

Design the Official Logo for Hopedale Town Park 2025

Designs due to library by July 11

Bancroft Memorial Library, in collaboration with Hopedale Town Hall Administration, is inviting all young creative minds in Hopedale to participate in an exciting Logo Design Contest for the Town Park improvements.

They are inviting Hopedale youth ages 6–14 to submit original, hand-drawn designs on 8x10 paper to the Library by July 11. The winning design will be featured on t-shirts, patches, and mugs during the community groundbreaking ceremony later this year, plus the winner will receive a pizza party with friends.

All entries re-

ceived will be permanently displayed on the Town Memory Board, which will be proudly hung at Bancroft Memorial Library, so grab your pencils and markers and make your art a part of Hopedale's history.

For more information, contact the Bancroft Memorial Library.



Weeping cherry tree dedicated in memory of Nancy Collins

Collins was a longtime supporter of Hopedale, especially the library

On May 5, the Friends of the Hopedale Library held a special tree dedication ceremony in loving memory of Nancy Collins, a cherished and longtime member of the Friends, who died in 2023 after a lengthy illness.

Nancy dedicated more than 20 years to teaching, with much of her career spent in the Hopedale School District as a foreign language teacher. Her commitment to education and her community left a lasting impact on all who knew her.

To honor her memory, a dwarf weeping cherry tree with pink flowers (Nancy's favorite color) and a commemorative plaque were purchased by the Friends of the Hopedale Library and placed near the Statue of Hope.

Hopedale Horticulturalist Walter Swift of Swift Creative



Above, from left: Mike Collins (Nancy's husband), their daughter Julie and grandsons Elliot and Sam; Debbie (son Chris's mother-in-law), grandson Ben, granddaughter Claire, daughter-in-law Megan and son Chris. Courtesy photo
Left: A plaque lays at the base of a dwarf weeping cherry tree, and reads "In Memory of Senora Nancy Collins FOL." Courtesy photos

Landscape planted the tree and installed the plaque; the tree stands as a beautiful and living tribute to Nancy's bright spirit and the

many lives she touched.

Submitted by Bancroft Memorial Library

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2025 MAVA Outstanding Vocational Technical Student

Kallie Allen of Hopedale is a passionate advocate for the skilled trades

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick proudly announces BVT's 2025 MAVA Outstanding Vocational Technical Student—Kallie Allen of Hopedale, a senior in the Biotechnology program.

Kallie is an outstanding student whose academic, vocational, and extracurricular achievements and contributions at BVT and beyond warranted this recognition. As an award recipient, Kallie was honored at the 39th annual Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Awards Ceremony at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on April 10.

Throughout her high school career, Kallie has proven to be a passionate advocate for the skilled trades. As the National High School President of SkillsUSA, she travels across the country to

promote the impact of career and technical education, building on her previous role as the State President of SkillsUSA Massachusetts from 2023 to 2024. Kallie also serves as the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) Delegate for both the NTHS and the National Honor Society (NHS) chapters at BVT. Her dedication to local organizations, such as Project Just Because and Pawfect Life Rescue, earned her the Silver-Standard Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

An interest in drug development led Kallie to a cooperative education (Co-Op) with Charles River Laboratories. Employed as a Sample Management Technician, Kallie gained valuable hands-on laboratory skills through this Co-Op position that are integral in the field of biomedical studies. Kallie aspires to further her vocational education and training, obtain a degree in biomedical engineering, and work with medical devices and regen-



Kallie Allen, SkillsUSA National High School President presents Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent Director with the SkillsUSA Massachusetts Honorary Life Member award.

erative medicine in her professional career.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Tech-

nical 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 cre-

ates 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. For more information about the school, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us.

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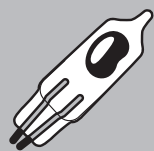
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Xaverian Celebrates Commencement for the Class of 2025

On Saturday, May 17, 2025, Xaverian Brothers High School celebrated the Commencement of its 59th graduating class, the Class of 2025. Diplomas were conferred to the 164 graduates by Head of School Jacob Conca '94, Ph.D. (Medway) and Principal Michael Nicholson, Ed.D. (Norfolk). Graduates have enrolled in 95 different colleges and universities, including Boston College (9), Fairfield (3), Harvard (1), Holy Cross (5), Lehigh (1), Northeastern (6), Providence College (9), Tufts (3), UCLA (1), University of Michigan (1), University of Rochester (1), USC (1), Villanova (1), Wake Forest (3), and WPI (1). This graduating class spearheaded new clubs such as BioBuilders and MediX, which focus on specialized areas of study (synthetic biology and medicine respectively), helped lead the school to a second consecutive state football championship, volunteered at more than 70 local service agencies, and boasts seven National Merit commended students.



Members of the Class of 2025 gathered together post-commencement to toss their caps on Xaverian's varsity field.
Photo Credit: Stephanie Motyka Photography

Mitchell Kisgen is the Class of 2025 valedictorian. The son of Dr. Darren Kisgen and Mrs. Lauren Kisgen of Natick, Mitchell is a National Merit Commended Student and a member of both the Rocco Zoppo and Spanish chapters of the National Honor Society. He was twice named "Student of the Year" and earned Ryken Honors—the school's highest academic distinction—every quarter of his high school career. Mitchell is the President of the Business Club, a peer minister in the campus ministry program, and an active member of the ping pong club. A standout multi-sport athlete, Mitchell competes in varsity soccer and excels in indoor and outdoor track. He is a five-time New Balance Nationals qualifier, Catholic Conference MVP, and All-Scholastic honoree by The Boston Globe and The Bos-

ton Herald. He also holds seven school records. Mitchell will continue his academic and athletic career at Dartmouth College.

Xaverian's 2025 salutatorian is Neilan Fahey, son of Mr. Michael Fahey and Mrs. Anh Fahey of Medway. Neilan is a member of the Rocco Zoppo and French chapters of the National Honor Society and a four-year varsity athlete in cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field. A captain of all three teams, he is also a distinguished expert in 3-Position Air Rifle and competes with the Reading Rifle and Revolver junior team. Beyond athletics, Neilan is actively involved in Xaverian's book club, peer ministry mentoring program, and faith-sharing group, SpiritHawk. He also volunteers

at the Medway Village Food Pantry. Neilan will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point in the fall.

The highest honor bestowed

upon a graduating senior at Xaverian is the Xaverian Award. This special recognition is determined through nominations by the graduating class, in collaboration with the faculty and staff, and the recipient is kept a secret until the graduation ceremony. To receive the Xaverian Award, a student must have demonstrated the core values of humility, trust, simplicity, compassion, and zeal throughout their time at Xaverian. The Class of 2025 Xaverian Award winner is Aadi Aggarwal, son of Mr. Lokesh Aggarwal and Mrs. Pragti Aggarwal of Medway.

In his speech, Dr. Conca shared a reflection from one of his colleagues describing Aadi: "He is considerate of others, devoted to strengthening the Xaverian community, and possesses a character of the highest standing. While his resume speaks for itself, it is his character and steadfast commitment to our community that sets him apart."

Aadi is a member of both the National and Spanish National Honor Societies. He received the Brother Raymond Hoyt, C.F.X. '70 Award for generosity, and was one of six Xaverian students selected to represent the senior class at the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools leadership retreat. Additionally, he served

as a peer mentor and tutor and worked alongside classmates to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's disease research.

Aadi was an athlete on the varsity swim and dive team, as well as the varsity ultimate disc team. In his sophomore and junior years, he served as Secretary General of Xaverian's Model UN team, where he earned national recognition and ranked in the top five in the Massachusetts High School Model UN Circuit. He also served as Vice Captain of Xaverian's Speech and Debate team, placing in the top five in the Commonwealth in Group Discussion. Aadi will continue his academic journey at Tufts University in the fall.

In his Commencement address to the Class of 2025, Dr. Conca urged the graduates to aspire to a life of quiet, humble service, expecting nothing in return. He encouraged them to hold themselves to the highest standards, continually striving to grow, learn, and excel, and to embrace their faith journeys with the confidence that God would be with them every step of the way. "Our hope," he said, "is that you find the tools necessary to live a life rooted in all that is represented by your Xaverian diploma."

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>






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2025 Summer Band Concerts

Hopedale Town Park, 6:30pm

Sponsored by the Hopedale Cultural Council
And the cooperation of the Parks Department
Rain dates on Thursdays

June 18- Family Fun Night 6:00pm
June 26 ** - Carolyn Rae and the Rumors - Pop hits
Food truck: Joey D's Wingz & Thingz

July 9 ** - Fantasy Big Band - Swing to contemporary
Pre-concert Fun with DJ Mike at 5:30pm
Food truck: Three Sons Grilled Cheese
July 16** - Elastic 5 - Pop, rock, and folk
Pre-concert Fun with DJ Mike at 5:30pm
Food truck: Three Sons Grilled Cheese

July 23 ** - The Pub Kings Electro acoustic quartet
Food truck: Joey D's Wingz & Thingz
Pizza, snacks, and beverages available from the Boy Scouts and the Cultural Council
***Sign up at the Council concession for a free gift card giveaway*
Join us on Facebook: Hopedale Cultural Council – Community Organization

Family Fun Night

With DJ Mike Rutkowski

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at Hopedale Town Park - 6:00pm
Music and Dancing
Dance, limbo, and hula hoop contests
Balloon animals

“Hide the Diamond”
Candy and prizes
**** Pre-concert Fun July 9 and 16 at 5:30 pm*
Save the date: Hopedale Day in the Park Saturday, September 20, 2025

Annual Town Election



Select Board - 3 year term

Bernard J. Stock 275
Write-in 53
Blanks 15

Board of Health - 3 year term

Mary A Watson - 283
Write-in 53
Blanks 56

Housing Authority - 5 year term

Jason G. MacDonald 294
Write-in 1
Blanks 48

Library Trustee - 3 year term

Frederick G. Oldfield III 312
Write-in 2
Blank 29

Park Commissioner - 1 year term

Mark Wyspianski 297
Write-in 3
Blanks 43

Park Commissioner - 3 year term

Jason G. MacDonald 289
Write-in 3
Blanks 51

Planning Board - 5 year term

Stephen J. Chaplin 272
Write-in 10
Blanks 61

Road Commissioner - 3 year term

George T. Lovewell 276
Write-in 3
Blanks 64

School Committee - 3 year term, vote for 2

Kate M. Guertin 271
Jennifer Lynn Mckee 246
Blanks 166

Town Clerk - 3 year term

Lisa M. Pedrolini 310
Write-in 0
Blanks 33

Water & Sewer Commissioner - 3 year term

Adam B. Anderson 279
Write-in 5
Blanks 59

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BVT Named a 2024-25 PLTW Distinguished School

While some actions, like a roll of the dice, have a statistical probability of repeating outcomes. It is hard work, along with the collective and continuous effort of students and staff at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), which has resulted in national recognition year after year from the nonprofit organization Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

“We are proud to honor BVT for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences through PLTW programs,” said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. “This achievement celebrates their dedication to student achievement and their focus on empowering students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in school and beyond.”

“We are proud to be named a 2024-25 PLTW Distinguished School for the eighth consecutive year,” said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “It is a testament to our shared commitment and dedication to the quality of cross-curricular instruction and those willing to do the work.”

To be eligible for this designation, the school had to meet the following criteria: offer at least three PLTW courses; of those who participated in PLTW, at least 33% took two or more PLTW courses during their high

school tenure; and at least 95% of students completed the PLTW End-of-Course assessments; have strategies and procedures in place to support reasonably proportional representation regarding race, ethnicity, poverty, and gender.

It is an honor to be part of the PLTW community, which is united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities through its course offerings. We currently offer nine PLTW courses: six in the Engineering Pathway and three in the Computer Science Pathway. Working together, we are a winning combination.

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. For more information about the school, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us.

Friends of Milford Announce 2025 Summer Live Tribute Concert Series

Expanded Lineup Features Iconic Tributes Every Monday Night at Plains Park

The Friends of Milford are thrilled to announce the return of the Summer Live Tribute Concert Series for 2025—bigger and better than ever. This year’s series features six exciting tribute performances celebrating legendary artists, all held Monday nights at 6:30 PM at Plains Park, rain or shine.

The 2025 lineup includes:

- Cher – July 14
- Elvis Presley – July 21
- Rod Stewart – July 28
- Neil Diamond – August 4

Frank Sinatra – August 11
Johnny Cash – August 18
John Seaver, a founding member of the Friends of Milford, shared his excitement: “The 2024 Summer Concerts were a great success, with over 250 people attending each of the three concerts. This year, we’ve expanded the Concert Series to six concerts. We are looking forward to a great summer of fun and music.”

The concert series is a community-driven event made possible

by the dedication of the Friends of Milford—John Seaver, Anthony Consigli, David Consigli, Steve Ellis, Paul Mastroianni, Rick Nashawny, and Harold Rhodes—with generous support from the Milford Lions Club.

Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and their dancing shoes for an unforgettable summer of music under the stars.

For more information, please contact: [Harold Rhodes haroldrhodes@comcast.net](mailto:Harold.Rhodes@comcast.net)

Men’s Lunch

Hey Guys....Here’s a lunch just for you!

Thursday June 26, 2025 12:00 pm - Hopedale Senior Center
Stay for TRIVA following lunch at 1:00 pm

Choice of box lunch sandwiches from Upton Country Sooper
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Bancroft Memorial Library

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Library News

The Library will be closed on Thursday, June 19th in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Reminder Our Summer Hours begin on July 11th which means that Friday hours at the Library will be 10:00am-2:00pm for July and August.

Check out our new website at www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org

9th Annual Hopedale Fairy Walk – Saturday, June 14th from 10:00am-4:00pm

Join us as the Hopedale Parklands transform into an enchanted forest filled with fairies, gnomes, and magical folk! In collaboration with the Friends of Historic Hopedale, we are setting up a delightful Story-Walk® along the trail. Be sure to find the magical Fairy House created by the Library, and don't miss the Friends of the Hopedale Library table—they will have books, sun catchers and "Library Luck Spells" available for purchase!

Helen Symonds Book Group – Wednesday,

June 4th at 1:00pm
The group will be discussing By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Community Conversations – Wednesday, June 4th at 6:30pm

Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about "The SAVE Act."

News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library

125th anniversary glass ornament fundraiser Help us celebrate the Bancroft

Memorial Library's 125th Anniversary by purchasing a commemorative glass sun catcher ornament featuring the Library. These handcrafted ornaments by Becker Glass are available in blue and clear for \$20. To purchase, simply stop by the Library. Cash and checks will be accepted. Any checks should be made out to The Friends of the Hopedale Library. These are a perfect Graduation or Father's Day gift!

Help support the Friends of the Hopedale Library! Did you know that you can shop our Ongoing Book Sale anytime the Library is open? 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.

The Friends of the Library The Friends of the Hopedale Library, founded in 1983, is an active volunteer, non-profit organization with a town-wide membership and a representative executive board. We work with the Library staff and the Trustees to support the Library in providing funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the Library's regular operating budget. The Friends of the Hopedale Library meets 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 at Your Library!" Summer Reading is here, and we're thrilled to invite you to

eight weeks of excitement, creativity, and adventure at Bancroft Memorial Library! This year's theme is "Level Up at Your Library!" Registration opens Monday, June 2nd and programs run from Monday, June 23rd through Friday, August 15th. Each week brings something new with themed activities and events: big events on Mondays, Tummy Time Tuesdays, Game Night Wednesdays, Picnic Storytime and playtime Thursdays, matinees on Fridays and Builder Saturdays. Grand Prize Raffles will be held for kids, teens, and adults—everyone has a chance to win! A heartfelt thank you to the Friends of Hopedale Library for securing a generous grant through UniBank, which will support four exciting programs with One Up Games. We are grateful to UniBank for their dedication to literacy and the Hopedale community.

Summer Reading Kick-Off Event - Monday, June 23rd from 4:00-7:00pm We are transforming the Library into a glowing LED 9-hole mini golf course—all are welcome to come play, explore, and celebrate the start of summer reading! Registration is required for this event. For more details and to register, visit our Event Calendar at www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org.

Tummy Time Summer Reading Style – Tuesday, June 24th at 10:30am, ages 0-18 months Drop in for some safe and comfortable movement and socialization for infants from birth through 18 months. For 8 weeks of Summer Reading we will have a new, special activity each week. This week's activity will be a video about Baby Massage. Family Night at the Li-

LIBRARY

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OBITUARY

Hannelore Amelia Pacheco (Kuhlmann), 95, formerly of Holbrook, known affectionately as Hanna to her friends and family, passed away peacefully of natural causes on May 1, 2025, in Raynham, Massachusetts. Born on December 8, 1929, in Mecklenburg, Germany, she was a beacon of adventurous spirit, generosity, and captivating charm throughout her 95 years.

Hanna's early years in Germany were marked by an appreciation for the great outdoors, a passion that only grew as she did. Her love for ice skating, skiing, and hiking was matched by her talent in each, and became an integral part of her life. Her melodious voice found a home at The Boylston Schul-Verein, Walpole, a German Club, where she joined the singing choir, and she sang with gusto and joy, sharing her culture and zest for life with all those around her.

A master of the garden, Hanna cultivated beauty and life in the soil of her home in Holbrook, creating an oasis that reflected the care and attention she gave to every aspect of her life. Her gardens were a symbol of her nurturing soul, a

trait that extended into her relationships with her loved ones.

She is reunited in eternity with her husband, Manuel Costa Pacheco, her mother Dora Becker, and her sister, Ursula Clark, whom she cherished deeply. Hannelore leaves behind a legacy of love carried on by her children Bruce Pacheco and wife Beth, Mark Pacheco and wife Linda, and Michelle McSherry and husband George, her grandchildren Jonathan, Lauren, Emily, Hannah, Katelyn, Shane and Joshua and her great-grandchildren Evelyn and Kellan. Each family member carries forward a piece of Hanna's extraordinary legacy through their own lives.

Those who knew Hanna will remember her as a woman who embraced life's challenges with a remarkable blend of strength and grace. Her generous nature knew no bounds, and she was always the first to offer help to anyone in need. Her life was a tapestry of experiences that made her one of the most interesting and engaging individuals to be around.

Hanna's passing leaves a void in the hearts of all



who loved her, but her spirit remains a guiding light. Her adventurous tales, her laughter in the chorus, and the beauty of her gardens will continue to inspire and comfort her family and friends. Hannelore Amelia Pacheco's life was one well-lived, full of passion and kindness, and she will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A private memorial service honoring her life was held at Cartwright funeral followed by her burial at Blue Hills cemetery.

The family would like to thank Old Colony Hospice of West Bridgewater for their compassionate care. Memorial contributions may be sent in lieu of flowers to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley St. West Bridgewater, MA 02379.

www.oldcolonyhospice.org



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Getting Rid of Ants, The Most Common Home Invader

While homeowners across the country enjoy the warm weather and the sights, smells and activities of the season, they also must contend with increased pest activity. This season, WPC Pest and Termite Control is reminding homeowners to be on the lookout for one of the most prevalent pests – ants.

Often considered the No. 1 nuisance pest, ants also pose significant health and property risk as they destroy wood and contaminate food items. And with more than 700 types of ant species in the United States, it's not surprising that ants can quickly become a source of disgust, frustration and concern for homeowners.

"Most ants thrive in warm and moist conditions, which is why it's best to eliminate moisture or standing water near or inside the home," says Jim Maz-

zuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control. "In some cases, the only way to completely remediate an ant infestation is to call a qualified pest professional who can locate and remove the identified species' nests."

WPC Pest and Termite Control reminds homeowners that the first step to remediation is to properly identify which ant species is present in the home.

Some of the most common home invaders include:

- **Odorous House Ants:** These ants get their name from the unpleasant odor they give off when crushed, often described as smelling like a rotten coconut. They typically nest in wall voids and crevices and prefer sweet foods.
- **Pharaoh Ants:** Pharaoh ants prefer sweets, but also consume grease and even shoe polish. They live in extreme-

ly large colonies and keep warm near artificial heating sources like baseboard heaters and ovens.

- **Carpenter Ants:** This species hollows out nests in both dry and moist wood, though they prefer the latter. They can be particularly hard to remove since their nests can be more difficult to locate.
- **Fire Ants:** Fire ants can cause severe allergic reactions in addition to structural damage caused by chewing through the insulation around electrical wiring.

Homeowners who suspect an ant infestation should contact a licensed pest professional who can identify ant species and recommend a course of treatment. To learn more about ants, please visit www.nobugsnopests.com.



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LIBRARY

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brary – Wednesday, June 25th from 5:00-7:00pm Have fun together as a family and learn how to keep the fun going at home! This week learn fun card games that do not require a pencil and paper to keep score, just a standard deck of cards

Picnic Story Time – Thursday, June 26th from 11:00am-12:00pm Outside Story Time at the Ban-

croft Library! Drop in and join us on the lawn near the Statue of Hope. We will share a story, socialize, dance and play with bubbles. Bring something to sit on and maybe your lunch too. If inclement weather occurs, we will move the Story Time inside to the Program Room across from the Children's Room - so join us each week, rain or shine!

Friday Movie Matinee – Friday, June 27th from 2:00pm-4:00pm Movies at the Library? YUP! Drop in at the Library to beat the heat or just to enjoy a fun,

family friendly movie! (G or PG titles only). You can bring a snack, a blanket, a stuffy and even come in your PJs! Stop by or call the Library to find out what the movie is; with the Summer Reading theme being "Level Up", all of the movies will have a video game connection!

Builder Saturday – Saturday, June 28th from 11:00am-1:00pm Drop in every Saturday and build with Legos, Duplos, Mega Bloks and foam blocks. We will display your creations throughout the week.

Snapology's Amazing Race – Monday, June 30th from 5:00pm-7:00pm, ages 7-11 Go on an adventure and learn about world cultures, flags, cui-

sines, artists and landmarks as you complete building chal-

LIBRARY

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The Future of BVT is With Steele

BVT Has a New Superintendent

For the first time in 31 years, the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is proud to announce that, effective July 1, 2025, Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Mr. Anthony E. Steele II will become the next Superintendent-Director, making him the fourth leader in Blackstone Valley Tech's (BVT) history. With a three-year agreement, he will take over for Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, who will retire at the end of June. BVT is excited about Steele's leadership and his vision for the future.

With nearly three decades of education experience at BVT, Mr. Steele has held many roles. The first was in 1997, when he began his career as an English teacher. He can still recall his first interview for this position.

"I vividly remember cresting the hill on Pleasant Street in 1997 and laying my eyes on our school for the first time. Customary jitters aside, I was relieved that my McNally Road

Atlas led me to our campus on time and without incident. I was confident, yet hopeful to be offered the job, but I never imagined that BVT would become my home for the next 28 years and come to represent my life's work."

For BVT, it was an exciting and pivotal time when education reform would challenge vocational schools to meet the MCAS standard. Bringing a vocational perspective to the position, Steele said, "As a 22-year-old construction worker, I hung up my hard hat to try my hand at teaching English. I never anticipated the numerous opportunities for professional growth beyond improving my classroom teaching."

When Mr. Steele was named Assistant Principal/Director of Curriculum in 2001, BVT sustained a feverish pace of redefining what was possible in vocational education.

"It was thrilling to be a key player in transforming BVT

from a strong, traditional vocational school to a nationally acclaimed career-technical center for the new era."

He says there has never been a dull moment in his career. "For the past thirteen years, I have been honored to serve as the Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal under Dr. Fitzpatrick, who encouraged innovation and embraced change," said Mr. Steele. "My leadership experiences and growth at BVT were not accidental, but rather a philosophy in action that has allowed our school to develop talent, maintain focus on our mission, and ensure smooth transitions as time passes. We strategically develop succession plans to maintain a deep bench of talent that ensures the upward trajectory of our school for generations. I am well prepared to build on Dr. Fitzpatrick's legacy and lead our school on a continued path of innovation and excellence."

Mr. Steele has also served on various state committees and held leadership positions in professional organizations throughout his career, including the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association. He appreciates the perspective gained from his longevity at BVT and is most proud of the school's culture of high expectations, collegiality, and the resulting success of its graduates.

Mr. Steele has been a key player in transforming the school into the successful model

it is today. His foresight for the future is exciting for many reasons, and he has several immediate goals for the district:

Expand Access to Career Technical Education (CTE): Establish the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute, which will expand our adult Moonlight Program to implement 200-hour, credential-based programs in HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Welding, and Advanced Manufacturing. This grant-funded program will allow us to deliver high-quality CTE to adults interested in upskilling and retraining, provide skilled labor to the local workforce, and generate non-taxpayer revenue to help fund the school.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Across the Curriculum: Continue to refine our AI Governance policies as we embrace this technology in our teaching and learning. We are training our academic teachers and vocational instructors to use AI in their classrooms and shops, and likewise, we are training our students on the responsible use of AI. It is vital that we stay current with emerging AI tools and practices and that our graduates are prepared to utilize AI in the modern workplace.

Maximize the benefits of the "Skills-Based-Hiring" Movement: Through our Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Program, we will continue to increase the number of students placed in Co-Op employment positions. Over 180 students participate in Co-Op each year, providing a seamless pathway to employment after graduation. Our students learn sophisticated career planning through their Career


Enrichment courses, and we are giving extra attention to analyzing emerging opportunities as the Skills-Based-Hiring movement grows nationwide. We will also continue to work with employers to create attractive opportunities for seniors going directly to work after graduation.

Expand the Role of The Valley Tech Education Foundation: With sensitivity that there are fewer tax and State dollars available each year, it is imperative to generate alternative revenue streams to maintain the quality of education at BVT. We wish to increase the Education Foundation's efforts to seek charitable donations through businesses, foundations, and the private sector, and expand fundraising activities and events. The goal is to strengthen the quality of education and student opportunities at BVT while decreasing the reliance on member town assessments.

"I am eager to provide the unique blend of administrative experience, historical perspective, local knowledge, leadership style, and philosophy required of the next superintendent-director," said Mr. Steele. "I am honored to serve my school in this new role, and I am very excited about our future."

Having nurtured the talent within its administrative team, BVT has qualified, prepared internal candidates for the assistant superintendent-director and principal roles, and they will lead an exhaustive search for outside candidates as well. Either way, BVT will continue to be led by bold, innovative, mindful leaders with new ideas.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Mid-Year Review: Five Financial Metrics To Evaluate



Glenn Brown, CFP

As the year reaches its midpoint, June is a great time to reflect on your financial progress.

Whether your goals include building savings, paying off debt, and/or preparing for retirement - evaluating key financial metrics this month gives you the opportunity to make strategic changes to complete a strong year. Here are five essential financial indicators to assess this month and how to act on what you find.

1. Net Worth

Your net worth provides a clear snapshot of your overall financial health. It's calculated

by subtracting your total liabilities (debts) from your total assets (cash, investments, real estate, etc.).

Why it matters in June: Reviewing net worth mid-year helps you evaluate growth of wealth over time. If it's stagnant or declining, it may signal overspending, increased debt, and/or underperforming investments.

Action step: List all assets and liabilities using a spreadsheet or financial planning software, like eMoney. Compare with your end of December figures to track progress and use this insight to adjust the following items.

2. Savings Rate

Your savings rate is the percentage of your income that you're saving — including contributions to retirement accounts, HSAs, 529s, emergency funds, brokerage accounts, etc.

Why it matters now: If you're not close to 50% of your annual savings target, consider increasing contributions to accounts where funds are accessible this year without penalty. This usually means taxable accounts and not 401k or 529 plans, because if a shortfall is created, you'll need ease of access to funds to cover.

How to calculate: Divide your total savings to date by your gross income (pre-tax) for the same period. A 15% savings rate is a solid target, but if you wish to be above-average there are only two ways - save more and/or invest beyond median returns of the population.

3. Monthly Cash Flow

Cash flow reflects your day-to-day financial reality by measuring the difference between your monthly income and expenses. Positive cash flow means you're living a sustainable lifestyle and have money left to save and invest.

How to check: Track all income and expenses for the past one or two months. Subtract total expenses from total income. If you're consistently negative, you need to trim spending, increase income, or both.

Action step: Use budgeting apps or spreadsheets to monitor cash flow. Small leaks — like unused subscriptions, frequent takeout, impulse purchases — can erode your financial health over time.

4. Emergency Fund Coverage

An emergency fund should cover 3-6 months of essential living expenses to defend against financial surprises.

Why June matters: If you've had unexpected costs this year, your emergency fund may be lower than it should be. Summer travel and seasonal expenses can also drain savings if you're not careful.

Action step: Calculate the last 3 months of essential expenses, compare to your current cash balance, and plan to replenish if needed.

5. Investment Portfolio Allocation

June is a great time to check investment returns and asset allocation. Market changes or personal milestones (like a job change, large purchase or desired earlier retirement) may require a strategy shift.

Why it matters: If your portfolio has drifted from your target allocation (e.g., too much in stocks, not enough in bonds or real assets), it can affect risk exposure, volatility and long-term results.

Action step: After confirming monthly cash flows and emergency funds are aligned

and no additional funds need to be raised, review your portfolio allocation and rebalance accordingly.

Final Thoughts

A mid-year financial check-up gives you clarity, control, and the chance to recalibrate while sitting outside with your laptop sipping morning coffee or lazing on a sunny afternoon in the summertime.

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 Plan-Dynamic, 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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LIBRARY

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lenges using your problem solving skills! Registration is required, as this program is limited to 10 participants. For more details and to register, visit our Event Calendar at www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org.

Weekly Programs through June:

Tummy Time – Tuesdays, 6/3, 6/10 & 6/17 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, June 5th & June 12th at 10:30am, ages 18 months– 3 years This program is perfect for energetic toddlers! Along with a story, we will work on gross motor skills and play with balls, a parachute, instruments, bean bags, scarves and more. Drop in!

Rhyme Time – Thurs-

days, June 5th & June 12th 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.

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

Online payment portal changes

As of the April 18, water and sewer billing, the Town of Hopedale will no longer be using Unipay for online payments. The new online payment portal will be through Point and Pay. You can get there by going to the Town of Hopedale's website, home page and clicking the online payment icon or directly via: <https://www.paydici.com/town-of-hopedale>.

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Sports

Brennan Takes The Helm Looking To Make History

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Madison Brennan began playing lacrosse around the age of 8 years old. She became good enough to not only play on the high school level, but she was able to continue to play the sport on the collegiate level at Worcester State University. Following college, she was a lacrosse coach in Killingly Connecticut before moving to the area.

“I had gotten into coaching because my basketball coach always taught us life lessons and molded us into given advice and teaching techniques to the younger generation,” Brennan said. “Then I found myself in the Massachusetts area (Millbury in fact) and noticed that Hopedale was looking for a lacrosse coach. I applied and here I am, no regrets, I love this sport.”

While she has been living in Millbury, she knew nothing about Hopedale athletics so she had to learn about the Blue Raider program that she was about to take over.

“Being relatively new to town I had to look at past records to see what the program had been like in the past,” Brennan said. “What I found was not too exciting, but I did see that there was room for growth. I told the girls right from the beginning that I was going to set high standards, but if they worked hard they would succeed.”

During day one of the tryouts Brennan was a little intimidated at first as she was introduced to a new program with a lot of new

faces but found that it was all one big family. When the girls too to the field for the first time under Brennan she immediately noticed the drive they possessed and how they wanted to succeed.

Upon seeing what she believed the team could accomplish she did set her goals high. She wanted to go out and beat some of the teams that Hopedale has been unable to defeat in the past, especially Northbridge, a lacrosse rival; in addition to making the Division 4 State Tournament.

“We played Northbridge very early in the season (the third game) and lost by a large margin, but we came out of that game knowing what we had to do and put in some extra work for

out next meeting,” the first year Hopedale Coach said. “That second game we didn’t want to make it easy for them and we were able to beat them 19-12 – it was not only rewarding as a new coach, but for the players as well.”

After recently defeating Bay Path to improve to 9-3 at the time of this writing Brennan and the Blue raiders are feeling very confident that they should be able to get into the State Tournament. Now they have to continue to go

out and take each game one day at a time and strive for that winning season.

“Hopedale’s girls lacrosse has never achieved a winning sea-

son,” Brennan said. “But if we continue to put in the work it will happen. In the past this program has been looked down upon and we want to show everyone that we belong and can play with just about everyone.”

One of the bigger reasons the Blue Raiders have been successful this season has been because of senior captain Emily Frohn. The senior currently leads the team in scoring with 38 goals. Brennan noted that Frohn is a natural born leader and has re-

ally shinned on the field. “She has obtained her 100th career point for Hopedale this year and is an extremely uplifting individual keeping her team-

to develop into a major threat.”

With a mere seven games remaining on their schedule Hopedale is looking to keep growing while pushing them-



mates positive,” the Coach said.

While Frohn is doing her best at putting the ball into the opposition’s goal, junior Allison Pearlman has stepped up and held the opposition at bay in the Hopedale net. Pearlman, whom her teammates call the brick wall, has put for the some truly incredible performances this year to keep Hopedale in the game.

Senior captain Mary Firlings has also brought support to the team this spring as the encouraging leader. According to Brennan, she doesn’t put up huge numbers but works extremely hard to allow her teammates to succeed by providing off ball movement and picks.

While the upperclassmen are doing there jobs to get Hopedale to the Tournament, sophomore Brooklyn McAllister has been impressing the new coach on a daily basis.

“From day one to now she has continued to put in the work to be a top player on the team,” Brennan said. “She’s ben advancing her skills and starting to put numbers up on the board. Over the next 2 years she is going

selfes to be better.

“We have already played a lot of the teams remaining on our schedule once,” Brennan said. “But it’s a new day and we need to keep fighting if we want to get into the tournament, which has been our goal from day one.”

While getting into the tournament and doing some damage would be the ultimate goal for the Blue Raiders, Brennan has told the girls, especially the seniors, to savor the moment as no one knows when their last game will be. Hold onto those memories that they already made this season.

“This is a sport that I truly love,” the Coach said. “I keep preaching the biggest thing is to have fun and if we put in the work we’ll continue to be competitive.”

If Hopedale can win at least one game over the span of their last seven games they will become the first girls lacrosse team in Hopedale history to have a winning season, but they are looking for more than that to solidify their position in the Division 4 State Tournament.

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Hopedale DECA Shines at 2025 International Career Development Conference

By JONATHAN ARAUJO

This spring, Hopedale DECA proudly sent 19 of its brightest members to Orlando, Florida to represent Massachusetts at the 2025 International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Held annually, ICDC brings together more than 24,000 high school DECA students from across the globe for a week of competition, networking, and leadership development.

A Global Stage for Future Leaders

Hopedale students earned their spot at ICDC through outstanding performances at the Massachusetts DECA State Conference in March. Once in Orlando, they joined thousands of peers to showcase their projects, participate in leadership academies, and gain valuable real-world business experience.

Several Hopedale DECA members expanded their horizons through the prestigious Leadership Academies, Thrive and Elevate, which focused on developing leadership, teamwork, and chapter improvement strategies.

Attendees included juniors Charles Gingras, Avery Miller, Emma Friesema, Kate Friesema, Madelyn DiMaio, Rose Deering, and Ryan Thompson.

Competing on an International Stage

In the competitive events, Hopedale students went head-to-head with approximately 200 top-performing teams in each event category. These included intensive project-based competitions, where students submitted 20-page papers or completed exams, then pitched their findings to industry professionals.

Participants included:

- Project Management: Financial Literacy: Jonathan Araujo, Leah Hodgdon, Pat-

rick Madden and Sales Project: Riley Mulligan, Daniel Carroll, Ella Innocent

- Sports and Entertainment Marketing Operations Research – Business Services: SEOR: Charles Keyes, Nofer Meshrekey, Emily Oliver
- School-Based Enterprise – Retail Operations: Alex Goode, Savannah Sene
- Roleplay - Restaurant Food Services - Josiah Lefever

A major highlight came from the School Based Enterprise team of Alex Goode and Savannah Sene, who placed in the top 20. As well Josiah Lefever who placed with a top 10 test score in Restaurant Food Services category.

Community Support Makes It Possible

Behind Hopedale DECA's ICDC success was a gener-

ous and dedicated community. Thanks to months of local fundraising — including events like the DECA Dodgeball Tournament, Egg My Yard, car washes, and the online popcorn fundraiser — the chapter raised an impressive \$24,000. This support reduced the individual cost of the 5-night trip from \$1,650 to just \$550 per student.

Platinum-level sponsors, including Service Credit Union, D&M Auto Parts, Service Credit Union Impact Foundation, Hopedale Foundation, Water Street Meat Market, and Synergy Waste Management, were instrumental in making the trip possible. Hopedale DECA extends a heartfelt thank you to all community members, families, and sponsors who helped make this unforgettable experience a reality.

Looking Ahead

With strong finishes, life-



changing experiences, and valuable skills gained, Hopedale DECA continues to prepare the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs. The 2025 ICDC was not only a competition - it was a celebration of hard work, growth, and the power of community. The inaugural DECA Dynasty: Night of Champs awards night will be held on May 27, 2025 to celebrate the entire chapter's work throughout the 2024-25 school year. Check back next month for an update!

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Living Healthy

Direct SLT

A Revolutionary Advance in Glaucoma Treatment Debuts in Massachusetts

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

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness worldwide, affecting over 3 million Americans and millions more globally. This silent disease gradually damages the optic nerve—often without noticeable symptoms until significant vision is lost. Lowering intraocular pressure (IOP) remains the only proven way to slow or stop its progression—and innovative treatments continue to evolve in the fight to preserve vision.

In a major advancement for glaucoma patients in Massachusetts, Dr. Roger Kaldawy, MD, is offering the state's first Direct SLT (Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty) using Alcon's newest, state-of-the-art laser system. This

groundbreaking 2-second procedure will take place at Milford Franklin Eye Center's surgical facility in Milford, MA, marking a new chapter in laser glaucoma care—right here, close to home.

What Is Glaucoma and How Is It Treated?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, usually due to increased intraocular pressure. The most common form, **open-angle glaucoma**, occurs when the drainage system of the eye becomes less effective over time, allowing fluid to accumulate and pressure to build. Without treatment, this pressure can cause permanent vision loss.

Traditional glaucoma treatment options

include:

- Medicated eye drops to reduce fluid production or improve drainage
- Oral medications, often a last resort due to systemic side effects
- Laser treatments, such as conventional SLT or argon laser trabeculoplasty (ALT)
- Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) for moderate disease
- Traditional surgeries, including trabeculectomy or tube shunts, for advanced cases

Each approach has its pros and cons, and treatment is tailored to the patient's specific needs and stage of disease.

What Is SLT?

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) is a well-established, non-invasive laser treatment that targets the eye's **trabecular meshwork**—the tissue responsible for draining fluid from the eye. SLT



uses gentle laser pulses to improve outflow and lower IOP, often reducing or eliminating the need for daily eye drops. It's a quick, painless procedure with minimal downtime, typically performed in an outpatient setting.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, **Dr. Kaldawy was among the first surgeons in the region to offer SLT**, performing hundreds of successful treatments over the years. Our facility provides SLT in a state-of-the-art surgical center in Milford, offering expert care without the need to travel to distant hospitals or urban centers.

With this advanced center available in your backyard, there's no reason to travel hours for glaucoma or eye surgery. If your provider is still recommending you drive long distances for treatment, we welcome second opinions and offer world-class laser glaucoma care, right here in Milford.

Introducing Direct SLT: The Next Generation of Laser Therapy

Alcon's Direct SLT takes traditional SLT to the next level, combining the trusted benefits of SLT with cutting-edge technology and enhanced precision. This new approach allows the laser to be applied more accurately and consistently to the drainage tissues of the eye, resulting in improved outcomes and a better patient experience.

What Sets Direct SLT Apart from Traditional SLT?

Traditional SLT:

- *Requires a gonioscope:* A specialized lens is placed on the eye to allow the physician to visualize and direct the laser beam at the trabecular meshwork
- *More operator-dependent:* The accuracy and effectiveness can vary based on the physician's experience and technique
- *Longer procedure:* Typically takes a few minutes
- *Can involve some discomfort:* Some patients may experience discomfort from the gonioscope

Direct SLT (DSLST):

- *Non-contact:* Laser energy is delivered through the limbus, eliminating the need for a gonioscope or physical contact with the eye
- *Automated and fast:* The procedure is automated, takes less than 3 seconds, and can be performed by trained personnel
- *Efficient and accessible:* DSLST may treat more patients in less time, making care more accessible
- *Potentially more comfortable:* Non-contact delivery improves patient comfort

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Proud Champions of the Skilled Trades

BVT Competitors Earn 46 SkillsUSA Medals

The 51st SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference was held on May 2nd at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT). The annual event, hosted by SkillsUSA Massachusetts, welcomed approximately 2,100 district champions and many notable dignitaries. It is an incredible showcase of vocational technical training at its finest.

BVT's Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick was honored during the opening ceremonies. The national high school president of SkillsUSA, Kallie Allen of Hopedale, a senior in the Biotechnology program at BVT, presented Dr. Fitzpatrick with the SkillsUSA Massachusetts Honorary Life Member award. It is one of the highest recognitions within the SkillsUSA organization, bestowed upon individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of SkillsUSA and vocational education. He accepted the award on behalf of the district and in memory of Helga "Sunny" Epstein, a Holocaust survivor and vocational advocate.

BVT's student competitors achieved remarkable results, earning 46 medals: 17 Gold, 17 Silver, and 12 Bronze. Maria

Clara De Oliveira of Milford, a sophomore in the Electrical program at BVT was elected as a State Officer for the 2025-2026 school year. These achievements are a testament to the student's hard work and dedication.

The gold medalists earn the right to represent SkillsUSA Massachusetts and compete with champions from all over the country at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, this June. The complete list of medalists is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

BVT 2025 State Medalists

BVT students who earned medals at the State Leadership & Skills Conference are listed by hometown:

BELLINGHAM

Silver: Audrey Drons, Promotional Bulletin Board; and Kiele Sarnie, Carpentry.

Bronze: Matthew Skarin, Welding

BLACKSTONE

Gold: Haley McKinnon, Photography.

Bronze: Mia Delvecchio, Baking & Pastry Arts; and Isabella

Olsen, Health Knowledge Bowl.

DOUGLAS

Silver: Ava Austin, Sticker Design; and Devin Drumheller, Mechatronics.

GRAFTON

Gold: Connor McInerney, HVAC/R; and Cooper Often, Mechatronics.

Silver: Amaya Langer, Bio Tech Knowledge Bowl; Robert Lazo, Mechatronics; Daniel Warfield, Electronics; and Ellen Winderbaum, Promotional Bulletin Board.

HOPEDALE

Gold: Ella Foster, Engineering Technology.

Silver: Evan Griffin, Internetworking; and Christopher Russell, Bio Tech Knowledge Bowl.

Bronze: Gabriella Griffin, Health Knowledge Bowl; and Declan Reilly, Computer Programming.

MENDON

National Voting Delegate: Payton Smith.

Gold: Phoebe Burke, Robotics & Automation Technology; and Payton Smith, Safety Poster De-

SKILLS COMP

continued on page 15

EYES

continued from page 12

Who Should Consider Direct SLT?

Direct SLT is especially beneficial for:

- Patients with early to moderate open-angle glaucoma
- Individuals looking to reduce or avoid glaucoma medications
- Patients with sensitivity or allergies to eye drops
- Those with difficulty maintaining a drop regimen
- Patients with ocular surface disease worsened by medications

Benefits and Risks of Direct SLT

Benefits:

- No incisions and minimal discomfort

- Quick recovery
- May reduce or eliminate the need for daily drops
- Repeatable treatment
- Customized for individual patient needs

Risks:

- Temporary eye irritation or inflammation
- Mild, short-term increase in IOP immediately after treatment
- In rare cases, insufficient pressure reduction

Why Choose Milford Franklin Eye Center for Your Laser Glaucoma Surgery?

We are proud to be the first center in Massachusetts to offer Direct SLT, and even prouder to provide it in a local, accessible setting that prioritizes patient comfort and convenience. Our

facility is equipped with the latest ophthalmic technology, and our team—led by Dr. Kaldawy—delivers compassionate, expert care with excellent outcomes.

Here's the great news: You don't need to travel far to receive top-tier glaucoma care. We're offering excellence in SLT—including the newest Direct SLT—right here in Milford.

If you or someone you love is living with glaucoma or elevated eye pressure, **contact us today** to learn whether Direct SLT is right for you. We're honored to bring this breakthrough in glaucoma care to our community—and we're ready to help you protect your vision for years to come.

For more details, see our ad on page 14.

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CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES Hopedale Senior Center



2025 JUNE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
02 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	03 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	04 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30pm Cribbage	05 9:00am Walking Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	06 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
09 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Lunch @ Senior Center 12:30 pm BINGO	10 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	11 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30pm Cribbage	12 9:00am Walking Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi 1:00 pm COA Mtg.	13 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
16 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	17 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	18 10:00 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage	 CLOSED	20 10:00 am Strength & Balance 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
23 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO	24 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge 1:00 pm Fire Safety Presentation 1:45 pm Ice Cream Social	25 11:00 am Meditation 12:30 pm Literature 12:30 pm Cribbage	26 9:00am Walking Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 12:00 pm Men's Lunch 1:00 pm Tai Chi	27 12:00 pm Senior Center closes
30 9:00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 12:00 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm BINGO				

New Transportation Service is Available for all Hopedale Residents!

A new transportation service is available for all Hopedale residents from the MWRTA (Metrowest Regional Transit Authority). The service is called, "Catch Connect". It's available in Hopedale and Milford.

Catch Connect, is an on-demand (book same day, at the time you are ready to travel), similar to Uber and Lyft, shared ride service, that will provide flexible curb to curb, accessible transportation to those living, working, and visiting, in the allowable service area (Milford and Hopedale).

Riders can book trips on this service directly through their phone via the MWRTA Catch App. No smartphone? No problem! Users can also contact the MWRTA Call Center at (508)283-5083, and a representative will assist with booking your trip over the phone.

The Hopedale/Milford

Catch Connect service will operate :

Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Riders can travel between any two addresses within Hopedale and or Milford, as well as connect to Fixed Routes 6 and 14 in Milford, to travel further into the MWRTA service region. No fares will be charged through June 30, 2025.

For updates, and more information on how to use Catch Connect and the MWRTA Catch App, please visit www.mwrta.com/catch

You may also call the Hopedale Senior Center at (508)634-2208 for additional information. We are so excited about the availability of this service!

Get a ride to a Hair Salon, Barber, Restaurant, Bank, Store or visit a friend. Where would you like to go?

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.

SKILLS COMP

continued from page 13

sign Team.

Silver: Kalynn Bellefontaine, Nurse Assisting; and Nathan Lucey, HVAC/R.

Bronze: Leila Leyvas, Health Knowledge Bowl.

MILFORD

National Voting Delegate & State Officer Elect: Maria Clara De Oliveira.

Gold: Andrew Dolan, Health Occupations Professional Portfolio.

Silver: Ethan Dahmer, Bio Tech Knowledge Bowl.

Bronze: Olivia Guido, Painting & Design Technology; Arianna Turner, Robotics & Automation Tech.

MILLBURY

Gold: Allison Garden, Engineering Technology.

Bronze: Jonathan Tremblay, Diesel Equipment Technology.

NORTHBRIDGE

National Voting Delegate: Bella Baltramaitis.

Gold: Esther Alves, Robotics & Automation Technology; Bella Baltramaitis, Safety Poster Design Team; Steven Caya, Principles of Technology, Zabel Derkosroffian, Telecommunications Cabling; and Autumn Gromelski, Restaurant Service.

Silver: Liliana Carpenter, Restaurant Service; and Olivia Medina, Painting & Design Technology.

Bronze: Sosie Derkosroffian,

Medical Terminology.

SUTTON

Gold: Benjamin Hicks, Electronics Technology.

Bronze: Keira Lavine, Robotics & Automation Tech.

UPTON

Gold: Justin Fransen, Mechatronics.

Bronze: Cassidy Lyon, Health Knowledge Bowl.

UXBRIDGE

Gold: Gabrielle Gannon, Engineering Technology.

Silver: Matteo Lame, Power Equipment Technology; and Abigail Thompson, Promotional Bulletin Board.

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
05/19/2025	229 S Main Street	\$500,000
05/15/2025	24 Mendon Street	\$650,000
05/13/2025	50 Laurelwood Drive	\$375,000
05/12/2025	19-21 Cemetery Street	\$585,000
05/08/2025	20 Ballou Road	\$570,000
05/07/2025	228 Laurelwood Drive #A	\$545,000
04/23/2025	3 Richard Road	\$690,000
04/23/2025	221 Laurelwood Drive	\$450,000

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



The 4-bed, 2-bath, 1,820-square-foot unit at 19-21 Cemetery Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$585,000. 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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