

Hundreds gather for ICE protest after MHS student detained

GoFundMe and #FreeMarcelo are being shared online



Hundreds of people, including Milford High School students who had graduated just minutes before the protest began, showed up in front of Milford Town Hall to protest the recent detention of a MHS junior. Photo credit: Scott Calzolaio

By Scott Calzolaio

Hundreds of people gathered in front of the Milford Town Hall on the afternoon of June 1 to protest after Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) detained an 18-year-old Milford High School student on the morning of Saturday, June 1, a day before Milford High School graduation.

Though his full name was not released to the press, the crowd yelled, "Free Mar-

ICE

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Town Park to open on June 21, will feature state-of-the-art Outdoor Fitness Court® Studio



Courtesy photo

The Milford Parks and Recreation Department, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (Blue Cross), and National Fitness Campaign (NFC) today announced a partnership that has brought an outdoor Fitness Court® Studio and digital wellness programming to Milford. The Fitness Court® Studio, located at Milford Town Park, will open Saturday, June 21 at

1 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony during the Town Park Celebration.

The Fitness Court® Studio was developed by the Milford Parks Department, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, and NFC to expand free access to high-quality workouts and create

FITNESS

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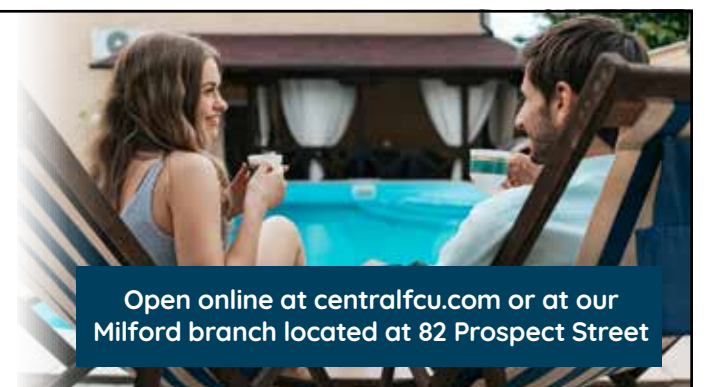
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FITNESS

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equitable access to exercise for communities across the region. The Fitness Court® is the world’s best outdoor gym that lets users leverage their own body weight to get a complete workout using seven exercise stations.

Created for adults of all abilities aged 14+, the Fitness Court® Studio workouts are adaptable for all fitness levels, allowing participants to move at their own pace. Users also may download the free Fitness Court® App, which acts as a coach-in-your-pocket and enhances the outdoor gym into a digitally supported wellness experience. Milford is one of 15 Campaign Partners building a network of Fitness Courts across the state, with the help of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

Milford Parks and Recreation Administrator Jim Asam says, “The Fitness Court® Studio will provide an innovative addition to Milford’s park system, providing teenagers and adults with the opportunity to get a high-quality workout without paying a gym fee. The Studio portion of the Fitness Court provides an outdoor experience for group exercise, such as yoga and gymnastics.”

The 32-foot-wide multipurpose training wall that anchors the Fitness Court® Studio features a mural created by

The Milford Town Park celebration will take place on June 21 at 1 p.m.

Massachusetts artist Carol Abram. Her design, titled “Fitness for All,” showcases health and wellness in Milford, while celebrating the diversity of the population and highlighting historic aspects of the community. Abram’s design was selected from over 30 submissions to a Call to Artists executed by the Milford Cultural Council in December 2023. Her mural has been printed on high quality, anti-graffiti laminated vinyl and applied to the studio side of the Fitness Court. Abram was awarded a \$5,000 grant from NFC for her work.

All residents are invited to attend the launch event on Sat., June 21 at Milford Town Park to try the Fitness Court® Studio and see the new mural. For more information about the Town Park Celebration, visit bit.ly/3H46DQa or email CulturalCouncil@TownOfMilford.com. For more information on Blue Cross support of NFC, please visit <https://nationalfitness-campaign.com/massachusetts>.

Celtic strength returns to Milford for historic 5th year — bigger, bolder!

Brace yourself for the 5th Annual Celtic Strength Festival, Saturday, June 21, as it storms back onto Fino Field with a day of kilts, courage, and community. Formerly known as the Scottish Highland Games, this expanded celebration now embraces the full breadth of Celtic warrior traditions—including stone lifting, Irish wrestling, and the iconic Scottish Heavy Athletics.

Over the past four years, world records have fallen and legends have risen. With 120+ athletes flying in from Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and across the U.S., 2025 is shaping up to be our boldest year yet!

Celtic Strength blends adrenaline-pumping competition with cultural pride and family-friendly fun. Highlights include:

- **Highland Games Heavies** — Caber Toss, Weight for Height, Sheaf Toss, and more with athletes from the USA, Czech Republic, Belgium, Holland, and Canada.
- **Team Highlander Showdown** — Barbell clubs, firehouses, and gyms face off in events like the 550 lb Wagon Wheel Deadlift, U-Haul Pull, and Caber Relay.
- **Celtic Wrestling Revival** — Live matches and workshops in Irish Collar & Elbow and Scottish Backhold, featuring expert Tom “Headhunter” Higgins from Chicago.
- **Stonelifting Showcase** — World-class lifters including Martin “The Stoneman” Jancsics from Scotland and David “Indiana Stones” Keohan from Ireland will demonstrate historic feats of raw power. Try-it stations open to all ages.



Hannah Linzay, (above) professional strongwoman from AL throwing the Sheaf Toss. Steve Laser (left) of FL mid-spin with the Heavyweight for Distance.



onstrate historic feats of raw power. Try-it stations open to all ages.

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Join us for Opening Ceremonies with bagpipes and awards, a Kids Tug-of-War vs. Team Highlander Captains at noon, Celtic heritage booths, food trucks, epic merch, and activities for all ages.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 kids (5–18), under 5 free.

Location: Fino Field, Milford, MA - lawn chairs encouraged.

More Info: www.nofame-games.com

Thanks to Milford Parks & Recreation, Sports Illustrated Tickets, Cerberus Strength USA, Bosse Pickledom, Premier Fence, Celtic New England, USMMA, and others for supporting this unforgettable day of strength and unity.

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ICE

continued from page 1

celo,” in chants throughout the protest.

Marcelo’s friends report he was detained on his way to volleyball practice on Saturday morning.

Students marched from the graduation ceremony on Sunday morning to Milford Town Hall in their caps and gowns, entering the adult world with their voices being heard. The march halted across the street from Town Hall, where hundreds were already gathered, cheering on the marching graduates.

Marcelo's girlfriend, Julianys Rentas, was interviewed by WCVB NewsCenter 5, where she recapped a phone call ICE agents allowed Marcelo to make.

"He told me he had chains around his ankles, he had chains around his wrists," Rentas said. "He's in a cell with 30 other men. He's the only 18-year-old there, he's the youngest there. He is not a criminal. He's a member of this community and has never done anything wrong."

Marcelo has been a part of the Milford school system since he was six years old.

Milford Chief of Police Robert Tusino said his department was informed of the ICE activity by the school. In a brief interview with the Milford Free Press, Tusino made it clear that his officers were not involved, but conflict could have possibly been avoided if they were, he said.

"We can't stop ICE if we wanted to, they've made that very clear to us," Tusino said,

A GoFundMe account has been established to help Marcelo and his family. For more information, visit bit.ly/FreeMarcelo

standing amongst the protestors. "I think they should make it so that the police are with ICE, so that we can act as intermediaries."

Tusino said he and his department have worked with ICE in the past to assist in executing warrants for known criminals.

"When we take these folks in, we take them to Honey Dew, let them use the bathroom at the station, I'm all about keeping it humane, I was a paramedic for 34 years," he said. "ICE will just let them sit in a van for hours. We just want to make sure our community is safe, and the relationship we've created with our residents remains uncompromised."

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey released a statement responding to the arrest, and demanding information on where he is being held.

"I'm disturbed and outraged by reports that a Milford High School student was arrested by ICE on his way to volleyball practice yesterday [May 31]. Yet again, local officials and law enforcement have been left in



An 18-year-old Milford High School student, Marcelo (left, standing in front of a poster promoting inclusion), was detained by ICE on May 31 on his way to sports practice. A GoFundMe account (bit.ly/FreeMarcelo) has been set up to help him and his family with expenses. Photo source: GoFundMe

the dark with no heads up and no answers to their questions," Healey said in the statement. "I'm demanding that ICE provide immediate information about why he was arrested, where he is and how his due process is being protected. My heart goes out to the Milford community on what was supposed to be a celebratory graduation day. The Trump Administration continues to create fear in our communities, and it's making us all less safe."

A GoFundMe account bit.ly/FreeMarcelo has been set up to help "secure experienced legal representation; cover any court and filing fees; support Marcelo's family during this uncertain time... Please help us fight for Marcelo's future and bring him home where he belongs." The hashtag #FreeMarcelo is also being used on social media.

Theresa Knapp, contributor
**This story is evolving and includes information available at press time.*



Hundreds of people, including Milford High School students who had graduated just minutes before the protest began, showed up in front of Milford Town Hall to protest the recent detention of a MHS junior. Photo credit: Scott Calzolaio



On June 1, in support of a Milford High School student recently detained by ICE, hundreds of protesters held signs with various messages, including:

- We Love You Marcelo
- We the People Are All Immigrants
- Students In School Not Cells
- Silence is Complicity
- Protect Our Children
- Por Nuestras Familias
- No Sign Big Enough To List All the Reasons We Are Here
- My Student, Not Your Target
- Milfordians For All Students
- Make Immigration American Again
- Immigrants Make Milford Great
- ICE...Go Melt Yourself
- I Cannot Believe I had to even make this sign to tell you that Destroying Lives & Tearing Families Apart is Wrong
- How Do You Ban People From Coming To A Country You Stole
- Everyone is Welcome Here
- Education Not Deportation
- Due Process
- America Was Built By Immigrants
- Abolish ICE

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Milford High School students earn Innovation Award

On May 9, the One8 Foundation held their annual Applied Learning Student Showcase. All Project Lead the Way (PLTW) students from across the state were invited to share the science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) projects they worked on throughout the year at their respective high schools. In particular, students that have been taking the PLTW Capstone course were offered the opportunity to demonstrate to the Massachusetts schools' community their work on an advanced STEM project. Over 100 capstone projects from all corners of the Commonwealth were represented at the showcase.

Milford High School seniors Maya Santos and Aloiyeh Okhipo were awarded the Liberty Mutual Innovation Award for their project on the thermoelectric recovery of energy from turf fields. The judges stated, "This team's capstone project exemplified the very best of Applied Learning - insightful, high-quality work, that pushed boundaries and delivered real value. Industry professionals were truly impressed by their innovation, execution, and excellence."

Milford High School seniors Maya Santos and Aloiyeh Okhipo were awarded the Liberty Mutual Innovation Award for their project on the thermoelectric recovery of energy from turf fields.

Mr. Robert Knapp, Milford High School Physics teacher and teacher of the PLTW En-



Maya Santos and Aloiyeh Okhipo [center] were awarded the Liberty Mutual Innovation Award. Caroline Hon from National Grid (left) and Jon Jacobson from the One8 Foundation (right) served as industry representatives/judges. Courtesy photo

gineering course, shared the following about the project completed by Maya and Aloiyeh: "From the start of the year, Maya had focused on problems that were actively bothering her. Not only was the crumb rubber on turf fields environmentally concerning but it was an annoyance, hot, got in your shoes. She landed on how hot the turf could get. This served as a moment of inspiration as she had just been learning about geothermal heating and she tied the two ideas together. From there she identified how to capture this problem. As Maya began to turn her research into a prototype, Aloiyeh joined the project. They worked together to assemble a prototype device just a few days before the presenta-

tion. Maya's innovation and persistence, along with Aloiyeh's teamwork and flexibility, made for an outstanding, forward-looking project by two outstanding engineering students. They made Milford High School first year at the showcase a proud event for MHS and our Science educators. These two students were excellent representatives of our school." The One8 Foundation is a philanthropic organization that combines funding with strategic expertise to support nonprofits working to create positive social change, particularly in the area of education. The One8 Foundation supports outstanding education leaders with compelling ideas that deliver social impact and change. The One8 Founda-

tion has a focus on preparing students for a rapidly changing data-rich world through applied learning. Project Lead The Way is a non-profit organization that provides STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum and professional development for PreK-12 students and teachers. The curriculum is designed to empower students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a STEM-driven world. PLTW offers programs for elementary, middle, and high school students, covering areas like computer science, engineering, and biomedical science.

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ABA Centers of America – Providing compassionate autism care with no waiting list

By Jennifer Russo

For parents and caregivers of children and young adults on the autism spectrum, it is a journey marked by both unconditional love and diverse challenges. There are moments of pure joy and celebration of their child’s achievements, times of learning and understanding of the unique perspectives they have of their surroundings, and opportunities to strengthen bonds through patience and adaptability. However, there are also moments of uncertainty, with one of the most significant hurdles being the navigation of education and healthcare for those who have autism.

Determined to find the best care for their loved ones, caregivers are often met with difficulty accessing the right therapies for the individual needs of their child. Knowing what services are available and where to get them can be overwhelming, as is figuring out what is and isn’t covered by health insurance and finding a provider who can support them immediately. Unfortunately, the waiting lists for access to this specialized care are often long, sometimes stretching to many months or even years.

One excellent resource for families seeking compassionate, expert autism care is the **ABA Centers of America**. ABA Centers of America has a team of highly trained professionals that provide individualized treatment plans that focus on social and communications skills and independent life skills. They use Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), an evidence-backed approach using immersive, play-based activities that are positively reinforced. What sets them apart is that there is **NO WAITING LIST**.

Founder Christopher Barnett, who is a parent to an autistic child, created the company to disrupt the autism care industry by demolishing the wait times traditionally experienced by those in search of a diagnosis or treatment. Individualized therapy is offered onsite at the centers, in school, or at their home depending on each child’s specific needs.

Business spotlight


“Autism therapies are usually prescribed to the clients in the form of hours needed to work on specific interventions such as social interaction deficits, certain behaviors, life skills, etc.,” shares Michael Brennan, Executive Director of the organization’s new center in Milford.


“Here, families can come in with a diagnosis or we can provide the diagnostic testing ourselves to ensure that the families can get an answer quickly. We then do a full assessment of what the individual’s needs are and one of our Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) will determine what interventions would work best and will develop and prescribe a tailored treatment plan. The child will be assigned a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) who will work with them one-on-one. We find that progress happens relatively quickly due to the therapy model and that individualized care. We strongly believe in meeting each person where they are at with a positive attitude and going at their pace.”

“And we know that navigating insurance plans can be daunting for a lot of caregivers, so we also help throughout the entire insurance process.”

ABA Centers of America serves children as young as 18-months-old to teens and young adults, as well as several older adults. Their play-based therapy is different for each client, but can be anything from getting used to brushing their teeth to learning how to make a bed, introducing themselves to someone else and shaking their hand, building with blocks or Legos, using a trampoline or slide, reading a book, helping to cook something in the kitchen, and more.

“One thing that we work a lot on is learning how to tolerate changes or disruptions in a routine or schedule, because that is what happens in life. We believe in helping them to learn to be as independent as





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possible,” says Heidi Galbraith, Clinical Director.

“A day for a client may begin by learning where to put their jacket or bag each day, practicing their hygiene skills, feeding themselves at lunch and washing their face, and learning how to interact with others. They may go to a classroom and learn some cognitive skills, like shape sorting. We may play a game

they don’t always like, but it helps to build that tolerance to play it for a little while – and what that does is then open them up to more enjoyment in life.”

The RBTs are always with the child during sessions, helping to queue activities, offering choices of games, and positively reinforcing everything they are doing, and they track everything so they can document

progress made. Along the way, the BCBAs are observing and collecting information to help maximize the potential of every individual, making adjustments to the treatment plan as needed. “Parent input is also very important because there may be events coming up for them

ABA

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Milford Town Park Celebration planned for Saturday, June 21

All Milford residents are invited to attend the Milford Town Park Celebration on Saturday, June 21 from noon to 4 p.m. to explore and experience the completed renovations, new sport courts, and new Fitness Court® Studio. The Milford Cultural Council and Milford Parks Department are organizing this family friendly event to not only showcase the park renovations, but to bring the community together to enjoy an afternoon of Fitness Court demonstrations, new sport court tryouts, live music, food, and art activities. A short ceremony and ribbon-cutting featuring local officials and partners, as well as the rededication of the basketball courts to honor the legacy of John S. “Chili” Frabotta, are planned for 1 p.m.

The renovation construction to Town Park began in July of 2024 and is expected to be completed by mid-June. The renovations include two new tennis courts, four pickleball courts, two basketball courts with futsal and street hockey

options, as well as added and expanded walkways, new seating, and new lighting. The renovations also include the installation of a new Fitness Court® Studio, a handicapped-accessible outdoor gym that is being added to Town Park through a partnership with National Fitness Campaign (NFC) and a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. This Fitness Court® Studio is the world’s best outdoor gym that lets users leverage their own body weight to get a complete workout using seven exercise stations. Created for adults of all abilities age 14+, the Fitness Court® Studio workouts are adaptable for all fitness levels, allowing participants to move at their own pace. The 32-foot wide training wall that anchors the Fitness Court will feature Milford’s first large-scale mural titled “Fitness for All” created

by Massachusetts artist Carol Abram. The Milford Cultural Council worked with the Milford Parks Commission, NFC, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts to seek artist designs and select the winning mural.

Milford Parks and Recreation Administrator Jim Asam says, “We know residents have been waiting a long time for the renovations to be finished, so we are looking forward to hosting



this celebration that will allow everyone to check out the improvements to Town Park. Sporting equipment will be available so residents can try out all the new sport courts and Fitness Court.”

In addition to the fitness demonstrations and activities, the Town Park Celebration will include live music, food vendors, art activities, and community pop-ups. PanNeubean Steel, a Milford-based steelpan band, will open the event in the Town Park bandstand. Matt York will be singing the songs of Willie Nelson at 2 p.m., and he will be followed by Milford High School’s Joe B. Band.

Food options will include Simmer & Spice, Tako Laco, New City Creamery ice cream from The Rail Trail Flatbread Company of Milford, as well as hand-crafted lemonades from Citrus Got Real. In addition,

Shaw’s of Milford will be giving away nutritious snacks near the Fitness Court, and the Milford Cultural Council will be distributing healthy snacks courtesy of other local grocery stores.

The Cultural Council will host a number of other activities at the event, including face painting, a coloring book station, and the creation of a new community graffiti picnic table.

Milford Cultural Council Chair Martin Montoya says, “The Cultural Council is excited to be working with the Parks Department to host this community event, which will launch the reveal of our first large-scale mural, another fine addition to our ongoing Art in the Parks initiative.”

Numerous community organizations will set up as pop-up stations in the new grassy area across from the bandstand to distribute information and discuss their programming. Groups

CELEBRATION
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Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Going through a divorce is emotionally painful and can disrupt one's life in many ways — but does it also have to be financially devastating?

Not necessarily. You can help yourself greatly by making a series of moves. Here are some to consider:

Before the divorce is final ...

- *Determine how you'll cover the cost of the divorce.* To meet the costs of a divorce, which can be tens of thousands dollars,

- you may need to tap in to your income stream and savings accounts, or even explore alternative options, such as borrowing from your retirement plan, if it's allowed by a divorce court judge.
- *Create a budget.* You may want to build a temporary budget. Your divorce attorney can advise you on how long your separation period may last in a contested case.
 - *Start building separate bank and brokerage accounts.* Consult with your divorce attorney on ways to establish independent bank and brokerage accounts without harming your spouse.
 - *Understand your retirement benefits.* Know the value of your and your spouse's 401(k) or similar plans, IRAs, pensions, stock options and other employer benefits. Also, you might need to negotiate the splitting of retirement benefits through a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO). A tax professional and a financial advisor

- can help you understand how different QDRO proposals can affect your retirement goals.
- After the divorce is final ...
- *Finish building your separate financial accounts.* You may want to close any joint accounts or credit cards, change online access to financial accounts, remove your name from bills for which you are no longer responsible and complete any agreed-upon asset transfers, such as dividing retirement assets.
 - *Create a new budget.* You can now create a longer-term budget, incorporating any spouse or child support you receive as income. You may also need to adjust your spending to reflect items in the divorce agreement, such as expenses now covered by your former spouse and court-ordered responsibilities for paying college education expenses for dependent children and possibly the attorneys' fees for a former spouse.

- *Review your protection plans.* You may need to review your life, homeowners and auto insurance policies. And if you were covered under your spouse's health insurance plan, you may want to apply for COBRA to stay on that plan up to 36 months or switch to your own employer's plan, if available. If you don't have access to an employer's health insurance, you may want to explore a marketplace plan from the Affordable Care Act or contact a health insurance broker.
- *Review your estate plans.* To reflect your new marital status, you may need to work with your legal professional to change some of your estate-planning documents, such as a will, living trust, advanced health care directive or power of attorney. Also, review the beneficiary designations on life insurance policies, IRAs, annuities and investment accounts, as these designations can likely supersede instructions on your will or trust.

- *See your tax professional.* You may need to consult with your tax professional on issues such as changing your tax return filing status, claiming a child as a dependent and dealing with tax implications of assets received in the divorce.
- Going through a divorce is not easy — but by taking the appropriate steps before and after the divorce is finalized, you can at least help put yourself in a more secure and stable financial position to begin the next phase of your life.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.
Mark Freeman, CEPA
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
77 West Main Street,
Hopkinton, MA 508-293-4017
Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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ABA

continued from page 5

where they will need additional social therapy or other things going on that we can work into the schedule as needed," shares Brennan.

Open communication between ABA Centers of America and the caregivers is key. Caregivers are kept informed of everything their child is doing and learning. There is also parent training at least once a week where they are educated on ways to reinforce therapies throughout the day, provided strategies for things like mitigating overstimulation or challenging behaviors, shared best practices for safeguarding their homes, and more.

"We try to put ourselves into the caregivers' shoes and understand how we can best ease specific stressors as we are doing this work with their child, for ex-

ample, we have been providing dinner for the kids on Mondays, which goes along with our socialization efforts, and helps the parents or caregivers not have to rush around as much," Brennan shares.

ABA Centers of America has six locations in Massachusetts, with their newest 9,700 square foot location in Milford officially opening with an open house in June. The space is open and bright and has various areas for play, relaxation, learning, and more. Those interested in seeing the space and learning more about ABA therapy are encouraged to schedule a tour.

Find our local ABA Centers of America location at 25 Birch Street, Building A (second floor) in Milford, MA. To learn more about ABA Centers of America, you can visit their website at www.abacenters.com or call 1-855-604-4222.

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Milford Public Schools Update

Important Dates:

June 16 - Last day of school for Shining Star Early Childhood Center

June 17 - Last day of school for MHS, Stacy Middle, Brookside, and Memorial - Early release

June 18 - Last day of school for Woodland - Early release

August 21 - Open House for the 2025-2026 School Year

August 27 - First Day of School - Grades 1-12

District News:

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide the best possible education and support for our students, we are currently looking to fill several positions across the district—and we'd love your help! If you know someone who would be a great fit for our school community—whether they're a teacher, support staff, or someone interested in starting a career in education—please encourage them to visit our district website to view current job openings and apply or send their applications to the Administrative Assistant to the

Superintendent, Melissa Bullock, at mbullock@milfordma.com. Your help in spreading the word is invaluable. The strength of our schools comes from the people within them, and we're excited to welcome new team members to our school communities who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of students!

The Annual MPS District-wide Art Show featuring visual arts from Grades 1-12, as well as Creator & Maker students from MHS, was held on May 15 from 5-8 p.m. The creativity and talent on display was amazing!

The Milford Community School Use Program is pleased to announce that Summer Day Camp Registration is now open. Check out the Community Use website for registration info!

A musical Pops Concert at Milford High School was held on May 20. The concert was in the outdoor courtyard in the middle of MHS. Pieces of music were performed by the talented musical groups of MHS, includ-

ing: Jazz Band, Chamber Choir; Barbershop, Harmonics, Percussion Ensemble, the All School Strings, Saxophone Choir; and a variety of quartets, trios, and duets. There was something for all musical tastes!

Memorial School, Brookside School, Woodland School, and Stacy Middle School all held Memorial day ceremonies prior to the holiday weekend to recognize the importance of Memorial Day. Students and staff listened to speakers, performed patriotic songs, and read poems and essays about Memorial day. Veterans and active duty service members attended and were recognized and thanked for their service.

The Milford Public Schools want to express their gratitude and appreciation to those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense and support of our country.

Milford High School:

MHS Theater Workshop proudly and successfully presented "The Layover." A one-act, student directed play on May 9, 10 and 11 at Milford

High School.

The MHS Counseling Dept. hosted a "Welcome to MHS" for all families that will be new to MHS in the fall on May 15 in the MHS Auditorium.

The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony has been posted on the Milford High website. Our NHS Seniors were recognized prior to their graduation, while a new class of Junior students were inducted. National Honor Society recognizes students that have excelled with their academics, while maintaining a commitment to community service and responsible citizenship.

Woodland Elementary School:

Congratulations to Woodland EL Coordinator Ms. Megan Gabellieri! Ms. Gabellieri was awarded a \$500 Schulman Innovation Grant award from the MA Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages (MATSOL). Her grant aims to purchase Portuguese multilingual books to be utilized in classrooms, supporting

students' English language development while honoring their home language and culture.

We're proud to announce that the Woodland Elementary School has again been named a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) 2024-2025 Distinguished School for their commitment to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. Thank you to Mr. Dan Cushing and Mr. Kurt Shady for their hard work delivering PLTW to our students in STEM class and to Ms. Wendy Marino, Science Curriculum Team Leader, for her support of this initiative. PLTW units of study are also offered at Brookside, Memorial, and Stacy as part of the STEM classes. Students at MHS can opt into one of three PLTW course pathways in engineering, biomedical sciences, or computer science.

Brookside Elementary School:

Brookside held a Math & Lit-

SCHOOLS

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UniBank held Annual Meeting at Portuguese Club



UniBank, the largest Mutual Community Bank headquartered in Central Massachusetts, recently held their Annual Meeting at the Portuguese Club in Milford.

Michael Welch, CEO of UniBank, said, “Our Annual Meeting had a special energy at the Portuguese Club. We welcomed over 160 Directors, Corporators, and team members who each contributed to our great success in 2024. It always makes me proud to reiterate the 150+ year legacy of our commitment to the Central Mass community, our giving of over \$2M to non-profits and charities in 2024, and the current strength of UniBank financially, as well as our prosperous outlook for the remainder of 2025.”

UniBank Chairman, Tim Wickstrom, commented at the meeting, “Tonight, we hold our Annual Meeting for the 1st time in Milford, where we have a very vibrant and prosperous branch just a stone’s throw from here. It is also fitting that we have our meeting at this beautiful Portuguese Club of Milford, a long-time gathering place for the Portuguese immigrant community in Milford and Hopedale.”

Chairman Wickstrom added, “As many of you know, Milford and the Blackstone Valley towns of Uxbridge and Whitinsville have a long history of welcoming immigrants to work, live, worship, and prosper in their communities. In Milford and Hopedale, the Portuguese im-

migrants worked at the Draper Mill, another large textile machine manufacturer in the Blackstone Valley area, second only to the Whitin Machine Works in Whitinsville. Tonight, we salute, celebrate and recognize the Portuguese immigrant community here for their contribution to the Greater Milford community through their hard work culture, their family and faith values, and their neighborly acts of kindness towards one another. We look forward to continuing to support this community, as well as the communities in the Greater Milford area, as we expand our presence in adjacent communities.”

UniBank would like to thank the Portuguese Club team for their gracious hospitality as well as Oliva’s Market, Catering and Gourmet Gifts of Milford for providing their exceptional catering and service.

UniBank is headquartered in Whitinsville, MA with assets of \$2.6 billion as of December 31, 2024. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining an elevated level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. NMLS #583135. The company website is www.unibank.com.

Pet of the Month: Meet Gomer



Gomer, or “Gomez” as we affectionately call him, wants you to know that life doesn’t have to be so hectic. Just one look into his gentle green eyes reminds you that it’s time to slow down and take some Gomer time. Pet his gorgeous soft gray fur and forget your to-do list for a little while.

Gomer came to us from an overcrowded household. Right out of the gate, he wanted

to be our best friend. He really wants to be with you and will follow you around, if that works for you. When you are too busy to spend time with Gomer, he will wait patiently for you to be available, well that is unless there is food involved, then he will be right by your side hoping you are in a sharing mood. While the sound of a treat bag or can opening brings him running, it’s more

the potential for human contact than the food itself that he craves. Gomer is good with other cats but having come from a home with so many feline friends, it’s clear he would really like some undivided attention from his humans.

For more information on Gomer or the other cats at the Milford Humane Society, please visit <https://www.milfordhumane.org/>

To meet Gomer, please visit the Milford Humane Society at milfordhumane.org or call 508-473-7008 for more information.

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Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

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

by Reference Department

Juneteenth

The library will be closed on Thursday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth. Regular hours resume on Friday, June 20 at 9 a.m.

Adult Summer Reading Program: Level Up at Your Library

The 2025 Adult Summer Reading Program is coming soon, on Monday, June 16.

This year's theme is "Level Up at Your Library" and we're gamifying our reading logs to help you have some fun, learn new games, and sharpen your skills! Everyone who participates will win a prize, but the more you participate, the more tickets you will earn to put toward our Level Up prize drawing.

Check our website (milfordtownlibrary.org) on Monday, June 16 for all the program and prize details!

Last year's Adult Summer Reading Program, "Read, Renew, Repeat", attracted nearly 100 adult participants!

The Adult Summer Reading program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, and supported by our friends at Blooming Hearts Roastery, Friendly Fire

Paintball, and Tj Cafe & Games!

Dave Morin: Photography

During June, photographer Dave Morin returns with a new exhibit that can be viewed throughout the month near the Information Desk on the library's main level.

A Milford resident for more than 40 years, Dave is not related to the Morin's Studio family. He's been an avid photographer since childhood and became a serious photographer with the improvements in digital SLR cameras. He is mainly self-taught and has participated in a number of local and international shows. Dave is a member of the Assabet Valley and Stony Brook Camera Clubs.

English Classes

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

Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

The spring session ends on Tuesday, June 17. The summer schedule will be available soon.

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

Las clases de primavera terminan el 17 de junio. El horario de verano estará disponible próximamente

As aulas presenciais gratuitas para adultos que desejam aprender e melhorar seu inglês começam na terça-feira, 14 de janeiro de 2025. As aulas para iniciantes são ministradas nas noites de terça e quinta, das 19h às 20h. Uma aula intermediária é ministrada às quintas-feiras, das 17h30 às 18h30. As aulas são ministradas no nível inferior da

biblioteca, na sala de aula ESL. O registro não é necessário. Para obter mais informações, ligue para o balcão de informações em 508-473-2145 x 2.

As aulas de primavera terminam em 17 de junho. A programação de verão será anunciada em breve.

New: Silent Book Club

The first meeting of the Milford Town Library Silent Book Club will be on Wednesday, June 25 at 7 p.m. in the Children's Program Room.

Come and enjoy the companionship of silent reading with neighbors and friends at the Milford Town Library Silent Book Club. No assignments, no homework. Simply bring whatever you want to read. It can be your own book, audiobook (with headphones), magazine, newspaper, comic, etc. or grab an interesting read off our shelves. You do not need to have a library card to read here at the library. You only need a card if you want to check an item out. For Adults and Teens 16+.

Our Silent Book Club chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

7 to 7:30 p.m. – Come for some light refreshments and a chance to socialize (optional)

7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Settle into an hour of silent reading anywhere on the main floor of the library

New Databases!

Every year, we evaluate our database offerings and make changes to provide our patrons with more options and tools to read, watch, research and learn more. These databases, along with all of our databases, are FREE with your Milford Town Library card.

New Databases – June 2025

HeritageHub – Explore your family history with the premier collection of U.S. obituaries and funeral home notices for in-depth genealogical research from 1704 - today.

Morningstar Investing Center – Find in-depth analysis and ratings for stocks, funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) with the best research investment tool available.

Newsbank - Milford Daily News – Access full-text articles from current and archived issues of Milford Daily News! Also available remotely 24/7 on any device.

Oxford English Dictionary – Discover the meaning, history, and usage of over 500,000 words and phrases across the English-speaking world with this definitive tool.

To see all of our databases, visit our website, milfordtownlibrary.org and choose the DATABASES button.

LIBRARY

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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 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

Business spotlight

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 residential 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 restaurant, 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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Milford High School receives Virtual Reality Learning Grant from the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation

Milford High School and the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation (BVEF) proudly announced that MHS educators Ms. Ursula Hunt and Mr. Damien Gaudet have been awarded the Osterman Family Foundation Grant worth \$1,715 for their proposal entitled, “MHS Virtual Reality Learning Experiences.”

This grant will fund Virtual Reality (VR) Learning Experiences at Milford High School to transform the way students engage with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. By integrating VR into computer science, web design, and game design courses, students will gain immersive, interactive experiences that strengthen their understanding of coding, 3D modeling, and design principles. VR technology will allow students to prototype and visualize their projects in real-time, fostering deeper comprehension and engagement. This initiative aligns with Milford High School’s emphasis on innovation and commitment to career readiness.

“Encouraging critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving through virtual reality simulations, in addition to the

technical skills students will be taught, are just some of the outcomes we anticipate,” Hunt shared. “As Milford High expands our post-secondary and vocational training offerings, we are excited to provide hands-on learning experiences that align with career pathways in technology and STEM fields.”

Mr. Gaudet added, “Boosting student confidence and reducing anxiety by allowing them to practice skills in a low-risk, immersive environment, where they can experiment, make mistakes, and learn without fear of failure makes this an amazing opportunity for our students. We think this will be a motivating and exciting experience that will expose more students to industries such as game design, software development, and engineering.”

Milford High School Principal, Dr. Josh Otlín, thanked the BVEF for their support. “The Blackstone Valley Education Foundation has consistently championed innovation in our schools, and supported our educators who develop creative and impactful opportunities for our students. We’re very appreciative of this grant award.”

Submitted by Milford Public Schools



Student Jackson Miller explores the use of a VR headset to help him in his Web Design class.
Courtesy photo



Students Larry Caguana Acosta and Thallison Lima use VR headsets in their Web Design course.
Courtesy photo

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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SCHOOLS

continued from page 8

eracy Night - Pajamas, ABCs & 123s: A Dreamy Night. They welcomed approximately 60 families that enjoyed playing math games and listening to stories read by our staff in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Brookside second graders attended an assembly presented by Milford's Tree Warden Chuck Reneau & Park Department Director Jim Asam to learn about Arbor Day and the importance of trees. Each second grader received an activity book and small tree to plant out in the community.

Kindergarten and Milestones classes at Brookside learned about the life cycle of a butterfly as they observed their class caterpillars go through each stage of the life cycle. The release was very exciting!

A big shout out to Brookside's PTO and to local businesses for showing their appreciation to our Brookside staff last week! Our teachers were treated to a breakfast from Milford Honey Dew Donuts, lunch from Nelly's Sandwich Shop, and ice cream from TC Scoops.

Brookside School students participated in their annual Fun Day on May 20 which consisted of games and activities they have learned in Phys. Ed. class and an afternoon assembly which featured Chris Poulos, a motivational speaker that performs bike stunts.

Memorial Elementary School:

Memorial School had several MHS students visit our Grade 1 class as Bilingual Ambassadors. The Grade 1 students asked and answered questions about themselves in multiple languages with the high school students and worked on an activity together.

Memorial students participated in a Writing Showcase

where they could write and/or draw why they are proud of their heritage or multilingualism. The MES Writing Showcase builds community, and student writing will be displayed throughout the school.

Good Life Productions, a video production company, was at Memorial Elementary School to film our Illustrative Mathematics Fishbowl Classrooms and interview the teachers and administrators. This is an experience that Ms. Christine Chabot, Ms. Kellie Horne, and Ms. Carolyn Glynn participated in this school year to strengthen their instructional practices in the mathematics classrooms and we will be expanding this work across all classrooms at Memorial Elementary School next year. A "Fishbowl Classroom" is a classroom in which teachers invite their colleagues and other professionals to intensely study their instructional practices through classroom visits. Following observations, these educators meet to discuss the instructional practices and decisions made by the teachers and offer feedback and discussion for instructional opportunities in the future. The Fishbowl Classroom requires educators to be open-minded, collaborative, reflective, and to put in a lot of extra time and effort behind the scenes in preparation for lessons and discussion. The video that was produced will support us in explaining what an Illustrative Mathematics Fishbowl Classroom is to all stakeholders in the future. A huge thank you to the students in Ms. Glynn's room who showed off their awesome mathematical thinking on camera.

Shining Star Early Childhood Center:

Shining Star Preschool still has remaining spots for families to register for the 2025-2026 school year. Families should contact the Shining Star Main Office.

LIBRARY

continued from page 10

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group meets next on Tuesday, June 17 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. The June book selection is *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel. St. John Mandel, author of the award-winning *Station Eleven* and *The Glass Hotel*, returns with a spectacular novel in the speculative fiction genre. Readers begin on Vancouver Island in 1912 and traverse time and space to a colony on the moon five hundred years later. What makes St. John Mandel's writing so exciting is her ability to create characters and worlds that challenge readers to consider what it means to be

human, no matter the place or time period. To reserve a copy of *Sea of Tranquility* or to learn more about the Center Book Group, call 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

Milford Area Wordsmiths

Looking for a quiet, dedicated time and place where you can write? Join the Milford Area Wordsmiths writers' group! We provide a safe place for adults (18+) to write and even share your work if you desire. All levels are welcome, from first-time writers to published authors. All genres are welcome, too, from picture books to romantasy to nonfiction! The group meets the first and third Monday of each month (except holidays) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. Carol Allen, a first-time writer of children's books, lifelong

bookworm, and recently retired middle-school teacher, serves as facilitator of the Milford Area Wordsmiths. For more information, please call 508-473-2145, option 2.

Mahjong @ MTL

A Mahjong group meets twice a month at the Milford Town Library. This group welcomes players familiar to Mahjong to join for enjoyment of the game, not for high stakes competition! The group meets on select Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at the library in the Quarry Room. The next meeting dates: June 24 / July 8 / July 22. Those who are interested can attend any of the meetings. Mahjong sets are provided. Questions? Please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

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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

SLT
continued on page 15

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SLT

continued from page 14

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 (DSLT):

- *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:* DSLT may treat more patients in less time, making care more accessible
 - *Potentially more comfortable:* Non-contact delivery improves patient comfort

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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Milford Family & Community Network update

We are having so much fun with our little ones at the Milford Family and Community Network CFCE (MFCN CFCE). Last month, we completed our Kindergarten Bootcamp program where participants practiced basic skills needed to be successful in a kindergarten classroom. We learned about our local Community Helpers when we welcomed a community ambulance, the Milford Police Department and the Milford Fire Department to interact with our families. The kids enjoyed climbing on the large vehicles and meeting the police K-9 unit dogs.

Our annual trip to the Southwick's Zoo did not disappoint. The weather didn't slow us down – our families loved seeing all the animals!

Join us for "Are You Ready for Kindergarten?" a program for parents/caregivers of students entering kindergarten in the fall. This program will

be held in the Brookside Elementary School cafeteria on Wednesday, June 11, from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The MFCN CFCE wrapped up our spring session of registered playgroups last month with over 60 families participating at our Milford, Hopedale and Bellingham playcenters! We will be offering Summer Drop-In Playgroups on most Wednesdays and Thursdays in July and August from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. These structured playgroups are FREE for children and their caregiver. Please check out our Facebook page for more details.

Looking to register or have questions? Call our office at 508-277-4981 or email familynetwork@milfordma.com. Don't forget to find, like and follow us on Facebook at Milford Family & Community Network CFCE.

Submitted by MFCN

CELEBRATION

continued from page 6

committed to participating at the time of this press release are the Milford Town Library, Milford Youth Center, Milford Senior Center, Charles River Watershed Association, Sweet Inspirations, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line, and PINZ.

This event would not be possible without the partnership and donations offered by local businesses and organizations. The Cultural Council would like to thank the Milford Parks Commission (Paul Braza, Joe Arcudi, and Scott Crisafulli); Jim Asam, Parks and Recreation Administrator; National Fitness Campaign; and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts for partnering with us to include the

mural to be featured on the Fitness Court. The Cultural Council extends sincere gratitude to The Milford Foundation for its generous financial donation, as well as the in-kind donation from Signs Plus of Milford. In addition, the council thanks the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, for its help funding this event. Additional donors include Target, BJ's, Big Y, Stop and Shop, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods. All donors and partners will be recognized at the event.

The rain date for this event is Sunday, June 22. Residents are encouraged to follow the Milford Cultural Council's social media accounts (Facebook: MilfordCulturalCouncil | Instagram: MilfordCultural) to keep up with the details of this event and any changes to the schedule.

Questions about the Town

Park Celebration can be emailed to culturalcouncil@townofmilford.com.

As a local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Milford Cultural Council seeks to promote excellence, inclusion, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences to foster a rich cultural life for all Milford residents, thereby contributing to the vitality of our community and economy. The council welcomes ideas, recommendations, and feedback regarding programs and events funded or sponsored by the council. Interested Milford residents are encouraged to attend meetings, which are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. typically in Room 14 of Town Hall. Learn more online at: MilfordMA.gov/309/Cultural-Council

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Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
05/23/2025	10 Larson Road	\$600,000
05/23/2025	355 Purchase Street	\$860,000
05/22/2025	8 Hillcrest Drive	\$640,000
05/22/2025	8 Shadowbrook Lane #14	\$255,000
05/21/2025	70 Pine Street	\$559,333
05/21/2025	2 Three Roberts Court	\$415,000
05/20/2025	2 Amanda Circle	\$710,000
05/19/2025	23 Shadowbrook Lane #6	\$210,000
05/15/2025	8 Edgewood Drive	\$736,000
05/15/2025	23 Yale Drive	\$525,000
05/15/2025	160 Walden Way	\$735,000
05/14/2025	9 Legion Street	\$475,000
05/14/2025	4 Birch Street	\$700,000
05/12/2025	3 Godfrey Lane	\$400,000
05/08/2025	28 S Main Street	\$353,000
05/07/2025	7 Dilla Street	\$405,000
05/07/2025	31 Redwood Drive	\$535,000
05/07/2025	53 Beach Street	\$657,000
05/06/2025	11 Grove Street #13	\$710,000
04/30/2025	43 Grant Street	\$440,500
04/30/2025	21 Governors Way #A	\$503,000
04/28/2025	10 Venice Street	\$683,000
04/28/2025	44 Asylum Street	\$685,000
04/25/2025	17 Paula Road	\$579,000

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



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,471-square-foot house at 70 Pine Street in Milford recently sold for \$559,333. Image credit www.zillow.com

Summer update with the Milford Community School Use Program

"Summer Wellness Pass"*, A combination Well-ness Pass that allows participants to attend unlimited Adult Summer Wellness classes.

The summer sizzler pass will consist of any of our SplashHIT and/or Morning Lap Swim at the Milford High School Pool and our evening GentleYoga Classes for the 2025 summer season! Valid July 1, 2025 - August 23, 2025.

These programs are designed to promote physical and mental wellbeing throughout our community during the warm summer months and are perfect for residents looking to stay active, reduce stress, and connect with others in a supportive environment.

Summer SplashHit -Monday and Wednesday Evenings 6:30 - 7:15 p.m., Tuesday Mornings 6 - 6:45 a.m. Location: Milford High School Pool

- Led by instructors Carly Fauth Fitness Instructor, Cancer Exercise Specialist, or Colleen Allen certified yoga instructor, SplashHit Fitness instructor
- FUN low-impact, high-intensity workouts using HIIT training concepts
- All the benefits of intense exercise with minimal stress on your joints
- Feel stress melt away during class and leave energized and invigorated

Indoor LapSwim - Monday, Wednesday, Tuesday and Friday mornings 5:45 - 7:15 a.m. Location: Milford High School Pool

Gentle Yoga - Mondays



2025 Summer Camp Staff includes Colby Pires, Joe Gagnon, Kaite Morrow RN, Gianna Krovocheck, and Emily Naff. Courtesy photo

4:15 - 5:15 p.m. and Wednesdays 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Location: Memorial Hall - 30 School St., Milford MA 01757

- A gentle and beginner-friendly flow perfect for newcomers providing modifications for additional support when needed
 - Combination of floor, standing, and balance poses
 - Focus on connecting movements with breathing
 - Led by Certified Holistic health coach Jean Gillis (<https://jeangilliswellness.com>)
- *This pass may also Include The option to attend CHiWalking (If it becomes available)*

Summer Kids Program with Milford Community School Use program highlights:

Family Track Attack will be making a COMEBACK!

Looking for a fun way to stay active together this summer? Join us for Family Track At-

tack — a high-energy program where parents and kids run, jump, and play side by side.

- All ages welcome
- Weekly sessions full of fun + fitness
- Great way to bond as a family

Tuesday evenings July 15 - August 11 Milford High School Turf. Move, laugh, and make memories — together.

Shoot for Success at the Sarah Behn Basketball Camp – July 14–18

Young athletes, get ready to dribble, drive, and dominate! The Sarah Behn Basketball Camp is coming to town from July 14–18, offering an exciting week of skill-building and fun for students entering Grades 2 through 8.

Led by former Boston College star and professional player Sarah Behn, this camp provides a unique opportunity for young players to learn from one of the best. With a focus on individual skill development, teamwork, and sportsmanship, campers will enjoy fast-paced drills, games, and hands-on coaching tailored to their age and ability.

Whether your child is just learning the game or looking to sharpen their competitive edge, this camp promises an inspiring and supportive environment.

Reminders:

- **Summer Day Camp:** Registration is open for our 2025 Summer Day Camp. Available for 7-weeks this summer for children from Kindergarten

USE PROGRAM

continued on page 17

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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 p.m. 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 at haroldrhodes@comcast.net

USE PROGRAM

continued from page 16

through 7th grade. Summer Camp will be led by our exceptional staff including Gianna Krovocheck, Joe Gagnon, Colby Pires, Emily Naff, and RN Katie Morrow all returning from last summer.

- **Mark your calendars:** our Extended Day Afterschool Care program opens for current participants. The new participant registration will be available on July 7, 2025.

Community Involvement Opportunity - As we continue expanding our offerings, we're looking for community members that want to share their expertise in Art, hobbies, mindfulness, finance, health and wellness, and music. If you have any experience with these practices that you'd like to share, please connect with us.

The Milford Community School Use Program strives to offer recreational, educational, and cultural activities for all ages—from children to seniors—utilizing our town's school facilities during non-school hours to benefit the entire community. We are committed to providing and promoting programs and activities that benefit the residents and families of the Town of Milford and help to provide community awareness and connections with others in the community.

Ready to register? It's simple! Visit our website at https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/clientpage_t2.wcs

Have questions about which program might be right for you? Our team is ready to help: Email: communityuse@milfordma.com Phone: 508-478-1119

Plans underway for 5th annual RSNP Color Run/Walk for Recovery

Planning is currently underway for the 5th Annual RSNP Color Run/Walk for Recovery, a vibrant, family-friendly event that honors those in recovery and brings our community together in celebration and support.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Milford Town Park. While the event is still months away, organizers are currently seeking:

- Sponsors to help fund the event and support future programs at Chris' Corner – Recovery Resource Center. Various sponsorship levels are available (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Individual/Family). <https://forms.gle/Y6NUQ7ccDF3CPDzJ7>
- Vendors to set up booths during the event. There is no vendor fee—we simply ask for a donated raffle item. <https://forms.gle/ZSATwbH3EK-9NkFj36>
- Participants of all ages to register and run or walk with us in support of recovery.

Registration fees vary by age group and go toward funding vital recovery and community programs. <https://forms.gle/k4m15JGDf82CjTFo7>

All funds raised will directly support local initiatives and assist those in need through Chris' Corner and other community efforts.

For more information contact Lisa Trusas at 508-922-9032 or trusas@chriscornermilford.com.

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ROD STEWART 🎵 July 28

NEIL DIAMOND 🎵 August 4

FRANK SINATRA 🎵 August 11

JOHNNY CASH 🎵 August 18

SPORTS

'Complete turnaround' for MHS Girls Track

Talented freshman class helps drive Scarlet Hawks

By Chris Villani

From sprints to throws to jumps to relays, the Milford girls' track and field team is, literally, leaps and bounds ahead of where it was a season ago.

"It's a complete turnaround from last year," said Head Coach Dan Gordon. "We have had such growth in all of the event groups. Across the board, this is a better team in every phase."

The Scarlet Hawks' improvement has been largely led by its underclassmen, including several standout freshmen. With only about 30 athletes on the team in total, Gordon has had to put his younger athletes right into the mix, and they have responded.

"We have a lot of talent and a lot of freshmen who came in ready to compete at a high level," he said.

There are older athletes who are playing a big role for MHS this spring, and none bigger than Julianys Rentas, who qualified for states in both the low hurdles and the long jump.

"She is a special athlete; for



Juliana Senna is a key part of the Milford 4x100 relay team. Courtesy photo

the past two years, she has been our best athlete," Gordon said. "She is a joy to coach, and she will do any event."

The team captain, Rentas started competing in long

jump more consistently this spring and has already established herself as one of the top 400-meter hurdlers in the state. Her leadership has also been crucial with so many younger athletes.

Kiera Murphy is one of the top 800-meter runners in the state, despite being a freshman.

Iyanna Correa, another freshman, qualified for states in both the high jump and as a member of the 4x100 relay team. The rest of that quartet includes freshman



Milford coach Dan Gordon calls Julianys Rentas, above, "a joy to coach" and the team's top athlete. Courtesy photo

Juliana Senna, junior Madison Ataewung, and Rentas. Ataewung is also the top runner for MHS in both the 100-meter and 400-meter events.

Freshman Amelia Hough is another skilled hurdler in her first season, and Amaia Brown has competed well in the open 400.

"If you look at our top performers, we have about six girls who are responsible for the majority of the points we have scored," Gordon said. "It's incredible to see all those points

come from so few people and from such new competitors. They are competing against girls who are seniors in high school. It's been great to see."

Milford's depth has shown through in the sprints and middle distance events, where Gordon describes his team as a "heavy hitter."

"They work well together, they came up through the middle school program, so they have been seeing varsity track from afar," he said. "It's been fun to watch them."

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SPORTS

Records falling for Milford Boys' Track & Field

Veteran group leads Scarlet Hawks this spring

By Chris Villani

It wasn't long ago when the Milford High boys' 4x100 relay team was trying to post a sub-48 second time in the event. This year, they are trying to run sub-43 seconds, a huge improvement for such a short race. The Scarlet Hawks have broken school records in both relays, the 100-meter dash, the high hurdles, and at least two other records were in serious jeopardy heading into the state meet.

"This is a talented team, they have completely rewritten the record book," said Head Coach Dan Gordon, noting that the 4x100 record broken this year was set back in 1994, well before any of the athletes on this year's team were born.

MHS won the Hockomock League meet in the 4x400 event and finished second in the 4x100.

Team captain Shawn Pierce is the MVP for Milford this year. He set a school record in the dash this year and has also been a key cog in the sprint relay.

"He is the energy of this team, you just can't help but want to be around Shawn," Gordon said. "He's just such an awesome kid."

In the 400, John Arruda has been a standout and blossomed into an elite talent, his coach said. Joining him in the middle distance race are Taylor Feliciano and Sami Ettahari. Feliciano is a consistent runner, Gordon said, and Ettahari is a freshman who has, in his coach's words, "blown us away" with his ability to compete.

"If he gets the baton and we are not winning, you know by the home stretch, he is going to make it a good race," Gordon said. "He is someone we are really excited about."

Arruda, Feliciano, Ettahari, and Pierce make up Milford's 4x400 relay team. The 4x100 team includes Jarrett Brown, who also qualified for states in the triple jump.

Aloiye Okhipo qualified for states in the 200-meter dash and the hurdles after capturing a league title in the latter event. He was the number two hurdler in the state heading into the



Aloiye Okhipo is one of MHS's most versatile athletes. Courtesy photo

meet and a threat to win it all.

In the throwing events, Liam Sweeney improved by more than 20 feet in the javelin to earn a spot at states. Alex Kerr and Aidan Eastman qualified

in the discus, and Sean Mairs earned a spot in the 400-meter run. Distance runner Jayden Madden showed significant improvement this year, with Gordon calling it a "resurgence."



John Arruda crouches at the starting line during a recent meet. Courtesy photo

"He totally changed his approach," the coach said. "He became a student of the sport."

While depth has prevented the Scarlet Hawks from winning many dual meets, Milford has

shown it has as much top-end talent as anyone.

"We went toe-to-toe with a lot of teams that, in previous years, just totally destroyed us," Gordon said.

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2023 CHRYSLER VOYAGER  <p>AS LOW AS \$89/WK</p> <p>#D15197 • LX TRIM, HEATED SEATS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,265 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	202+ TOYOTA TACOMA 4x4  <p>AS LOW AS \$114/WK</p> <p>#TP5005 • SR5 TRIM, DBL CAB, V6</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$42,605 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$31,677</p>	2024 DODGE DURANGO GT  <p>AS LOW AS \$124/WK</p> <p>#D14916R • ALLOYS, AWD, 3.6L</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$48,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$34,677</p>	2022 GENESIS GV70 3.5T  <p>AS LOW AS \$138/WK</p> <p>#D14928 • NAV, HEATED LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$64,700 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$38,977</p>	2023 TOYOTA CAMRY LE  <p>AS LOW AS \$92/WK</p> <p>#TM25-723A • AWD, 17" ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,625 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977</p>	2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4  <p>AS LOW AS \$135/WK</p> <p>#47193 • CUSTOM, 2.7L TURBO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$54,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$36,677</p>	2022 NISSAN ROGUE AWD  <p>AS LOW AS \$81/WK</p> <p>#P17727R • SPORT S, 17" ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$31,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>
2025 CHEVY TRAX LT  <p>AS LOW AS \$89/WK</p> <p>#47480CTP • 17" ALLOYS, TURBO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,565 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	2024 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4  <p>AS LOW AS \$166/WK</p> <p>#ST0801A • SR5, ALLOYS, 3.4L V6</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$58,405 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$46,977</p>	2019 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4  <p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p> <p>#125-150A • LIMITED, ALLOYS, V6</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,977</p>	2022 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL  <p>AS LOW AS \$92/WK</p> <p>#47329L • AWD, HEATED SEATS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$36,750 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977</p>	2022 TOYOTA COROLLA LE  <p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p> <p>#STK01811 • 30/38 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$26,569 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>	2018 CHEVY CRUZE LT  <p>AS LOW AS \$50/WK</p> <p>#125332A • TURBO, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$13,977</p>	2022 TOYOTA RAV4 LE SUV  <p>AS LOW AS \$85/WK</p> <p>#TM25-716A • 27/34 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,560 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977</p>
2021 FORD EDGE SEL  <p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p> <p>#P17266L • 2.0L TURBO, SUNROOF</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$40,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	2024 VW JETTA SPORT  <p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p> <p>#47000 • TURBO, HEATED SEATS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,550 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>	2020 LINCOLN CORSAIR  <p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p> <p>#124361A • SUNROOF, LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$46,645 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4  <p>AS LOW AS \$134/WK</p> <p>#124-199B • TURBO, BIG BEND</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$43,995 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,977</p>	2020 SUBARU OUTBACK  <p>AS LOW AS \$81/WK</p> <p>#47218A • AWD, MOONROOF, NAV</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,695 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>	2023 MERCEDES GLA 250 SUV  <p>AS LOW AS \$114/WK</p> <p>#TP5168 • 2.0L TURBO, LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$50,800 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$31,977</p>	2022 HYUNDAI SONATA SEL  <p>AS LOW AS \$78/WK</p> <p>#TP5021 • 27/37 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,686 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$21,977</p>
2023 CHEVY COLORADO  <p>AS LOW AS \$135/WK</p> <p>#C46861 • Z71 TRIM, 4X4, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$44,290 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$37,977</p>	2018 HONDA CR-V EX-L  <p>AS LOW AS \$71/WK</p> <p>#TM25-075A • 27/33 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,190 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$19,977</p>	2021 BUICK ENCORE AWD  <p>AS LOW AS \$83/WK</p> <p>#46830 • GX SELECT, 1.3L TURBO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,225 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,377</p>	2021 MAZDA MAZDA CX-5  <p>AS LOW AS \$88/WK</p> <p>#46823 • MOONROOF, LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,895 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	2023 BMW X1 xDrive28i  <p>AS LOW AS \$113/WK</p> <p>#TP4816 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$51,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$31,977</p>	2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN  <p>AS LOW AS \$131/WK</p> <p>#TP5159 • 4X4, HEMI, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$36,977</p>	2023 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER  <p>AS LOW AS \$127/WK</p> <p>#TP4692 • LE TRIM, ALLOYS, CPO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,775 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,977</p>

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