

Proposed new high school to include vocational education

By Scott Calzolaio

With a new high school building on the horizon, Milford officials are looking to reimplement vocational education, and bring the trades back to MHS halls.

The High School Building Committee (HSBC) met with the Finance Committee on Sept. 10 in an effort to begin the discussion in earnest.

“We’re planning to build a ‘comprehensive’ high school, which means we’re bringing back the trades that left here in the early ‘70s,” said HSBC Chair Jonathan Bruce. “Say a student can’t get into Blackstone Valley Tech., and wants to be a plumber, now that’s a pathway forward.”

In 2024, Massachusetts amended its education laws to permit municipal high



Milford High School today. In the next few years, MHS will undergo a renovation during which school officials plan to bring back vocational education. Photo credit: Theresa Knapp

schools to offer Chapter 74 vocational programs. The insufficient capacity at Blackstone Valley Technical Vocational High School (BVT),

paired with the labor market demand, makes Milford a

NEW HIGH SCHOOL

continued on page 2

Special Town Meeting Oct. 20

Voters asked to fund new equipment including fire engine, collective bargaining agreements, update bylaws, and more



Voters will be asked at the Oct. 20 Special Town Meeting to appropriate \$1,350,000 to purchase and equip a new Fire Engine 1. It would replace the engine shown here and purchased in 2001. Photo source: www.milfordma.gov/207/Milford-Fire-Department-Apparatus.

By Theresa Knapp

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Mon., Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. at Milford Town Hall.

The warrant can be found at www.milfordma.gov or <https://bit.ly/MilfordSTMoct2025>.

The warrant includes 36 articles, the longest of which (Article 17) is nearly 13 pages and relates to a new stormwater management

MEETING

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Women's Auxiliary Holiday Fair will be Nov. 22



Last years, Women's Auxiliary Holiday Fair. Courtesy photo

The Women's Auxiliary will be having their annual Holiday Fair on Sat., Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hoboken

Club located at 252 Central Street in Milford.

You will find many unique Christmas gifts from our local

crafters. We will also be selling homemade baked goods, raffle baskets, and of course our handmade cappelletti.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL

continued from page 1

prime candidate to take advantage of this amended bill, Bruce said.

For decades, Milford has seen a large number of students be rejected from BVT because it serves many surrounding communities and can only accept around 350 students each year, said Superintendent of Schools Craig Consigli.

At the Sept. 10 meeting, Consigli listed application and enrollment numbers from Milford to BVT in the last few years to point out the discrepancy. From 2021 to 2024, there were 425 Milford applicants to BVT. From that pool, 158 students were accepted which left 267 Milford students unable to access the education they were looking for out of high school.

"That doesn't count the kids that don't think they stand a chance, so they don't even apply," said Consigli.

Bruce followed the sentiment. Keeping with the plumber analogy, he explained that currently if a student is not accepted into BVT, they

would first need to receive their high school diploma in order to become a plumber anyway. Additionally, they would need to find time for an apprenticeship, as well as attend night school classes, in order to earn the credentials necessary for the trade.

"From a societal perspective, it's a terrible disservice," Bruce said.

Currently, there are no reliable financial figures to report, but Bruce said their timeline should have more information by summer 2026, and schematics by spring 2027. His estimated timeline has the plan going up for vote at Town Meeting by late 2027.

The application to build a new high school was accepted by the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) last year, and includes moving 8th grade to the high school as well. The MSBA has a tight deadline process that needs to be followed, but Bruce is optimistic about the future of Milford's education.

He said about the long process, "It seems like you're being handcuffed by the MSBA, but they get it right. They really, really know what they're doing here."

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New energy-efficient equipment enhances student meals and hands-on learning at BVT

At Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), every new piece of equipment is more than just an upgrade—it's an opportunity to learn, innovate, and grow. Thanks to a Healthy Meals Incentives grant from Action for Healthy Kids, the Food Services program is now equipped with a state-of-the-art walk-in cooler and freezer tailored to its unique needs. This energy-efficient unit not only boosts safety and efficiency in their kitchen but also allows them to store fresh, local ingredients that support healthier meals for its students.

“With an increase in scratch cooking and the ability to store more fresh ingredients, we're able to prepare restaurant-quality meals that are both nutritious and delicious,” said Chef Eric Carlson, Director of Food Services. “Offering students a wide variety of healthy options supports both learning and lifelong wellness.” Working alongside our dedicated Food Services team, Chef Carlson and Nutritionist Lisa Ciarametaro ensure that every school lunch includes detailed nutritional information to help students and staff make informed food choices.

The benefits of this grant go beyond the cafeteria. Lincoln Shaw, a junior in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC&R) program, helped install the new system alongside instructor Matthew LaJoie. From setting up refrigeration units to installing



Chef Eric Carlson, Director of Food Services at BVT, is standing in the walk-in cooler, holding a package of milk and a whole pineapple.
Courtesy photo

ductwork and electrical components, Lincoln gained invaluable hands-on experience with commercial-grade equipment.

“HVAC&R technicians are often called on to work with walk-in coolers and freezers in commercial environments,” said LaJoie. “This was a perfect opportunity for a student to apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting—right here on our campus.”

As a Healthy Meals Incentives grantee, BVT is proud to partner with the USDA and Action for Healthy Kids to strengthen its school meal program. Thanks to grant funding, in-house expertise, and student involvement, the Food Services program continues to deliver high-quality, nutritious, and cost-effective meals to its school community—one scratch-cooked dish at a time.

Submitted by Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School

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.



Lincoln Shaw of Northbridge, a junior in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC&R) program at BVT, helped install the new system.
Courtesy photo



Whether it's a freshly made blueberry crisp, salad, or wrap, our talented food services team creates the food that students enjoy.
Courtesy photo

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Reader Submission Deadline is the 25th day of the month preceding the publication date. For example, items should be submitted by Feb. 25 to be included in the March issue.

Please submit to:
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MEETING

continued from page 1

bylaw.

Other articles ask voters to:

Article 1: Cleanup of environmental hazards near the Birch Street Fire Station

Article 2: Cleanup of environmental hazards near the Charles River Rail Trail

Article 3: Purchase of a pickup truck

Article 4: Fund painting the interior of Town Hall

Article 5: Purchase machinery for the Park Department

Article 6: Accept Arianna Circle as a public way

Article 7: Design plans and site work for new skate park on Vernon Street

Article 8: Transfer of \$1.5 million within Water Enterprise accounts

Article 9: Appropriate \$150,000 for ADA improvements

Article 10: Fund an Infiltration and Inflow research project for the town sewer system

Article 11: Appropriate \$100,000 to pay litigation costs related to ADA compliance

Article 12: Appropriate \$60,000 related to a 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Article 13: Discontinue as public ways portions of Wales Street and McGill Lane

Article 14: Appropriate money related to the police department's K-9 program

Article 15: Amend town bylaws related to accessory dwelling units

Article 16: Appropriate \$90,000 related to Cedar Street and East Main Street intersection

Article 17: Amend town bylaws related to stormwater management

Article 18: Appoint a Highway Surveyor

Article 19: Appropriate \$200,000

related to EPA compliance

Article 20: Repair the police department indoor firearms range

Article 21: Appropriate \$122,000 to purchase a new brush chipper for the Highway Department

Article 22: Appropriate \$75,000 related to a new Culvert Asset Management Plan

Article 23: Install new fencing near the food pantry and Pine Street parking lot

Article 24: Appropriate \$120,000 to purchase a new lift for the Highway Department

Article 25: Appropriate \$190,000 for HVAC work in the fire stations

Article 26: Fund school department network upgrades

Article 27: Appropriate \$1,350,000 to purchase and equip a new fire engine

Article 28: Fund HVAC repairs at Stacy Middle School

Article 29: Appropriate \$15,000 for professional consultant services for the Vernon Grove Cemetery

Article 30: Replenish Compensated Absences fund

Article 31: Fully fund the Personal Services Contract with the Town Accountant

Article 32: Fund cost items in a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Firefighters Association

Article 33: Fund cost items in a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Association

Article 34: Fund cost items in a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Clerical Employees

Article 35: Fund cost items in a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Library Staff Association

Article 36: Appropriate money to the Town Stabilization Account

The full warrant can be found at www.milfordma.gov or <https://bit.ly/MilfordST-Moct2025>.

Cultural Council grant applications due Oct. 16



The Milford Cultural Council is accepting applications through Oct. 16. The application can be found at <https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com>.

According to the Milford town website, the MCC typically receives over 30 appli-

cations each year. A helpful application guide can be found at <https://bit.ly/MilfordCCgrantApp2025>.

For more information, contact CulturalCouncil@townofmilford.com or message them on Facebook @MilfordCulturalCouncil.

Milford Scouting for Food Drive is Nov. 8



Milford's Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Scouts BSA units will be conducting their annual food drive to support the Daily Bread Food Pantry on Nov. 8, 2025.

To contribute, please place non-perishable foods and toiletries (please, no expired or glass containers) in a bag or box and place it in a location visible from the street by 9 a.m. on Nov. 8. A Scout will come by to pick it up.

A drop-off site will be open at Brookside Elementary 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. that same day for apartment and condo residents, and anyone else who

prefers it.

Visit milfordscoutingforfood.org for more details as well as a way to report donations not collected by 2 p.m.

Thank you, Milford, for your many years' of gracious generosity!

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When investing, one of the best abilities is durability



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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You've probably heard about "genius" investors or those who got in on the "ground floor" of a company that grew to be a huge success. These stories may be interesting, but they are also rare — and sometimes not even true.

The truth is that successful investing isn't glamorous, and it isn't necessarily quick. Instead, a well-founded investing strategy

is a durable one — one that can withstand the test of time.

Here are some actions that can help you build durability.

Take your time: Most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Despite stories about fortunes made on one or two trades, you're more likely to be successful making money over time. You'll want to own a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments — and plan to own those investments for the long term.

A long-term perspective can help you ignore the constant noise in the markets and stay invested. When you hear about the latest "hot" investment tip, especially if it's already performed well, the best advice is this: Ignore it. Although it may be tempting to buy a popular investment, it may not fit with the rest of your portfolio, it may have already peaked and it may be riskier than you expect. If it sounds too good to

be true, it probably is.

Invest in quality: When building your investment portfolio, quality should be a top priority. For stocks, quality is frequently measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure of quality is an investment-grade credit rating, which indicates that the borrower has a good track record of making its promised interest and principal payments and the bond has a relatively low risk of default.

Quality investments are more likely to overcome temporary challenges, which is why a good track record can be an indication of quality. Don't reach for yield by looking for investments offering the highest dividend or interest rate without considering the risk. Remember, there is no perfect investment — a higher rate generally means higher risk.

Stick to your strategy: Building a long-term strategy can anchor your decisions and provide

a roadmap for your investment choices. Your strategy should consider your goals, tolerance for risk and the time needed to save toward each goal.

Within that strategy, you can be flexible. Buy and hold, for example, doesn't mean buy and forget. Over time, your goals may change, or you may choose to hold more conservative investments. But it's important to make changes for the right reasons, not simply because stocks or your other investments may have dropped in price.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes you can make is trying to time the markets, moving in and out in response to short-term declines or the latest prediction. This often results in getting into and out of the market at the wrong times, costing time and money — and resulting in lower returns over time.

Remember that investments don't all move up or down at the same time but portfolio diver-

sification can help smooth the ups and downs of the market. A long-term perspective can help you see past short-term fluctuations in some investments.

Successful investing isn't about making dramatic moves or chasing the latest trends. It's about developing a durable strategy personalized for your life, then sticking with it through market ups and downs. In investing, as in life, slow and steady could help win the race.

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

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Pet of the Month: Leo



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Leo is sure that he gets along better with younger cats who are a little unsure themselves and that he is really sure that he doesn't belong in a crate! Leo chirps happily when his crate is opened and will wind around your legs for attention. He really wants love but sometimes that uncertainty gets the best of him. When it's time for him to go back in his crate for the night, he won't go willingly.

Thankfully, in a home Leo will never need to be crated again. With patience and love, we're sure he will relax and learn to trust in his good fortune - and finally know who his friends are. Could you be the friend that Leo needs?

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



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

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Milford Family & Community Network CFCE

Our first session of Playgroups began on Monday, Sept. 22, and we excitedly welcomed over 60 families into our playcenters! If you were not able to register for our Fall session, please give us a call and we can place you on our wait list.

We are happy to announce four upcoming Fall programs for you. Please call the office to register, 508-277-4981.

Autumn Fun on the Common

Join Miss Donna at the Bellingham Town Common! We will stroll through the park, play on the playground and end with songs and storytime on Oct. 15 from 12:30 - 2 p.m. The program is for children birth to age 5 years and their caregiver. Registration is required and space is limited.

Lap Babies: If you'd like an opportunity to spend time with your infant in the company of others sharing similar experiences, join us for this eight-week series designed for children from birth to 12 months old, and

their caregiver(s). This program will take place on Mondays, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Milford Playcenter and will run from Oct. 20 through Dec. 8. Registration is required and space is limited. Sibling care will not be provided.

Desserts and Discussions

This monthly program is back. Join Miss Harmony for this parent-led conversation on Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required.

Intergenerational Play

On Oct. 28 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., we will visit our friends at The Cornerstone at Milford for some seasonal activities with the children and residents.

For more information on MFCN CFCE playgroups and/or programs, feel free to visit our website calendar or contact us at 508-277-4981 or familynet-network@milfordma.com, online at milfordpublicschools.com/milfordfcn, or on Facebook at Milford Family and Community Network CFCE.

Milford's Emma Crosby awarded \$16,000 scholarship by Sheet Metal Workers Local 17

Emma Crosby of Milford was recently among 36 high school seniors and college students awarded more than \$178,000 in scholarships by Sheet Metal Workers Local 17, a division of the SMART Northeast Regional Council (SMART NERC).

The scholarships, fully funded by Local 17 membership, range from a one-time \$1,500 award to four-year scholarships totaling up to \$16,000. Since 1983, the union has contributed over \$2.3 million to the futures of local students.

SMART Northeast Regional Council President Bob Butler said the scholarship program reflects the union's commitment to giving back to the communities where members

live and work.

"Higher education is expensive. These scholarships help put students on the path to success," said SMART Northeast Regional Council President Bob Butler. "We're proud to have such dedicated members who believe in giving back and investing in the next generation."

SMART NERC Financial Secretary-Treasurer Russell Bartash extended thanks to the Hayward family—Bob, Scott, and Sean—for leading the scholarship committee for three generations. He noted that their dedication has helped the program grow and adapt to meet students' diverse academic paths.

"Whether scholarship recipients are enrolled in a four-

year college, community or technical college, we're thrilled to continue to lift up students as they strive for success," said SMART NERC Financial Secretary-Treasurer Russell Bartash. "It's one of the many ways we give back and support the next generation. We want to thank all Local 17 members who contributed to this meaningful fund."

For every hour a member works, seven cents goes into the Local 17 Scholarship Fund. These contributions, small in scale but large in impact, have helped hundreds of local students afford tuition, books, and other academic fees. Scholarships are awarded based on state Labor History Exam performance or through a lottery drawing.

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Top 10 myths in eye care debunked

By Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.

When it comes to eye health, misinformation can be more harmful than helpful. Many long-held beliefs about vision and eye care are based on outdated science or pure myth. Let's debunk 10 of the most common misconceptions to help you make smarter decisions about your eyes.

1. Carrots Will Fix Your Vision

Carrots contain vitamin A, which is essential for maintaining healthy vision—especially night vision. However, eating more carrots won't sharpen blurry eyesight or reverse vision problems like nearsightedness or farsightedness. A well-rounded diet with leafy greens, fruits, and fish is better for long-term eye health.

2. Reading in Dim Light Will Damage Your Eyes

Reading in low light may

cause eye fatigue or temporary discomfort, but it won't permanently harm your vision. Your eyes are working harder in dim lighting, which can lead to headaches or strain, but not lasting damage. A well-lit environment simply helps reduce fatigue.

3. Sitting Too Close to the TV Will Hurt Your Eyes

This myth has been around since the days of old box TVs. Sitting close to the television can lead to temporary eye strain, but it doesn't cause permanent eye damage. Children often sit closer because they can focus up close better than adults—but it's not a cause for alarm.

4. Wearing Glasses or Contacts Makes Your Eyes Dependent on Them

Glasses and contact lenses correct your vision; they don't change your eyes themselves. You may feel more dependent on them once you start seeing

clearly, but the prescription doesn't "weaken" your eyes. Vision can naturally change over time, but that's not due to corrective lenses.

5. Blue Light from Screens is Damaging Your Eyes

The concern around blue light has led to a surge in "blue light glasses." But current research doesn't support the idea that blue light from screens causes permanent eye damage. What people often experience is digital eye strain—caused by staring at screens too long, not blue light itself. The 20-20-20 rule (every 20 minutes, look 20 feet away for 20 seconds) can help reduce eye fatigue.

6. Eye Exercises Can Cure Vision Problems

While exercises may improve focus or coordination in some rare eye conditions (like convergence insufficiency), they can't



correct structural issues like myopia, hyperopia, or astigmatism. No amount of eye rolling or focusing drills will replace the need for glasses, contacts, or surgery when needed.

7. You Don't Need an Eye Exam if You See Fine

Even if your vision is perfect, regular eye exams are crucial. Eye diseases like glaucoma, dia-

betic retinopathy, and macular degeneration can develop silently, without noticeable symptoms. Early detection through routine check-ups is often the key to preserving sight.

8. Only Older Adults

EYE

continued on page 9





MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER





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'The Remembering of Leather & Stone' reading, gathering on Oct. 25

Charles Paul Collins, author of *The Remembering of Leather & Stone*, will present a reading and gathering in Memorial Hall, Saturday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. in Milford's Memorial Hall, 30 School Street.

Milford's Town Library and the Historical Commission welcome everyone to hear the stories of immigrants from Ireland and Italy who settled in Milford and the legacy of their lives and labors.

Many families in the area share the same stories as Cornelius Collins and Giuseppe Ambrosini who arrived in America alone at a young age. Histories of the town, the boot shops and St. Mary's Church have been well researched by Charles Collins.

The program is free of charge and the Historical Museum will be open to visitors before and after the reading and gathering.

Milford Cultural Council's grant applications close Oct. 16

The Milford Cultural Council (MCC) is currently accepting applications for grants funding community-oriented programming in the arts, humanities, and sciences, for projects and events completed between July 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2026.

The MCC will prioritize proposals in the visual arts (including public art and instruction), music, performing arts, the sciences, and youth participation in creative cultural activities. In addition, the council will favor proposals that are well researched and documented, primarily benefit Milford residents, serve a large portion of the community, recognize Milford's cultural diversity, and do not rely totally on funding from the MCC.

Applicants can apply by registering and entering their proposal online at MassCulturalCouncil.SmartSimple.com.

"We encourage individuals and groups, especially Milford residents, to get creative and submit applications that would reflect the diversity and vibrancy of our community," states MCC chair Joanne Goggins.

Applicants can find grant

application tips in English, Spanish, and Portuguese on the MCC page on the town website at: MilfordMa.gov/309/Cultural-Council. Questions can be emailed to the council at CulturalCouncil@TownofMilford.com.

The last day to submit applications is Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025. The members of the MCC will review all applications and inform applicants of the council's decisions at the end of December. Approved grant recipients can expect to receive their full grant payment in February of 2026 once the funds have been received from the state council.

The MCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

The last day to submit applications is Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025, for programs and events completed between July 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2026

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

EYE

continued from page 8

Need to Worry About Eye Problems

Age increases the risk of certain eye conditions, but eye health matters at every age. Children, teens, and young adults are increasingly affected by screen-related strain and dry eyes. Preventative care—like UV protection, a healthy diet, and annual eye exams—should start early and continue for life.

9. Sunglasses Are Only for Sunny Days

UV rays can penetrate clouds, meaning your eyes are exposed even on overcast days. Prolonged UV exposure is linked to cataracts and other serious eye issues. Look for sunglasses that block 100% of UVA and UVB rays—and wear them year-round whenever you're outdoors.

10. You Have to Wait Until a Cataract is "Ripe" to Remove It

This outdated notion comes from older surgical methods. Today's advanced cataract surgeries allow removal whenever the cataract interferes with daily life—no need to wait for it to "mature." In fact, early intervention can often lead to

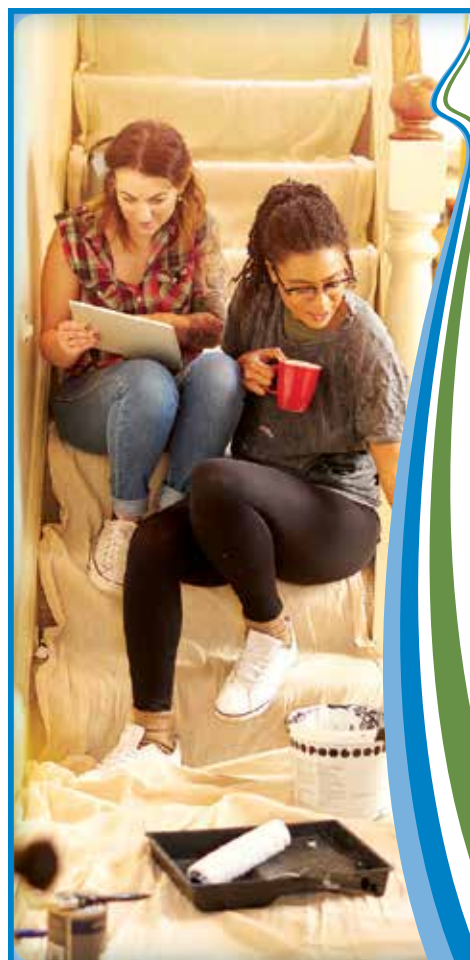
quicker recovery and better visual outcomes.

Misinformation can lead to unnecessary worry—or worse, delayed treatment. The best way to protect your vision is by staying informed, getting regular eye exams, and speaking directly with a trusted eye care professional. Clear vision is about more than just 20/20 sight—it's about making smart, evidence-based decisions to preserve your eyesight for life.

Milford Franklin Eye Center proudly operates four convenient office locations in Milford, Franklin, Hopkinton, and Medfield. In addition, our state-of-the-art Cataract and Laser Surgery Center in Milford offers world-class surgical eye care close to home. Patients benefit from an accredited and licensed facility, on-site anesthesia presence, and carefully titrated sedation—ensuring the highest standards of comfort, safety, and precision. When it comes to your eyes, you don't have to travel far to receive the best care available.

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UMass Memorial – Milford Regional invests \$2.6 million in community benefits programming

For the second consecutive year, the Massachusetts Hospital Association announced that hospitals throughout the Commonwealth devoted more than \$1 billion in community-based programs in FY24, with Milford Regional contributing \$2.6 million of that number.

Throughout FY24, Milford Regional’s community benefits contributions included mental health webinars, youth fitness programs, blood drives, interpreter services, substance use care, free sunscreen initiatives, childbirth education classes for teens and end-of-life comfort to assist families, just to name a few.

As local healthcare needs have grown throughout the state, hospitals’ community benefits investments have increased by 33 percent over the past five years.

Community benefits address

specific healthcare issues, inequities and social needs through collaborations with local organizations and hospital staff. Programs are provided at no cost to residents and patients and are not reimbursed by government entities or insurance companies.

“Despite the financial strains that healthcare systems throughout the state are facing, hospitals continue to see the irrefutable value of investing in community benefits programming,” said UMass Memorial - Milford Regional COO and Chair of the Community Benefits Committee’s Leadership Team Bert Thurlo-Walsh, MM, RN, CPHQ. “Milford Regional proudly and continually enhances its community benefits through strong partnerships between our staff and local organizations to help tackle disparities and health outcomes throughout

our service region.”

Community benefits reports from Massachusetts hospitals are posted on the Attorney General’s website. To view Milford Regional’s FY24 community benefits report, visit www.milfordregional.org/about-us/community-benefits.

About UMass Memorial Health – Milford Regional Medical Center

UMass Memorial Health - Milford Regional Medical Center is a full-service, regional teaching hospital that serves patients from more than 20 communities in Central Massachusetts. The 148-bed hospital is a non-profit, acute-care facility where more than 300 primary care and specialty clinicians are relentless in providing exceptional healthcare services to our community with dignity, compassion and respect. Visit www.milfordregional.org to learn more.

Recent Home Sales

| Date | Milford | Amount |
|------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 09/23/2025 | 29 Cunniff Avenue | \$485,000 |
| 09/19/2025 | 7 Nelson Heights | \$520,000 |
| 09/18/2025 | 12 Calvin Drive | \$805,000 |
| 09/18/2025 | 1 Pouliot Street | \$450,000 |
| 09/17/2025 | 4 Shadowbrook Lane #31 | \$299,000 |
| 09/17/2025 | 25 Hamilton Street | \$660,000 |
| 09/16/2025 | 59 Jionzo Road | \$552,700 |
| 09/16/2025 | 47-49 Fruit Street | \$700,000 |
| 09/15/2025 | 8 Shadowbrook Lane #65 | \$280,000 |
| 09/15/2025 | 30 Church Street | \$715,000 |
| 09/12/2025 | 1 Dogwood Lane | \$780,000 |
| 09/11/2025 | 24 Elizabeth Road | \$605,000 |
| 09/10/2025 | 3 Shadowbrook Lane #26 | \$265,000 |
| 09/05/2025 | 10 Manoogian Circle | \$715,000 |
| 09/05/2025 | 63 Lawrence Street | \$410,000 |
| 09/05/2025 | 3 Governors Way #C | \$470,000 |
| 09/04/2025 | 1 Black Bear Circle | \$629,900 |
| 09/04/2025 | 58 Madden Avenue | \$599,900 |
| 08/29/2025 | 26 Sunset Drive | \$610,000 |
| 08/29/2025 | 33 Westbrook Street | \$505,000 |
| 08/29/2025 | 11 Grant Street | \$500,000 |
| 08/29/2025 | 4 Grace Street | \$475,000 |
| 08/28/2025 | 20 Lucia Drive | \$650,000 |
| 08/28/2025 | 7 Littlefield Road | \$720,000 |
| 08/26/2025 | 45 Whitewood Road | \$648,000 |

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



The 3-bed, 2-bath, 1,299-square-foot house at 11 Grant Street in Milford recently sold for \$500,000. Image credit www.zillow.com

Garden Club to hold Gala on Nov. 17

The 2025 Greenleaf Garden Club “Designs for the Holidays” Gala will be held on Monday, Nov. 17 at the Ruth Anne Bleakney Senior Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments and an opportunity to purchase tickets for the drawing of 50 theme baskets, crafts and certificates for local businesses.

This year’s Gala will feature Sara Vono-Caires creating tablescapes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Tickets are available from any Garden Club member or contact Nancy Wojick at nancynwojick@gmail.com. For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com or visit GreenleafGardenClub.org.

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Milford Public Schools receive grant to continue afterschool math tutoring at Middle School

\$32,000 grant will benefit 40 students at Stacy Middle School

The Milford Public Schools (MPS) has received a grant of \$32,619.38 from the Community Foundation for MetroWest to continue the After School Math Tutoring Club at Stacy Middle School for the 2025–2026 school year. This funding will support 40 students in grades 6–8, providing targeted, small-group math instruction outside regular school hours.

“This After School Math Tutoring programming allows a handful of our students to receive two on one tutoring for the majority of the school year,” stated Ms. Kerry Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for the Milford Public Schools, “It makes a huge difference in their mathematical confidence and achievement in the classroom. We are so thankful for the continued support from the Community Founda-



tion for MetroWest as they invest in our students.”

The grant also connects MPS with the Foundation’s network of partners, including SAGA Education, a nationally recognized leader in high-impact tutoring. Volunteer tutors trained through SAGA Connect, SAGA’s proven online tutoring platform, will work directly with students to help close learning gaps and build foundational math skills.

“Through our Equity in Education Action Project, we are committed to improving math achievement across the region,”

said Matt Jose, Director of Programs at Community Foundation for MetroWest. “The data clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of this virtual tutoring program, and we are excited to support its continued growth and impact.”

Now entering its third year, the After School Math Tutoring Club has received over \$100,000 in total funding from the Community Foundation for MetroWest. Its sustained success has made a measurable difference for students at Stacy Middle School.

Recent data collected by the District from the 2024–2025 school year shows that, on average, 6th graders in the tutoring program demonstrated a 110% growth rate, significantly higher than the 73% average growth observed among all other 6th graders in Milford.

“The After School Math Tutoring Club at Stacy Middle School has shown promising outcomes. We are proud to continue our partnership. It is inspiring to witness the progress, confidence and growth our students are building in math.

We are looking forward to supporting even more growth in the year ahead,” added Dr. Caridad Lopez, Principal of Stacy Middle School.

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

November 'Sleepout' to benefit emergency shelter

The Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter will hold a Sleepout on Friday, Nov. 7 to Sunday, Nov. 9 to raise awareness and help neighbors facing domestic violence,

family violence, and homelessness around the Blackstone Valley.

For more information, visit www.bvemergencyshester.org/event-details/bves-sleepout.

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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

Library Hours

The library is open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekday hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The library will be closed on Monday, Oct. 13 in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Friends Fall Book Sale

Please join us for the Fall 2025 Book Sale on Friday, Oct. 24 from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. (members only) and Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (general public).

The book sale offers a wide selection of books, DVDs, music, puzzles and games for all ages and reading tastes. Proceeds from the sales help fund library programs and events such as the Youth and Adult Summer Reading programs, concerts, hands-on activities, lectures, author visits, and other programs.

Adult books, puzzles, CDs and games are \$2 each, and all children's and young adult books are 50 cents each. Membership

to the Friends is \$15 annually and may be renewed at the door. Cash, check or Venmo (@friendsMTL) accepted.

English Classes

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

Las clases gratuitas sin cita previa para adultos que quieran aprender y mejorar su inglés comienzan el martes 14 de enero de 2025. Las clases para principiantes se llevan a cabo los martes y jueves por la noche de 7 a 8 p.m. Una clase intermedia se lleva a cabo los jueves de 5:30 a 6:30 p.m. Las clases se llevan a cabo en el nivel inferior de la biblioteca en el aula de ESL.

No es necesario registrarse. Para obtener más información, llame al mostrador de información al 508-473-2145 x 2.

As aulas presenciais gratuitas para adultos que desejam aprender e melhorar seu inglês começam na terça-feira, 14 de janeiro de 2025. As aulas para iniciantes são ministradas nas noites de terça e quinta, das 19h às 20h. Uma aula intermediária é ministrada às quintas-feiras, das 17h30 às 18h30. As aulas são ministradas no nível inferior da biblioteca, na sala de aula ESL. O registro não é necessário. Para obter mais informações, ligue para o balcão de informações em 508-473-2145 x 2.

Saturday: Tea & Book Tasting

On Saturdays in October, stop in to try some seasonal teas along with a selection of magical books. The tea tasting station will be set up across from the graphic novels.

Silent Book Club 10th Anniversary Global Readathon

We are hosting a special Satur-

day afternoon Silent Book Club and Book Swap in celebration of Silent Book Club's 10th Anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 11.

- 2 to 2:30 p.m. - Book Swap! Bring books to swap with fellow Silent Book Club readers. The limit is 10 books (in honor of the anniversary.)
- 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Settle in for an hour of relaxing, quiet, silent reading anywhere on the main floor of the library.
- 3:30 to 4 p.m. - Book Swap continues and this can be time to socialize and chat about your reading fun.

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

The October meeting of the Silent Book Club will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

- 7 to 7:30 p.m. – Come for some light refreshments and a chance to socialize (optional.)
- 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. – Settle into an hour of silent reading anywhere on the main floor of the library.

The Silent Book Club has nearly 2000 chapters operating in more than 60 countries! Milford's chapter began earlier this year. Be part of a movement that honors the role of reading. Questions? Call us at 508-473-2145 ext. 2 or email milfordreference@cwmar.org

Virtual Program: Poetic and Musical Genius of Taylor Swift

On Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m., Harvard professor Stephanie Burt will deliver a fascinat-

ing VIRTUAL presentation based on her brand-new book, *Taylor's Version: The Poetic and Musical Genius of Taylor Swift*.

Burt, who is a poet and literary scholar, will offer an insightful and heartfelt critical appreciation of Taylor Swift, her body of work, and the community that her art has fostered. Drawing from her 2024 Harvard course, Taylor Swift and Her World, as well as from her years as a Swiftie, Burt will examine Swift's particular form of genius – not the destructive genius of tortured poets, but the collaborative and joyful genius of an artist who has mastered her craft. Burt is the Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English at Harvard University.

To register for Zoom presentation, visit the library's events calendar, www.milfordtownlibrary.org.

This program is offered in partnership with the Tewksbury Public Library and other MA libraries.

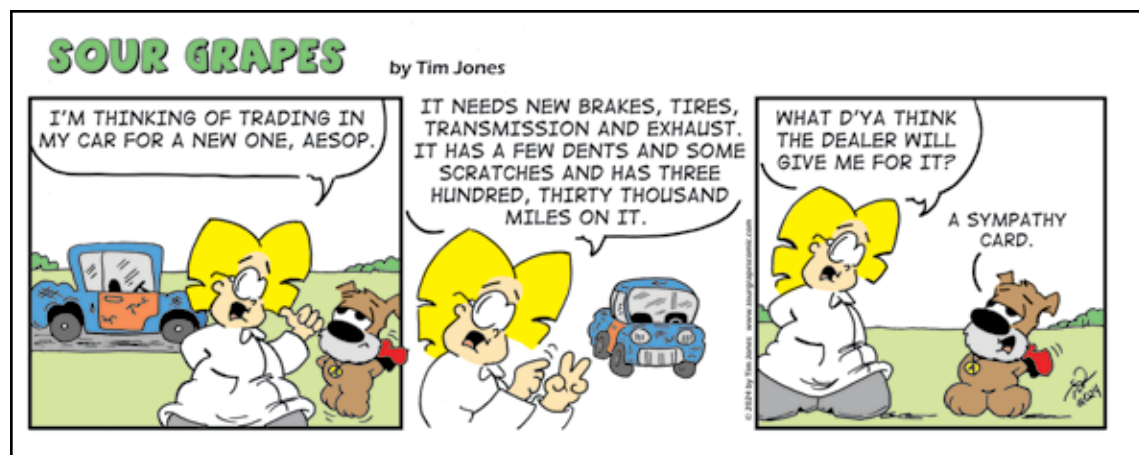
Center Book Group

The Center Book Group meets next on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

Author of more than 25 novels, including the bestsellers *The Nightingale*, *The Great Alone*, and *The Four Winds*, Hannah introduces readers to Frankie McGrath, a nurse who enlisted after her beloved brother is

LIBRARY

continued on page 13



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continued from page 12

killed in Vietnam.

Hannah uses her remarkable storytelling prowess to show not only the horrors of war, but also the bonds of friendship that sustain a person in dark times. The novel also examines the difficulties veterans and POWs encountered upon returning home, revealing the war never really ended in 1975.

To reserve a copy of *The Women* or to learn more about the Center Book Group, call 508-473-2145 ext. 2.

Author Talk & Signing: *The Remembering of Leather and Stone*

Join us at Memorial Hall on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. 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.

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 two centuries ago. They navigate their way in a new country, building lives of family, faith, and sacrifice.

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 event is co-sponsored by the Milford Historical Commission, The Milford Town Library and St. Mary's of the Assumption Church. Questions? Please call the Information Desk at

508-473-2145 ext. 2.

A Pleasant Pairing: Tea & Fine Chocolates

On Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 7 - 8 p.m., join Kim Larkin for a fun, educational talk highlighting the history and many health benefits of tea and dark chocolate (cacao)!

Kim will discuss how to brew a proper cuppa, how tea varieties differ, and the tenets of the Cha/Tea Ceremonies. You'll have a chance to sample tea infusions paired with fine chocolates and gain some insights from Kim's background as a commercial chocolatier. Test your knowledge with a trivia quiz, listen to some fun poetry, and learn about tea history with a teapot display!

As a former art teacher and commercial chocolatier, Kim has been teaching creative workshops for over 20 years, and her passion is sharing her experience with others. She is a NAHA (National Association of Holistic Aromatherapy) Certified Aromatherapist, practicing Usui Reiki Master, and is also certified by the Specialty Coffee Association in Coffee Foundations and is a lifelong Tea Aficionado. She believes healing teas and coffee are truly "aromatherapy in a cup"! Kim is the author of *It's Easy Being Queen (When You Know Your Worth)*, available on Amazon. Find out more about Kim on her website, KlasicKreations.com.

Space for this program is limited and registration through the library's events calendar is required. www.milfordtownlibrary.org

Insects 101: An Introduction to the World of Insects

and Why We Should Care

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 1 p.m. in the Granite Room for a program showing how insects benefit human life and ecosystems.

In this presentation, entomologist and science communicator Natalie Tessicini shows how insects benefit human life and ecosystems. Natalie, a native Milfordian who works for the Forestry Service, will share her love of these essential crawling, flying creatures that some dismiss as nuisances.

See specimens up close, ask questions, learn more and perhaps win a door prize! This program is suitable for all ages.

Lucky Day Bestsellers

We know how frustrating it can be to be on a waiting list for a book you're dying to read. Try your luck with our Lucky Day Bestsellers! Many of the most requested books will be available on a first come, first served basis for a 7-day loan with one renewal. Lucky Day titles cannot be reserved. Look for the Lucky Day titles on the endcaps at the beginning of the fiction stacks.

Mahjong at Milford Town Library

A Mahjong group meets twice a month at the Milford Town Library. This group welcomes players familiar to Mahjong to join for enjoyment of the game, not for high stakes competition! The group meets on select Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m. at the library in the Quarry Room. Fall meetings: Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 4 and Nov. 25.

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

Milford Area Wordsmiths

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

The group meets the first and third Monday of each month (except holidays) from 7 to 8:30



p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. Carol Allen, a first-time writer of children's books, lifelong bookworm, and recently retired middle-school teacher, serves as facilitator of the Milford Area Wordsmiths. For more information, please call 508-473-2145, option 2.

Ongoing:

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Community Puzzle Tables are always available in the adult services area. Help put a small part of the world in proper order!



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Milford Public Schools welcome three new Assistant Principals

New building leaders join Stacy Middle School, Brookside Elementary School, Memorial Elementary School

The Milford Public Schools (MPS) are very pleased to introduce three new building leaders to the community. Stacy Middle, Brookside Elementary, and Memorial Elementary each welcome a new Assistant Principal to support students, families, and teachers as the new school year begins.

At Stacy Middle School, Mr. Chris Kaulbflesch joins the administrative team, taking over for Interim Assistant Principal Ms. Dawn Craig. After serving in the Army, Mr. Kaulbflesch earned his associate's degree at Quincy College and his bachelor's degree from Lesley University. He then was a Special Education teacher for seven years, while earning a master's degree from UMass-Dartmouth. Mr. Kaulbflesch was an Assistant Principal at Holbrook Junior/Senior High School for two years before coming to Milford.

"I want to learn from the amazing administrative team at Stacy," said Mr. Kaulbflesch. "I want my students and families to know that I am here for them, and I will make sure their students are happy and enjoying their time at Stacy."

Brookside Elementary School also welcomes a new leader in the Main Office. Following the departure this summer of Dr. Nicola Ansdell, who took a leadership position closer to home, Ms. Rachel Ritchie will serve as



Leigh-Ann Evans, Assistant Principal at Memorial School, gives a hand to Memorial students during a reading lesson. Courtesy photo

Assistant Principal. Ms. Ritchie completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to Massachusetts and spending about a decade in Newton teaching second grade and fourth grade. Ms. Ritchie completed a second master's degree in educational leadership at Fitchburg State, and most recently served as an Assistant Principal at Hopkins Elementary School in Hopkinton.

Ms. Ritchie stated, "I'm excited to join a district that celebrates cultural diversity and recognizes the incredible strengths that students and families bring to our schools. What drew me to Milford is the strong sense of community and the way

the district honors multilingualism, identity, and connection. As a school leader, I strive to create a learning environment where every child feels they belong and has the support they need to thrive. I'm looking forward to partnering with Mrs. Houston and Brookside staff and families to build on the meaningful work already happening and continuing to grow together."

Finally, Ms. Leigh-Ann Evans takes over at Memorial School for Ms. Samantha Hinnant, who was named Principal in Plainville last spring. Ms. Evans graduated from UMass-Amherst with a degree in Psychology and UMass-Lowell with her master's degree in education. Ms. Evans served as a classroom teacher for



Chris Kaulbflesch, Assistant Principal at Stacy, supervises the Grade 6 lunch period. Courtesy photo



Rachel Ritchie, Assistant Principal at Brookside, assists students with ST Math on their Chromebooks. Courtesy photo

18 years, an academic tutor, and a curriculum assistant. Previous to joining the Memorial School community, she was a Vice Principal for a year and a mathematics instructional coach for two years within the Framingham Public Schools.

"It is important to me that we build a family-school relationship with open communication to ensure the success of all of our students," remarked Ms. Evans. "I feel strongly about advocating for what is best for students. This in turn inspires teachers and their ability to facilitate learning in the classroom. I consider it a privilege to be working alongside teachers and staff to support students'

educational journey with the Milford Public Schools District."

Dr. Craig Consigli, Superintendent of Schools, shared, "Strong building leadership is critical to the operations of our schools, and to the District as a whole. The Assistant Principal role is really a jack-of-all-trades; they do a little bit of everything to support our students, families, teachers, and existing building administrators. We are thrilled to welcome three talented and dedicated leaders to our team. We value the skills and perspectives that Chris, Rachel, and Leigh-Ann will add to our school communities."

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

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Milford Community School Use program: Fall update

This season, why not try something new? Here's a look at some of the most popular classes happening now.

Adult Programs: Wellness, Seminars, and Hobbies

This fall, Adult Fall Wellness Programs are at capacity with our ever-popular Stiff Man Yoga, Zumba, Circuit Fusion, Gentle Yoga Lap Swim, and SplashHit. Winter sessions will be available for registration at the end of October, so keep an eye out for that.

Coming in mid-October and November, watch for our free informational seminars on important topics to help you navigate major life decisions:

Home Buying: Learn everything you need to know about the exciting process of purchasing a home.

Estate Planning: Get the essential steps to protect your assets and ensure your wishes are met.

Financial Planning: This class will equip you with practical knowledge for smart financial management, from budgeting to investing.

Here are some of our other popular and new offerings:

CPR & First Aid Certification: Get certified with this life-saving course.

Mahjong: This tile-based game is a mix of skill, strategy, and socializing. Classes provide a welcoming environment for beginners to learn the rules and meet new people.

American Sign Language (ASL): Learning ASL is a valuable skill that also provides insight into Deaf culture and history, promoting empathy and understanding.

Pasta Making: Get hands-on with this delightful, sensory experience. Learn to make fresh pasta dough and shape it into classic forms like fettuccine or ravioli.

Charcuterie Boards: Elevate your hosting game by learning how to curate a stunning and balanced spread of cured meats, cheeses, fruits, and more.

Join Us for the Linda Zacchilli Memorial Pickleball Tournament!

Get ready to hit the courts for a great cause! Join us for the Linda Zacchilli Memorial Pick-

leball Tournament on Friday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This tournament celebrates the life of Linda Zacchilli, a true pioneer of the sport who was playing pickleball before it was cool. All proceeds from the event will be donated directly to the Linda Zacchilli Scholarship Fund, which supports local students in her honor.

We'll have divisions for different skill levels to ensure fair and fun play for everyone. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, you'll have a chance to compete, meet fellow pickleball enthusiasts, and support a meaningful cause.

Come out and dink for a difference! We look forward to seeing you there.

Exciting Youth Programs

We are also planning a fun-filled fall for our younger community members! Stay tuned for registration details on these engaging programs:

Babysitting 101 Course: A must-have course for aspiring babysitters to learn essential skills and safety tips.

Travel and Biddy Basketball: Perfect for young athletes looking to hit the court and compete. Our in-town "Biddy" basketball is all about fun and participation, teaching kids the basics of the game in a low-pressure setting. For those looking for more competition, our Travel Basketball program offers a higher-level, more competitive experience.

Pre-school Saturday Morning Programs with F.A.S.T. Athletics: Start the weekend off right with fun and engaging physical activities designed for our youngest participants.

Fall is a time for growth and connection. These programs offer more than just a new hobby; they provide a chance to learn, socialize, and enrich your life. For more information or to register, please visit the Milford Community School Use Program website.

We are always looking to expand our programs, so if you or someone you know has a hobby or skill you'd like to share, please contact our office at communityuse@milfordma.com or call 508-478-1119 to discuss offering a program with us.

For questions, you can also call the office or email the Director at chrisburns@milfordma.com. We can't wait to see you this fall!

Adult Classes:

Learn American Sign Language: Tuesdays, Oct. 7 to Dec. 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Boat America class: Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CPR & First Aid Certification: Wed. Oct. 15 or Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Learn to Play Mahjongg: Wednesdays, Nov. 5 to Dec. 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Homebuying 101 (free): Wednesday, Oct. 22, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Estate Planning (free): Wednesday, Oct. 29, 6 to 9 p.m.

Financial Planning (free): Wednesday, Oct. 16, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Charcuterie Board Design: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Learn to Make Pasta: Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

SplashHit Classes: Mon/Wed evenings, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. OR Tues/Thurs mornings, 6 to 6:45 a.m.

Lap Swim: M/W/F mornings, 5:45 to 7:15 a.m. or Tues/Thurs evenings (fall only), 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Children's Classes:

Kids' Test Kitchen: Oct. 15 to

Nov. 19, 4 to 5 p.m.

Basketball Drills & Skills: pre-k to grade 1, Saturdays Nov. 8 to Dec. 13, 10 a.m. (Pre-K) or 11 a.m. (K-1)

Pumpkin Paint Night: Friday, Oct. 24, 5 to 8 p.m.

Woodland Kindness Club: Fridays, Oct. 10 to Nov. 7, 7:45 to 8:25 a.m., at Woodland Elementary

KNO-Kid's Night Out: November TBD

Biddy Basketball: For details, contact communityuse@milfordma.com

Milford Travel Basketball Tryouts: Oct. 18 and Oct. 19. For details, contact communityuse@milfordma.com



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Milford High School art program awarded \$5,000 grant

Milford High School is proud to share that the Mass Cultural Council has awarded Ms. Anne Snyder, Art Teacher, a \$5,000 grant in support of courses offered at Milford High School in jewelry making and metalsmithing. This is the second grant in the past year that Ms. Snyder has been awarded in support of growing and expanding these course offerings.

Milford High School offers a jewelry and small metalsmithing course for high school students, providing hands-on workshops in soldering, casting, stone setting, and metal fabrication. Designed for students of all skill levels, the course blends technical training with creative exploration while also introducing design history, cultural context, and material science. Enrichment opportunities may include field trips to studios, galleries, or museums, as well as guest lectures from industry professionals.

Grant funding generously provided by the Mass Cultural Council will directly support the purchase of essential tools,



Milford High School students work on their creations in their Jewelry Making and Wearable Art course. Courtesy photo

materials, and equipment for the course. No fees will be collected from participants, ensuring full access for all students. By eliminating financial barriers, the program provides equitable opportunities for students to engage in the creative, technical,

and professional practices of jewelry and metalsmithing.

Ms. Anne Snyder, Art & Design Teacher at Milford High School, stated, "The program is designed to be very inclusive. Instruction will be available in multiple formats, including visual

demonstrations, written guides, and captioned videos. Tools and workspaces will be adapted for accessibility. Flexible pacing, peer support, and one-on-one assistance will ensure that all students can actively participate, regardless of ability."

Serving approximately 115 students in grades 9-12, the course will build craftsmanship, creativity, and confidence while fostering problem-solving, collaboration, and social-emotional skills. Students will learn how jewelry and metalsmithing connect to related fields such as design, engineering, and the trades, gaining valuable exposure to career pathways.

"Milford High School students have a wide range of interests," said Mr. Josh Otlin, Principal of Milford High School. "We are proud to be able to offer students an opportunity to explore these interests while learning valuable skills that allow them to showcase their incredible creativity. Not many high schools in the area offer this type of programming.

We are grateful to the Mass Cultural Council and their support for art education."

The course will culminate in a final exhibition where students showcase their original jewelry and metal artworks, with the option to sell their pieces.

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

More about the Mass Cultural Council: The Mass Cultural Council advances the Commonwealth's creative and cultural sector by celebrating traditions and talents, championing its collective needs, and equitably investing public resources. The Council pursues this mission through a wide range of grants, initiatives, and advocacy for artists, communities, and organizations. Mass Cultural Council receives an annual appropriation from the state Legislature and funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and others. In turn, Mass Cultural Council makes thousands of grants directly to cultural organizations, schools, communities, and individual artists, through funding programs that use arts, science, and the humanities to build strong, diverse, livable communities. The beneficiaries of these programs comprise a cross-section of the population and citizens in each Massachusetts city and town.

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Milford Public Schools Update

Important Dates:

- Oct. 16 - Stacy Fright Night - Grades 6 & 7
- Oct. 17 - Stacy Fright Night - Grade 8
- Oct. 25 - Brookside Monster Mash
- Oct. 28 - Multilingual Parent Advisory Council Meeting - 7 p.m.
- Oct. 29 - Woodland Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 30 - Homecoming Football Game - vs. Franklin - 6 p.m.
- Nov. 11 - No School - Veterans' Day

District News:

Our Family Resource Center (FRC) is open and available (189 Main Street) to help families with changes to their contact information. Please share with your child's school any changes to:

- Your address
- Phone number(s)
- Emergency contact(s)
- Email addresses

The Milford Public Schools would like to thank Imperial Cars and the Cram-the-Van program. They dropped off hundreds of backpacks and boxes of school supplies. We can't thank Mr. Mike Penner and his team from Imperial Cars enough for their generosity.

We'd also like to thank our friends at NRIVA for dropping off a hundred backpacks stuffed with school supplies. We are incredibly grateful to Mr. Bharad Vajrapu and his community support organization for their donation.

Woodland Elementary School:

Woodland School and the MPS would like to express our appreciation to Burlington Stores and Adopt-a-Classroom for their generous donation of \$5,000 for school supplies. This donation will help provide materials in Art, Music, Science, Social Studies, Literacy, Math, and Physical Education classes at Woodland. Thank you!

The Woodland counseling staff launched their first series of S.E.L. (Social Emotional Learning) lessons with each classroom. The first lesson focused on belonging and establishing relationships. Thank you to Ms. Albondi, Ms. D'Attilio, Ms. Dolan, and Ms. Polimeno for developing and leading these lessons. This is also a wonderful way for students to become familiar and comfortable with our counseling staff. This is the first in a series of six lessons to be delivered throughout the year with the fol-

lowing goals:

- Helping students feel positive about attending school each day, and
- Supporting students in managing their emotions in an age appropriate manner.

Woodland Elementary School received notification that it has been designated a "2024-2025 Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion School." This designation signifies that Woodland is dedicated to "embracing diversity, promoting equity, and empowering students to be change advocates." This is a great honor for the Woodland community!

Shining Star Early Childhood Center:

Shining Star would like to shine a Staff Spotlight on some of their staff members:

- *Ms. Michelle Costa.* Ms. Costa was nominated because she is an invaluable help and resource to our school community. She is not only kind and supportive to our families, but also an outstanding colleague. She always has a warm smile on her face and is willing to go the extra mile to support others. Whether it's helping a student, assisting a parent, or being a team player with staff,

Ms. Costa consistently shows dedication, positivity, and compassion. We truly appreciate her and feel incredibly lucky to work alongside her every day.

- *Ms. Denise Martelli.* Ms. Martelli was nominated because she is truly a Shining Star team player. She is eager to help and support her colleagues whenever she can. She goes the extra mile for our students and makes their day at school a great one. We appreciate Ms. Martelli!
- *Ms. Lisa Pinette.* Not only is Ms. Pinette amazing with our students with her sweet nature, she is also one of the kindest people. She is always there to listen and has a special way of making everyone feel welcome. We are so lucky



to have Ms. Pinette at Shining Star!

- *Ms. Caitlyn Verdura.* Ms. Verdura is the epitome of what it means to be a pre-school teacher. Her patience, warmth, compassion and wonderful sense of humor, creates a classroom where her students feel at home, safe and loved. The children adore Ms. Verdura and so do the staff that work alongside her.

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PROJECT: Proposed Wholesale Building
LOCATION: East Main Street, Milford
PROPONENT: RTE 85 Realty Corp.

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before October 15, 2025

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA," M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:
 Timothy Hayes, Bohler
 thayes@bohlereng.com
 (617) 849-8040

Electronic copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Milford.
 The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, receive public comments on the project, and then decide if an Environmental Impact Report is required. A site visit and/or remote consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit and/or remote consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov or the MEPA analyst listed in the Environmental Monitor. Requests for language translation or other accommodations should be directed to the same email address. Mail correspondence should be directed to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By Timothy Hayes (Proponent)

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SPORTS

Small but mighty dedicated MHS field hockey

Scarlet Hawks working hard with only 11 full-time players

By Chris Villani

There are 11 full-time players on the Milford High varsity field hockey team, and a field hockey lineup needs to have 11 players out on the field. But the lack of depth has not dampened the spirit of this year's squad, said head coach Jenna Casello.

"It's not new to us, we have never had a large number of girls on the team, but this year we are trying to work more on agility training," Casello said. "I would say that we are working hard to improve each and every time and make the changes we need to make on the field."

Casello noted that the Scarlet Hawks do sometimes surrender goals later on in quarters or after an unsuccessful break, situations where fatigue can come into play.

Milford has seen several players put together standout seasons, including goalie Kylie Merrill whom Casello called a

"game changer."

"She is constantly being complimented by other coaches and the referees in our league, they shower her with compliments and I do the same," the coach said of the senior. "She is truly amazing. She has worked so hard the past couple of years and stepped up in a big way."

Another strength for MHS has been the middle of the field. Senior Bella Willard is strong on the defensive side of the field. Nadia Palombo has done well playing with a pair of less-experienced wings, Casello said. Palombo is also one of the Milford captains, along with Merrill and fellow senior Kayleigh Morin, a leader on the forward line. Laraine Veo has been a standout in the transition game, and Casello praised her as one of the team's stronger passers.

"The center corps has been really great for us to move the



The MHS field hockey team has kept its spirits up while battling a tough schedule with a small roster. Courtesy photo

ball up the field," Casello said.

Milford has two sophomores who have played well this year,

including Iyanna Correa, who has been a goal-scorer, and Jady DeTore, who has made big plays on defense. Casello is hopeful that a strong Milford-Hopedale youth program will serve as a feeder for the high school team in years to come. In the meantime, the small Milford roster is staying positive and looking to finish the

season strong.

"Our biggest goal is to communicate in a positive way and not let the girls get down on themselves, but take the positives from each and every game and work them into our practices," Casello said. "Capitalizing on opportunities is going to be really, really big for us the rest of the season."

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SPORTS

MHS Golf builds strong foundation

Scarlet Hawks boast strong mix of veterans, young talent

By Chris Villani

The win-loss record has not been what Milford High golf head coach Jay Potty would have hoped for at the beginning of the season, but the Scarlet Hawks are both competitive right now and showing promise for the future with a talented group of freshmen.

“We have played well, but we have been nipped by a shot or a couple of shots in some matches,” Potty said. “They have kept their heads up high, and they have been battling.”

One of the most impressive aspects of this year’s MHS team is its skill on the road. Potty said some of the team’s best performances have come away from the Hopedale Country Club, where Milford enjoys a home course advantage.

“I have been doing this for over 20 years and this team might be the best road team I have ever had,” he said. “They just seem to go out there and play better. We have had some of our best matches on the road and played some good golf on some hard golf courses. We just haven’t taken care of business as much at home as we would like.”

Upperclassmen Ricky Nashawaty, Eli Johnson, and Aidan Eastman are three of Milford’s steadiest players this fall. Potty said all three routinely average in the low 40s for a nine-hole round. Lucas Richard has also improved throughout the season and has been playing some of his best golf down the stretch, Potty said.

Freshmen Hank Richards and Ben Richard are two of MHS’ emerging talents.



Aidan Eastman (swinging) is one of Milford golf’s leaders this fall. Courtesy photo



Ricky Nashawaty poses with fellow senior Jack Anderson. Courtesy photo



Aidan Eastman (hat) and fellow senior captain Eli Johnson are two of Milford’s most consistent golfers. Courtesy photo

“They have been excellent all season long,” Potty said. “They have played in every match, and they are a nice, welcome sight for the future.”

Domenic Martinelli is another freshman who earned significant playing time this year, and figures to be more of a factor over the final handful of matches. Milford also has seven freshmen on the junior varsity team.

“Our future is looking bright, with a lot of young guys coming up,” Potty said.

Milford secured just a single victory through the first 10 matches of the season, but Potty said his team is focused on finishing the year strong in addition to building for the years to come.

“We want to continue to play hard and stay positive on the

golf course, just shot-by-shot,” he said. “Our guys focus on

their next shot, their next hole, just one thing at a time. If we

keep battling, we know the wins will come.”

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| <p>2022 FORD EDGE SEL</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$92/WK</p> <p>#P18138 • 2.0L TURBO, SUNROOF</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$40,395 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$25,977</p> | <p>2023 VW JETTA 1.5T SE</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$68/WK</p> <p>#D14951L • HEATED LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,550 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$18,977</p> | <p>2021 LINCOLN CORSAIR</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$96/WK</p> <p>#P18001 • SUNROOF, LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$46,645 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$26,977</p> | <p>2022 FORD BRONCO 4x4</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$170/WK</p> <p>#C18031 • TURBO, BIG BEND, NAV</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$54,995 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$47,977</p> | <p>2022 SUBARU OUTBACK</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$85/WK</p> <p>#D15211 • AWD, HEATED SEATS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,695 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977</p> | <p>2025 MERCEDES GLA 250 SUV</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$145/WK</p> <p>#TP5839 • 2.0L TURBO, LEATHER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$50,800 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$40,977</p> | <p>2024 HYUNDAI SONATA</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$85/WK</p> <p>#TP5397 • 25/36 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$28,686 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$23,977</p> |
| <p>2024 CHEVY COLORADO</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$138/WK</p> <p>#47843 • LT TRIM, 4X4, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$44,290 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$38,977</p> | <p>2024 HONDA CIVIC SPORT</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$96/WK</p> <p>#D15237 • 30/37 MPG CITY/HWY</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$34,190 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$26,377</p> | <p>2022 BUICK ENCORE AWD</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$81/WK</p> <p>#P18035A • GX PREFERRED, 1.3L</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$32,225 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p> | <p>2022 MAZDA CX-5 2.5 S</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$81/WK</p> <p>#P17904 • AWD, ALLOYS, SPOILER</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$29,895 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$22,977</p> | <p>2024 BMW X1 xDrive28i</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$124/WK</p> <p>#TP5673 • AWD, TWIN TURBO, NAV</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$51,595 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$34,977</p> | <p>2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$127/WK</p> <p>#TP6030 • 4X4, 3.6L V6, ALLOYS</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,710 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$35,977</p> | <p>2022 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER</p> <p>AS LOW AS \$124/WK</p> <p>#TP5646 • XLE TRIM, ALLOYS, CPO</p> <p>NEW RETAIL PRICE: \$45,775 WHOLESALE PRICE: \$34,977</p> |

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