

localtownpages Hopedale

Vol. 12 No. 4

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

August 1, 2025

Summer rain



After weeks of high temps and heat advisories, Hopedale cooled off with a heavy rain on July 20. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

Town Hall reuse process moving forward

Current Town Hall houses nine employees, dubbed a “liability”

By THERESA KNAPP

Residents at this year’s Annual Town Meeting voted, almost unanimously, to allow the Select Board to pursue reuse, rehabilitation, or disposition of the current Town Hall at 78 Hopedale Street.

A Request for Proposals went out in July and responses are due by Sept. 1. Any agreement the Select Board reaches with a bidder would require Town Meeting approval.

At the May 20 meeting, then-Select Board Chair Bernie Stack said the building was given to



Hopedale Town Hall in July 2025. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

TOWN HALL

continued on page 3



Buying a home in today’s market? We’ve got your back.

At Central One, we know rising rates can make you feel uncertain about buying a home. That’s why we’re offering a one-time, no-cost rate modification* if interest rates drop after you buy with us. So go ahead, find the home that’s right for you.

Apply at our Milford branch conveniently located at 82 Prospect Street!

centralfcu.com • 508-482-5371

*Terms and conditions apply. Adjustable Rate Mortgages only. Excludes 15/5 ARM Mortgages. One-time offer allowed for up to 24 months post-close. Modification requires an application and applies to new mortgages opened from 6-1-25 through 12-31-25. At time of modification, mortgage payments must be current and payment history must be free from any delinquencies. Equal Housing Lender. Federally insured by NCUA.



DOGGIE DAYCARE LUXURY BOARDING



CALL or Email TODAY!
508-478-6390
Family@pawsbedandbiscuit.com



Voted Best of the Best!
BEST PET SERVICE
2019, 2020,
2021, 2022,
2023 & 2024

PawsBedandBiscuit.com

TESTA CARPENTRY



ROOFING & SIDING

- All Home Improvements • Finished Basements
- Kitchens & Bathrooms • Additions
- Vinyl Siding • Windows & Doors

COREY TESTA

CELL: 508-962-6585 • OFFICE: 508-478-7979 • testacarpentry.com

localtownpages

Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Website



Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Facebook Page

localtownpages



PRSRPT STD
EGRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 142
SPRINGFIELD, MA
Postal
Customer
Local

BBC First School in State to Earn Heart Safe Certification

Heart health and safety have always been important for Bright Beginnings Center School Nurse Heather Welch. As a former paramedic and CPR instructor, she has seen her share of cardiac related emergencies. That is why bringing a heart safe program to BBC became a focus for her this past fall. Entering her second year as BBC School Nurse, Welch wanted to ensure a safe and prepared school environment for students, staff, and visi-

tors so she began investigating the nationwide program Project ADAM.

Project ADAM began in 1999 after the death of Adam Lemel, a 17-year-old Whitefish Bay, WI, high school student who collapsed and died while playing basketball. Adam suffered a Sudden Cardiac Arrest, in which ventricular fibrillation occurred, a condition in which the ventricles cannot pump blood into the body. Defibrillation, or an

AED, could have saved his life. Adam's parents, Patty Lemel and Joe Lemel, collaborated with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to create Project ADAM in Adam's memory. The program has worked with affiliate hospitals across 38 states to certify schools in cardiac emergency preparedness. BBC became the very first school in Massachusetts to become certified, making it the 39th state in the program.

"I love BBC and I wanted to bring in something special that would make a difference in the lives of those in our school community," said Welch. "It's all about our community and doing what's best for the kids and the teachers and the families."

Nurse Heather, as she is known to students at BBC, worked for months under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Jacobs from Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Jacobs directed the process and the composition of an extensive cardiac emergency response plan that Welch compiled for the school. She then went on to train a team of seven additional staff members that would be called on to respond in the event of a "code blue" cardiac emergency in the building. Team members included Principal Kristen Poisson, Pre K Teachers Lindsay Fitzgibbon and Guinevere Rebello, School Adjustment Counselor Nicole Harn, Extended Day Coordinator Tracy Johnson, Custodian Jon Brown, and Administrative Assistants Jill LaChapelle and Angelina Tobin. All team members participated in CPR training and additional team meetings, practice drills, and training under Welch's guidance. She also worked with the



Mike Weaver Helping Friends Forever Foundation to upgrade the school's AED and obtain a trainer device.

"It's been quite a process," said Welch, "I've worked very hard on this initiative. It's been amazing to see it come to fruition. The leadership and staff at BBC have been so supportive in obtaining my goal of bringing Project ADAM to Hopedale."

On Thursday, May 22nd, Dr. Jacobs visited BBC for the team's live drill, the final step in the certification process. The team responded to the emergency in one minute and four seconds, well under the three minute limit. Hopedale Police and Fire Departments responded to the scene and participated in the live action simulation of the cardiac emergency. All went well and BBC completed their goal of being the first school in Massachusetts to obtain Project ADAM certification. Also in attendance at BBC on Thursday were State Representative Brian Murray, who provided a Citation to Welch and Poisson for the school's accomplishments, as well as Sabrina Webb, Devel-

opment Director of the Central Massachusetts chapter of the American Heart Association. At the conclusion of the drill, Webb announced that Welch would be honored as a "Heart Hero" at the Association's annual Heart and Stroke Walk on June 7th at the College of the Holy Cross.

"This is the kind of work we love to see and that we need more of," Webb told the team, "we will be thrilled to honor Heather at our annual walk."

The Bright Beginnings Center's preschool student population is young, between the ages of 3-5, but Principal Kristen Poisson says that this type of work is crucial for all age groups, "You never know if a student might have an undetected health situation or if a parent or grandparent or other visitor to our building might have an emergency. The work Nurse Heather has done to prepare our building for this type of event is so important."

For her part, Welch will continue to educate her colleagues and others through CPR and First Aid courses she teaches. She will also bring heart healthy curriculum lessons, a component of Project ADAM that she and Poisson developed to the building's preschool classrooms this spring focusing on topics such as exercise, nutrition, and what the heart does. Her accomplishment through Project ADAM will be recognized with a banner outside the school but for Welch it means much more, "This accomplishment reflects months of preparation, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the safety and well-being of our students and staff. It represents what can happen when a school and its community come together with purpose and heart

Harvest Fest Sept. 20 In Bellingham

Harvest Fest is making a comeback in Bellingham.

The event, a family-focused activity, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, at Bellingham's Town Common from 11 am to 3 pm. A rain date, if needed, is Sept. 27. The town's two Baptist Churches — First Baptist Church and Bible Baptist Church — are organizing the day's activities.

Harvest Fest began in 2017 and had a three-year run until Covid-19 forced the two churches to curtail the program. It's being revived after a five-year absence.

For the youth, there will be pony rides, an obstacle course, gymnastic and karate exhibitions, hopefully a magician and other exciting activities. A Christian concert is also scheduled.

Many vendors will be on hand to promote and sell their products. The churches are still seeking sponsors and vendors. If interested contact Pastor Baron Rodrigues at 508 844-1843.

After expenses are paid (police detail, permits, entertainment costs, etc.), any funds remaining will go to area food pantries.

**When the right coverage counts
you can count on our
LOCAL, PERSONAL & KNOWLEDGEABLE
staff to take care of your
Home • Auto • Business • Life**



Bright
Insurance Agency



**Jensen
Sheehan**
Insurance Agency



6 Congress St, Milford • 54 Central St Holliston

Steve's Corner Barbershop

774-486-9681

**Wednesday Special
\$15 HAIRCUTS!**

4 Evergreen Lane, Unit #1 Hopedale, MA 01747

Steve Guiliani...Master Barber

**Hours: Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9:30am to 5pm; Wed. 12 to 6pm; Sat. 8am to 1pm
WE ARE SPECIAL NEEDS-FRIENDLY**

TOWN HALL

continued from page 1

the town by William Draper in 1886, which coincided with the incorporation of the town. Stack said, “I think it would be more appropriate to say it was a building given to the town with a hall, and not a ‘Town Hall.’”

Stack recalled what the building was like in the 1940s and 1950s, saying it contained the town post office, a library annex, town barbershop, town dentist, an insurance company, and the town’s water department. “Does it sound much like a town hall? Not really,” adding that it eventually evolved into today’s Town Hall.

Stack said the building, which is currently home to nine town employees, has “lots of problems” since the building has received little upkeep over the years. He said the building is expensive to heat in the winter [some office temps cannot rise above 40 degrees], there are drafty windows, leaky pipes covered in asbestos, etc.

“I could go on and on, and I don’t want to, but there are some serious, serious problems with that building. It would be nice to say ‘Well, we could repair it’- well, we looked at repairing it back around 2012-2013, and it was a \$6 million project then, you can well imagine what it would be today...I know it’s hard to wrap your mind around this phrase but it’s less expensive for us to lease something, or to build something, than it is to repair it,” said Stack, adding “I know that there’s a lot of sentiment with a lot of these buildings, but I think it would be nice if this building reverted back to the commercial use that it once had and if it’s appropriately done, I think it’s something we would be pleased to have.”

In May, Town Meeting members expressed concerns about keeping the historic façade, seeking grants to cover the costs of any repairs, etc.

Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti addressed the issue of grants. He said the town is, in fact, eligible for a \$50,000 grant through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, however “The updated cost to renovate the building today is about \$20 million,” adding “We can’t spend more than 30% of the total assessed value of the building without triggering ADA compliance

“The updated cost to renovate the building today is about \$20 million... We can’t spend more than 30% of the total assessed value of the building without triggering ADA compliance which we can’t meet without the installation of an elevator which would cost \$2 million.”

**- Mitch Ruscitti,
Town Administrator**

which we can’t meet without the installation of an elevator which would cost \$2 million.”

Ruscitti reiterated that only nine town employees work in the current Town Hall. “We understand we have to invest in our spaces for our children and our schools...It seems counterproductive to put \$20 million into a building where nine people work.”

During public comment, Josh Otlin, former chair of the Hopedale Historical Commission, said he would be saddened to see the Town Hall “in any other state than it has been historically,” but said the project needs to be viewed in the larger fiscal context of the town’s “complex set of long-range capital planning challenges.” He said, “I believe that the proposal is pragmatic, and I believe that it’s an appropriate response to dealing with a building that, while I think has great sentimental value, I think needs to be correctly understood as a liability for our local government.”

Selectperson Glenda Hazard said she is hoping for a historic renovation. “Probably nobody’s more attached to Town Hall than I am, but we’re here because previous town meetings declined to spend the cost to renovate when it was cheaper...We’re kind of forced to take an action of this kind.”

Ruscitti said the town will likely lease office space in the downtown area to rehome the nine employees.

“We would likely spend \$150,000 this winter in broken pipe repair in keeping the heat on [in Town Hall], so it seems to be a better cost benefit to spend \$300,000 or \$400,000 to rehome us than it does to keep wintering in that building knowing that it’s a liability.”

Let’s Talk About It! Live Well. Age Well.

Join us for a free four part series starting in september at the hopedale senior center

A four-part informational series presented by legal, financial, senior living professionals and real estate experts about living well, aging well and care-planning for a loved one and/or ourselves.

Thurs. Sept. 4, 2025
6:30 pm (90 minutes)
Q&A follows
“The Gift of Preparedness”

Learn about financial, legal, and health-related documents that every adult should understand and choose to prepare based on what matters most to you. (Presenters are a Financial Advisor and Attorney).

Thurs. Sept. 18, 2025 6:30 pm (90 minutes) Q & A follows
“Should I Stay or Should I Go?”

This session will provide information from industry experts on the continuum of senior living options, selling, and buying, home modifications, and more.

Sign-up is required for both



programs by calling (508)634-2208. Participants from all towns and all ages are welcome. Free

hand-outs and critical materials will be available.

Refreshments follow presentations.

Future session topics: (TBD)

- Creating Your Support Circle
- Tough Conversations: Choosing your care goals and planning for end-of-life

We are so fortunate to bring this series to our Senior Center.

Don’t miss these critical presentations, close to home!

Call
Tiago

857-236-3122

Painting & Carpentry ★ Power Washing
Deck Refinishing ★ Exterior & Interior

FULLY INSURED

Follow us on Social Media

Download the FREE myQ® app

See clearly. Close securely.

Kids make it home from school? Did you close the garage door? Give yourself peace of mind that your family and home are safe and secure with the LiftMaster Secure View™ 84505R. The built-in camera lets you stream video, record it, and offers 2-way communication through the myQ app — which also allows you to remotely open and close your garage door from anywhere, at anytime.

Model 84505R

UNMATCHED REPUTATION, OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS
Your trusted local professional service & installer.

GARAGE DOOR EXPERTS
Call or visit our website today
JOLICOEUR OVERHEAD DOORS
745 South Main St., Bellingham, MA 02019
508-883-4522 • www.mygaragedoor.com

Family-Owned since 1992

*View a live-stream of your garage for free. 7-day and 30-day video storage options are available via a monthly or yearly subscription.
Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries and regions. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC. © 2022 The Chamberlain Group LLC. All Rights Reserved. LiftMaster, the LiftMaster logo, myQ and the myQ logo are registered trademarks of The Chamberlain Group LLC. 300 Windsor Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523 | LiftMaster.com | Wi-Fi is a registered trademark of Wi-Fi Alliance 18967801

Summer Reading Program theme is ‘Level Up at Your Library’

Registration begins June 2, programs run June 23 to Aug. 15

The Bancroft Memorial Library’s Summer Reading Program 2025 is just around the corner, and the library is excited for eight weeks packed with fun, creativity, and adventure.

This year’s theme is “Level Up at Your Library!” and there is an amazing lineup of shows, games, and events planned for all ages.

Registration opens June 2 and

programs begin on Mon., June 23, and end on Fri., Aug. 15.

Every week, there will be different games, movies, and outdoor activities, including:

- Mondays: Special events hosted by One Up Games, Snapology and Magic with George
- Tummy Time Tues-

days: Tummy Time for babies, featuring a new theme each week

- Wednesdays: Game Night
- Thursdays: Picnic storytime & playtime
- Friday matinees: Cool down in the Library’s air conditioning with a movie
- Builder Saturdays: Get creative with LEGOs

There are Grand Prize Raffles for all age groups (adults too!) so everyone has a chance to win.

Mark your calendars now for the Summer Reading Kick-Off event on Mon., June 23 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. when the inside of the Library will be turned into a mini-golf course with 9 holes of glowing LED mini golf.

For more information, visit the Event Calendar at www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org

The library would like to ex-

tend its congratulations and gratitude to the Friends of Hopedale Library for securing a grant with UniBank that will support four of its Summer Reading programs with One Up Games. They are deeply grateful to UniBank for funding this grant and for their commitment to promoting literacy and supporting the Hopedale community.

—Submitted by Bancroft Memorial Library

Hopedale resident stars in Fun Home in Weston

Weston Drama Workshop, a nonprofit youth theater organization in its 63rd anniversary season, will stage six productions this

month at Regis College, featuring participants entering Grade 5 through age 23. These young performers have been rehearsing since early June, and will perform at the Regis College Fine Arts Center between July 17 and July 26. With over 30 performances in the span of a jam-packed two weeks, Weston Drama Workshop continues its tradition of providing the MetroWest community and beyond with engaging youth theater programs and entertainment for all ages.

WDW’s younger ensemble—participants entering 5th grade through 9th—will perform two productions: Disney’s The Little Mermaid, the magical musical based on the classic animated film, directed by Skylar Grossman; and Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Musical, a heartfelt one-act musical based on the popular book series by Jeff Kinney, directed by Callie Llewellyn.

The program’s older en-



semble, made up of actors ages 14–23 with a few younger performers playing children’s roles, will perform three musicals and one play. Audiences will explore the dark world of a bloodthirsty barber in Sweeney Todd, directed by Julia Deter; experience the classic tale of love and revolution in Les Misérables: School Edition, directed by Chris Brindley; dive into the unique childhood of graphic novelist Alison Bechdel in Fun Home, directed by Stephanie Manning; and

enjoy a classic Noel Coward comedy in Present Laughter, directed by Tristan Burke. Among the performers starring in these four productions is Hopedale resident Jack-John Fumia, who plays Bruce in Fun Home.

Tickets are available at westondramaworkshop.org, and questions can be directed to the box office at 781-768-7070. All performances are held at Regis College’s air-conditioned Fine Arts Center.

The performance schedule is as follows:

The Little Mermaid: Saturday, July 19 @ 10:30am; Monday, July 21 @ 7:00pm; Tuesday, July 22 @ 7:00pm; Thursday, July 24 @ 10:30am; Saturday, July 26 @ 10:30am

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Friday, July 18 @ 5:00pm; Sunday, July 20 @ 10:30am; Tuesday, July 22 @ 10:30am; Wednesday, July 23 @ 5:00pm; Friday, July 25 @

5:00pm

Sweeney Todd: Thursday, July 17 @ 8:00pm; Saturday, July 19 @ 8:00pm; Sunday, July 20 @ 2:00pm; Friday, July 25 @ 8:00pm; Saturday, July 26 @ 2:00pm

Les Misérables: Friday, July 18 @ 8:00pm; Saturday, July 19 @ 2:00pm; Sunday, July 20 @ 7:00pm; Thursday, July 24 @ 8:00pm; Saturday, July 26 @ 8:00pm

Present Laughter: Thursday, July 17 @ 7:00pm; Saturday, July 19 @ 7:30pm; Sunday, July 20 @ 7:00pm; Friday, July 25 @ 7:00pm (sold out); Saturday, July 26 @ 1:00pm

Fun Home: Friday, July 18 @ 7:00pm; Saturday, July 19 @ 2:30pm; Sunday, July 20 @ 2:00pm; Tuesday, July 22 @ 7:30pm; Wednesday, July 23 @ 9:00pm; Thursday, July 24 @ 7:00pm; Saturday, July 26 @ 5:00pm (All performances are sold out; waitlist available)

localtownpages

Published Monthly

Mailed FREE to the

Community of Hopedale

Circulation: 2,576

households & businesses

Publisher

Chuck Tashjian

Editorial

Susan Manning

Send Editorial to:

editor@hopedaletownnews.com

Advertising Sales

Susanne Odell Farber

508-954-8148

sue@sodellconsult.com

Advertising Director

Jen Schofield

508-570-6544

jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout

Michelle McSherry

Kim Vasseur

Wendy Watkins

Office Address

9 Industrial Road, Suite 107

Milford, MA 01757

Ad Deadline is the

15th of each month.

Localtownpages assumes no

financial liability for errors or

omissions in printed advertising and

reserves the right to reject/edit

advertising or editorial submissions.

© Copyright 2025 LocalTownPages

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

WOULDN'T IT BE COOL IF WE CAME UP WITH OUR OWN VIDEO GAME, AESOP? I MEAN, HOW HARD COULD IT BE IF WE PUT OUR HEADS TOGETHER?

ALL WE NEED IS A GREAT IDEA, SICK GRAPHICS, SOME AWESOME CHARACTERS AND ACTION. WE COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY IF WE DO IT RIGHT!

WHAT D'YA THINK? YOU INTO IT?

I'M GAME.

© 2025 by Tim Jones www.sourgrapescomic.com

01/11/2025

Bancroft Memorial Library

50 Hopedale Street, Hopedale
Contact: Keely Bethel-Penny, Library Director
(508) 634-2209
kbethel-penny@cwmars.org
www.bancroftmemorallibrary.org

Library News

The Library will be closed on Saturday, August 30th and Monday, September 1st for the Labor Day weekend holiday.

Our Friday Summer Hours (10am-2pm) are in effect through Friday, August 29th.

Community Conversations – Wednesday, August 6th at 6:30pm

Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about “Lessons on Tyranny”. This meeting can be attended via Zoom; please email kbethel-penny@cwmars.org to request the link.

News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library:

Help support the Friends of the Hopedale Library! Did you know that you can shop

our Ongoing Book Sale anytime the Library is open? We offer a selection of adult and children’s titles and even puzzles! You can find the sale area downstairs just outside the Program Room. All monies raised go back to the Bancroft Memorial Library to pay for children’s and adult programs, museum passes, and other expenses not covered by the Library budget.

The Friends of the Library The Friends of the Hopedale Library, founded in 1983, is an active volunteer, non-profit organization with a town-wide membership and a representative executive board. We work with the Library staff and the Trustees to support the Library in providing funds for equipment, materials, and programs not covered by the Library’s regular operating budget. The Friends of the Hopedale Library meets the second Wednesday of the month, September through June at 6:30pm. New members and ideas are always welcome.

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children’s Room:

Summer Reading 2025 wraps up on Friday, August 15th so be sure to redeem all reading logs to receive beads, raffle tickets, etc.

Learn to play Pokémon – Monday August 4th from 4-7pm Learn to play the Pokémon card game with One Up Games! This program is for children ages 7 – 13 and registration is required. For more details and to register, visit our Event Calendar at www.bancroftmemorallibrary.org

Tummy Time Summer Reading Style – Tuesday, August 5th and Tuesday, August 12th at 10:30am Drop in for some safe and comfortable movement and socialization for infants from birth until 18 months. We will have a new, special activity each week.

Stuffy Sleepover – Wednesday, August 6th from 5-7pm Let your stuffy spend the night at the Library! Drop your stuffy off with Miss Laura and they will meet other special stuffies, have sleep over fun and tell you all about it when you pick them up on Thursday morning! No reg-

istration required.

Build Your Own Game Night – Wednesday, August 13th from 5-7pm We will have assorted items you can use to build your own game! Make up the rules, create a board (or not!) Do you need tokens or movers? Do you need dice? Cards? You bring your imagination and we will have materials you can use to build a game all your own!

Picnic Story Time – Thursday, August 7th and Thursday, August 14th from 11am-12pm Outside Story Time at the Bancroft Library! Drop in and join us on the lawn near the Statue of Hope. We will share a story, socialize, dance and play with bubbles. Bring something to sit on and maybe your lunch too. If inclement weather occurs, we will move the Story Time inside to the Program Room across from the Children’s Room - so join us each week, rain or shine!

Movie Matinee – Friday, August 1st and Friday, August 8th from 11am – 1pm Movies at the Library? YUP! Drop in at the Library to beat the

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

Builder Saturday – Saturday, August 2nd and Saturday August 9th from 11am-1pm Drop in and build with Legos, Duplos, Mega Bloks and foam blocks.

Wrap up Summer Reading Party– Friday, August 15th from 11am-1pm Celebrate another successful Summer Reading Program at Bancroft Memorial Library with a dance party, bubbles, ice pops and more prizes!

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

Friends of Milford Announce 2025 Summer Live Tribute Concert Series

Expanded Lineup Features Iconic Tributes Every Monday Night at Plains Park

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

The August 2025 lineup includes:

- Neil Diamond – August 4
- Frank Sinatra – August 11
- Johnny Cash – August 18

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

The concert series is a community-driven event made possible by the dedication of the Friends of Milford—John Seaver, Anthony Consigli, David Consigli, Steve Ellis, Paul Mastroianni, Rick Nashawny, and Harold Rhodes—with generous support from the Milford Lions Club.

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

For more information, please contact: Harold Rhodes: haroldrhodes@comcast.net

Hopedale Day In The Park

Plans for the 45th Hopedale Day in the Park are underway. Because of the proposed renovation of the Hopedale Town Park, this year the event will be held on the grounds of the Hopedale Community House on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10am to 4pm. Applications for vendors, art show information, and sponsor forms can be found on the town website. <http://www.hopedale-ma.gov> > Boards and Commissions > Cultural Council. hopedaleculturalcouncil@yahoo.com

116 Main Street, Medway
(508) 533-6655

32 Hasting Street, Rte 16, Mendon
(508) 381-0249

43 Main Street, Hopkinton
(508) 625-8100

325 N. Main Street, Natick
(508) 647-0500

296 Washington Street, Westwood
(508) 533-6655

907 Main Street, Walpole
(508) 533-6655

Don't stand in line!
ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE!
muffinhousecafe.com

NOW OFFERING DOORDASH, UBER EATS AND GRUB HUB

Open Daily
Bakery with Fresh Muffins/Pastries

Breakfast and Lunch Sandwiches
Best Blueberry Muffins Since Jordan Marsh

Receive 10% off any cake
with this coupon
All our cakes are made from scratch on the premises
Expires 8-31-2025

FREE SMALL COFFEE
with a purchase of a muffin with this coupon
Expires 8-31-2025

How to Have a Sting-Free Summer



Jim Maxxuchelli, owner, WPC Pest and Termite Control

From backyard barbecues to sunny beach days, families across the country are enjoying the warm weather. To make sure Americans can safely enjoy their summer, WPC Pest and Termite Control and the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) are sharing how to avoid stinging insects.

“Every year, more than 500,000 people visit the emergency room to be treated for in-

sect stings,” said Cindy Mannes, senior vice president of public affairs for NPMA. “Stinging insects can become aggressive and dangerous if provoked, which makes working with a licensed pest control professional a must for homeowners.”

Jim Mazzuchelli, owner of WPC Pest and Termite Control, is sharing these tips on how to avoid painful stings this summer:

Wasps



Wasps, including yellowjackets and the misnamed bald-faced hornet, are commonly encountered during late summer, when colonies are largest. Avoid attracting these insects and keep them out of your home by removing garbage frequently, keeping trashcans covered and ensuring all doors and windows are properly screened. Sweet-smelling perfumes should also be avoided, as the scent can attract yellowjackets.

Hornets



European hornets can be deterred from your home by changing exterior lights to yellow bulbs, storing garbage in sealed receptacles and removing fallen fruit from trees. If a stray hornet is giving you unwanted attention, avoid swatting at the insect. Instead, blow gently from a safe distance to shoo it away.

Africanized Bees

Africanized “killer” bees can become hostile if threatened and have been known to chase people for more than a quarter of a mile. Because they look similar to European honeybees, only a licensed pest control professional can identify and remove a nest. If you live within 100 miles of an area where Africanized bees are common, do not approach any nest.

DIY removal of a stinging insect nest is never recommended, as the process requires specialized training and equipment. Call your local professionals at WPC Pest and Termite Control at 508.435.2211.

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.

Twice Blessed Boutique Thrift Shop

at Sacred Heart Church

Great selection of women's & men's clothing, accessories & jewelry at fantastic prices!

STORE HOURS:
THURSDAY 1 - 4pm
SATURDAY 9am - 12pm (1st SAT. of the MONTH)
SUNDAY 10am - 12pm

187 Hopedale St., Hopedale • 508.473.1900 • CASH ONLY

BEES & WASPS BOTHERING YOU?

Don't Tolerate, ELIMINATE

Bees

Wasps

Hornets

Yellow Jackets

CALL THE LOCAL GUYS FIRST!

WPC Pest & Termite Control

508-435-2211

nobugsnopests.com

LICENSED & INSURED
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Well-Wishes & Waves A Summer of Projects at BVT

UPTON – The final morning of the school year brought sunshine and smiles. On June 17, Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) teachers, administrators, and support staff gathered outside to wish students a happy summer. With cheerful waves, they watched the last school buses roll out. This fun moment signifies the start of summer at BVT.

At BVT, the Last Day Wave is an annual tradition that marks the end of the school year as teachers and students embark on a well-deserved break. It signifies another successful school year has concluded, and a productive summer of addressing proposed projects has begun. While students and teachers enjoy a brief respite, administrators, support staff, and the facilities team tackle numerous tasks, projects, and routine maintenance during the seven-week summer break.

“Our task list by design is ambitious,” said BVT’s Facilities Manager Robert Dolegiewicz. “We maximize every minute of our schedule to address our annual summer projects and routine preventive maintenance. Some of the projects include installing a foundation for a storage building, preparing the parking lot for paving, renovating classroom and office space, supplying HVAC connections and fire protection to the cafeteria freezer, installing exterior drainage and landscape around a new exterior cooler unit, finalize design plans and procure equipment for the Culinary Arts renovation, demolish the old discuss lunch pad and landscape, install additional lighting in the HVAC shop, update (remove and replace) lighting in the Advanced Manufacturing pod, add service cameras to the Automotive Collision shop, add power to the plumbing shop,

assist Technology Department with ninety-two Wi-Fi router installations, and remove trees and organic waste behind the MRS building.



Well-wishes for a happy summer were shared as faculty and staff waved goodbye to their students as the last buses of the school year rolled out. Photo submitted

The summer projects are advanced with the assistance of in-house talent and grant funding, which helps reduce costs while protecting and maintaining the facility. Blackstone Valley Tech will welcome the Class of 2029 freshmen and parents at the Freshmen Cookout on Wednesday, August 13. Freshmen Orientation Days are August 14 and 15. The first day of school for all of BVT is August 18. Until then, have a fun summer!

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills. For more information about the school, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us.

UMass Memorial - Milford Regional awards seven scholarships to student volunteers

2025 awards sponsored by the Auxiliary of Milford Regional and the Perry Memorial Volunteer Scholarship

UMass Memorial - Milford Regional awarded six student volunteers planning to pursue careers in the healthcare field scholarships totaling \$4,500. Two students received scholarships from the Auxiliary of Milford Regional and five students received scholarships from the Perry Memorial Volunteer Scholarship program.

Febrounia Gaeid of Milford and Shaurya Patni of Hopkinton were the recipients of \$1,000 from the Auxiliary. Gaeid plans to pursue a career as a neurosurgeon, and Patni aspires to become a physician.

“My volunteer experience at Milford Regional taught me that being a physician means caring for the whole person, and it solidified my desire to lead with empathy in every aspect of care,” said Patni.

The Auxiliary serves Milford Regional through programs of education, community service, public relations, and support of volunteer services – along with supporting the hospital through fundraising efforts. Since its founding, the Auxiliary has raised close to \$1 million, resulting in state-of-the-art equipment, advanced technology, key renovations, scholarships, expansions in patient care and critical programmatic support.

Mia Cote of Hopedale,

Sarah Saad of Milford, Parima Sharma of Hopkinton, Piyusha Majgaunkar of Hopkinton and Gaeid received \$500 from the Perry Memorial Volunteer Scholarship program. Cote plans to become an athletic trainer, Saad is pursuing a career in dentistry and Sharma and Majgaunkar are planning careers as physicians.

“My volunteer work at the hospital will stay with me forever. I was ultimately looking to accomplish career goals, but I walked away knowing a whole new community of the most selfless and caring people,” said Cote.

For more than 20 years, Bill and Anne Perry were dedicated volunteers at Milford Regional Medical Center. The Perry’s were known for their commitment to volunteerism and appreciation for education. Milford Regional volunteer Bob Cole oversees the fundraising for the Perry scholarships. The Perry’s son, Mark, and daughter-in-law, Rebecca, sit on the Scholarship Review Committee.

“Milford Regional is incredibly thankful to the Auxiliary and the Perry family for understanding how important it is to invest in our local students and their higher education and career goals,” said UMass Memorial – Milford

Regional President Edward J. Kelly. “We are so proud to help support the aspirations of those who aim to contribute to the future of the healthcare field.”



Members of the Auxiliary Scholarship Committee present student volunteers with scholarships for \$1,000. Pictured left to right: UMass Memorial – Milford Regional Director of Volunteer Services Elaine Carter, Auxiliary member Terrie Sharp, Auxiliary Co-President Beverly Carver, Febrounia Gaeid, Shaurya Patni, Auxiliary Co-President Andra Stone, Auxiliary member Patricia DiCostanza and Auxiliary member Eileen Milaszewski. Not pictured is Auxiliary member Anne Loring. Courtesy photo



Student volunteers were awarded \$500 scholarships from the Perry Scholarship program. Pictured left to right: UMass Memorial – Milford Regional volunteer Bob Cole, Parima Sharma, Piyusha Majgaunkar, Sarah Saad, Febrounia Gaeid, Mia Cote, and UMass Memorial – Milford Regional Director of Volunteer Services Elaine Carter. Courtesy photo

NEW ENGLAND
REGLAZE

DON'T REPLACE YOUR OLD TUB, REGLAZE IT!
TUBS, TILE SINKS AND MUCH MORE

NOW
\$349

COLOR, TRAVEL, MAY APPLY.

SAVE
\$100
WITH AD

Reg. \$449

WE DO ANY TUB!

CALL NOW

617-895-7771

www.newenglandreglaze.com

"Quality and Professionalism Every Shingle Time"

OUR SERVICES

▲ Roofing

▲ Siding

▲ Gutters

▲ Windows

▲ Doors

▲ Skylights

OUR NEW SERVICE DIVISION

\$99 Service Calls

▲ Gutter Cleaning

▲ Small Leaks

▲ Ventilation Questions

▲ Flashing Repairs

Experience the Best in Roofing:
60+ Years of Quality Service

LICENSED | INSURED | CERTIFIED

CONNELL

ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS

781-444-7577

www.ConnellRoofing.com

A Sizzling Showcase! BVT Students Earn 135 Medals at SkillsUSA Competitions in 2025

UPTON – Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) students proved their vocational-technical ability at the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23-27. The event is the world’s largest showcase of career and technical education students.

The highlight of the conference is the SkillsUSA Championships, where thousands of outstanding career and technical education students – all state contest winners from across the nation – compete in hundreds of hands-on skill and leadership competitions. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations such as electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting, and culinary arts.

In the third and final stage of the SkillsUSA competition series, BVT students competed with impressive results. Once again, the student competitors demonstrated their career-technical expertise and proudly claimed four gold and three bronze medals. The contestants who medaled or

those in the top five who met a threshold contest score for their event as an indicator of proficiency were also awarded skill point certificates.

“Our students welcome the opportunity to compete at the SkillsUSA District, State, and National Championships against themselves and other highly skilled vocational-technical students,” said Superintendent-Director Mr. Anthony E. Steele II. “In 2025, our students proved their technical skills are among the best in the country by earning 135 medals at all three levels.”

The following BVT students placed in the top 10 at the 2025 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference Championships. More details are available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/skillsusa.

BLACKSTONE
5TH Place: Haley McKinnon, Photography.

GRAFTON
Gold: Cooper Often, Mechanics.
6th Place: Connor McInerney, HVAC/R.

HOPEDALE
National Officer: Kallie Allen.
Bronze: Ella Foster, Engineering Technology-Design.

MENDON
9th Place: Phoebe Burke, Robotics & Automation Technology.
National Voting Delegate: Payton Smith.

MILFORD
Gold: Andrew Dolan, Health Occupations Professional Portfolio.
National Voting Delegates: Emily Kee and Maria Clara De Oliveira.

MILLBURY
Bronze: Allison Garden, Engineering Technology-Design.
7TH Place: Robyn Repekta, Telecommunications Cabling.

NORTHBRIDGE
Gold: Steven Caya, Principles of Engineering-Technology.
4th Place: Autumn Gromelski, Restaurant Service.
9th Place: Esther Alves, Robotics & Automation Technology.

9TH Place: Zabel DerKosrofian, Technical Computer Applications.
National Voting Delegate: Bella Baltramaitis.

UPTON
Gold: Justin Fransen, Mechanics.
National Voting Delegate: Madison Denise.

UXBRIDGE
Bronze: Gabrielle Gannon, Engineering Technology-Design.

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.

GIULIANO

CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING

DECKS • KITCHEN REMODELS • ADDITIONS

BATH REMODELS • ROOFING

SIDING • WINDOWS • GUTTERS

ENTRY DOORS • DORMERS • AND MORE!

774-573-9811

FREE ESTIMATES • REFERENCES AVAILABLE • LICENSED & INSURED

HOPEDALE UNITARIAN PARISH

WITH THE REVEREND STEPHEN COOK



A Unitarian Universalist faith dedicated to the principles of peace, equality, and justice

65 Hopedale St., Hopedale, MA

Also livestreamed on our Facebook page
facebook.com/HopedaleUU

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30AM

Annual St. Mary’s Benefit Car Show & Community Event to be held Sept. 6

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #1562

The Knights of Columbus Council #1562 of St. Mary’s Parish is thrilled to announce the return of the Annual Car Show & Community Event on Sat., Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Uxbridge High School, 300 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This community event promises a day filled with classic and custom cars, family-friendly activities, local vendors, music, food, raffles, and more, all in support of local charitable initiatives.

Get Involved, support a worthy cause. Knights of Columbus Council #1562 has proudly served Uxbridge and surrounding communities for generations, promoting faith, family, and service. Proceeds from the Car Show and Family Fun Day will support local charities, and Knights’ programs that assist those in need.

Ways to participate:

- Event sponsorships: Gain exposure for your business or organization. Sponsorships include signage, online recognition, and booth space options.
- Vendor tables: Local artisans, businesses, and community groups are invited to reserve space to sell or promote their goods and services. Limited spaces available.
- Donations welcome: We gratefully accept raffle items, gift cards, services, or monetary donations to support our mission and event expenses.
- Attend the event: Join us for a fun-filled day! Mark your calendar for Sept. 6, 2025

Event highlights:

- Display of classic, muscle, and

- antique cars, trucks & motorcycles
- Family-friendly activities, games, and kids’ entertainment
- Food trucks, refreshments, and local treats
- DJ music, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/StMarysUxbridge-CarShow2025>.

Call to Action, be a part of something bigger. Help us build a stronger community—one good deed at a time. To become a sponsor, reserve a vendor table, or contribute a donation, please contact Phil Cieply at 508-509-8870 or pcieply@msn.com, or Jeff Richard at 508-475-8950 or jlfad5@verizon.net.

Your Money, Your Independence

One Big Beautiful Bill - A Planning Perspective



Glenn Brown, CFP

Depending upon your news sources and social media algorithms, the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) is either the worst bill ever and people will die, or it will unleash a new era of prosperity for the US economy. The truth is that it will do neither of these things.

Like all things with Washington, OB BB has the good, the bad and the political virtue signaling (i.e. \$1,000 Trump Accounts for U.S. citizen new-borns).

From a financial planning perspective, let's review the 5 areas of broadest impact.

1. Extension of 2017 Federal Tax Cuts. The current tax rate structure, including a top marginal tax rate of 37%, remains in place permanently. It was to expire this year, meaning if you're in the current 12%, 22%, 24% tax brackets, a 3% or 4% increase would have happened. While some disagree with this act, they'd be celebrating if Massachusetts

went from 5% to 1% income tax.

Also permanent is the estate tax and gift tax exemption, which prior to 2017 was \$1 million. Today, it is \$13.99 million per individual, adjusts for inflation and is a flat 40% tax on excess over the exemption.

2. Expanded Standard Deduction and Child Tax Credit. Recall in 2017, the standard deduction was dramatically increased while many subjective write-offs were eliminated. This resulted in 90-93% of tax filers taking the standard deduction over the last 8 years, up from 68.7% tax filers in 2016.

3. New Senior Tax Deduction. Tax on Social Security benefits was not eliminated, however through 2028 there is an additional \$6,000 deduction per individual for those 65 and older. This equates to 88% of tax filers not paying a federal tax on their social security benefits.

4. State And Local Tax (SALT) Deduction Cap Raised. OB BB temporarily raises the SALT deduction cap to \$40,000 from \$10,000, with a 1% annual increase through 2029. Good news for deductions on mortgage interest, property taxes and sales tax. However, it's reduced by 30% if modified adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds certain thresholds, such as \$500,000 for joint filers.

The OB BB ensures contin-

ued federal deductibility of PTET for pass-through entities, like S corporations and partnerships. These will pay state income taxes at the entity level, effectively bypassing the individual SALT deduction cap.

5. Permanent Small Business Tax Relief. This includes the 20% Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction for pass-through businesses and 100% bonus depreciation for new capital investments. The maximum Section 179 expensing amount is increased, and immediate Research & Development (R&D) expensing is restored with a catch-up deduction option.

Other notables that caught my attention:

- Vocational and trade schools now qualify for 529 Plan expenses.
- Bronze and catastrophic insurance plans qualify as HSA expenses.
- No tax on overtime (\$12,500) and qualified tips (\$25,000).
- Paid leave tax credits are permanent and expanded.
- Increased childcare expense credits.

Finally, Congress got involved with student loan reform rather than defer to executive orders.

To curb the blank-check effect, OB BB has eliminated "Cost of Attendance" loan limits for graduate students and parents of undergraduate students.

Like the pre-existing caps on how much undergraduates

can borrow (\$12,500 annually, \$57,500 aggregate), moving forward universities must deal with parents' ability to borrow capped at \$20,000 annually and \$65,000 in aggregate per undergraduate. Graduate student caps are now \$50,000 annually and \$200,000 in aggregate.

It's a start to address the cause and not just the effect.

More to consider beyond this limited space, talk with your Certified Financial Planner to learn how you and your family can benefit.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not in-

tended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of Plan-Dynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article

FRED the FOOT GUY

Call Fred Gibson • **Foot Care Nurse**

508-844-7534

Providing in-home
Senior Toenail and
Foot Care Services for 13+ years.

Trust your feet to Fred!

Fully Insured / Flexible Schedule

Hopedale Mini-Storage

Storage For All Your Needs

Located at 6 Business Way in Hopedale

(508) 478-6996 or (888) 317-4910

Open 7 Days a Week
Security Fence & Lighting
Month-to-Month Leasing
Commercial & Residential
Three Unit Sizes
Insurance Available

DOGGIE DAYCARE

LUXURY BOARDING

- Doggie Daycare where your furry kids can relax & have fun
- Luxury Modern Dog Boarding at our Doggie Chalet

Voted Best of the Best!
BEST PET SERVICE
2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024

CALL or Email TODAY!
508-478-6390
Family@PawsBedandBiscuit.com

PawsBedandBiscuit.com | 97 Millville Road, Mendon | 508-478-6390

THE PAWS. BED & BISCUIT

Exsultet! Auditions

Do you love to sing? Then we would love to meet you! We are Exsultet!— a fun-loving, women’s choral group made up of eighteen musicians. We love making music and challenging ourselves to present concerts which enlighten and entertain. Exsultet! sings a repertoire of choral literature spanning musical periods and cultures, and incorporates readings and poetry into our performances.

Exsultet! has openings for Soprano 1 and 2 singers for the 2025-2026 season. Auditions will take place on Monday, August 25th at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston, MA.



Exsultet! rehearsals for the 2025-2026 Season will be on Monday nights from 7:00-9:00 PM in preparation for our two concert weekends. We typically perform our Holiday Concert in early December and our Spring Concert in April/May.

To audition, download the audition piece, Seal Lullaby, from our website, and prepare to rehearse and sing it with the group. At the end of rehearsal, you will be asked to sing your part in a trio or quartet. Come prepared to sing, work hard, and have fun!

Please contact Carrie Klimeczko at carrie7975@gmail.com for more information and to schedule a specific audition time.

Visit www.exsultet.us to learn more about the audition process.

Regional Snapshot: Common Tick-Borne Diseases in The MetroWest and How Local Numbers Have Shifted Over Time

By: THALITA CAMPELO, REGIONAL HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, METROWEST SHARED PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Tick-borne diseases pose a significant threat to public health in Massachusetts, with cases on the rise in recent years. Understanding the threat of ticks and how to prevent tick bites is crucial for protecting ourselves and our loved ones from these potential dangers, especially as the weather warms and outdoor activities begin to increase.

Regional Tick Borne Disease Trends

According to Regional Epidemiologist Pooja Shelke, “In the MetroWest region, Lyme disease continues to be the most common tick-borne illness, with reported cases increasing from just 1 case in 2021 to 185 in 2022 and peaking at 305 cases in 2023.” Anaplasmosis and babesiosis are also on the rise. For example, babesiosis cases more than doubled from 10 in 2021 to 23 in 2024, and anaplasmosis has

grown from 11 cases in 2021 to 21 already in 2025. Pooja added, “We typically see the highest number of tick-borne disease reports during late spring through early fall, when people are spending more time outdoors. These trends remind us that prevention is critical.”

Prevalence of Tick Borne Disease in MA

The prevalence of these diseases is closely tied to the abundance of the black-legged tick population, which thrives in wooded and grassy areas, as well as suburban backyards. This makes outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, gardening, and even leisurely walks risky without proper precautions.

“Ticks are most active in Massachusetts from early spring through late fall, which is why we see the highest number of tick-borne disease cases during this period.” Ticks thrive in wooded areas, tall grasses, brush, and even suburban backyards. Their life cycle and behavior align closely with when people spend more time outdoors, making late spring and summer especially high-risk seasons. “Of particular concern are nymph-stage ticks, which are small, hard to detect, and responsible for most tick-borne disease transmission.”

“Of particular concern are nymph-stage ticks, which are small, hard to detect, and responsible for most tick-borne disease transmission.”

Tick Identification and Symptoms

Massachusetts has three common tick species: black-legged ticks (also known as deer ticks), dog ticks, and lone star ticks. Deer ticks are brown with black legs and are about the size of a paperclip. They can spread Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis and Powassan virus. The highest risk of being bitten by a deer tick is in the spring, summer, and fall. Dog ticks can be divided into two species: American dog ticks and brown dog ticks. Brown dog ticks are reddish-brown in color and are 1/8–3/16” in length. The greatest risk of being bitten occurs dur-

ing spring and summer. Lone star ticks are aggressive ticks that bite humans. The adult female is distinguished by a white dot or “lone star” on her back. Lone star ticks will occasionally develop a circular rash similar to the rash of early Lyme disease. The greatest risk of being bitten by the lone star tick during the year is in the early spring through late fall.

The symptoms of Lyme disease can range from mild flu-like symptoms to severe joint pain and neurological complications if left untreated. Anaplasmosis can cause fever, headaches, and muscle aches, while babesiosis, caused by microscopic parasites that infect red blood cells, can lead to symptoms similar to malaria. Powassan virus, though rare, is particularly concerning due to its potential for severe neurological complications.

Prevention Works!

Prevention is the most effective way to minimize the risk of tick-borne diseases. Wearing long sleeves and pants, using insect repellents containing DEET or oil of lemon eucalyptus, and conducting thorough tick checks after outdoor activities are essential practices.

Additionally, creating tick-safe zones around homes by clearing tall grasses and brush, and using tick control products can help reduce exposure. Early detection and prompt treatment are crucial in managing tick-borne illnesses. If you suspect you’ve been bitten by a tick or are experiencing symptoms associated with these diseases, it’s imperative to seek medical attention promptly.

By adopting preventive measures, staying informed, and seeking timely medical care, individuals can enjoy the outdoors safely while minimizing the threat posed by ticks. For more information visit cdc.gov/ticks or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

Mercury is found in products such as:



Thermostats



Thermometers



Mercury Switches



Fluorescent Lamps

Please contact your local Board of Health or Department of Public Works for information on where to safely dispose of these items.

SPONSORED BY



Sports

Taking Lacrosse Skills to the Collegiate Level and Beyond

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Hopedale's Blake Moxim first picked up a lacrosse stick at the tender age of two when his father gave it to him as a Christmas gift. According to Moxim, his dad (Eric) had played the sport and wanted his son to enjoy it as well. Around the age of five he joined the youth lacrosse program in Milford and had his dad coaching him throughout his youth days and into high school.

"My father wanted me to play the sport he enjoyed so much," Moxim said. "I loved the sport but I continued to play it not for him but myself, the game came naturally to me."

The Hopedale resident began playing the game as an attacker and being one that appreciated the art of scoring goals he continued with the position. As a seventh grader he found his way onto the Blue Raiders varsity team and although only playing a few

games that year he was able to score his very first goal for Hopedale. Two years later as a freshman he found himself as a starter for the Hopedale varsity squad.

"As a seventh grader I was only 11 years old and playing against kids who were 7 years older than I was. I was half their size, but I was skilled," he said. "Playing 18-year-olds definitely helped me to improve my game. They were good, but I had been playing the game for awhile and my skills allowed me to keep up with them on the field."

Entering that freshman campaign Moxim found himself very nervous and did not know what was going to happen and where he would actually play. The Hopedale Coach (who was also his dad) put him on the first line.

"At first people were saying that I was playing on the first line because my dad was the coach, but I put that theory to rest when I had

a great season," Moxim said. "I not only played for the high school but I was playing club lacrosse with the Coyotes out of Medway, travel lacrosse in the summer and fall and indoor lacrosse during the winter. I was a year-round lacrosse player."

As a freshman starter Moxim had a breakout year, one in which he was named Central Mass Rookie of the Year and by his junior year, one in which he scored 100 points, the Blue Raiders attackman was sitting on 289 career points and on track to eclipse 500

spring season, not many athletes gravitated toward the newer sport of lacrosse. Moxim remembers that they only have 14 kids on the team and they were in the best shape of their lives because they never stepped off the field.

"It was really hard to sway any of the baseball players to come out for the lacrosse team," he said. "The football players who played in the fall would take a chance at the sport for something to do in the spring."

Looking to up his point total during his senior season and leave his legacy at Hopedale, Moxim and many athletes throughout the state would soon find out there would be no season.

"MY senior season I was super excited. We had a killer season the year before and really thought that we were going to be involved in a special season," Moxim said. "Unfortunately about two weeks before the season was to begin we were told the season was going to be put on hold due to Covid, but it never did come back."

Moxim was devastated that his senior year was cancelled, but at least his lacrosse career was not over.

The Hopedale athlete had already committed to play lacrosse at Division 2 Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) in Harrogate, Tennessee.

"I had wanted one more year of high school lacrosse with all

my friends, but that was not going to happen. At least it was not closure on my lacrosse career as I had already committed," he said.

With Covid ravaging the area Moxim spent his time lifting weights hoping that he would eventually get back onto the field with his high school

a very bad taste in his mouth.

During the rehabbing he decided to transfer to University of North Carolina Charlotte.

"I was ready for a big school atmosphere," Moxim said. "LMU was only about 2000 people and was high school Esque where everyone knew everyone else's business."

Moxim was so done with LMU that he had a teary-eyed conversation with his father about the end of his lacrosse career, but little did he know

that his transfer to UNC Charlotte was about to change his life. Moxim had no idea that the school had lacrosse, he was just wanting to get out of LMU as fast as he could.

Somehow the coaches at UNC Charlotte knew about the success that Moxim had on the lacrosse field and they tracked him down to play club lacrosse.

"At first I wasn't into playing club lacrosse, but it was nothing like the club lacrosse I was used to back home," he said. "The Coaches were awesome, very welcoming and wanted me to play; it was what I needed and fell in love with lacrosse all over again."

Playing for UNC Charlotte Moxim, who came from a little high school in Hopedale Massachusetts, was named Conference Player of the Year, was third in scoring and helped his team rise into the top eight in the nation. He was also considered one of the best attackman in the country.

Following graduating Moxim decided to stay in the Charlotte area to start a non-profit organization for kids that couldn't afford lacrosse equipment or to play the game. By doing this it was a way that this Hopedale High School athlete could give back while trying to grow the sport.



Living Healthy

Back to School Eye Health and Computer Vision Syndrome

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

Don't Wait: Now Is the Time to Book Back-to-School Eye Exams

As the back-to-school season quickly approaches, families everywhere are checking off their to-do lists — backpacks, notebooks, shoes, and clothes. But amid all this preparation, there's one essential task that often gets forgotten: scheduling your child's eye exam.

Why Eye Health Should Be a Top Priority This School Year

Vision plays a central role in learning. Whether reading from the board, using a tablet, or completing homework, children rely on their eyesight throughout the school day. With digital learning becoming more prevalent, eye health matters now more than ever. A comprehensive eye exam could be the key to preventing learning struggles, missed milestones, or behavioral issues tied to undiagnosed vision problems.

Unfortunately, vision disorders often go undetected. In fact, *1 in 17 preschoolers and 1 in 4 school-age children* have a vision problem that remains untreated — problems that can cause kids to fall behind or struggle academically.

Book Now — Avoid the Rush

Late summer is one of the busiest times of the year for eye doctors. Appointments fill up fast. Booking your child's exam now ensures they're seen before the first day of school — giving them the best possible start to the academic year.

The Critical Role of Routine Eye Exams

Eye exams are more than just a quick vision check. They help identify problems early and connect families with treatment options. Regular screenings and exams also help prevent future complications, including potential permanent vision loss. Here's what every parent should know:

Five Key Steps to Protect Your Child's Vision:

- 1. Know the Value:** Understand how important vision care is to your child's development and academic performance.
- 2. Screen Early and Often:** Make sure your child receives regular vision screenings using trusted tools and trained screeners.
- 3. Refer When Needed:** If a screening reveals a concern, follow up promptly with an eye care professional.
- 4. See an Eye Doctor:** Choose an optometrist or ophthalmologist experienced in pediatric eye care for a full evaluation.
- 5. Follow Through:** Stick to treatment plans and share exam results with schools or caregivers as needed.



Watch for These Signs That Your Child Needs an Eye Exam:

- Frequent squinting or head tilting
- Holding books or devices very close
- Complaints of headaches or eye fatigue
- Trouble concentrating on reading or close-up tasks
- Sensitivity to light or frequent tearing

If you notice any of these, don't wait — book a comprehensive exam as soon as possible. And remember: *When in doubt, moms always know best.* Trust your instincts. Get a second opinion.

Digital Learning and Eye Strain: A Growing Concern

Screens are everywhere — tablets, laptops, smartboards — and kids spend hours a day using them. This puts many students at risk for Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), also known as Digital Eye Strain.

Symptoms of CVS Include:

- Blurry or fluctuating vision
- Eye burning or stinging
- Light sensitivity
- Frequent headaches
- Neck or shoulder pain

CVS typically develops after two or more hours of continuous screen time, especially if the screen is too close, too bright, or used without proper eye correction.

Tips to Prevent Digital Eye Strain:

- **Follow the 20-20-20 Rule:** Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.
- **Position Screens Properly:** Keep the monitor about 20–28 inches away and slightly below eye level.
- **Reduce Glare:** Use shades, reposition screens, or apply anti-glare filters.
- **Encourage Blinking:** Remind kids to blink often and use lubricating drops if needed.
- **Use Correct Eyewear:** Make sure your child's glasses are up-to-date, especially for screen work.

Despite the buzz around blue light glasses, there's no scientific evidence they help with eye strain. The American Academy of Ophthalmology does not recommend them.

Optical Shop On-Site



Saturday & After Hours Available

MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

SUMMER: BLINK AND YOU MISS IT

SCHEDULE YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL EYE EXAM TODAY!

NOW ACCEPTING VSP & DAVIS VISION INSURANCE

NEW PATIENTS RECEIVE A FREE PAIR OF SELECT GLASSES



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



Mark Barsamian, D.O.



Dan Liu, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



Shalin Zia, O.D.



Donald L. Conn, O.D.



Dr. Purvi Patel, O.D.

SMILEFORVISION.COM

FRANKLIN OFFICE

750 Union St.

508-528-3344

MILFORD OFFICE

160 South Main St.

508-473-7939

MILLIS OFFICE

730 Main St.

508-528-3344

SURGERY CENTER MILFORD

145 West St.

508-381-6040

EYES

continued on page 13

Clean out your closets for Yankee Quilters!

BELLINGHAM - Yankee Quilters, a nonprofit quilt group active in the Franklin and MetroWest area, is holding a collection drive for gently used soft-lines and books on Saturday, September 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The organization's volunteers will be at their drop off location in Bellingham, at Prime Storage, 302 Hartford Avenue and are also available to pick up donations at your home.

Yankee Quilters helps local cancer patients by donating quilts to Dana Farber, families in need through additional charitable organizations, and people around the world through Wrap the World in Quilts. Volunteers use mostly donated materials to make these quilts; however, funds are needed for batting which is used for warmth. This fundraiser also helps with lectures to improve our skills.

Email the Guild at yankeequilters11@gmail.com for information on how to drop-off or have your donations picked up.

EYES

continued from page 12

Choosing the Right Glasses for Kids

If your child needs glasses, the right pair makes all the difference. Look for:

- Durable, child-friendly frames
- Comfortable fit
- UV protection for outdoor play
- Skip the blue light lenses — focus on fit and function

Our Commitment to Your Family's Eye Health

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we know how critical this time of year is. That's why we're

making it easy and convenient to get your child's eye exam done right — and done in time.

- **Seven eye care specialists across three modern locations:** Franklin, Milford, and Millis
- **Saturday and after-hours appointments available**
- **State-of-the-art technology** to diagnose and manage everything from basic vision issues to Computer Vision Syndrome
- **In-house optical shop** with skilled opticians, a special children boutique, and a full-service lab
- **Special Back-to-School Offer:** All new patients — children or adults — receive a

free pair of select eyeglasses

From standard eye exams to advanced medical care, we provide full-spectrum services under one roof — no referrals needed.

Don't delay. Now is the time to schedule your child's back-to-school eye exam. Let's make sure your child has clear vision and the confidence to succeed this school year. Call us today or book online — appointments are filling fast!

For more details, see our ad on previous page.

Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.

Movie Night

Join the community for a back-to-school movie night. The event will be held Friday Sept. 5, from 5:30-9PM. The chosen movie is "Paddington in Peru."

It will take place at The Corner Spot, 6 Cherry St., in partnership with the Ashland Business Association.



CHARRON

Tree Service

Quality Timely Service!

BELLINGHAM, MA

508-883-8823

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

KEVIN LEMIRE, OWNER
All employees are covered under Workers' Comp Ins. CharronTreeService.com

- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**
- Tree Removal
 - Pruning/Trimming
 - Storm Damage
 - Land Clearing
 - Stump Grinding

Pet of the Month: Meet Itsy & Puff

Itsy and Puff are about 1.5 years old and were rescued as strays. These two beautiful girls are bonded and must be adopted together — they've come a long way side by side, and now they're ready to take the next step into a forever home. Both girls are naturally shy, but they're gentle souls who are slowly blossoming with love, routine, and a little patience. They just need someone willing to give them time and a calm space to feel safe.

Itsy is the more cautious of the two. She may hide at first, but once she feels safe, she'll climb her favorite perch and quietly ask for pets. A back scratcher or hand-claw can help break the ice. Treats (especially Temptations offered on your finger!) are a great way to win her heart. While she may hiss when startled, she's very expressive and will let you know how she's feeling.

Puff is more approachable and has a calm, curious nature. She might be a bit nervous at first, but once she trusts you, she enjoys being petted anywhere — ears, head, back — and is even starting to get the hang of playtime. Her quiet meow and sweet personality are impossible to resist.

Both Itsy and Puff love being brushed, which is a great way to bond and help them feel more comfortable.

They're looking for a quiet home with no kids and no dogs — just a peaceful space with someone patient, gentle, and willing to continue helping them blossom at their own pace.

If you've got the heart for shy-but-sweet cats and love the idea of watching a gentle pair grow more affectionate day by day, Itsy & Puff are waiting for you to fall in love.

As we are closed to the public, adoptions are by appointment only. If you have an interest in meeting Itsy and Puff, please use this link to find additional information about them. You can also see all our currently available adoptable cats, and fill out our online adoption application, at metrowesthumanesociety.org/adoptable-cats/

We will review all applications and make appointments for those applicants we feel would provide a good and loving home.



KELLY'S FARM

"Your old fashioned farm stand experience since 1936"

146 Milford St., Upton • 508.529.4564

Our own BUTTER & SUGAR CORN

Picked Fresh Daily!

NOW PICKING

Field Tomatoes • Cherry Tomatoes
Cucumbers • Pickling Cucumbers
Summer Squash • Zucchini
Rainbow Carrots • Blueberries
Peppers • Eggplant & Much More!

FEATURING LOCALLY PRODUCED:

Fresh Cut Flowers, Prepared Frozen Meals,
Frozen Meats, Maple Syrup, Honey,
Eggs, Baked Goods & more!

SNAP

OPEN 7 DAYS • 8AM – 6PM

ALL PLANTS 25% OFF

Hopedale Senior Center Calendar of Activities - August 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
4 9: 00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	5 10:30 am Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	6 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:30pm Cribbage	7 9:00am Walking Group 1:00 pm Tai Chi	8 Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
11 9: 00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	12 10:30 am Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	13 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 10:30 am Nurse Clinic 11:00 am Meditation 12:00 pm Mah -Jongg 12:30pm Cribbage	14 9:00am Walking Group 1:00 pm Clear Your Thought Clear Your Clutter 1:00 pm Tai Chi	15 Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
18 9: 00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 12:30 pm BINGO	19 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 10:30 am Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	20 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 10:00 am Nurse Vital Signs Clinic & Coffee Hour 11:00 am Meditation 12:00 pm Mah -Jongg 12:30pm Cribbage	21 9:00am Walking Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	22 Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm
25 9: 00 am Free Panera 9:00 am Bridge 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 12:00 pm Lunch at Senior Center 12:30 pm BINGO	26 9:00 am Yoga w/ Crystal 10:30 am Photography 12:30 pm Mah-Jongg 12:30 pm Bridge	27 9:30 am Low Impact Exercise 11:00 am Meditation 12:00 pm Mah -Jongg 12:30pm Cribbage 1:00 pm Griffin-Dennett Ice Cream Social	28 9:00am Walking Group 10:00 am Watercolor Class 1:00 pm Tai Chi	29 Senior Center closes at 12:00 pm

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
07/15/2025	36 Hammond Road	\$660,000
07/08/2025	104 Hartford Avenue E	\$610,000
06/30/2025	46 Neck Hill Road	\$597,000
06/27/2025	312-312A S Main Street	\$700,000
06/24/2025	25 Larkin Lane	\$875,000
06/20/2025	13 Larkin Lane	\$871,000

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



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 2,181-square-foot unit at 46 Neck Hill Road in Hopedale recently sold for \$597,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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

From **CONCEPT** to **COMPLETION**, we bring your vision to life.

Graphic Design
Sports Banners
Brochures
Postcards
Direct Mail Solutions
Every Door Direct Mail
Books
Lawn Signs
Calendars
Posters
Swag
and so much more!



ANDREW CARINI
Print and Mail Specialist
How can I help you?
508-254-2241

Our Town
PUBLISHING

Home of localtownpages.com



ourtownpublishing.com

On Stage This Fall at Dean

A New Generation of Talent. A Season Full of Heart.

This Fall's Lineup:

The Wolves
October 15-19

New Dancer Shwocase
November 21-22

Fall Dance Concert
October 31-November 1

New Thespian Showcase
November 22-23

Cabaret
November 12-16

Faculty Dance Works
December 5-6



Get Your Tickets at dean.edu/boxoffice

Ticket packages available August 4.
Single tickets on sale September 2.
Student & senior discounts available.



FINANCING AVAILABLE

- 12 Months
- No Interest
- No Payments
- Free Estimates
- Get Instant Estimate Online
@ <https://robertevansjrinc.com/>
Or Call
508-877-3500
Millis, MA 02054

Fully Licensed & Insured
CSL 056746
HIC 108807

\$500 OFF Full Roof Replacement
On 28 Square Feet or More
Exp. August 31, 2025 • Offers May Not be Combined

ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS



Lifetime Roof Guarantee
Get a FREE Upgrade to a



Lifetime Guarantee
Exp. August 31, 2025
Offers May Not be Combined

