

Dyuthi Sulochana Papineni earns Eagle Scout rank

Dyuthi S. Papineni is a member of Scouting America Troop 219 of Milford, a resident of Franklin, and earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting, on April 22. Since the inception of the Eagle Scout award in 1912, only two percent of eligible Scouts have earned Scouting's highest honor.

Dyuthi S. Papineni, daughter of Arun and Sangeetha Papineni, is a recent graduate of the Franklin High School class of 2025 as an honors and Advanced Placement student. She was a stellar choral performer and the recipient of the highest award for her ensemble. Furthermore, she was a leader and mentor in the Franklin Music program and an active member of various honors societies. She



Dyuthi S Papineni is a member of Scouting America Troop 219 of Milford, a resident of Franklin, and recently earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. *Courtesy photo*

will now continue her higher education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, entering the class of 2029 as a Biology/Pre-Med major,

aiming to join the next generation of doctors and medical

PAPINENI
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Milford's American Legion Baseball thrives as 100-year-old league faces challenges

Post 59's year-round effort keeps it thriving as others struggle

By Chris Villani

In Milford, American Legion Baseball fans are accustomed to strong teams, packed stands, and an energy that can grip the entire town when the team goes on a winning streak like it did this summer, rattling off 20 wins in a row during the regular season.

Legion baseball has been a part of Milford for nearly as long as the sport has been in existence. The 2025 season marked 100 years of Legion baseball, and Post 59 has fielded a team for 96 of those years.


"This is part of the community," said Cindy Stulac, the



"American Legion Baseball" logo -
Image source: www.legion.org

president of the Milford Legion Baseball Club. "The pride and the tradition that goes alongside Milford Legion baseball is unprecedented."

BASEBALL
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PAPINENI

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professionals.

Having recently aged out of Troop 219, Dyuthi has spent 6 years in the troop and has continued to participate and serve as an adult volunteer. Dyuthi's journey as a scout began 10 years ago as a Girl Scout. While serving as a Girl Scout, she recently earned the Gold Torch distinction. She was always interested and eager to participate in her older brother's scouting activities. She seized the opportunity to do so when, in 2019, she joined Troop 219 as a founding member as soon as girls were admitted into Scouts BSA.

This committed young lady's six years in the troop have been filled with dedication and passion to service as she has served as a Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior

Patrol Leader, and as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. She was also inducted into the Order of the Arrow during the May 2023 Ordeal and has since gotten her Brotherhood rank. She has gone on many trips with her troop, such as West Point 2023, campouts at Camp Resolute and Nobscot, and multiple summer camp trips at Camp Squanto.

Dyuthi's Eagle Service Project involved creating 30 care packages for children undergoing cancer treatment at Mass General Brigham Hospital in Boston. She communicated closely with the Child Life Specialist of the Department of Pediatric Medical Services at Mass General. She coordinated a fundraiser to obtain the funds necessary for materials and gifts for the care package. She subsequently organized her troop and other peers to help decorate bags and make friendship



Dyuthi S. Papineni's Eagle Service Project involved creating 30 care packages for children undergoing cancer treatment at Mass General Brigham Hospital in Boston. Courtesy photo

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bracelets for the care packages. Lastly, she delivered the care packages to the hospital, where they aided children battling and recovering from cancer.

Troop 219 is chartered by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Milford. Troops 219 is in the BSA Mayflower Council, Headwaters District. Established in 2019, Troop 219

is one of the first all-female Scouts BSA Troops in the area. Troop 219 includes scouts from Milford, Franklin, Hopedale, Bellingham and the surrounding towns. For more information about Troop 219, email scoutmaster@troop2milford.org or find a troop near you www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/.

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Southwick's Zoo welcomes newborn giraffe

Southwick's Zoo is thrilled to announce the birth of a baby giraffe, born Aug. 11, 2025, and already standing tall as the newest member of the zoo's family. The healthy calf, measuring just over five feet at birth, is a remarkable addition to New England's largest zoo and arrives during a year of special celebration for the zoo's 60th anniversary.

"This birth is a very special moment for our zoo and our community," said Betsey Brewer, Zoological Director and Executive Vice President at Southwick's Zoo.

The calf was born to Molly, who herself was hand-raised at Southwick's Zoo after she was too weak to nurse as a newborn. "Molly has always been one of the most loved animals here," Brewer added. "She's curious, she's social, and many of our guests recognize her instantly during giraffe encounters. To now see her raising her own baby, and to know visitors will be able to witness this bond, is truly special."

Within hours of her birth, the calf was standing and nursing, strong indicators of health and vitality. The animal care and veterinary teams are closely monitoring both mother and calf while they spend time in a protected space, ensuring they can bond safely. "We want them to feel secure and give the calf every chance to thrive," Brewer explained. "As she grows stronger, she'll join the rest of our giraffe herd, including her father, in the larger habitat, likely within the coming weeks."

Giraffes are considered vul-

To celebrate, Southwick's Zoo will also launch a public naming contest, giving the community an opportunity to be part of this exciting moment in the zoo's history. Details will be announced on the zoo's website and social media channels.

nerable in the wild, with populations having declined nearly 30% in the past decade. The calf's arrival underscores the zoo's ongoing commitment to education and conservation.

"We really pride ourselves on creating close interactions with animals here at Southwick's Zoo so guests can learn about them and, importantly, care about their future," Brewer said. "Funds raised through giraffe encounters directly support conservation efforts, including giraffe preservation in Africa."

As of today, guests are able to witness the curiosity, rapid growth, and playful personality of the calf. To celebrate, Southwick's Zoo will also launch a public naming contest, giving the community an opportunity to be part of this exciting moment in the zoo's history. Details will be announced on the zoo's website and social media channels.

Since 1965, Southwick's Zoo has remained a family-owned and operated destination, dedicated to connecting people with wildlife and nature. Accredited by the Zoological Association



of America (ZAA), the zoo upholds high standards of animal care and welfare while providing meaningful education and

unforgettable experiences for its guests. "We're thrilled to share this milestone with our visitors," added Brewer. "This giraffe calf

is not only an exciting addition for families to enjoy, but also a symbol of our zoo's mission."

Submitted by Southwick's Zoo

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BASEBALL

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Milford's success story is not mirrored in many other places. According to a 2017 report, participation in Legion baseball had lost 25% of its teams nationwide over a decade and, in some states, that figure is closer to 80%. Some of the largest states in the country have just a handful of teams. Even in Massachusetts, longtime programs have folded amid a lack of participation.

But not in Milford. "I don't know any other

Legion teams that have a full board of directors that supports them and raises the funds and focuses on the marketing and getting the crowds down to Fino Field," Stulac said, citing everything from theme nights to lining up national anthem singers to the fact that all of the games are broadcast on the radio.

"Our board works all year round," she said. "It's a huge commitment, but everybody is passionate. Everybody feels a part of this."

Stulac said the key to success for Milford as a program has been developing a sense of

community and connection. Sponsors do not just write a check, she said, but they are invited to team events and have the chance to be featured during radio broadcasts. The team gives away season tickets to young fans, developing a love for the game and the team at an early age, she added.

Milford is also actively engaging its alumni, including what Stulac said is the first alumni game in decades slated for September. The formula, coupled with Milford's winning track record on the field that dates back to a state title in the late 1920s

and three trips to the World Series over the years, is hard to replicate, but not impossible.

"Do other communities have that? I don't know. Could they start it? Absolutely," Stulac said. "When you have enough energy and passion, it can be contagious. Everybody wants to be a part of it."

The 2025 season marked 100 years of Legion baseball, and Post 59 has fielded a team for 96 of those years.

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Publisher

Chuck Tashjian

Editor

Theresa Knapp

Send Editorial to:

editor@milfordfreepress.com

Advertising Sales Manager

Jen Schofield

508-570-6544

jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout

Michelle McSherry

Kim Vasseur

Wendy Watkins

Office Address

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American Legion Baseball celebrates 100 years

In July, American Legion Baseball celebrated its 100th anniversary. Milford Legion Baseball has been part of the program for 96 years.

The league was a big vision from a Big Ten commissioner. On July 17, 1925, the collegiate athletic executive spoke to The American Legion Department of South Dakota convention.

"There is nothing in our national life which stresses certain qualities that are expressed in our athletics," said John Griffith. "Intelligent courage, fighting instinct and cooperation are some things which I believe are visibly expressed in our athletic games... American Legion posts, as a matter of

citizenship training, could easily carry on such athletic activities throughout the United States."

Just seven years after

World

War I, the

former

Army

major

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their nation's call

if needed. After

Griffith's address

to the convention, a

resolution was passed

and American Legion Base-

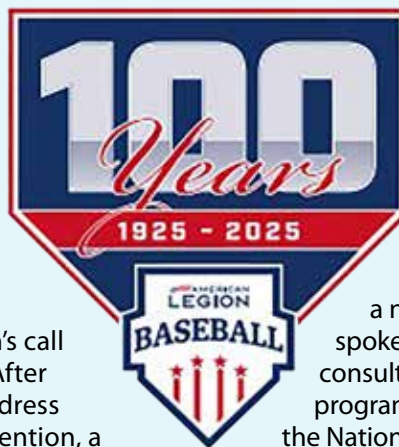
ball was born.

The program was a hit. By

1926, more than 52,000

players participated. Leg-

ends and war heroes such



as Yogi Berra, Ted Williams and Bob Feller would comprise some of the 87 Hall of Famers who have played American Legion Baseball over its first century. By

1947,

none

other

than

Yankees-

great

Babe

Ruth

would

serve as

a national

spokesman and

consultant for the

program. In 2010,

the National Execu-

tive Committee selected

Shelby, N.C., as the home of

The American Legion Base-

ball World Series. Coverage

of the games by ESPN soon

followed. Over its first cen-

tury, conservative estimates

are that more than 10

million young people have played American Legion Baseball.

During its meeting in May 2021, The American Legion National Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution calling for Legionnaires to raise awareness about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a terminal disease that took the life of baseball great Lou Gehrig. The resolution encourages a moment of silence on June 2, which also marks the date that Gehrig died in 1941. Lou Gehrig's disease is a condition that has disproportionately impacted veterans. Informing the public about the tragic consequence of ALS can lead to additional research, funding, therapies and a still undiscovered cure.

Source: www.legion.org
Image source: www.legion.org

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Life Insurance: Protecting what matters most



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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September is Life Insurance Awareness Month and the perfect time to consider whether you have adequate coverage to protect your loved ones. While no one likes to think about what would happen if they weren't around, doing so is an act of love.

Life insurance is fundamentally about protecting your loved ones should something happen to you. If you pass away, your

family will not only face the challenges of grief and loss but they could also find themselves financially strapped. Life insurance can help provide them with financial security in the event you no longer can.

Who needs life insurance:

You're a good candidate if you have a spouse or partner who depends on your income or if there are children or other loved ones whom you support. Insurance protection can also be a solution if you have outstanding debts like a mortgage, credit cards or a car loan, or if you simply don't want to burden your loved ones with your final expenses.

Insurance through work:

While many people have life insurance through their employers, this coverage may not be enough for you, depending on your situation. Among employers who offer group life insurance, only 2% offer more than two times the employee's annual salary — essentially just two years of income — according to

the Guardian's 2023 Workplace Benefits Study. And remember that it's only good as long as you're employed there. With all this in mind, many people purchase individual insurance as a supplement to their workplace coverage.

How much: You might hear that you need life insurance equal to about seven to 10 times your pretax annual salary. That's not a bad "ballpark" figure, but not everyone is playing in the same ballpark. To get a true sense of how much of a death benefit is right for you, use the "L-I-F-E" guide to calculate your needs:

- **Liabilities:** Will your family need to pay off a mortgage, credit cards, car loan or other debt?
- **Income:** Will your family need to replace your income for a period of years?
- **Final expenses:** Do you have the resources to cover funeral and burial expenses?
- **Education needs:** Do you need to put children through

a private school or college?
- **Which type:** You can choose between two basic types of life insurance: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance is designed to provide coverage for a designated period, such as 10, 15 or 20 years. In general, term insurance is quite affordable for most people, especially when they buy policies as young adults. On the other hand, permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, is usually considerably more expensive because in addition to providing a death benefit, your premiums build cash value. In choosing between term and permanent insurance, you'll want to evaluate several issues, such as how long you think you'll need coverage and how much annual premium you can afford to pay.

Life insurance needs can change over time, so it's important to review your coverage every three to five years or after major life events like marriage

or birth of a child. Consider working with a financial advisor who can look at your complete financial situation and help you choose a policy that truly fits your family's needs. Taking action sooner rather than later could be one of the most important gifts you give your loved ones.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

Mark Freeman, CEPA
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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Milford Community School Use summer program takes field trip to New England Aquarium, around Milford



The Milford Community School Use Program summer campers took a field trip to the new England Aquarium. Courtesy photo

The Milford Community School Use Program is thrilled to report on a fantastic seven weeks of Summer Day Camp and Summer Kids Programs, jam-packed with sunshine, laughter, and unforgettable experiences. Our hot summer days were filled with endless fun and games, thanks to our incredible counselor staff at Milford High School who brought boundless energy and enthusiasm to every activity.

One of the major highlights

was our exciting field trip to the New England Aquarium. Campers were mesmerized by the fascinating marine life, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

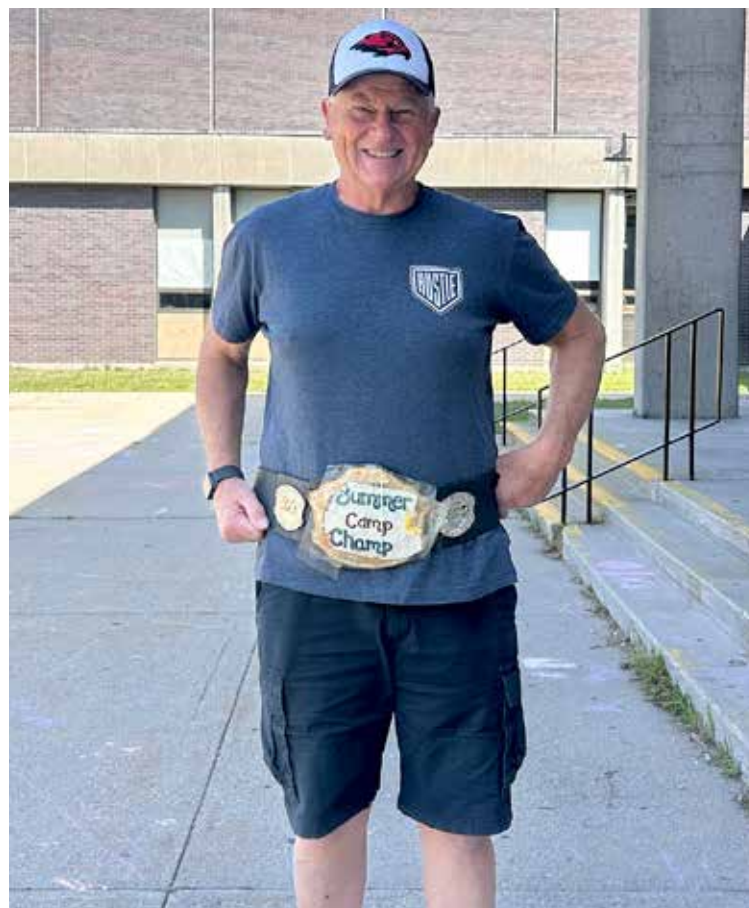
And who could forget our truly unique "Tour Around the Town of Milford"? Bus Driver Matt Holmes took our campers on an amazing school bus adventure, showcasing the hidden gems and familiar landmarks of our beloved town. It was a wonderful way for the kids to con-

nect with their community!

We extend a huge thank you to all the families who participated and made this summer a resounding success. We can't wait to see you next year!

The "Milford Community School Use Program" provides recreational, educational, cultural, and civic activities for residents of all ages, using public school facilities when school is not in session.

Submitted by the Milford Community School Use Program



Matt Holmes took summer campers attending the Milford Community School Use Program on a tour around Milford, showcasing hidden gems and familiar landmarks around town. Courtesy photo

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Police investigate deceased male found near bike path

According to a Facebook post by the Milford Police Department on Aug. 31 at 9:03 p.m., "On Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, at approximately 7:51 a.m., the Milford Public Safety Communications Center received a 911 call requesting a well-being check at the Louisa Lake disc golf course, lo-

cated off the Upper Charles River Bike Path near Louisa Lake.

"Responding officers arrived on scene and located a deceased 39-year-old male.

"There is no danger to the public. Milford Police Detectives, along with the Massachusetts State Police, had the area

closed off for investigatory purposes, but there was no nefarious act," said Milford Chief of Police Robert Tusino.

"The Milford Police Department reopened the section of the Upper Charles Trail at approximately 11 a.m."

Source: Facebook @MilfordMAPD

Milford Community School Use Programs

This fall's offerings will include programs on adult wellness, informational seminars, and youth programs, among others.

Fall programs

As the leaves begin to turn, the Milford Community School Use Program announces its upcoming Adult Fall Wellness Programs. Get ready to rejuvenate your mind and body with a variety of classes designed to help you feel your best.

Informational seminars

We're also pleased to offer Free Informational Seminars this fall on two very important topics: home buying and estate planning. Dates and times for

these wellness and seminars can be found at https://milford-communityprogram.activityreg.com/clientpage_t2.wcs.

Youth programs

We're already planning for a busy and fun-filled fall for our younger community members. Fall programs will include Babysitting 101; Travel and Biddy Basketball; Pre-school Saturday Morning Programs with E.A.S.T. Athletics; and NERF Programs. Details can be found on the program's website.

Would you like to offer a program

We are always looking to add more hobby and interest

opportunities to our Adult Ed schedule so if you or someone you know has a hobby or interest and would like to offer a program with us, please contact communityuse@milfordma.com or call 508-478-1119 to discuss.

For more information or to register, please visit the Milford Community Use Program website. For questions, call the office or email the Director at chrisburns@milfordma.com.

The "Milford Community School Use" is a program that provides recreational, educational, cultural, and civic activities for residents of all ages, using public school facilities when school is not in session.

Electronics Recycling Day on Sept. 13

The First Congregational Church of Milford is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The church will ensure that 99% of dropped off items will be reused and recycled.

All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Recycling fees range from \$5 to \$45 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost.

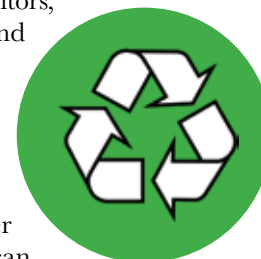
This event is an easy and fun way to dispose of the old electronics in your garage, basement, attic and offices. So start setting them aside now and bring them to the church

parking lot on Sept. 13. A drive-thru process will allow those donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available.

The First Congregational Church Electronics Recycling event is held twice a year during April and September. We very much appreciate the support of those who have previously chosen to responsibly recycle with us and look forward to continuing to offer this recycling opportunity.

Drop off in the church parking lot at 4 Congress Street, Milford (opposite Draper Park, next to the Post Office). Please enter the lot from the Church Street entrance.

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Decades of service to the community and 2 new offices

By Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been serving the community with advanced, compassionate eye care for more than four decades. With a staff of 59, an award-winning surgery center in Milford, and offices in Milford, Franklin, and now two new locations in Hopkinton and Medfield, we are proud to be one of the leading eye care centers in Massachusetts. We are also one of the few ophthalmology practices in the state to own and operate our own surgical facility, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. This means patients can receive world-class cataract surgery close to home. Our team includes fellowship-trained ophthalmologists and five optometrists, offering eyecare for the entire family.

Meet Our Providers

Roger Kaldawy, M.D.

Dr. Kaldawy is an eye physician, surgeon, and corneal specialist. He trained at the

University of Rochester and the University of Iowa, later serving as Assistant Professor at Boston University. With more than 32,000 surgeries performed, he pioneered corneal transplants, innovative glaucoma surgery, advanced implants, and bladeless femtosecond cataract surgery in the region. He has trained numerous physicians and has been featured in many news articles including on Channel 5. He also serves as Medical Director of the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford.

Mark D. Barsamian, D.O.

Dr. Barsamian is a vitreoretinal specialist affiliated with UMass Memorial Medical Center. He earned his DO degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a two-year fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery at Ohio State University. With over 20 years of experience, he is board-certified and active in multiple professional societies. He also teaches as a Clinical Instructor

of Surgery at Brown University. Patients value his expertise, compassion, and dedication.

Dan Liu, M.D.

Dr. Liu graduated from Northwestern University and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. She completed residency at Albany Medical Center, where she was Chief Resident, and a fellowship in Cornea and Anterior Segment Surgery at Tufts. Her expertise includes cataract surgery with ORA, corneal transplants (DMEK, DSEK, PK), keratoconus treatment, glaucoma MIGS, ocular surface tumors, and pterygia. She is board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Shalin Zia, O.D.

Dr. Zia earned her Doctor of Optometry from Indiana

EYE

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MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER





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.

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EYE

continued from page 8

University. She provides care for patients of all ages, specializing in routine vision exams, contact lenses, and management of eye disease.

Michael Adams, O.D.

Dr. Adams graduated from John Carroll University, completed a Master's in Biochemistry at Ohio State, and earned his optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry. He has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, and ocular disease.

Donald L. Conn, O.D.

Dr. Conn received his optometry degree from the New England College of Optometry and completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Primary Care at the Bedford VA. He provides care to both adult and pediatric patients.

Purvi Patel, O.D.

Dr. Patel earned her Doctor of Optometry at SUNY and completed a residency in Ocular Disease. A Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, she has held leadership roles at Boston community health centers and focuses on diabetes, glaucoma, and community-based care.

New Offices: Expanding to Serve the Community

Boston Eyes in Hopkinton

Located at 66 Main Street, our new Hopkinton office offers comprehensive eye exams, contact lens services, surgical consultations, and a curated eyewear selection. With a connection to Hopkinton for more than 24 years, we bring the same advanced care found at Boston's top centers directly to

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Boston Eyes in Medfield – Millis

Our newest office serves Medfield, Millis, Dover, Sherborn, and Westwood. This renovated, convenient location provides eye exams for adults and children, contact lens fittings, surgical consultations, and care for cataracts, glaucoma, diabetes, and retina conditions.

Why Choose Milford-Franklin Eye Center

At Milford-Franklin Eye Center, we treat every patient like family. Our results rival those of major Boston hospitals, and we provide same-day emergency care, Saturday appointments, and a full-service optical shop with an on-site lab. New patients even receive a complimentary pair of select glasses.

We are especially proud of our state-licensed and QUAD A-accredited, state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford. Unlike other practices that may perform cataract surgery in an office setting without anesthesia staff and without IV sedation, our patients have access to a fully accredited surgical facility close to home. At the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford, your safety comes first: all patients receive IV sedation for comfort, and every surgery is staffed with an anesthesiologist.

Most importantly, we live in the same communities we serve. Whether in the office, at the local supermarket, or in the ER at 1 a.m., our focus remains on you, your vision, and delivering world-class care close to home.

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Bellingham Harvest Fest returns Sept. 20

Bellingham's Harvest Fest is making a comeback.

The family-focused event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, at Bellingham's Town Common from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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

The churches are still seeking Sponsors and Vendors. If interested, call 508-844-1843.

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.

Milford Family & Community Network (MFCN) update

The MFCN CFCE would like to thank those who participated in our Summer Drop-In Playgroups during July and August. We saw many familiar faces and met a few new families, too!

Did you know that we just held registration for our Fall Playgroup session, which will offer 15 weeks of FREE registered playgroups? These

weekly groups are designed for children from birth to 60 months, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. If you did not register for this program, there is still time to call and check if we have availability. The playgroups will start during the week of Sept. 22. If all groups are full, we can add you to the wait list, which will provide you the opportunity to

come in as a guest when there is an absence.

For more information on MFCN CFCE playgroups and/or programs, feel free to visit our website calendar at milfordpublicschools.com/milfordfcn, or contact us at 508-277-4981, familynetwork@milfordma.com, Facebook @MilfordFamilyandCommunityNetworkCFCE.



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Pet of the Month: Emma, your future best friend

Outgoing and affectionate, Emma is a stunning 2-year-old Calico cat who's eager to find a home to call her own. With her bright eyes and irresistible chirp, Emma greets every visitor like a long-lost friend. She's a people-lover through and through, always keeping an eye on the door in hopes of company and cuddles.

Emma's journey hasn't been easy. She was born with cerebellar hypoplasia, also known as "wobbly cat syndrome." While her movements may be a bit unsteady, Emma is fearless and determined. She climbs her cat condo with confidence always finding the perfect perch to observe her world—and she makes

her way back down too! That said, she'd thrive in a home where someone is around to keep an eye on her.

It's important to know that cerebellar hypoplasia is not painful, not contagious, and does not worsen over time. Cats with CH can live full, happy lives—and Emma is living proof.

Emma would love to be the only pet in her new home, just as she was in her first home. She's happiest when she has her human's undivided attention.

If you'd like to meet Emma and learn more about her, please visit Milford Humane Society during our Sunday adoption hours from 1 to 4 p.m. She's waiting to chirp hello.



Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford to meet Sept. 15

The Greenleaf Garden Club will hold its first meeting on Sept. 15 at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center at 60 North Bow Street. The board meetings begin at 5 p.m., Meet & Greet and refreshments begin at 5:45 p.m., business meetings at 6:15 p.m., and programs at 7 p.m.

The Sept. 15 program will be "Flowers, Health and Healing" by Suzanne Faith who will teach attendees how to creatively use flowers and color to improve health and enhance mood.

The Oct. 20 program will be "Organic Pest Management" by Natalie Tessicini. The Nov. 17 program will be the annual fall fundraiser and floral arranging by Sara Vono-Caires.

For more information, visit www.greenleafgardenclub.org

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

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- 3" Grey Stone
- 3/8", 3/4" Multi-Color Round
- 1 1/2", 2 1/2"
- Multi-Color River Stone
- 3/8", 3/4" Blue Stone
- 3/4" Processed Gravel
- 3" Processed Gravel
- Recycled Asphalt
- 1" Dense Grade Gravel
- 3/4" Crusher Run
- Washed Sand
- Mason/Pool Sand
- Stone Dust
- Blue Stone Dust
- Rip Rap
- Fill Clay/General
- Trench Sand

Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By Christie Vogt
Contributing Writer

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recy-

Business spotlight



AFFORDABLE JUNK REMOVAL AND DUMPSTER RENTAL
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"YOU DON'T LIFT A FINGER"

clables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast

forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Milford, the Schadlers have been residents for over 20 years. Their four kids have gone to Milford schools. In addition to living in town, they are proud investors in the community. They sponsor and coach several



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

sports teams, volunteer at the schools, and own both commercial and residential properties.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the

repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

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

by Reference Department

Saturday Hours Return

The library will be open again on Saturdays starting Sept. 6. Regular Saturday hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Adult Summer Reading Recap

Our 2025 Adult Summer Reading Program wrapped up on Friday, Aug. 29.

This year, an impressive 73 participants registered for the program - many of them returning after last year's program. Many thanks for participating!

All of our participants took on this year's challenge of "leveling up" at the Milford Town Library, via a multi-tiered reading log. They also had an opportunity to participate in two different "Bonus Levels" in July and August, which - if successfully completed - earned them an additional three tickets each.

All tickets were applied to three different prize drawings:

• **Prize 1: Books & Beans** - Friends of Milford Town Library reusable tote bag, filled with an assortment of titles for all reading tastes, along with a \$50 gift certificate from our friends at Blooming Hearts Roastery!

• Prize 2: Character Build -

A \$75 gift certificate to TJ Cafe & Games, to be applied toward TJC&G's assortment of snacks, board games, miniatures, and puzzles.

• **Prize 3: Paintball Play** - 4 free passes and a box of 2,000 paintballs from our friends at Friendly Fire Paintball in Upton, a guaranteed adrenaline boost!

In addition to learning about library resources, participants checked out the new facilities at Milford Town Park, made new community connections through books and reading, and engaged with the library via our events and social media. Our final month of the Adult SRP was capped off by our first-ever Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament, during which six teams competed to be the first to complete a 300-piece puzzle design (courtesy of Ravensburger USA)! Feedback for our 2025 program was very positive, and we plan to keep the Adult SRP fun coming in 2026!

Bead Therapy Workshop with Zanger Freeman

Come and enjoy the creative process in a tranquil space with a Bead Therapy Workshop with Zanger Freeman on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

This interactive and meditative workshop teaches the basics of making beaded jewelry, focusing on semi-precious stones and natural materials. Each participant will keep all the pieces they make. All materials are provided free of charge.

Registration is required and is currently full. To reserve your space on a waiting list, please visit our calendar page.

English Classes

The library offers free drop-in classes for adults who want to learn and improve their English. The fall class schedule begins on Tuesday, Sept. 9. Beginner classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 - 8 p.m. An intermediate class is held on Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Classes are held on the lower level of the library in the ESL Classroom. Registration is not required. For more information, please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

Las clases gratuitas sin cita previa para adultos que quieran aprender y mejorar su inglés comienzan el martes 9 de septiembre de 2025. Las clases para principiantes se llevan a cabo los martes y jueves por la noche de

7 a 8 p.m. Una clase intermedia se lleva a cabo los jueves de 5:30 a 6:30 p.m. Las clases se llevan a cabo en el nivel inferior de la biblioteca en el aula de ESL. No es necesario registrarse. Para obtener más información, llame al mostrador de información al 508-473-2145 x 2.

As aulas presenciais gratuitas para adultos que desejam aprender e melhorar seu inglês começam na terça-feira, 9 Setembro de 2025. As aulas para iniciantes são ministradas nas noites de terça e quinta, das 19h às 20h. Uma aula intermediária é ministrada às quintas-feiras, das 17h30 às 18h30. As aulas são ministradas no nível inferior da biblioteca, na sala de aula ESL. O registro não é necessário. Para obter mais informações, ligue para o balcão de informações em 508-473-2145 x 2.

Community Puzzle Swap

Calling all puzzlers! Our next puzzle swap will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Puzzles will be available throughout the day on our display table by the main entrance. Take one or more puzzles home, and leave a puzzle or puzzles if you want! (These

are not part of the library's collection and are FREE to take home - they do not need to be checked out.)

If you enjoy working on puzzles, please also consider participating in our Community Puzzles in the Non-Fiction area of the library. We always try to have 1 or 2 going at any time. (Note that this is a quiet area - group puzzle work is welcome, but please be considerate of others who are studying/working.

History of the Beer Can with Kevin Logan

In honor of the 90th anniversary of the beer can, the Friends of the Milford Town Library invite you to a pop-up museum on Monday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.

This presentation will take you on a nostalgic trip through beer can history with Kevin Logan, curator and owner of this one-of-a-kind museum in East Taunton. He'll look at the pop culture, history, art and humor of the beer can and share fun facts and trivia about the industry, and offer door prizes, including museum souvenirs. A Q&A will follow the presentation.

LIBRARY

continued on page 13



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LIBRARY

continued from page 12

Come celebrate the beer can—a useful and colorful invention that serves as both container and brand advertising.

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group meets next on Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center. The September book selection is *The Next Day: Transitions, Change and Moving Forward* by Melissa French Gates published this year.

French Gates, a philanthropist who along with her ex-husband Bill Gates, founded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, also published *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* (2019).

French Gates' long-standing advocacy for technological and health equity around the world continues, now encompassing women's rights including the right to choose and become entrepreneurs.

To reserve a copy, call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2, order online or email: aberard@milfordma.gov. Copies are available in regular, larger print and via the Libby App an e-book or e-audio.

Silent Book Club

Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. for the next meeting of the Milford Town Library Silent Book Club.

Come and enjoy the companionship of silent reading with neighbors and friends at the Milford Town Library Silent Book Club. No assignments, no homework. Joining in from 7 - 7:30 p.m. for refreshments is optional.

Simply bring whatever you want to read. It can be your own book, audiobook (with headphones), magazine, newspaper, comic, etc. or grab an interesting read off our shelves. You do not need to have a library card to read here at the library. You only need a card if you want to check an item out.

Our Silent Book Club chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Silent Book Club is a global community of readers with 1,700 chapters in more than 55 countries!

Milford Area Wordsmiths
Looking for a quiet, dedicated

time and place where you can write? Join the Milford Area Wordsmiths writers' group! We provide a safe place for adults (18+) to write and even share your work if you desire. All levels are welcome, from first-time writers to published authors. All genres are welcome, too, from picture books to romantasy to nonfiction.

The group meets the first and third Monday of each month (except holidays) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. The Milford Area Wordsmiths will be facilitated by Carol Allen, a first-time writer of children's books, lifelong bookworm, and recently retired middle-school teacher. For more information, please call 508-473-2145, ext. 2.

Mahjong Group

A recently formed Mahjong group meets twice a month at the Milford Town Library. This group welcomes players familiar to Mahjong to join for enjoyment of the game, not for high stakes competition! The group meets on select Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at the library in the Quarry Room. The fall meeting dates are:

- Sept. 23
- Oct. 14
- Oct. 28

Those who are interested can join any of the meetings. Mahjong sets are provided. Questions? Please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

Coming Soon!

Friends Fall Book Sale

The Friends of the Milford Town Library will hold their fall book sale on Friday, Oct. 24 from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Friends members only) and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the general public.

The book sales offer a massive selection of gently used books in all genres for all reading tastes and ages. DVDS, games and puzzles are also available.

Please note that there is a price increase this year: adult books, puzzles, CDs and games are \$2 each, and all children's and young adult books are 50 cents each. Memberships may be purchased or renewed at the door.

Proceeds from the book sales help fund the summer reading programs for both children and adults as well as programs, events, concerts, and more

throughout the year.

Author Reading & Signing: *The Remembering: Of Leather and Stone*

Join us for a gathering to hear author Charles Paul Collins read from and speak about his new book at Memorial Hall on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

Set in mid-19th century Milford, *The Remembering: Of Leather and Stone*, a recently released novel by Charles Paul Collins, unfolds through three personal journals—written as if by Collins' own Irish and Italian ancestors nearly two centuries ago. They navigate their way in a new country, building lives of family, faith and sacrifice.

Join us for a meaningful community gathering to celebrate

our shared history, reflect on the stories that shape us, and strengthen the bonds that unite our families.

You're invited to meet Charles and share your family stories. Copies of *The Remembering: Of Leather & Stone* will be available for purchase and signing.

This special event is co-sponsored by the Milford Historical Commission, St. Mary's of the Assumption Church and the Friends of the Milford Town Library.

Artwork: Mari Steinmann and Students

During September, artwork by artist and instructor Mari Steinmann and her students will be on exhibit at the library. Mari teaches watercolor and a vari-



ety of art classes at the Milford Senior Center and other local organizations. Stop in to see the beautiful creations displayed on the main level of the library, in the adult display case and next to the Information Desk. Milford's got talent and Mari knows how to coax it into being.



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West Nile virus detected in Milford, residents should take precautions

On Sept. 3, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) announced that West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes collected from Milford.

WNV is most commonly transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquitoes that carry this virus are common throughout the state and are found in urban as well as more rural areas. While WNV can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe infection.

By taking a few, common sense precautions, people can help protect themselves and their loved ones:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- Apply Insect Repellent when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the prod-

uct label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

- Clothing can help reduce mosquito bites - Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours - The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. When risk is increased, consider re-scheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. If you are outdoors at any time and notice mosquitoes around you, take steps to avoid being bitten by moving indoors, covering up

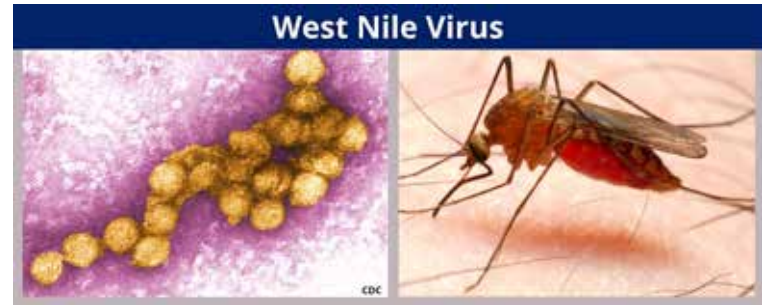
and/or wearing repellent.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- Drain Standing Water - Many mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- Install or Repair Screens - Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all your windows and doors. The Milford Board of Health is working closely with the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to address this finding of WNV in our community

Be Aware of Spraying

The Milford Health Depart-



The West Nile Virus has been detected in Milford. Image source: Milford Board of Health on Facebook.

ment is working closely with the Central Mass Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to address this finding of WNV in our community. CMMCP sprayed on Sept. 4. Watch the town website for any additional spraying.

Generally, there is no need to relocate during mosquito control spraying. The pesticides have been evaluated for this use and found to pose minimal risks to human health and the environment when used according to label directions. Although mosquito control pesticides pose low

risks, some people may prefer to avoid or further minimize exposure. Some common-sense steps to help reduce possible exposure to pesticides include:

- Listen and watch for announcements about spraying in the local media and remain indoors during the application to the immediate area (please remain inside for 15-20 minutes, or longer at your discretion).
- People who suffer from chemical sensitivities or feel spraying may aggravate a preexisting health condition may consult their physician or local health department and take special measures to avoid exposure.
- Close street-facing windows and turn off the outside setting on window-unit air conditioners when spraying is taking place in the immediate area (you may open windows and activate AC units 15-20 minutes after the application, or longer at your discretion).
- Do not let children play near or behind truck-mounted applicators when they are in use (pets should be brought inside if possible or their cages covered to allow a wider application to be performed).

Source: Milford Board of Health on Facebook

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Milford Public Schools launch new dual language program

Kindergarten students at Memorial Elementary School to learn both English and Spanish

The Milford Public Schools proudly launched a new Dual Language learning program this month, beginning with two classrooms of kindergarten students at Memorial Elementary School. Plans have already been developed to expand this new learning model to additional grades in years to come. The program has affectionately been titled, La Comunidad, meaning “The Community.” The name was chosen by the educators and families enrolled in the inaugural classes.

Students enrolled in this program will receive about half of their daily instruction in English, and about half of their instruction in Spanish. The curriculum they will be learning is comparable to the typical curriculum of any other kindergarten classroom, with the exception being that the teachers and students in the dual language classrooms will be instructing and conversing with students in both English and Spanish.

Years of research, planning, and development led to this exciting new opportunity for the students of Milford. Ms. Julia Latino, Assistant Director of Multilingual Learner & Dual Language Programming for the Milford Public Schools, who helped spearhead the development of this program stated, “Over the past two years, educators and administrators have come together to launch a successful Spanish/English program at Memorial Elementary School. We’ve also worked closely with experts in the field, including MABE (Multistate Association for Bilingual Education) to give our program the strongest start possible. The deep support from our School Committee and the Milford community makes it clear that this type of programming is both wanted and needed.”

Principal of Memorial School, Ms. Lisa Burns added, “The Memorial community is excited and honored to open the doors to the first dual language program in Milford. La Comunidad’s successful beginning is the result of meticulous planning and dedication from our educational leaders. Ms. Latino’s planning and attention to detail laid the foundation for this initiative, ensuring every aspect of the program was thoughtfully designed to benefit students and families. The program’s launch has been powered by the endless enthusiasm and expertise of our kindergarten educators: Ms. Jessica Lema-Guaman, Ms. Adriana Hill, Ms. Lauren Woodbury, and Ms. Missy Machado. These dedicated teachers have embraced the program with passion, creating an engaging and supportive learning environment where young students can develop bilingual skills from the start of their educational journey.”

Kindergarteners throughout Milford, regardless of their home language, had the opportunity to enroll in this learning model. Families interested in this program entered their students in a lottery for this initial class of 44 students. This class of students will continue to receive dual language instruction in subsequent grades, with plans to continue this model through Grade 5.

Dr. Craig Consigli, Superintendent of the Milford Public Schools, said, “This is a great opportunity for the students of Milford. Building the program from the ground up, Julia Latino and Jenn Noorjarian worked tirelessly to prepare our Memorial Elementary School staff. I appreciate the support of the Milford School Committee in supporting programs like the



Memorial School Administrators Dual Language Program Teachers (Picture L-R): Principal Lisa Burns, teachers Adriana Hill, Jessica Lema-Guaman, Lauren Woodbury, Missy Machado, and Asst. Principal Leigh-Ann Evans.

Dual Language Program. I am excited to see this program grow every year and expand beyond Memorial Elementary School in the future.”

More About Dual Language Programs:

Dual language programming provides students with powerful academic and cognitive benefits, enhancing problem-solving, memory, and critical thinking skills. Spanish-speaking students strengthen their bilingualism and biliteracy, building confidence and cultural pride while preserving their home language. English-speaking students develop strong proficiency in Spanish while maintaining high levels of English literacy, preparing them for future academic and career opportunities. Research consistently shows that students

in dual language programs achieve at higher levels and graduate at greater rates. Importantly, these students develop a deeper appreciation for diverse

communities through sociocultural competence - the ability to work and play with peers from other cultures.
Submitted by Milford Public Schools

Special Town Meeting set for Oct. 20

At its meeting on Monday, Aug. 18, the Milford Select Board voted to hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday,

Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. at Milford Town Hall, 52 Main Street.

The warrant is currently open and will be approved by

the Select Board on Monday, Sept. 22.

For more information, visit www.milfordma.gov.

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BVT's school lunch and breakfast programs policy

Families encouraged to check eligibility chart and submit application

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) is pleased to continue offering its students one free breakfast and lunch at school, thanks to permanent funding from the USDA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While meals are provided at no cost, families are still encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced Price Meal Application on the school website. Doing so helps expand other educational and nutrition initiatives across the district and sustain funding for the program in future years.

You do not need to complete an application to receive free meal benefits if you receive a letter stating that your child is eligible for free meals via the direct certification process. Families who qualify for free or reduced price meals may also

become eligible for Sun Bucks, a new program launching in 2026 that offers grocery assistance during the summer when school is out. Families may also qualify for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which offers monthly financial assistance for grocery expenses. If you're not currently receiving SNAP but think you may be eligible, contact Project Bread's Food Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or apply online at DTA Connect.

To see if children from your household are eligible for free or reduced price meal services, please visit the school website where you can view the federal eligibility income chart, find answers to frequently asked questions, and complete an online application at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmeals-faq.



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, Blackstone Valley Tech 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.

Deslaurier-Tate on ASU Dean's List

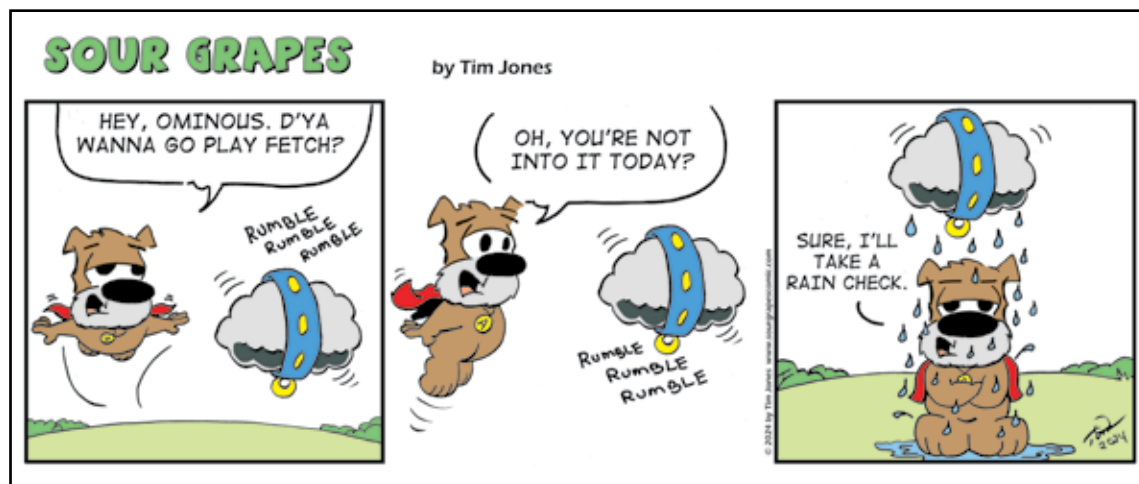


Cee-Cee Deslaurier-Tate of Milford completed her freshman year at Arizona State University on the Dean's List with Distinction, earning a 4.0 GPA.

Deslaurier-Tate is a member of the W.P. Carey School of Business Leaders Academy, majoring in Entrepreneurial Leadership. A Barrett Honors College student, she is minoring in Theater with a concentration in Acting.

Deslaurier-Tate was recently awarded a \$5,000 national scholarship from Girl Scouts

USA for her Gold Award project encompassing a full-length documentary and several memorial tributes installed at the Phoenix Zoo and the Arizona Animal Welfare League, honoring actress and wildlife advocate, Amanda Blake. Additionally, she authored an article in an international online magazine, was featured in the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary Ladies yearbook, and shared Ms. Blake's life's work in various media outlets, including television, radio and a Girl Scouts global podcast.



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Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
08/25/2025	34 Salvia Drive	\$595,000
08/25/2025	19 Alden Street #C	\$320,000
08/22/2025	145 Purchase Street	\$590,000
08/22/2025	33 Redwood Drive	\$470,000
08/22/2025	13 Village Circle	\$570,000
08/21/2025	7 Annie J Circle	\$525,000
08/20/2025	5 Saint John Lane	\$365,000
08/19/2025	18 Shadowbrook Lane #19	\$275,000
08/19/2025	4 Kennedy Lane #49	\$220,000
08/15/2025	8 Westchester Drive	\$510,000
08/11/2025	22 W Walnut Street	\$535,600
08/08/2025	34 Beaver Pond Road #39	\$191,921
08/07/2025	20 Harvard Drive	\$371,000
08/07/2025	3 Panda Court	\$674,900
08/05/2025	30 Purdue Drive	\$605,000
08/04/2025	12 Camp Street	\$700,000
08/04/2025	6 Clearview Drive	\$547,725
08/01/2025	51 Grant Street	\$520,000
08/01/2025	17 Middleton Street	\$276,000
07/31/2025	58 Beach Street	\$499,000
07/30/2025	10 Vassar Drive	\$555,000
07/30/2025	26 W Walnut Street	\$441,250
07/30/2025	23 Iadarola Avenue	\$527,500
07/30/2025	5 Zain Circle	\$675,000
07/30/2025	36 1/2 Pearl Street #36H	\$430,000
07/30/2025	2 Rich Road	\$1.05 mil
07/29/2025	25 Country Club Lane #B	\$435,000
07/29/2025	44 Lawrence Street	\$560,000
07/28/2025	14 Sunnyside Lane	\$581,000

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



The 5-bed, 2-bath, 1,804-square-foot house at 26 W Walnut Street in Milford recently sold for \$441,250. Image credit www.zillow.com

Correction:



CORRECTION: The featured home in the August newspaper included an incorrect caption. The 4-bed, 3-bath, 2,436 square-foot house at 19 Mill Pond Circle in Milford recently sold for \$850,000.

Area students recently performed 'Mean Girls: The Musical – High School Version'



Area students recently performed “Mean Girls: The Musical – High School Version” with the Milford Performing Arts Center.

Back row (L to R): Kaitlyn Allington (Upton), Connor Reynolds (Worcester), Emma Cotter (Upton), Amelia Kimball (Hopedale), Annika Cotter (Upton), Riley Moyerm (Hopedale).
 Front row (L to R): Addie Wein (Hopkinton), Kai Strafello (Milford), Hannah Le (Uxbridge), Katelyn Boisvert (Hopedale), Cassidy Clemons (Upton), Madison Blaney (Hopedale), and Abelia Rigdon (Hopedale). Photo source: Milford Performing Arts Center

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SPORTS

MHS Girls' Volleyball primed for strong season

Preseason performance has coach optimistic for success in '25

By Chris Villani

Milford Girls' Volleyball Head Coach Tammy Webber goes into every season with a positive attitude, but the work her team put in leading into this fall has the coach even more optimistic that this can be a very good year.

"We have the players," Webber said. "They are still young, but having most of them play in the offseason is finally paying off, and building our program through the middle school is finally paying off."

Webber added, "I think we are going to compete this year and could surprise a few people who might take us lightly. I am looking forward to that."

Leading the attack is junior outside hitter Abby Murphy, a Hockomock League all-star a season ago. She will be joined by junior Fionna Lentini, who Webber said has made very few



Milford girls' volleyball is looking to catch some teams by surprise this season. Photo credit: Olga Lyubkin Photography

mistakes and adds power on the outside that MHS has been lacking for a few years.

"The outside is usually where we have struggled, but we are strong there this year," the coach said.

Junior middle hitter Layanne Maforte is a returning senior captain who will play alongside sophomore Lauren Williams, who Webber said is a strong blocker despite still learning the game. Seniors Sam DeNegris and Danielle Darling will play on the right side this fall along with Mary Buckley, another senior Webber said will add crucial depth to that side of the floor. Junior Lilah Driscoll and senior Tori Jacques will both see time at outside hitter.

On defense, Milford will rely heavily on junior libero Isabella Grady-Harper.

"She played all offseason and it has shown," Webber said. "She gives us more consistent

passing and it's been great to have a seasoned libero."

Seniors Lucia Testa and Sarah Leverock add depth at defensive specialist. Milford will use two setters this fall, with junior Lina Lyubkin and sophomore Brook Stokes sharing the workload.

"Lina played in the offseason, strengthening her consistency and she adds a good serve," Webber said. "Brooke is just an athlete and she catches on quick. Her setting has improved immensely."

In addition to the varsity team, Webber said the program is filled with talented freshman and junior varsity players. She is also happy to start the season with so many juniors and sophomores who have more than one year left in the program.

"It's really promising," Webber said. "You walk into the gym every day and think, 'This is good, this is good.'"

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SPORTS

Milford Football prepares to tackle tough slate

Scarlet Hawks hope to be battle tested for postseason



Milford lines up during a recent preseason scrimmage. The Hawks are hoping to get to the playoffs this year. Courtesy photo

By Chris Villani

This fall, the Milford High football team will face one of its toughest schedules in recent memory, with a run of upper division foes on deck that Head Coach Dale Olson is hoping will put his team in a strong position by the end of the year.

“We always have high expectations,” Olson said. “Ever since I took the job six years ago, we’ve wanted to compete against the best.”

While Milford competes in Division III when it comes to the state playoffs, most of its opponents this season are in either Division I or II. In addition to number two ranked King Philip and top-20 foe Franklin in the league, Milford will face Leominster, Wellesley, Natick, and Barnstable in a schedule loaded with ranked teams.

“We are going to be challenged,” Olson said. “I wouldn’t want it any other way.”

Despite lower-than-normal numbers across the program, Olson said he was pleased with the way his team played during the preseason ahead of the season-opener against Westfield.

The Scarlet Hawks’ captains for the 2025 season are Riley Burns, Dylan Burns, Jason

Stokes, and Joey McGee. Riley Burns is a 6-foot-5 tackle with half a dozen college offers. Dylan Burns, a tight end and inside linebacker, is a player his coach described as “high motor.” Stokes will be one of MHS’ playmakers as a wide receiver and running back.

“He is one of the best players in the Hockomock League,” Olson said. “He is another really good athlete who is going to end up playing college football.”

Olson said McGee is unlikely to play this year due to an injury suffered during the baseball season. McGee had been slated to be the quarterback. With his injury, Milford turns to sophomore Vincent Loscerbo. He will have some help up front. Milford has a strong, experienced line.

“Most of our guys up front are back and have played a lot of football,” Olson said. “And they are good players.”

Milford finished .500 last year with a similarly difficult schedule and advanced to the second round of the postseason. Olson is hoping his team will be primed for a deeper run this fall after a tough regular season.

He said, “Division III is harder this year with King

Philip moving down and Barnstable moving down, but our

schedule prepares us to go play in the DIII playoffs, if we can

get through the gauntlet and make it.”

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<p>2023 CHRYSLER PACIFICA</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$85/WK</p> <p>#D15375 • HEATED SEATS, 3.6L V6</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,265 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977</p>	<p>2023 TOYOTA TACOMA 4x4</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$127/WK</p> <p>#TP6027 • SR5 TRIM, DBL CAB, V6</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$42,605 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,977</p>	<p>2023 DODGE DURANGO R/T</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$120/WK</p> <p>#C5765 • ALLOYS, AWD, HEMI</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$49,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$33,977</p>	<p>2024 GENESIS GV70 3.5T</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$191/WK</p> <p>#P18261 • NAV, HEATED LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$64,700 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$53,977</p>	<p>2023 TOYOTA CAMRY SE</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$99/WK</p> <p>#TP5937 • APPLE CARPLAY, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$38,625 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$27,977</p>	<p>2023 CHEVY SILVERADO 4x4</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$127/WK</p> <p>#C47486 • CUSTOM, 2.7L TURBO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$54,180 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,677</p>	<p>2021 NISSAN ROGUE AWD</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$71/WK</p> <p>#D15340 • SV TRIM, 18" ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$31,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$19,977</p>
<p>2024 CHEVY TRAX SUV</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$82/WK</p> <p>#47621A • ACTIVE TRIM, TURBO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,565 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p>	<p>2022 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4x4</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$152/WK</p> <p>#TM25-623A • SR5, ALLOYS, V6</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$58,405 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$42,977</p>	<p>2022 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$89/WK</p> <p>#25141A • LATITUDE LUX, SUNROOF</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,400 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	<p>2022 HYUNDAI TUCSON SEL</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$96/WK</p> <p>#TP5647 • AWD, HEATED SEATS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$36,750 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$26,677</p>	<p>2022 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$74/WK</p> <p>#TP5790 • 30/38 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$26,569 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$20,677</p>	<p>2022 HYUNDAI SANTA CRUZ</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$89/WK</p> <p>#47004C • SEL TRIM, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,265 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$24,977</p>	<p>2024 TOYOTA RAV4 LE SUV</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$106/WK</p> <p>#TP5706 • 27/34 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,960 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$29,977</p>
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