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## Restored monument in memory of Mendon Police Chief Mathew Mantoni rededicated



The monument dedicated to former Mendon Police Chief Mathew Mantoni, who was killed in the line of duty in 1950, was recently restored and rededicated. It now stands in front of the new Mendon Police Department. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

By Theresa Knapp

MENDON - On Memorial Day, the Mendon Police Department rededicated a monument in memory of former Police Chief Mathew M. Mantoni, who

was 39 years old when he was killed in the line of duty 75 years ago.

According to www.odmp.org (Officer Down Memorial Page), on Jan. 11, 1950, "Chief Mathew Mantoni

was shot and killed after responding to a disturbance at a local bar at 0030 hours. As

### MONUMENT

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## BVT students win 46 SkillsUSA medals



Courtesy photo

UPTON - 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 cere-

monies. 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

### SKILLSUSA

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# Nipmuc social studies department receives 'Recognition of Department Excellence in Teaching Social Studies Award'

The Nipmuc Regional High School social studies department has received the "Recognition of Department Excellence in Teaching Social Studies Award" from the Massachusetts Council for Social Studies.

The department, comprised of Department Chairperson Matthew Merten and teachers Darcy Daniels (who won 2024 Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History), Daniel MacIsaac, Christine Manzella and Brian Moloney, was nominated by Co-Principals Clements and Moran.

The "Recognition of Department Excellence in Teaching Social Studies Award" recognizes outstanding social studies departments that exemplify collaborative, innovative and effective instructional practices in their classrooms. Honored departments promote the development of skills and curiosity that demonstrate democratic beliefs, values, and tools needed for students to become active and engaged in civic life.

Co-Principals Clements and Moran nominated the group

of teachers based on their excellence in collaboration, the impact of their professional work on students' development of civic skills, their leadership in connecting the curriculum to the world beyond the classroom, and their leadership within and beyond the school.

The department has excelled in a variety of ways. The annual civics project that teachers organize stands as a powerful example of experiential learning, empowering students to develop crucial research skills and make a tangible difference in their community. The project provides students with the opportunity to pursue their interests through a project in which they apply their learning to real-world issues. The experience culminates in the annual Civics Symposium, an event that welcomes families, community members, professionals, and leaders to hear directly from students about their learning journeys and project outcomes. This immersive program fosters a strong sense of empowerment among students and cultivates essential "durable skills" aligned

with the school's Portrait of a Learner, enabling them to connect their learning with their strengths, interests, and potential for real-world impact.

The department has offered leadership in the development of the "Authentic Learning Leveling Up Protocol," a strengths-based, collaborative protocol, of which Department Chair Merten served as a leader. As part of the protocol, students and teachers work together to take high-confidence learning experiences and connect them to the world beyond the classroom. Since the schoolwide roll-out of the protocol, department members have become leaders of this work, designing a wide array of experiences that demonstrate authenticity.

In addition, the department has sought opportunities to share its work with others to extend its impact beyond Nipmuc. They collaboratively wrote an article that will be published in the New England Journal of History focused on legacy projects. They have also shared their work at the 2024 Climate Change Challenge and will pres-



The Nipmuc Regional High School social studies department, from left, Darcy Daniels, Brian Moloney, Daniel MacIsaac and Matt Merten, holding a photo of Christine Manzella, who wasn't able to attend, was recognized at an award ceremony held at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation in Waltham on April 29. Photo Courtesy Mendon-Upton Regional School District

ent at the 2025 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' Summer Conference.

"We are a tight-knit team of educators with a wide range of complementary skills that have built a culture of trust, creativ-

ity and shared purpose," said Merten. "We leverage each team member's unique strengths and

### EXCELLENCE

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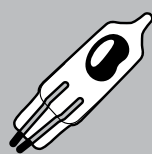
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## Pet of the Month: Meet Gomer



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 poten-

tial 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](http://milfordhumane.org) or call 508-473-7008 for more information.

## Upton Senior Center news for June

### Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness and show support for the millions of individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. More than 6 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's - a number that is expected to rise significantly in the coming years.

At our center, we are committed to promoting lifelong brain health through programs built around four key pillars:

- Social Engagement
- Diet & Nutrition
- Exercise & Fitness
- Cognitive Activity & Lifelong Learning

This month, we're offering special programs focused on Alzheimer's awareness and brain health:

- June 18 at 2:30 p.m. Upton Memory Café A friendly, sup-

portive gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their care partners. Join us for conversation, connection, and fun in a welcoming environment.

- June 25 at 12:30 p.m. Lunch & Learn: *Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body* Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, this session explores the latest research on lifestyle factors like diet, physical activity, cognitive stimulation, and social connection. Attendees will leave with practical tips and a personal plan for healthy aging. A light, brain healthy lunch will be provided, generously sponsored by Always Best Care Senior Services

- Upton Police Department Visits Learn more about the Silver Alert Program, a critical resource designed to help locate individuals who may wander

**UPTON SENIORS**

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<p><b>Brand Spankin' New 2025 TOYOTA</b></p> <p><b>RAV4 XLE SUV ADV AWD - 2.5L</b></p> <p>• 27/33 MPG City/Hwy • Lane Departure</p> <p>MSRP: \$33,884</p> <p><b>BUY FOR AS LOW AS: \$33,384*</b></p> <p>LEASE FOR AS LOW AS: <b>\$339*</b> PER MONTH • PLUS TAX</p> <p><b>SAVE \$500</b> 50 RAV4s AVAILABLE</p> <p><small>*New 2025 RAV4 XLE AWD with MSRP: \$33,884. Lease requires approved credit; based on 10,000 miles per year. \$0.15 per mile excess. Lease for \$339 per month for 36 months with \$4,439 due at signing (including \$3,450 cash or trade down, first month's payment of \$339, and acquisition of \$650). Tax, title, registration, and inspection fees are additional. \$0 Security deposit. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, excess wear/tear, and \$350 disposition fee where permitted by law. Example Stk# SW23D519. Offer ends 06/30/2025.</small></p>	<p><b>Brand Spankin' New 2025 TOYOTA</b></p> <p><b>TACOMA SR5 4x4 - i-FORCE 2.4L</b></p> <p>• Double Cab • Alloys • Lane Departure • 5-ft bed</p> <p>MSRP: \$42,854</p> <p><b>BUY FOR AS LOW AS: \$40,354*</b></p> <p>LEASE FOR AS LOW AS: <b>\$549*</b> PER MONTH • PLUS TAX</p> <p><b>SAVE \$2500</b> 35 TACOMAs AVAILABLE</p> <p><small>*New 2025 Tacoma SR5 2.4L Double Cab with MSRP: \$42,854. Lease requires approved credit; based on 10,000 miles per year. \$0.15 per mile excess. Lease for \$549 per month for 36 months with \$4,198 due at signing (including \$2,999 cash or trade down, first month's payment of \$549, and acquisition of \$650). Tax, title, registration, and inspection fees are additional. \$0 Security deposit. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, excess wear/tear, and \$350 disposition fee where permitted by law. Example Stk# TM25-737. Offer ends 06/30/2025.</small></p>	 <p><b>ALL ACROSS AMERICA</b></p> <p>300 FORTUNE BOULEVARD   MILFORD, MA 01757</p> <p><b>508-488-2382 • IMPERIALTOYOTAMA.COM</b></p> <p>NOW SERVICING ALL MAKES AND MODELS   MON-TH 9-9, FRI &amp; SAT 9-6, SUN 12-6</p> 
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**Please submit to:**  
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**SKILLSUSA**

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the development of SkillsUSA and vocational education. He accepted the award on behalf of the district and in memory of Helga "Sunnie" 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](http://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, Promo-

tional 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, Internet-working; 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 Design 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.

*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.

**EXCELLENCE**

*continued from page 2*

strive to design engaging, real-world learning opportunities that encourage students to think critically, connect with history and understand their role in society.

We would like to thank John Clements and Mary Anne Moran, our administrative team, for providing essential guidance and support, as well as our students and many other members of the Nipmuc High School community. We are truly honored to receive this recognition."

Department members were recognized at an award ceremony held at the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation in Waltham on April 29.

"I am incredibly proud of our Nipmuc Social Studies Department for receiving this award," said Mendon-Upton Regional

School District Superintendent Dr. Maureen Cohen. "This team pours their heart into making history come alive, encouraging critical thinking, and helping our students see their role in the world. They are making a difference in the lives of the students they teach."

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**UPTON SENIORS**

*continued from page 3*

due to memory impairment. Join us this June in supporting brain health and building a more informed, compassionate community

**Line Dancing** Wednesdays at 2:45 p.m. NEW TIME!

If you've always wanted to try line dancing, now's your chance! This class is a beginners class with basic steps so no experience is necessary and no partner needed. Just bring your enthusiasm and a comfortable pair of shoes. Line dancing is an extremely fun way to exercise while also reducing stress. These dances will be put to all different types of music. Come by yourself or bring a friend! With a passion for music and exercise Marcus Mancini will be the instructor. He has over fifteen years in both taking and teaching line dancing. It all started for him with a class just like the one we are offering. Classes are drop-in, \$5 each.

**Coffee & Conversation**

**with the Town Manager** Friday, June 13 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Join us for a casual and informative conversation with Town Manager, Joe Laydon.

**Crafts with Betty** Friday, June 13 at 10 a.m. Rescheduled from May - Join Betty Brault for our June craft, a Fairy Garden!

**Mindful Meditation** Friday, June 13 at 1 p.m. Calm your mind and body so you can acknowledge and accept your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without judgment through Mindful Meditation with Robin Natanel. FREE

**Upton Memory Café** Wednesday, June 18 at 2:30 p.m. The Upton Memory Café was designed by Nipmuc High School volunteers to meet the needs of individuals affected by Alzheimer's and dementia in Upton surrounding communities. If you or your loved one are experiencing problems with memory or thinking, we encourage you to attend the Memory Café. It is a great

opportunity for engagement, socialization and support.

**Intergenerational Game Day** Friday, June 20 at 1 p.m. Join us for an intergenerational event as senior citizens and library patrons ages 3 and up come together for an afternoon of fun and games! We will host giant board games, classic board games, puzzles, and more!

**Lunch & Learn: Healthy Living For Your Brain and Body** Wednesday, June 25 at 12:30 p.m. Learn about important research into diet/nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement and develop a plan for health aging. Light lunch generously sponsored by Always Best Care Senior Services. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association.

**Lunch Trip** Monday, June 30 at 12 p.m. Join us for lunch at George's Surf & Turf in Mendon! Please note George's only offers outdoor, covered seating. CASH ONLY

**Taft Public Library celebrates 25th Cardboard Boat Race this summer**



The Taft Public Library in Mendon will be celebrating the 25th running of its Great Cardboard Boat Race this summer. Every July, intrepid boaters take to the waters of Lake Nipmuc to try their hand at racing a cardboard boat of their own creation. These are not boats in miniature. Participants construct boats to be helmed by one person, two people, or three or more occupants. Sometimes they float and sometimes they don't. The fun is in finding out.

This year's boat race is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, at the Mendon Town Beach. Boat check-in and inspection begins at 5:30 p.m. with the races starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. Rain date for the race is Tuesday, July 29.

Credit former Taft Children's Librarian Susan Bertram as the originator of the boat race in

**CARDBOARD**

*continued on page 8*

**CALLING ALL CAPTAINS OF CARDBOARD!**

Join us for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**Running of the Taft Public Library  
 Great Cardboard Boat Race!**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 23**  
**Mendon Town Beach on Lake Nipmuc**  
 Races begin 6:30pm  
 Check-in & Inspection begin 5:30pm  
 Rain Date Tuesday, July 29

**AWARDS** presented in multiple categories including **Fastest Finishers & Best Boat Designs**

**PARTICIPANTS** should stop in the Library for the Rules & Registration Form. Online registration is coming soon! All boats must be registered with the Library before 5pm on Friday, July 18. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**COMMEMORATIVE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS** available for purchase in the Library **\$20 each**

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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 Mazzuchelli, 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 spe-

cies' 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 extremely 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 reac-



tions 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](http://www.nobugsnopests.com).

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# Fire officials warn parents about laptop fire social media 'challenge'

**14 incidents and attempts reported in Massachusetts, many more likely undetected**

State Fire Marshal Jon Davine and Massachusetts fire chiefs are urging parents and educators to talk to youngsters about the risk of fire and injury posed by a recent social media "challenge."

The trend, which appears to have started on TikTok, promotes inserting a paper clip, pencil lead, or other conductive object into a laptop computer's charging port or other port. This can cause a short circuit that increases the device's temperature or causes smoke, sparks, or a fire – any of which could injure a young user.

"We've received more than a dozen reports from Massachusetts fire departments of young people engaging in this behavior in less than a week," said State Fire Marshal Davine, who last month circulated a notice about the nationwide trend to local fire chiefs.

"There are probably many more that responsible adults haven't heard of or officially reported. No matter how smart your kids or students might be, please impress upon them that the only thing you should place in a computer port is the appropriate cord."

"Today's electronic devices pack a lot of power into small

containers, and tampering with them is dangerous," said Foxborough Fire Chief Michael Kelleher, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "Almost all modern laptops are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which can erupt in sparks and flames when damaged or abused. An event like that will injure anyone close by. The fire can easily spread to clothing, bedding, upholstery, and furniture."

Most of the reported incidents were interrupted by teachers who spotted the abuse of school-issued laptops. They occurred in Barnstable County, Essex County, Hampden County, Hampshire County, Middlesex County, and Worcester County beginning on or about May 6. So far, only one minor injury has been reported but heavy smoke and device damage have been reported in some cases.

Unfortunately, social media trends involving risky fire-related behavior are not new. In 2020, numerous electrical fires and damage were reported after another challenge promoted dropping a coin onto the prongs of a power plug partially inserted into a wall outlet.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Email us about an upcoming event or about a concern about things happening around town [editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com](mailto:editor@uptonmendonfreepress.com)

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# Mendon Senior Center News for June

## Shine Health Insurance Counseling

Certified SHINE counselors are available to assist you with questions about Medicare. SHINE services are free and unbiased; we are available to discuss all options related to Medicare and additional coverage, and we do not sell any plans.

Call the Mendon Senior Center at 508-478-6175 to make an appointment or call the Regional SHINE Office in Milford at 508-422-9931.

SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is funded through the federal agency, Administration for Community Living and administered through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

## Friends of Mendon Elder News:

**Friends Dine Out**—Wednesday, June 11 - Cracker Barrel, Wrentham. Carpool with friends from the senior center (a week early this month) at 11:30 a.m. or meet at the restaurant at 12noon. Please sign-up at the senior center.

**Calling all Crafters!**—The committee organizing December's Jingle Bell Fair is looking for

individuals interested in working on crafts to sell at this year's event. June date to be determined. Call Paula Malnati at 508-282-0187 for more information.

The Friends of Mendon Elders is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization raising funds for the benefit of the Senior Center and the seniors it serves.

## Hobby of the Month: Fly Fishing 101

Please join our local fly-fishing fanatic, James Thach for an introduction to fly fishing! We will be discussing and having hands on with all the equipment and weather dependent potential show the basics of casting. If you enjoy fishing or just love the outdoors, come on out and see the basics of this amazing hobby.

Topics to include:  
 - Fly Fishing, What's it all about  
 - Breakdown of equipment  
 - Fly design and purpose  
 - The principles of the "cast"  
 - Fly tying demonstration  
 Date: Monday, June 23 at 1 p.m.

Place: Mendon Senior Center, 62 Providence St., Mendon. Please stop by or call 508-478-6175 to register for this free program.

If you have a hobby you'd like to share, please contact Director Amy Wilson Kent at 508-478-6175.

## New Players Welcome!

The Mendon Senior Center offers a variety of recreational activities including:

- Cribbage—Wednesdays 9:45 a.m. The Cribbage group is always looking for new players. Stop in Wednesdays at 9:45 a.m. All levels welcome.
- Hand, Knee and Foot card game—Tuesdays 1 p.m.
- Mah-Jong - Wednesdays & Thursdays 1 p.m.
- Brain Games—Thursdays 11:30 a.m.

Please check our schedule regarding days, times, and availability. Don't see your favorite game listed, please let us know what you'd like to see offered!

## Bocce Anyone?

The Senior Center is in the process of preparing the bocce court for use. A group is forming to play Monday mornings beginning at 10 a.m. Feel free to stop by to join in or call the center if you'd like to reserve your own time. Bring your own bocce balls or ask to borrow ours. Note - Help is needed to maintain the court by raking periodically. Call the center if interested.

## Monthly Memory Café

Did you know Atria Draper Place of Hopedale offers a Memory Café every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10 -11:30 a.m. for a morning of socializing, live entertainment and delicious treats in a relaxing environment? Find understanding and connection. Individuals, families, and friends affected by memory loss are all welcome.

Please RSVP to Ann Hovsepian 508-482-5995 by Monday, June 16 or Ann.Hovsepian@AtriaSeniorLiving.com

## Sharing Strength - New Support Program

The Mendon Senior Center is pleased to announce the return of counselor Gail Bourassa, LMHC to the center to offer a supportive program Sharing Strength. The group will have a focused discussion twice monthly based on chosen topics. Scheduled dates for June are 6/12 and 6/26 from 10 - 11 a.m. Please contact Janet Hubener if you are interested in attending this group.

## Fraud & Scams

Dean Bank returns to the

## MENDON SENIORS

*continued on page 15*

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**Writers Wanted**

The Upton Mendon Free Press is currently seeking freelance writers who live in the area and are interested in writing for our publication. If interested, please send a résumé and writing sample to [editor@UptonMendonfreepress.com](mailto:editor@UptonMendonfreepress.com)

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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](http://www.oldcolonyhospice.org)

**CARDBOARD**

*continued from page 5*

the late 1990s. Since that time, the race has remained the cornerstone event of the library's Summer Reading program. Awards are given for first, second, and third place as well as categories like most creative design, most spirited team, and most spectacular sinking. The race is run with the assistance of library staff, Library Trustees, and the Taft Friends group as well as the Mendon Parks Department.

In honor of the 25th anniversary, the library has been working on a special 25 for 25

initiative this spring, an effort to get 25 boats registered to race in this year's event. Rules and registration, which includes a list of all award categories, can be picked up at the library. Online registration will be posted in June.

Anyone from Mendon or surrounding communities can participate. The library also encourages town departments and local businesses to enter a boat. For the past few years, the Mendon Brothers of the Brush have routinely challenged organizations in the Group Challenge category, including the Mendon Police Department and Fire Department and Select Board

for charity.

For those mystified about how to construct a cardboard boat to keep one person afloat much less two or six people, the library is hosting boat construction workshops the evenings of Thursday, May 29, Wednesday, June 18, and Thursday, July 17. Contact the library at 508-473-3359 for additional details on workshops and visit [www.taftpubliclibrary.org](http://www.taftpubliclibrary.org) to register for one.

Special 25th anniversary t-shirts are on sale at the library by the Friends of the Taft Public Library for \$20 each. Proceeds go toward future library programming.

# Steps to take before — and after — a divorce



Mark Freeman, CEPA

## FINANCIAL FOCUS® Provided by Edward Jones

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.

- *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  
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Hopkinton, MA 508-293-4017  
Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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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

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

### Who Should Consider Direct SLT?

Direct SLT is especially beneficial for:

- Patients with early to moderate open-angle glaucoma
- Individuals looking to reduce

SLT

continued on page 11

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**SLT**

*continued from page 10*

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 10.

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**MONUMENT**

*continued from page 1*

he entered the bar, one of the patrons opened fire and struck him. Chief Mantoni returned fire and wounded the suspect. A female bystander was also shot and killed in the exchange of gunfire. The suspect was convicted of both murders, served his 35-year sentence, and was released."

According to an article in the Milford Daily News at the time, the Mantoni funeral was the "largest ever conducted in Mendon." It was attended by "over 200 policemen" and "thousands of mourners." Mendon's population in 1950 was approximately 1,600 people.

The "Mantoni Memorial" monument was previously located at the old police station, and was recently restored and installed in front of the new police station at 22 Main Street, a building named after Chief Mantoni.

The ceremony on May 26 was attended by friends, family, neighbors, and community members. Retired Sergeant



**Several members of the Mantoni extended family attended the rededication ceremony on May 26.** Source: Mendon Police Department

Matthew Mantoni (grandson of Chief Mantoni) played the bagpipes; he previously served with the Mendon Police Department and most recently retired from the Blackstone Police Department. Also present was Elizabeth Mantoni, daughter-in-law of Chief Mantoni; she has long served the Mendon Police Department as assistant to the Chief and police dispatcher, continuing the family's legacy of service.

In his opening remarks, current Police Chief David H. Kurczy said that Chief Mantoni "probably was the first community police officer in this town" and said "his memory is something that will last here forever."

Andrea Hogarth of Mendon is Chief Mantoni's granddaughter, and she was impressed with the monument, adding "I'm pleased that it's here."

Kurt Oosterman, Andrea's brother, of Rhode Island said the ceremony was 'touching,' especially the speeches.

Their brother Joe Oosterman, also of Rhode Island, said the ceremony was 'fantastic' and he loves the monument. "I was born in 1956 so I never knew my grandfather but I heard a lot about him; we always spoke of him at our family get-togethers. I love the monument, it's a great likeness of him."

# ABMI-TV Concerts on the Grass 2025

**BELLINGHAM TOWN COMMON**

**Wednesday July 2. 6pm – 8pm. Kids Night with Wayne Potash and Trevor the Games Man.**  
Sponsored by Bellingham Town Common Trustees

**Wednesday July 9. 6pm – 7pm – Free pony rides. 6:30pm – 8:30pm Riverboat Stompers** (Dixieland jazz).

**Wednesday July 16. 6pm - 7pm Free pony rides., 6:30pm – 8:30pm Morse Code** (rock and pop).

**Wednesday July 23. 6pm – 7pm Free pony rides., 6:30pm – 8:30pm Back Pages** (classic rock).

Sponsored by Middlesex Savings Bank

**MENDON TOWN BEACH**

**Wednesday July 30. Free Pony Rides 6:30pm – 7:30pm., 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Quintessential Brass** (brass band).

**Wednesday Aug 6. Free Pony Rides 6:30pm – 7:30pm., 6:30pm – 8:30pm Vinyl Echo** (power trio)

**Wednesday Aug 13. Free Pony Rides 6:30pm – 7:30pm., 6:30pm – 8:30pm Alexander's Jazztime Band** (jazz standards)



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## Upton Town Library Calendar of Events

9 Milford Street, Upton • 508-529-6272 • UptonLibrary.org • HOURS: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 9-8 • Mon., Fri. & Sat. 9-4 • Sun. CLOSED

By Matthew Bachtold, Library Director and Lee Ann Murphy, Children's Librarian

### Upton Library will be closed on Thursday, June 19 Summer Reading Program Begins June 16!

It's the Annual Summer Reading Program! This year's theme is Level Up at Your Library!, a theme encouraging a love of play and games. Register online or at the circulation desk, and be sure to visit the library to pick up your packet of materials. Keep reading all summer and join us for special events all summer long. The Summer Reading Program begins June 16 and ends August 9. For all ages!

#### Mini Golf at the Library – June 16 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for mini golf inside the library! One Up Games will be on-site to run a 9-hole indoor mini golf course as our Kickoff Event for the Annual Summer Reading Program. Please register each child and adult who will be golfing. Library services will not be available during this event, but you are welcome to come early and socialize while waiting for your start time. For ages 5+. Pre-register your group for a specific time slot. Sponsored by The Friends of the Upton Town Library.

#### Summer Reading Bingo June-August

Summer reading isn't just for children! Participate by picking up a bingo sheet at the library desk. Get bingo and return your sheet to earn raffle tickets to compete for prizes!

Friends of the Upton Town

### Library News:

The Friends of the Upton Town Library completed another hugely successful and fun Spring Book Sale! We want to send out a big thank you to all of our many volunteers – we could not have done it without you and you are much appreciated! Please join us at our next meeting, which will be held on Thursday, June 12, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the library. We will be planning for upcoming events and looking forward to ideas for our next projects. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm.

### ADULT EVENTS

#### Tabletop Game Night for Adults

Join our tabletop game series for adults! The featured game in June will be Quacks of Quedlinburg. The June meeting will be Thursday, June 26, 5:15 - 7:30 p.m. Beginners and experienced players both welcome! Register at [uptonlibrary.org](http://uptonlibrary.org).

#### Introduction to Hand Drums & Drum Circles with Dave Curry – Monday, July 14, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Ages 10-Adult

Join Dave Curry as he introduces you to a range of different types of drums from various traditional sources. He'll teach you the basic technique for getting a good sound from each of the drum types, and the common rhythms that are associated with those drums. No prior experience is necessary and instruments are provided, though you are welcome to bring a hand drum of your own if you have one. Register at [uptonlibrary.org](http://uptonlibrary.org).

#### Scent & Suds: Create Your Own Foam Soap – Thursday,

July 24, 6 - 7:15 p.m. Costs \$10 - Registration Required

Join us for a fun, hands-on workshop where you'll craft your own natural foam soap using essential oils. Learn about their benefits and how to safely use them while creating a personalized blend. It's a great opportunity to make something special for yourself, your family, or as a thoughtful gift! All materials are provided, and space is limited. Registration is required, and the program costs \$10 to be paid 1 week before the program. See the library website for details. This program is sponsored by the Friends of Upton Town Library.

#### Virtual Author Talk Series

View free online author talks, either live or recorded. Register and get more information at the library website, or at <https://library.org/uptontownlibrary>

Author Talk with **Pria Anand**: On the Strangeness and Wonder of Our Brains - Thursday, July 31 at 2 p.m.

### CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

#### Game Day – June 20 1 p.m.

Join us for an intergenerational event as senior citizens and library patrons ages 3 and up join for an afternoon of fun and games! We will host giant board games, classic board games, puzzles, and more! Registrations for senior citizens should be done by calling the Senior Center at 508-529-4558. For ages 3 to 103! Pre-registration required. Not a drop off event.

#### Movie Events – June 21 at 1 p.m., July 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Our monthly movie events will take place throughout the summer in the Greatroom. Visit our Event Calendar online for movie titles, descriptions, and audience age suggestions. No registration required.

#### Tetris Pins – June 24 6 p.m.

Tweens and teens can join us as we use colored wooden beads and pin backs to make Tetris-style pins that will be the envy of any gamer! Note: hot glue guns will be used for this program. For ages 8+. Pre-registration required.

#### Hands on Nature: Magical Fireflies – June 25 at 6 p.m.

Learn about these special noc-

turnal insects, and the ways they have been used as sources of light in many cultures. Discover the habits and lifestyles of these luminous insects, and learn what makes their 'cool light' different from other 'warm light.' Bring a recycled glass jar, and make a firefly catcher to bring home and enjoy this summer! For ages 5 to 12. Pre-registration required.

#### Teen Trivia – July 2 at 6 p.m.

Join Mrs. Murphy for a Jeopardy-style game of trivia! Hang out and test your knowledge on all types of facts! Snacks will be served. For ages 10 to 16. Pre-registration required.

#### Perler Bead Art – July 11 1 p.m.

Join us as we use Perler beads to create our favorite video game characters! Don't like video games? Make a Perler bead creation of your own choosing! Note: This activity involves use of a hot iron. For ages 8+. No registration required.

### MONTHLY LIBRARY EVENTS – Register now!

All programs and events require pre-registration at [uptonlibrary.org](http://uptonlibrary.org) or call 508-529-6272. Registrations open the month prior to events.

#### Baby Storytime – Fridays at 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Baby Storytime is for ages birth to 3 and is held on Fridays. This is a 20-30-minute lapsit program featuring stories, songs, and nursery rhymes. Pre-registration required.

#### Preschool Storytime – Thursdays at 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime is for ages 3 to 5 and is held on Thursdays. This is a 45-minute program featuring stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Pre-registration required.

#### Saturday Storytime – June 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Once a month we offer a 30-45-minute Saturday Storytime, blending Baby and Preschool storytimes featuring stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Can't join us for our weekday programs? This event is just for you! For ages 0-5. Pre-registration required.

#### Drop-In Storytime – June 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Children's Department offers a Drop-In Storytime ses-

sion, once a month. No registration required! This is a blend of our Baby and Preschool Storytimes; however, no craft will be provided. We will feature stories, songs, rhymes, and fun! This will be held in the Greatroom and will be a larger group size. For ages 0 to 5.

#### Music & Movement – June 16 & July 7 at 9:30 a.m.

This program features Deb Hudgins and is an interactive program, perfect for children and their caregivers to enjoy together. Deb plays guitar and sings, and is sure to incorporate stories, dancing, fingerplays, games and more at each of her fun, themed performances. This program is partially funded through a grant with Beginning Bridges CFCE in Uxbridge. For ages 1 to 5. Pre-registration is required.

#### Storybook Art Club – June 17 at 10 a.m.

This program meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Children will enjoy a picture book and create a craft inspired by the story! This month will feature books by Antoinette Portis and recycled art materials. Pre-registration required. For ages 3 to 5.

#### LEGO Club – June 18 & July 2 at 4 p.m.

This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 4 - 5 p.m. This group is led by Library Director, Matthew Bachtold. We provide the LEGOs while you have fun building and making new friends. This program is for ages 3 to 12. Pre-registration is required.

#### Crafternoon – June 26 3 p.m.

This is a new drop-in program that will meet the 4th Thursday of each month. Children can make a simple craft using materials such as crayons, scissors, paint, and glue. This month, we are making paper ladybugs! For ages 3+. No registration required.

#### Tween Book Club – June 26 at 6:30 p.m.

This club is especially for our middle grade patrons, ages 10 to 14. This group reads popular middle grade titles se-



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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.

## UPTON LIBRARY

*continued from page 12*

lected by our members. This month, we will be discussing the title *A Whale of the Wild* by Rosanne Parry. We welcome new members all year round! Pre-registration required. *Note: This month's meeting is on a different Thursday due to the Juneteenth holiday this month.*

**Kids' Book Club** – July 2 4 p.m.

Our book club members explore popular juvenile chapter books on the first Wednesday of each month from 4 - 4:45 p.m. We will be discussing the graphic novel *Paws Volume 1: Gabby Gets It Together* by Nathan Fairbairn. This group is for ages 7 to 10. We welcome new members all year round! Pre-registration required.

**Chess Club** – 1st Tuesday/Thursday each month, 2 - 5 p.m.

Learn to play chess or just play with new players. We will

have a student from BVT to help teach those new to the game. For ages 8 to 16. No registration required.

**Crafting Club** – 2nd Tuesday/Thursday each month, 2 - 5 p.m. Feeling crafty? Join us as we create new projects each month. Beading, crochet, painting – the possibilities are endless! For ages 8 to 16. No registration required.

**Gaming Club** – 3rd Tuesday/Thursday each month, 2 - 5 p.m.

We've got a Play Station 5 and tons of board games and we'd love to have tweens and teens join us! New games each session! For ages 8 to 16. No registration required.

**Magic the Gathering: Commander** – 4th Tuesday each month, 4 - 6 p.m. Join us for an introduction to the popular card game, Magic the Gathering - Commander format.

We will be joined by local patron, Josef Vargas, as he shares his knowledge with

those wanting to learn and play! If you have a Commander deck, please bring it to play. For ages 8+. Please register.

### Upton Reads Book Group

An eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction with meetings on the second Tuesday afternoon and Thursday evening of each month in the Community Center classroom, with a Zoom remote option.

Tuesday, July 8 at 12:45 p.m., and Thursday, July 10 at 6:45 p.m.: *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.

### Fic or No Fic Book Group

An adult book group led by Librarian Micaela that alternates fiction and non-fiction selections. Meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25 at 6:45 p.m.: *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore.

For more information or assistance with any library services, call 508-529-6272 or email mbachtol@cwmar.org

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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](mailto:haroldrhodes@comcast.net)

## Recent Home Sales

Date	Mendon	Amount
05/20/2025	17 Rawson Farm	\$1.12 mil
05/01/2025	21 Ashkins Drive	\$759,900

Date	Upton	Amount
05/23/2025	79 Fowler Street	\$530,000
05/22/2025	14 Fieldstone Street	\$475,000
05/16/2025	12 Chickadee Way #26	\$881,301
05/15/2025	4 Bradish Farm Road	\$815,000
05/15/2025	10 Chickadee Way #25	\$795,475
05/15/2025	20 Boot Shop Road #41	\$856,798
05/12/2025	51 School Street #2	\$404,000
05/01/2025	332 Mendon Street	\$3.20 mil
04/30/2025	80 Shannon Way	\$735,000
04/29/2025	2 Plumbley Road	\$903,000

Source: zillow.com / Compiled by Upton & Mendon Free Press



The 3-bed, 3-bath, 1,912-square-foot home at 21 Ashkins Drive in Mendon recently sold for \$759,900. Photo source: www.Zillow.com



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**MENDON SENIORS**

*continued from page 7*

Mendon Senior Center on Wednesday, June 25 at 11 a.m. to provide attendees with an update on some of the new trends they're seeing in the area of fraud and scams. Bank experts from the Mendon Branch, Compliance & Security as well as Electronic Banking Operations will be on-hand to answer your questions and provide tips on how best to respond to fraud attempts. They'll share stories of recent successes they've had preventing fraud from occurring with their customers and will offer resources to use in the event you or someone you know falls victim to fraud. Stop by or call the Senior Center to register.

**911 Reflective Safety Signs Available**

Mendon Firefighters Relief Association (MFFRA) a local non-profit, has worked to create 911 reflective safety signs to better help first responders find your home safely. The cost per sign is \$25. Limited financial assistance is available for seniors and veterans. Make checks out to: MFFRA and drop off at the Mendon Fire Dept. and include your name, address, phone number and include the house # you want on the sign if different from your address. Come to the Friends meeting on Monday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. for more information.

**Mendon Senior Walking Group**

The Mendon Senior Walking Group will meet, weather permitting, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. at various locations. The average distance we walk is approximately 2 miles. We're always open to different walking trails. We sometimes change it up a bit. Diane Howell, the group leader, requests email addresses and phone numbers to be sure all are aware of any walking changes/cancellations. If you are interested or have questions, contact Diane at [diane.m.howell@icloud.com](mailto:diane.m.howell@icloud.com) or call her at 508-473-3081. New Walkers are always welcome.

**Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise**

The Mendon Senior Center welcomes back Rondae Drafts

with a fun, energizing exercise program for seniors set to music. This program, funded by the Mendon Cultural Council, is offered to you at no cost. Two complimentary sessions will be offered: Monday, June 30 at 11:30 a.m. Please stop by or call the senior center to register for one or both groups.

**Falls Safety & Falls Recovery**

Join us for a fun, interactive session to learn about Falls Safety and Falls Recovery with Karen McCarthy, Education Nurse from Salmon Home Care on Tuesday, June 17 at 11 a.m. Please call or stop by the Mendon Senior Center to register.

**Senior Van Transportation**

Our van service is available Monday thru Thursday for trips to medical appointments, local shopping or just coming down to the Senior Center. Our friendly drivers are available to pick you up at your front door and take you where you need to go within a 15-mile radius. If you have any mobility issues, the van does include a lift, and our drivers are trained in wheelchair securement. Please make your ride reservations at least 48 hours in advance by calling the Senior Center, 508-478-6175. Rides are based on availability of the van; medical appointments get highest priority. Ride fees are \$1 for local roundtrip rides and \$4 for out-of-town rides. Vanbucks are available, get a 12-punch card for \$10. Please inquire at the front desk.

**Nutritional Support**

Need help buying groceries? SNAP can help! The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly known as food stamps has the following eligibility guidelines:

Household size 1/ maximum gross monthly Income \$2608. Household size 2/maximum

gross monthly income \$3525. Additionally, SNAP households are automatically able to participate in The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) Spend SNAP dollars on farm fresh fruits and vegetables at participating HIP retailers. An equal amount of money, up to the \$20 maximum HIP monthly benefit, is instantly added back to your EBT card. Your receipt will show the amount of additional SNAP dollars you've earned. Spend your earned benefits anywhere that accepts SNAP.

Monthly benefit per household is \$20. These funds do not rollover. Must have a balance on EBT card at time of purchase.

The Mendon Food Pantry located at the Senior Center is currently open for Mendon residents one Friday per month by appointment. Upcoming dates are as follows: July 11, August 8, September 5. For more information, to make an appointment or for help applying for SNAP benefits, please contact Janet Hubener.

**Charles Riverboat Cruise**

**-Day Trip** Friday, August 8, 2025, \$125 per person. YOUR MOTORCOACH WILL DEPART: 8:45 a.m. - Mendon Senior Center and return at approximately: 5:15 p.m. You will see the historic sights of Boston and Cambridge on this 70 minute narrated cruise. After the cruise you will be treated to lunch at The Cheesecake Factory. Choose an entree from a fantastic menu and cheesecake for dessert, of course! After lunch take some time for shopping at the Cambridgeside Galleria Mall. For Reservations, stop by the Senior Center or contact: Beverly Fior at 508-473-8382. Make checks payable to: Friends of Mendon Elders Mail to: 62 Providence Street, Mendon, MA 01756 Attn: Bev Fior. No Refunds after 7/8/25. Trip Operated by Bloom Tours.

**Niagara Falls**

This Niagara Falls trip offered by Diamond Tours is scheduled for Sept. 29 thru Oct. 3 from the Mendon Senior Center. It is on the American side so that passports will not be needed. It includes 4 nights lodging in the Niagara Falls area, 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners. A guided tour of the falls on the Maid of the Mist, cruise on the Erie Canal, scenic drive through wine country, guided tour of Buffalo and a visit to Buffalo

Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum.

The price is \$685 per person based on double occupancy. Final Payment is due by June 22.

Please register at the Mendon Senior Center. For more info or questions, please contact Bev Fior at 508-473-8382.

Checks are to be made out to Friends of Mendon Elders (please add 'trip account' in memo) Call Beverly Fior, 508-473-8382 for more information.

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## Taft Public Library Calendar of Events

29 North Avenue, Mendon • 508-473-3259 • TaftPublicLibrary.org • HOURS: Tues. & Wed. 10-7 • Thurs. 3-7 • Fri. 12-5 • Sat. 9-12 • Sun. & Mon. CLOSED

### ADULT PROGRAMS NEWS - JUNE 2025

#### Closed Days in June:

The Taft Library will be closed on Thursday, June 19 for the Juneteenth holiday. We will be open again on Friday, June 20 with our regular hours.

#### Upcoming Events:

To register for an event, click on the Library Event Calendar & Registration link at the top of the library's homepage (www.taftpubliclibrary.org).

#### Adult Handcrafting Group

Let's get crafty! Join us on Wednesday, June 18 at 2 p.m. downstairs in the library and get your craft on! Bring your own craft project, whatever it might be, to work on while you visit. Intended for adults. No registration is required. Crafts are NOT supplied.

#### Adult Book Club

The Adult Book Club will meet upstairs in the library to discuss Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus in June, date TBD. For additional information on the June discussion or upcoming book clubs which will start up again in the fall contact the library at 508-473-3259.

#### Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club

The Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club typically meets downstairs in the library on a quarterly basis. This year the group will read and discuss five nonfiction titles. Those interested are asked to stop at the downstairs desk to sign the

Footnotes registration sheet and pick up a copy of the latest book. Upcoming book in the Footnotes series: Thursday, June 26 at 7 p.m.: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith.

The roster of titles for the Footnotes Nonfiction Book Club from July 2025 to June 2026 will be chosen by the group at the conclusion of the discussion of *How the Word is Passed* on the 26.

#### Awards Book Club

New to our slate of adult book clubs is Awards Book Club! Hosted by Taft Library Assistant Jane Blackwood, the Awards Book Club meets on a quarterly basis to discuss fiction and non-fiction award winners of the year. Jane selects from the books that took home the coveted Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Booker Prize and more! Stop at the downstairs circulation desk to pick up the latest Awards book for discussion.

The next book in the Awards Book Club discussion series will be *We Do Not Part* by Han Kang, the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2025. The discussion will be on Tuesday, August 5 upstairs in the library at 7 p.m.

#### German Conversation Club

Are you looking for a place to practice what German you remember or to improve your German vocabulary? Conversations in German is no pressure, just fun! Lead by Library As-

sistant (and Mendon resident) Monika Schmid, the group typically meets the last Monday of each month. Registration is required. To register, visit our website! Note: German Conversation Club is currently on hiatus, but will resume again in the fall. Contact the library at 508-473-3259 for further details.

#### Check out Mango Languages at Taft Library!

Visit the Taft Public Library website for access to the Mango Languages platform. If you have an interest in learning a language, Mango provides lessons in over 70 languages. Children can try their hand at language learning with Mango Little PIM, a platform designed just for them, and for those interested in learning American sign language we provide access to Mango ASL. Mango's Intuitive Language Construction methodology helps build skills in vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, culture, comprehension, and retention. To see all of the Mango options the Taft Library offers scroll down the left-hand side of our webpage to the Databases section.

#### Friends of the Taft Public Library Meeting

The Friends of the Library meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. downstairs in the Art Holmes Community Room, unless it falls on a holiday or

during a school vacation. All are welcome (and encouraged) to attend! If you plan on attending, it's always a good idea to call the library at 508-473-3259 or email the Friends at friendsoftaftlibrary@gmail.com to confirm the date and time of the meeting. The group will do its best to post any meeting changes on the Taft Library website.

### CHILDREN PROGRAMS NEWS - JUNE 2025

Registration is required for all programs. Please log onto our website: www.taftpubliclibrary.org and find the events page to register along with more information for the programs.

#### Itty Bitty Story Time

Itty Bitty Storytime is designed for our youngest patrons birth to 3 years old. Join us for a lot of fun on Tuesdays and select Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Story & Craft Time

Join us for Story and Craft Time! Perfect for the preschool-aged child! All sessions take place on Tuesday mornings 10:30 a.m.

#### Alphabet Storytime

It's all about the alphabet! Each week we will focus on a different letter. We will read a couple of books, sing songs, and learn about the letter of the week! Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Please note there is no Alphabet Storytime the second Wednesday of the month.

#### Coffee and Conversations

#### & Puppet Storytime

Wednesday, June 25 Coffee & Conversations 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Join us for an informal playtime where families will be able to build social connections and learn about early childhood development and family-friendly resources. The library will supply Muffin House Muffins!

Please stay for the 10:30 a.m. Puppet Storytime. Join Newton & Friends of Through Me to You Puppetry for songs and stories. At the end of the 30-minute show, children can greet the puppets. Geared for children 2 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome!

#### Lego Club

Back by popular demand! During this one-hour building session we will be led by the "Lego Lady" Kim Steadman! No need to bring any Legos! This program is great for all ages....as long as they don't eat the Legos! Tuesday, June 10 at 4:30 p.m.

#### Puppet Storytime with Leigh Baltzer

Join Newton & Friends of Through Me to You Puppetry for songs and stories. At the end of the 30-minute show, children can greet the puppets. Geared for children 2 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome! Register today for Newton's visit back to the Taft on Tuesday June 17 4:30 p.m.

### TAFT LIBRARY

continued on page 17



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**TAFT LIBRARY**

*continued from page 16*

**Music & Movement with Deb Hudgins**

Join Deb Hudgins for a 30-minute music and movement theme-based program which features singing and guitar music for young children (infants

& preschool). Join us on Tuesdays, June 24. The program starts promptly at 10:30 a.m.

**Summer Reading 2025**

Can you believe it is already time for Summer Reading? Your friends at the Taft have been busy for months putting together a Summer Reading program that is sure to please. For more information on how

to register for prizes and events, please visit our website at [www.taftpubliclibrary.org](http://www.taftpubliclibrary.org).

**June Events**

Tuesday, June 24 - Flying High Dogs at Memorial Park 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 26 - Animal Craze Petting Zoo: Please choose one of two sessions 9:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

# Grant awarded Friends of Mendon Elders 2025 Scholarship

The Friends of Mendon Elders are proud to announce that Madison Grant has been awarded their 2025 Scholarship. Madison is graduating from the Mendon Upton School System and will be heading to the University of Tampa, Tampa Florida in the fall with a goal of working toward a degree in Psychology and Biology. This scholarship recognizes exceptional academic achievement, leadership potential, and community involvement.

Madison stood out among a highly competitive pool of applicants, impressing the selection committee with her academic record, commitment to community service, and passion for student government and sports.

As noted in her letter of recommendation Madison is a role model among her peers, she blends academic excellence with an enthusiasm for activities both as part of a team and as a leader.

Madison is a Nipmuc National Honor Society participant maintaining a 3.7 grade point average. She has been on the honor roll or high honor roll for all four years of her High School Career. She is a member of the Nipmuc Student Council, Peer Leadership Committee and Writing Club. She also participated in the varsity soccer and basketball programs. Madison has gone above and beyond in academics and extracurricular activities, earning the respect and admiration of both faculty

and classmates.

Madison also has a high degree of commitment to community service. She volunteers for the New England Epilepsy Group where she works to bring awareness for this disease. She also volunteers for the Home for Little Wanderers where she led a hat, coat, and toy drive for the orphanage. Maddison also raised over \$3,000 over 3 years for this worthwhile organization. She is the President and Founder of Feed Forward providing food for the homeless. These achievements are a testimony to her dedication to community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Madison Grant, wishing her continued success in all future endeavors.

# Kim Briggs joins Charles River Bank as Mendon Branch Officer



**Assistant Vice President/Mendon Branch Officer Kim Briggs.**  
*Courtesy photo*

high level of customer service that our Mendon office is known for. She will focus on enhancing existing customer relationships, developing new commercial and retail banking relationships, and identifying other banking needs within the community.

Prior to joining us, she held branch management positions at a number of financial institutions in our market. Kim enjoys volunteering in the community and serves as a Commissioner on the Blackstone Parks & Recreation Commission. Kim is a graduate of Massachusetts Bay Community College and is a Notary Public.

“We are very excited to have Kim join our Mendon Office. With her 30 years of banking experience at local financial institutions, I am confident that our customers and community partners will find Kim a valuable resource who is able to help with any financial needs,” said Charles River Bank President & CEO Derek Plourde.

Charles River Bank (CRB) President & CEO Derek Plourde is pleased to announce that Kim Briggs has joined the Bank as Assistant Vice President/Mendon Branch Officer. Kim will serve as a leader and coach for the Mendon Office retail banking team, and is responsible for overall operations, compliance, and maintaining the

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SPORTS

# Tough schedule leads BVT Baseball to Voke final

## Beavers beat 20-0 team enroute to title game

By Chris Villani

After an eventful regular season that saw the Blackstone Valley Tech baseball team win and lose several tight games, the Beavers capped off the pre-state tournament slate by knocking off previously undefeated Shawsheen Valley in the first round of the State Vocational Tournament.

“That win gave us a ton of confidence,” Head Coach John Burke said. “They are in our division, a top-four team in the state, and they were 20-0. But we are battle-tested. We have played a lot of good teams.”

Heading into the state playoffs, Burke said his team may be more dangerous seeded in the 30s than it was last year as one of the five best teams in the division.

“We have a lot of guys back from last year,” he said. “We have won some big games, we’ve been up, we’ve been down, and we’ve come back and rallied in games.”

And, over the past several seasons, Valley Tech has gradually



**Luke Charron delivers a pitch during a recent Valley Tech game.** Photo source: Margaret Vosburgh

made its schedule tougher and tougher. Next year, with realignment looming, Burke said his team will be facing top competition every week.

The driving force in the lineup for BVT this season has been senior Alex Vosburgh. “He has been the guy offensively,”

Burke said. “He has been great.”

BVT has also benefited from strong pitching and defense. In the 5-1 win over Shawsheen in the vocational tourney, senior left-hander Evan Pupka twirled a complete game and BVT did not commit an error. The Bea-



**Alex Vosburgh is a big bat in the BVT lineup this season.** Photo source: Margaret Vosburgh


vers also strung together 11 hits from eight different players. In addition to Pupka, Luke Charron, Jack Marino, and Jackson Manosh have carried the load on the mound.


“We have been getting contributions from everybody,” Burke said. “We don’t have a true number one guy, but we have several guys who have contributed big time. They have been logging most of the innings for us. They throw strikes and they pitch to contact.”

The Beavers entered the state tournament with an 11-11 re-

cord, but the .500 mark is a bit deceiving. The Beavers have outscored opponents by nearly 30 runs and lost five games by a single run, including a 1-0 setback against Diman in the vocational title game. Burke said playing tougher teams, even if it means a few more losses, will benefit the program in the long run.

“The ultimate goal is to make a good run and have a tech team get as far as we can in the tournament,” he said, “and hopefully be playing for a state championship someday.”





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SPORTS

# Stellar season for Nipmuc Track & Field

By Chris Villani

Both the girls' and boys' track and field teams at Nipmuc High School put together outstanding campaigns in 2025, with the girls running the table for the second year in a row and the boys coming the closest they've been to a Dual Valley League title in more than a decade.

"Both teams had an extremely good season," said Head Coach Justin Townsend. "We had program records flying off the board."

Each team has several stars who led the way all season, and the field events were especially strong across the board.

On the girls' side, freshman Cam Getman set a school record with a discus throw of nearly 111 feet, and finished third in the state divisional meet.

"I am very proud of Cam," Townsend said. "Incredibly talented, takes feedback, very coachable, Cam is going to have a really strong four years of track."

Senior captain Julia Lenfest was the girls' top scorer, and a star in the sprints, hurdles, and long jump. She was named the DVC's all-around athlete of the year, while Getman was the field event athlete of the year.

Nipmuc also relied on junior hurdler Riley Restic, who earned a spot at the meet of champions, and Amelia Squires, another star in the shot put and discus.

The boys were led by junior Eben Consigli, who won the divisional championship in the discus and posted the third-best discus throw in the state. He broke a program record in that event that had stood since 1983. His teammate, Dashel Correia, broke an even older mark: His best shot put mark of nearly 53-feet eclipsed a record set in 1977.

Aidan Lucier was the all-around athlete of the year in the DVC and had top marks in the 100-meter dash, the long jump, and the triple jump. He took home a first and three seconds in the league meet, amassing 34 points on his own. Senior captain Gabriel Si-



Dashel Correia (left) and Eben Consigli have shattered decades-old school records in field events. Courtesy photo



Cam Getman set a new program record in the discus this spring. Courtesy photo

curella, along with Lucier, set a program record in the 100, and Sicurella added a program-best mark in the 200.

Townsend noted that, even with some talented athletes graduating, Nipmuc has a strong group coming back and a deep feeder program with the middle school team.

"We are producing good athletes, they are developing, people are attracted to the program," he said, adding that the total number of sign-ups this spring amounted to about 15% of the school population.

"It just seems to get better and better every year," Townsend said.

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