 24-year veteran of the Hopedale Police Department. Sgt. Mahan has held various positions in his tenure such as Detective, Court Officer, Sexual Assault Investigator, Field Train-

ing Supervisor, just to name a few. Sgt. Mahan is excited to take on this new position. When he's not on duty, you can find him officiating high school football games or coaching the girls' lacrosse team at Medway High School. Sgt. Mahan is eager to be an ac-

tive presence in our schools, and rumor has it he may even be getting the department's first-ever comfort dog to assist him. Please feel free to reach Sgt. Mahan via email sgtmahan@hopedale-ma.gov with any issues or concerns.

BVT

continued from page 4

phy; and Makenna Walls, Health Knowledge Bowl.

Bronze: Donnacha Lambert, Cyber Security; and Emma Langner, Mobile Robotics.

Bronze: Yaritza Ayala, Culinary Arts; and Gavin Scardino-Poillucci, Collision Repair Technology.

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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Gold: Matteo Lame, Power Equipment Technology.

Silver: Emily Blanding, Basic Health Care Skills; Matt Hicks, Television (Video) Production; and Julie LaFontaine, Painting & Design Technology.

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Library News

The Library will be closed on Saturday, May 24th and Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day weekend.
Check out our new website at www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org

Community Conversations – Wednesday, May 7th at 6:30pm
Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about “Civil Discourse in Higher Education.”

News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library:
Special After Hours Event! Medium Ellen Henry – Saturday, May 17th from 2-4pm
Join us for a mediumship demonstration! Ellen Henry will discuss what mediumship is, how it differs from a psychic reading, and how she receives messages. Share in the experience as Ellen performs a mediumship demonstration for the group. Please note: Attendance at a demonstration does not guarantee that you will receive

a reading. Please register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events or call the Library at (508) 634-2209. This program is limited to 40 attendees.
Book Donation Day – Saturday, May 17th from 10:00am-2:00pm
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.
FlowerPower.org Fundraiser – through May 15th Please support The Friends of the Hopedale Library by shopping our FlowerPower.org fundraiser through May 15th! You can order flowers, bulbs, and other plants online and have orders shipped directly to you. The Friends of the Hopedale Library earns 50% which goes right back to the library. Shop at <http://hopedalelibrary.fp-fundraising.com>.

Special fundraiser! Commemorative Glass Sun Catcher 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 sponsored by the Friends of the Hopedale 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.
Help support the Friends of the Hopedale Library! Did you know that you can support the Friends of the Hopedale Library anytime the Library is open by shopping the Ongoing Book Sale? We offer a selection of adult and children’s titles and even puzzles! You can find the sale area downstairs just outside the Program Room. All monies raised go back to the Bancroft Memorial Library to pay for children’s and adult

programs, museum passes and other expenses not covered by the Library budget. Thank you for your support!
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 Library staff and 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 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:
Summer Reading 2025 – “Level up!” We are almost ready for Summer Reading 2025! This year the theme is “Level Up!” and we have some amazing shows, games and other events planned during the 8 weeks of Summer Reading. Be sure to check the Library website for all of the information. Summer Reading registration begins Monday, June 2nd!
Make a card for Mother’s Day – Saturday, May 10th from 11-1pm Materials will be provided to make a Mother’s Day card.

Drop in!
Sunny the Facility Dog – Saturday, May 10th 10:00-10:30am 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 May If you love Legos, we’ve got thousands to play with! Drop in on Friday, May 2nd from 3-4:30pm, Saturday May 3rd from 11am-1pm and Monday, May 5th from 6-7:30pm and play with our Legos. All ages are welcome to drop in!
Weekly Programs:
Tummy Time Play – Tuesdays 5/6, 5/13, 5/20 & 5/27 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 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22 & 5/29 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

LIBRARY
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Spring Cleaning is Greener with Affordable Junk Removal

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to declutter before your open house?

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or

Business spotlight

donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residen-



tial emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the res-

taurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

Contact Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business take care of everything for you. Call Jay Schadler at (774) 287-1133 or visit us online at www.affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Annual Town Meeting to be held May 20

Hopedale’s Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tues., May 20, at 7 p.m. in the Dennett Auditorium at the Junior-Senior High School.

The last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting is Sat., May 10 at 5 p.m.

At press time, the draft warrant listed the following:

Article 1: Reports from town officials
Article 2: Town Clerk salary

Article 3: FY26 operating budget
Article 4: FY26 Water Dept. budget
Article 5: FY26 Sewer Dept. budget
Article 6: Water Dept. transfers
Article 7: Sewer Dept. transfers
Article 8: Prior year bills
Article 9: Supplement FY25 budgets
Article 10: FY26 Community Preservation Committee budget
Article 11: Community Preservation Committee reserves
Article 12: Capital request: Highway Dept.
Article 13: Capital request: Police Dept.
Article 14: Capital request: Fire Dept.
Article 15: Capital request: School Dept.
Article 16: Capital request: Little Red Shop Museum
Article 17: Capital request: Town Park renovation
Article 18: Establish Town Park Stabilization Fund
Article 19: Hopedale Town Hall Reuse

Article 20: Establish Hopedale Redevelopment Authority
Article 21: Borrowing in anticipation of Ch. 90 funds
Article 22: Increase tax exemption for qualifying senior citizens
Article 23: Increase tax exemptions for other qualifying persons
Article 24: Update to the floodplain zoning bylaw
Article 25: Proposed zoning bylaw change: Section 10, fines
Article 26: Hopedale Country Club lease modification
Article 27: Water Dept. land

transfer and sale
Article 28: Town Administrator in the Town of Hopedale
Article 29: Sewer Dept. authorization to borrow
Article 30: Hopedale retiree benefits
Article 31: Proposed bylaw change: Ch. 35 Community Preservation Committee

The final warrant can be found at www.hopedale-ma.gov.
Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov

Natick Garden Club Plant Sale

The Natick Garden Club invites all interested parties to our annual PLANT SALE. Doors open 10 am – 2 pm, Sunday, June 1, 2025. Rain or shine, as the event is held indoors at the Natick Community-Senior Center, 117 East Central St., Natick, MA.

The sale is our major fundraiser for the year. We offer a variety of plants that have been proven to grow successfully in our sometimes challenging weather conditions. Most of the plants are perennials from members’ gardens, and are labeled for bloom time and season, height, spacing needed, and sun and moisture requirements. We promote native plants as well, meaning they are native to our area, and tolerant of drought conditions and excellent at providing habitat for good insects and birds. There will be a sizable houseplant section this year, thanks in part to an in-kind estate gift. As always

raffle tickets for a variety of items will be available and you need not be present to win.

All proceeds from the sale fund the Natick Garden Club, a group devoted to civic beautification and service in the Natick community. Cash, check and credit card accepted. For more information please visit us at <http://www.natickgardenclub.org/> or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Info on our club:



Our mission is to promote a positive educational environment for sharing gardening, horticultural, and conservation information and to encourage civic planting, beautification, and service in the Natick community.

Organized in 1998 by three women, the Natick Garden Club currently has over 100 members. Members represent a range of ages, genders, and gardening acumen. All have a passion to learn, share, and volunteer in service to their garden club. The NGC has evening meetings September through May at Morse Library featuring a keynote speaker, with time for socialization and NGC business at the start. We have deep roots in Natick although draw members from several communities, and can be found around town in a variety of capacities throughout the year. The plant sale is our main fundraiser.

LIBRARY

continued from page 6

bags, scarves and more. Drop in!

Rhyme Time – Thursdays 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22 & 5/29 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, May 10th from 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, May 21st at 6:00pm Desserts and Discussions is a program of the Milford Family Community Network CFCE that is meeting in the Program Room. Come connect with other parents to share stories, challenges and triumphs. This is a fun night for parents/caregivers only and will be a participant led discussion, so bring your questions, concerns and advice! Coffee and desserts will be provided; please call (508) 277-4981 to register.

For updates throughout the month, Friend us on Facebook and sign up at www.wowbrary.org to discover the Library’s newest books, movies and music. Our webpage is www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org

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Your Money, Your Independence

Battle of The Ages: Wealth Effect vs. Experience Spending

**Glenn Brown, CFP**

Saving money to invest is smart.

Planning for the future is essential.

But there's a fine line between being financially responsible and letting portfolio values drive your decisions.

One of the most subtle yet impactful traps in financial planning is the negative wealth effect.

This occurs when a sudden drop in your perceived net worth (like a dip in your 401k or home value) causes you to feel poorer, even if your actual income and financial stability haven't changed. This psycho-

logical shift often leads people to cut back on spending—not just on luxuries, but on the very experiences that bring meaning, connection, and joy to their lives.

And that's when internal and external conflicts begin.

The First To Go, But Should It?

When people react to a market downturn or economic uncertainty, one of the first things they scale back on is experience spending—travel, events, concerts, dining out, hobbies, and other non-essential but fulfilling activities.

For many, these aren't reckless purchases; they're often the things that create memories, deepen relationships, and improve well-being. Yet the negative wealth effect convinces people that now isn't the time.

"We'll go next year."

"Let's wait and host a big celebration on your ____th birthday."

"I'll take that art class when things feel more stable."

Here's the rub: markets are never stable but do come back, while specific opportunities don't.

Timing of Experiences Are Critical

Consider the family vacation to Disney, it is a different shared experience for all going when kids are 6 & 8 versus their late teens.

Or the family trip with your HS senior you're planning to do. What's their availability (and desire) once in college to go on a family trip with mom and dad? That window's closing.

You might delay a trip only to find your health, schedule, or relationships have changed.

A Psychological Toll

There's a hidden cost to delaying experience spending, and it's not just about missing out on fun. It can lead to a sense of stagnation, disconnection, and even regret. As humans, we are wired for novelty, connection, and purpose. When we constantly suppress those desires due to financial fear, even when we can afford it, we shrink our lives unnecessarily.

Over time, this pattern will increase stress and negativity which creeps into your work and relationships. What's worse, these delays rarely improve your

financial picture meaningfully. Even after skipping a few celebrations or delaying a vacation, it's not going to make your 401k come back.

Don't Let Perception Steal Reality

The key is recognizing that the negative wealth effect is largely psychological. Your net worth on paper will fluctuate, but if your income, emergency savings, and long-term plans are still intact, then cutting off all experience-based spending will do more harm than good.

Ask yourself: "Is my fear based on the actual numbers—or how I feel about them?"

If it's the numbers, then review your historical net worth data and if it's close to 12-24 months ago, know this happens and will happen again. Move on.

Now if it's how you feel, then consider the sources driving your fear. If you're doomscrolling politics, maybe it's time to put the phone down, go for a walk, listen to some music and think how to move forward with your planned experience spending.

Now if your budget doesn't

have planned experience spending, that's another topic for another day.

Life Moves Pretty Fast...

To paraphrase Ferris Bueller, "Life moves pretty fast, if you stop until everything feels financially perfect, you could miss it". Spending mindfully on experiences that matter isn't wasteful—it's often the best investment you can make. Oh Yeeeah!

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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Holliston's Annual Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival Is Back!

HOLLISTON, MA: Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors (HNN) invites children of all ages to climb aboard a variety of trucks and vehicles at this year's Touch-A-Truck Fundraiser & Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 17, 2025. The event will run from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, rain or shine, at the Sam Placentino Elementary School, 235 Woodland Street (off Route 16) in Holliston, MA. The event will be horn-free for the first hour (10:00 am – 11:00 am), which is ideal for younger children and children with special needs.

We anticipate over 50 trucks, including police & fire, heavy construction, landscaping, tree removal, and highway, will be available for children to touch, climb and explore.

Bring your appetites because

food trucks will be offering a wide menu of delicious options including burgers, hot dogs, BBQ, Mexican, candy, ice cream, fried dough and many other tasty treats.

And there's more! Fran Flynn the Strolling Magician will wow you with his magic tricks and balloon-tying artistry (10:30

am to 1:30 pm) and DJ Danny will provide musical entertainment throughout the event. For an additional fee, and available throughout the event, Roaming Railroad will take children on a train ride and Imagine That will

offer face painting.

Event admission is \$10 per child (12 & under) and \$2 per adult. Proceeds support Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors' Community Grant Fund. The HNN Community Grant Fund

provides funding for important Holliston events and services, including the Holliston Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series, Holliston Town Library free museum passes, Holliston Downtown Marigold Project, and up-

grades to Holliston Community Farm.

We encourage you to follow the Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors Facebook page @HollistonNewcomersAndNeighbors and our website www.HollistonNewcomers.org for ongoing event updates.

The Holliston Newcomers & Neighbors is a not for profit organization. The group coordinates charitable, civic, educational, and recreational events and activities in the town of Holliston, MA. The goal is to encourage association among community members and to foster community spirit. Membership is open to both residents and non-residents of Holliston. If you are interested in joining HNN, please visit our website at www.hollistonnewcomers.org



Sports

One Final Year of Baseball Before College

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Mike Rutkowski has been an important and key component to the Hopedale varsity baseball team since his sophomore campaign and as he enters his final campaign with his fellow Blue Raiders Coach Kevin Bresciani is looking for big things from his senior hurler.

"As a sophomore he almost immediately became our best pitcher and now we consider him our go-to guy on the mound," the Hopedale Coach said. "Through the years his long, lengthy body has attributed to his effective pitching which has allowed us to win some tough games. When he first came out. You could tell that he was going to be something special the way he threw the ball."

The senior pitcher has been

basketball as well for Hopedale, Baseball is his number one sport and has been for a long time. As a young kid he knew that playing baseball is what he wanted to do, but never in his wildest dreams did he believe he'd accomplish what has thus far.

Growing up he was always playing baseball with his friends

worrying about playing other positions (he would play first base and outfield when he wasn't on the mound) and concentrate on just pitching," recalled Rutkowski. "I loved pitching so it was not a real problem for me; I just knew that I now needed to work harder on my mechanics."

Although he was eligible to

tournament.

During his sophomore year and first full season with the varsity squad, Rutkowski pitched 65 innings and had 50 strikeouts and found himself as the starting pitcher in the Central Mass Finals, where he would go on to throw a no-hitter.

"That was an unbelievably

you have a bad day you can't let it bother you; just stick to your routine, debrief and move on."

Bresciani noted that although Rutkowski has continued to be a hard thrower over the last two years he has improved his velocity and is in control of all his pitches. The Hopedale senior attributes that to becoming a sidearm pitcher instead of coming over the top.

"At AAU practice the coach came up to me and asked me to throw sidearm and when I did I found that I had the same velocity but have more movement on the ball," he said. "At that point I became a strictly side armed thrower."

As he comes into his senior season Coach Bresciani is expecting Rutkowski to get the tougher games to give the Blue Raiders a great opportunity to battle and win. Hopedale has some high division teams on their upcoming schedule.

"We'll map out the scheduled games and figure out where we can get the most out of him to help out the team," Bresciani said.

When the season does finally come to an end Rutkowski may be saying goodbye to his Hopedale teammates, but he will be looking to start the next chapter of his baseball career. The senior is currently looking for the right match in terms of a collegiate career.

Rutkowski is currently looking at two colleges with good baseball programs in Bridgewater State or Salem State. According to the Coach it doesn't really matter where he goes, he should be successful.

"I feel extremely confident that no matter where he goes he'll be a huge addition to that team," the Blue Raider coach said. "If he's not given a spot, he'll be able to walk and earn a spot without a doubt."

Despite which college to attend next fall looming in his future, Rutkowski has only one thing on his mind right now. He wants to go out and pitch his best giving Hopedale the chance to get back into the State Tournament and avenge their lack-luster performance of a year earlier.



play for the high school earlier than his freshman season Rutkowski opted to stay with his AAU team during the eighth grade as he felt that the team had a chemistry and he loved playing with that group of guys.

When he finally did decide to try out for the high school team he felt very confident in his skills during the tryouts.

"I went to the tryouts with all my friend and just went out and did my thing. I was relieved to make the junior varsity team," he said. "I pitched a good amount of games that year and had success and was eventually [pulled up the varsity tea during their playoff run. Although I was primarily sitting on the bench, I did get to see what it was like to play for a winning team."

While he watched the Hopedale players that he so wanted to be like from the dugout during their tournament run that spring Rutkowski could only think of using this experience as motivation to get better and be out there on the field the next time the Blue Raiders got into the state

great feeling that day," he said. "Going into the game I just wanted to go in and pitch with confidence and do well for the team. I remember feeling really good that day before the game."

In addition to being the starting pitcher in the Central Mass Finals, Rutkowski also found himself penciled in as the Blue Raiders pitcher in their first-round game against West Boylston in the Division 5 State Tournament.

As much success as he's had, he also had to endure one of the hardest games in his high school career. Last year Hopedale was awarded the number two seed in the Division 5 State Tournament but never got out of the first round. The Blue Raiders were upset by Westfield Technical Academy, the 34th seed, 4-0 in the opening round.

"That loss was tough and it stayed in the back of our minds all year and now we want to avenge that loss," he said. "I'm hoping that I can stay consistent this year. In baseball you have good and bad days, and when

named to the Dual Valley Conference (DVC) All-Star team that past two seasons and was also awarded the Pitcher of the Year last spring, something he was not expecting.

"When I got the text from Coach Bresciani, it was defiantly a surprise," the senior hurler said. "I was not expecting it, especially since Nipmuc had a really good pitcher."

Although he plays soccer and

and found that he had a real love for the sport. He enjoyed going to the park in Hopedale and watching the high school play. Around eight years of age, he noticed that he had a good arm, so pitching became his top priority and when he turned 14 his coach from his AAU team, the Metro West Devils out of Ashland sent him an email that would change his life around.

"The email asked me to stop

Annual Election May 13

Annual Town Election
Tuesday May 13, 2025
Draper Gym
12:00pm to 8:00pm
Note time change

SAMPLE

OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 13, 2025

SAMPLE

Lisa M. Pedrol
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ☐

B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.

C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name and address on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

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SAMPLE

Play Pickleball Against Gronk

Join the former New England Patriot on the pickleball court to fundraise for the Jimmy Fund in support of adult and pediatric cancer care and research and Gronk Nation Youth Foundation's Boston Playground

Can you spike in pickleball? Find out next month when Rob “Gronk” Gronkowski and the Gronk Nation Youth Foundation team up with Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund to host Pickleball for a Purpose on Wednesday, May 28, from 5–8 p.m. The four highest fundraising teams, and one wildcard team, will play pickleball against Gronk and friends at Bosse, located at 310 Speen Street, Natick, Mass.

Visit www.jimmyfund.org/gronk to sign up or for more information. Prizes from now through May 20, 2025. Sign up to fundraise as a team of two or individually. As you fundraise, your team will unlock different prizes, like playing pickleball with Gronk or signed Gronk merchandise. You can also track your fundraising online. Not interested in playing? You can attend the event as a spectator. Please visit <https://charity.pledgeit.org/pickleball>, click “Donate” and email ChloeC_Rogan@dfci.harvard.edu to receive your ticket (tickets are limited).

About the Jimmy Fund

The Jimmy Fund is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide

compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

About Gronk Nation Youth Foundation

The Gronk Nation Youth Foundation is dedicated to inspiring youth to reach their maximum potential through sports, education, community, and fitness. Our mission is to help kids stay actively involved in school and sports and provide them with the tools needed to help them follow their dreams and live a happy and more successful life. Gronk Nation provides grants to sports programs and in addition, the Gronkowski brothers, provide appearances at events with selected nonprofit organizations that effectively serve and benefit children with an emphasis on health, education, and fitness.

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The image shows the logo for Steve's Corner Barbershop, which includes a pair of crossed scissors and a decorative flourish. Below the logo is a large yellow banner with the text "Wednesday Special \$15 HAIRCUTS!" flanked by two pairs of scissors. Underneath the banner, the address "4 Evergreen Lane, Unit #1 Hopedale, MA 01747" and the name "Steve Guiliani...Master Barber" are displayed. At the bottom, the hours of operation are listed: "Hours: Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9:30am to 5pm; Wed. 12 to 6pm; Sat. 8am to 1pm" and the text "WE ARE SPECIAL NEEDS-FRIENDLY".

Living Healthy

Introducing the PanOptix® Pro IOL: A Breakthrough in Cataract Surgery – and a First for Massachusetts

BY: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Cataract surgery has evolved dramatically over the past few decades, moving from a simple removal of the clouded natural lens to a transformative procedure that can restore full-spectrum vision. The introduction of advanced intraocular lenses (IOLs) has redefined the standard of care, allowing many patients to regain sharp vision at multiple distances without the ongoing need for glasses.

Now, a new generation of lens technology is poised to elevate outcomes even further: the Clareon® PanOptix® Pro Trifocal IOL. Alcon recently announced the official U.S. launch of this lens, with commercial availability starting in May 2025. I'm honored to share that I will

be performing the first PanOptix Pro implantation in Massachusetts, bringing this groundbreaking innovation to our community.

What Is the Clareon® PanOptix® Pro IOL?

The Clareon PanOptix Pro is Alcon's latest trifocal intraocular lens designed for use during cataract surgery. It builds on the success of the original PanOptix® IOL, which was the first trifocal lens approved by the FDA in the United States. This new version offers enhanced optics, improved light management, and a more seamless range of vision.

This lens features ENLIGHTEN® NXT optical technology, a refinement that allows for 94% light utilization — the highest reported light transmission of any trifocal IOL on the market today. Compared to its

predecessor, PanOptix Pro also boasts a 16% increase in contrast between intermediate and distance vision, delivering a sharper, more comfortable visual experience across the entire range.

Additionally, targeted diffractive refinements help redirect 50% of light previously lost to scatter toward useful focal points, greatly enhancing image clarity and reducing glare.

Why It's Better Than the Original PanOptix

The original PanOptix lens already offered excellent outcomes, allowing patients to see clearly at near (reading), intermediate (computer), and distance (driving) ranges. However, some patients experienced visual disturbances like halos or glare, especially in low-light settings. The Clareon PanOptix Pro addresses



these concerns with:

- Improved contrast sensitivity
- Reduced light scatter
- More uninterrupted light distribution
- Enhanced optical image sharpness

These refinements translate to better night vision, clearer contrast, and greater patient satisfaction, especially in visually demanding environments.

Another major improvement is the Clareon AutonoMe® pre-loaded delivery system, which allows for more precise, consistent lens placement during surgery — a benefit for both surgeons and patients.

Key Benefits for Patients

- Seamless vision across distances — from reading a phone to driving at night
- Reduced dependence on glasses
- Brighter, sharper vision
- Low-light confidence, such as in restaurants or while driving at night
- Built-in UV and blue light filtering for retinal protection

Risks and Considerations

While the PanOptix Pro IOL offers impressive advantages, it's important to remember that no intraocular lens is perfect for every patient. Some individuals may still experience mild visual disturbances such as glare or halos, particularly in the first weeks after surgery. The brain also requires time to adapt to trifocal optics, and some patients may need a short adjustment period.

The lens is not recommended for those with significant macular disease, irregular astigmatism, or certain other ocular conditions. A comprehensive preoperative consultation is critical to determine candidacy.

Alternatives to the PanOptix Pro

For patients not suited to trifocal lenses, several other IOL options exist:

- Monofocal IOLs: Provide clear vision at one distance, typically requiring glasses for near or intermediate tasks
- Multifocal IOLs: Offer multiple focal points, though with a more limited range than trifocals
- Extended Depth of Focus (EDOF) IOLs: Improve intermediate and distance vision with reduced halos, though near vision may still need support

Choosing the right IOL is highly individualized and should be guided by lifestyle, eye health, and visual expectations.

A First for Massachusetts

Bringing the Clareon PanOptix Pro to Massachusetts is a milestone I'm proud to be part of. Our practice has always embraced cutting-edge technology to enhance patient outcomes, and this next-generation lens is no exception. Performing the first PanOptix Pro implant in the Commonwealth underscores our ongoing commitment to innovation, excellence, and personalized care.

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508-381-6040

EYES

continued on page 13

Call Firefighters Graduate Academy

We are pleased to announce the graduation of six (6) Call Firefighters from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Call/Volunteer Recruit training program last night. This five month course, consisting of classroom and practical evolutions for 4-hours every Tuesday and Thursday night and 8-hr days on Saturdays, came to an end for these Candidates last night as they graduated as National Pro-Board certified Firefighter level I/II. We are happy to have these members back in the firehouse and ready to respond. Congratulations to all.



The Mudville Madrigal Singers, now in their thirty-second year, will soon perform their annual celebration of spring at two local churches. The program includes works by Byrd, Jannequin, Britten, Vaughn Williams, and Gershwin; and contemporary composers Lauridsen, Joel, and Busby, Bono, and Barnwell. They will sing at the Christ the King Lutheran Church at 600 Central Street in Holliston at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 30. The next day they will be at the Congregational Church of Weston at 130 Newton Street in Weston, again at 8 p.m. Admission is free with donations gratefully accepted. They hope music-loving and spring-loving readers of this notice will attend.



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Call/Volunteer Recruit Class #116 Graduation • March 5, 2025

Pictured (L to R) are Dalton Ionson, Robert Sheehan, Anna Micelotti, Caroline Conlin, Benjamin Emery and Cameron Lee.

EYES

continued from page 12

We believe our patients deserve access to the latest proven technologies — not just to restore vision, but to improve how they live, work, and experience the world.

Why Milford Franklin Eye Center?

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety, and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, I am proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser-assisted cataract surgery — and the first in Greater Boston to implant the original PanOptix lens. We are now excited to bring the PanOptix Pro to our community.

The top five teaching hospitals in the nation offer bladeless

laser cataract surgery — and so do we. All surgeries are performed at our state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford using advanced laser technology and premium lenses that correct for distance, near, and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are now fully correctable with these modern lens implants.

Our complication rates are among the lowest in the nation. One hundred percent of surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia — meaning no needles, no shots around or behind the eye, no stitches, and no scalpels. It's truly no knife, no shots, no stitch surgery.

We have anesthesiologists present for all cases and we never perform surgery in an office space, unlike some other practices. We also do not charge additional fees for use of the operating room — another key difference. There is no longer any need to travel hours for your

cataract surgery. The most advanced care is already here, close to home.

It's Time to Be Pro Panoptimistic!

The Clareon PanOptix Pro IOL is more than just an upgrade — it's a significant leap forward in cataract surgery outcomes. With its groundbreaking light utilization, refined optics, and proven range of vision, it stands to become the new gold standard for patients seeking independence from glasses and sharp, vibrant vision at all distances. Experience cataract surgery results second to none — here, closer to home, at the Milford Franklin Eye Center.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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Youth Wind Ensemble Announces Auditions, Concert Tour

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Wind Ensembles (RIPYWE) is holding auditions for membership in the 2025-26 concert season which will culminate with the RIPYWE Symphonic Winds doing a 12-day concert tour of northern Europe. The finest student musicians entering grades 7 through 12 in the area are strongly encouraged to audition for this once in a lifetime opportunity. RIPYWE Alumni are also invited to join the European concert tour.

RIPYWE was created to give advanced woodwind, brass and percussion grade 7-12 students from Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut an opportunity to rehearse and perform high quality wind ensemble repertoire. Auditions will be held at the RI Philharmonic's Carter Center for Music Education & Performance in East Providence. Audition details are available online by going to the RI Philharmonic Music School website www.riphil.org and by emailing RIPYWE ensemble manager Elliott Eastman at eeastman@riphil.org or director Neves at dneves@riphil.org.

"Participating in RIPYWE

gives our region's finest woodwind, brass and percussion students an opportunity to have a nearly professional level musical experience every week. Each and every member is constantly challenged to achieve their best while also being nurtured in a student-centered positive uplifting atmosphere," said David Neves, Music Director of Youth Wind Ensembles for the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School. "If a student is serious about being the best possible player on their instrument, RIPYWE is the place to be."

Advanced students interested in auditioning and being selected to the advanced RIPYWE Symphonic Winds which will be touring Europe should sign up to audition soon maximize their opportunity to secure a spot in the group. Any alumni of RIPYWE from previous years who are interested in the European trip should contact Dr. Neves at dneves@riphil.org as soon as possible for more information.

For more information about RIPYWE, contact RI Philharmonic Music School Ensemble Manager Elliott Eastman at (401) 248-7038 or via email at eeastman@riphil.org.

Save the Date for June 13 Strawberry Stroll in Franklin

Mark your calendar: The Franklin Downtown Partnership's Annual Strawberry Stroll is set for Friday, June 13, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in downtown Franklin. The rain date will be Saturday, June 14 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This year, the stroll will extend farther up Main Street to Dean College and Franklin Public Library with more music and activities, according to Strawberry Stroll Committee Chairman Kevin Johnson of Edward Jones. "Don't miss this great evening of music, food, and vendors who offer a variety of products and services," Johnson said.

"The Stroll is a terrific community event," Roberta Trahan, Vice President of the Franklin Downtown Partnership agrees. "It's always a fun time to visit the shops and restaurants downtown and catch up with friends. The committee has been working hard to expand the event this year with

more interactive activities."

The Downtown Partnership is very grateful for the support from their sponsors.

Platinum: Dean College; G & C Plumbing & Heating

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Elizabeth's Bagels; Fenton Financial Group; Notturmo Home Services; Revise Inc.

Bronze: Chestnut Dental; LeafFilter Gutter Protection; Mint Dental; PEEL microspa; Simon's Furniture

Sponsorship opportunities for the stroll are still open and filling up quickly. If you are interested in being a sponsor, contact the Franklin Downtown Partnership at downtown.franklin@yahoo.com.

Stay up to date and follow the Franklin Downtown Partnership at:

<https://www.instagram.com/franklindowntownpartnership/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/franklindowntownpartnership.org/>

The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501c3 organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents can join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll, the Harvest Festival, the Ladybug Historical & Cultural Trail, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to www.franklindowntownpartnership.org.

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MAPC Receives \$1 Million to Expand Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, Access

The funds will help pilot the deployment of non-grid tied charging solutions and expanded EV carsharing

BOSTON – April 10, 2025 – With adoption of electric vehicles among underserved populations in Massachusetts falling behind in the Massachusetts auto market and lingering concerns around access to electric vehicle (EV) charging, there is a need to explore lower cost, non-grid charging solutions across communities. With a \$1 million Accelerating Clean Transportation for All, Round 2 (ACT4All 2) grant from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) will work with Framingham, Natick, and Quincy and the Housing Authorities of Boston, Chelsea, and Somerville to pilot innovative EV charging systems that are not connected to local power grids, in conjunction with EV carsharing expansion.

Municipally owned parking areas and public housing authorities offer promising opportunities to site EV charging in closer proximity to populations currently underserved by existing EV charging infrastructure. However, housing authorities and municipalities have reported significant challenges with installing permanent Level 2 chargers, including: extensive delays in participating in utility make-ready programs; high costs for grid-connected infrastructure; complexity of ownership and rate setting; and uncertainty around siting and utilization.

This pilot will utilize non-grid tied charging solutions such as solar-powered charging, battery operated charging, and charging-as-a-service with EV carsharing, allowing for rapid deployment across the municipi-

palities and housing authorities as they plan for and scale permanent, grid-tied EV charging in the long run.

“EV car sharing presents a substantial opportunity for residents who have not yet been able to fully adopt EV technologies due to their higher costs and lack of access to charging equipment,” said MAPC Principal Planner & Emerging Technologies Specialist Alison Felix, AICP. “It offers an expedited and low-cost entry to EVs and reduces the need for single car ownership, which in turn reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”

The EV carshare vehicles will be available to rent at a discounted rate to eligible users. The project team will partner with local tenant associations and community-based organizations to robustly engage with

and educate potential users about the project and the availability of shared EVs. Beyond offering discounted rentals, the EV carshare partners will also support outreach, education, and data collection efforts for the pilot. Municipalities and housing authorities will own, lease, or contract the charging solutions, and the EV carshare partners will own and operate the vehicles.

“EV charging matters in every community - from suburban neighborhoods to city centers to rural farms,” said Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Director for the Town of Natick. “You can’t charge without power, but the best locations for charging don’t always align with existing grid infrastructure. As Massachusetts works to expand housing and advance climate goals, the flexibility, resiliency and scalability of off-grid charging will become increasingly important. Natick is eager to participate in

this pilot and to support solutions that can be replicated across the Commonwealth.”

“Expanding EV charging access in public housing communities is a crucial step toward ensuring every Boston resident can benefit from clean transportation solutions,” said Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok. “This pilot program will help us bring innovative charging and mobility options to our communities, while complementing BHA’s efforts to improve building efficiency and expand renewable energy.”

The ACT4All 2 grant will also empower project partners to develop plans and best practices for procuring and deploying permanent charging infrastructure at the sites with highest utilization, as well as plans to redeploy non-grid tied charging solutions to other sites and share learnings with other municipalities and housing authorities.

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
04/17/2025	261 S Main St.	\$486,000
04/08/2025	25 Highland St.	\$849,000
04/07/2025	28 Progress St.	\$350,000
03/31/2025	210 Dutcher St.	\$600,000
03/28/2025	108 Freedom St.	\$365,000
03/21/2025	205 Laurelwood Dr.	\$349,900

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

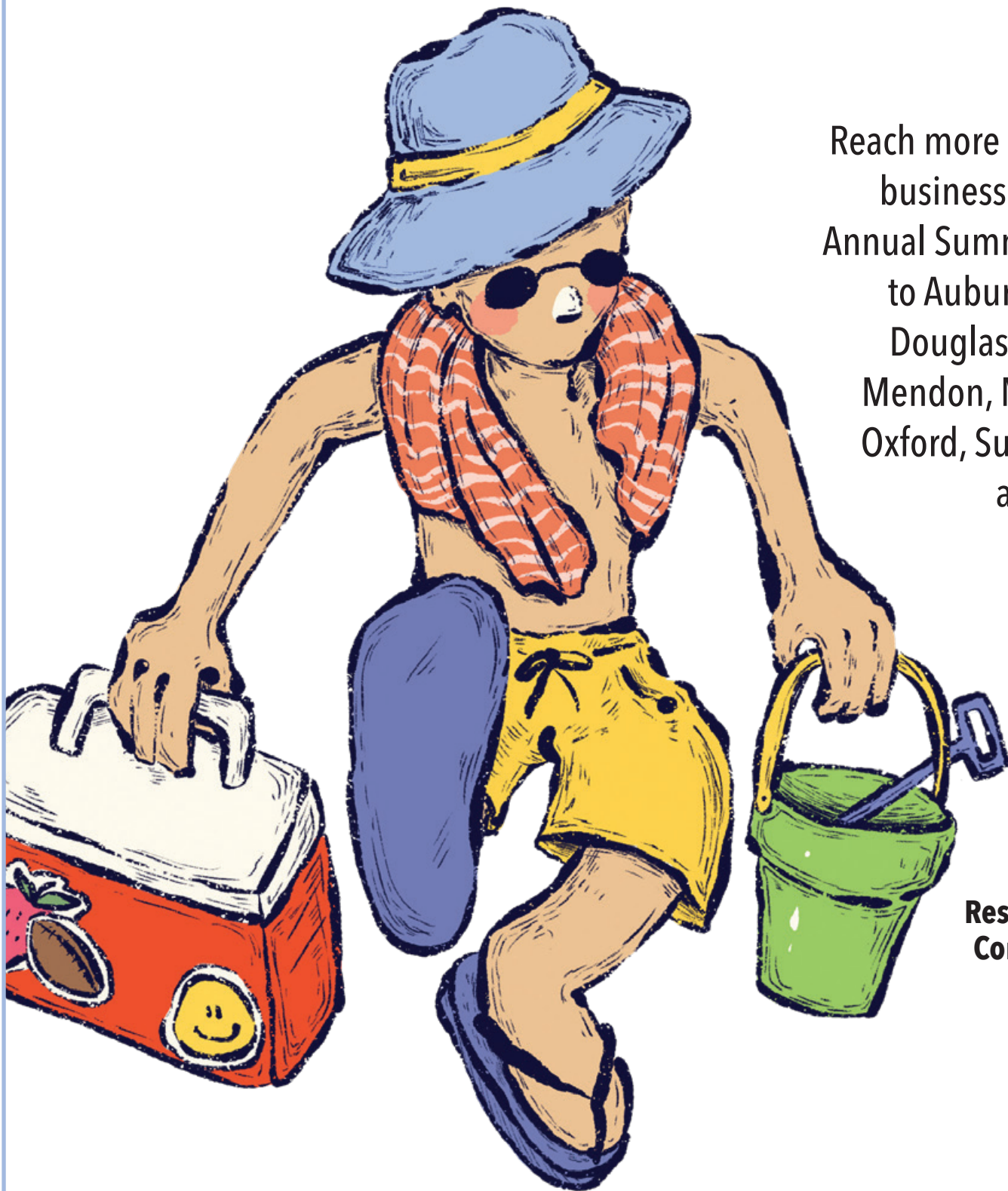


The 3-bed, 3-bath, 2,048-square-foot unit at 210 Dutcher Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$600,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

Looking to advertise in our Real Estate Corner?
Contact Susanne: 508-954-8148 or sue@sodellconsult.com

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