

localtownpages Hopedale

Vol. 12 No. 8

Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

December 1, 2025

Giuliana Spavento wins Town Park Logo Contest

By THERESA KNAPP

Over the summer, the Town Administrator's Office and Bancroft Memorial Library teamed up to host the Hopedale Town Park Logo Contest, and the winning artwork was celebrated at the park's groundbreaking in October.

Hopedale artists aged 6–14 were encouraged to let their creativity shine as they designed their own logo to celebrate the new Town Park and the community that makes Hopedale special.

In total, 30 entries were received, and the winning artist was Giuliana Spavento, age 12.



Giuliana Spavento, age 12, submitted the winning entry (top) in the Hopedale Town Park logo contest. Her work was digitized (bottom) and made into a banner which was featured at the park's groundbreaking in October.

WINNER

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On Top of the World! Girls Volleyball captures State Championship

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Gary Patch inherited the Hopedale volleyball team this past season and quickly took the team to the top of the mountain. The furthest the Blue Raiders had ever made it in the Division 5 state Tournament was the semi-finals three years ago. This year, Hopedale won all five of its games to capture the State Championship by defeating its opponents 15 matches to 2 posting three shutouts including the final against Smith Vocational.

Although the Blue Raiders were able to bring their

first ever State Volleyball Championship home to Hopedale, Patch believes it was not his doing but that of the girls.

"Being my first year, I didn't want to set any real high expectations, instead we would have team goals that we could meet throughout the year. I definitely didn't think that we'd be looking to win a championship," the coach said. "A lot of this was on the kids themselves. I have been a coach for a long time, and I threw a lot of

CHAMPIONSHIP

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"Have a Rice Day" Mural, Artist: OG Slick

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WINNER

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“Each entry captured the spirit and charm of everyday life, with artwork that reflects the warmth, connection and sense of belonging that define the Town of Hopedale,” said Bancroft Memorial Library Director Keely Bethel-Penny. “I was so impressed with all of the entries and the amount of effort and creativity the kids put in – truly outstanding artwork by everyone!”

Giuliana’s seal depicted children playing on slides and swings, in a sandbox, surrounded by green grass, blue skies, white clouds, and a large tree and sun. Flowers and a dog round out the design. In the center is a large Hopedale “H” and Est. 1901 (the year the park was established). Her logo was digitized and a large banner was printed.



Giuliana and friends celebrated the Hopedale Town Park logo contest with a pizza party. Giuliana’s banner is hanging behind the group. Courtesy photo



All submissions are displayed on the Town Memory Board at the Library where community members are invited to stop by and admire the artwork. Courtesy photo

“I was so impressed with all of the entries and the amount of effort and creativity the kids put in – truly outstanding artwork by everyone!”

Keely Bethel-Penny, Director
Bancroft Memorial Library



Bancroft Memorial Library Trustee Frederick G. Oldfield, III, presented a certificate to Giuliana Spavento for her winning entry. Courtesy photo

Bethel-Penny explained, “Her original picture was run through a computer program for digitization to enhance clarity and resolution for printing purposes. Small changes did occur during digitization, so we were sure to get Giuliana’s approval on the final product.”

The winning logo was showcased at the Hopedale Town

Park’s groundbreaking on Oct. 4, after which she enjoyed a pizza party with friends at the Library, generously sponsored by the Ruscitti Family.

All submissions are now proudly displayed on the Town Memory Board at the Library where community members are invited to stop by and admire the artwork.

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Free Christmas Brass Concert Dec. 19

The Birch Alley Brass Ensemble will present a concert at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. The brass ensemble, directed by Wil-

liam Moffett, is made up of 35 student and professional musicians from area towns including Uxbridge, Upton, Hopedale, Mendon, North-

bridge and Milford. This concert will feature Christmas music from around the world and is free and open to the public. This will be the 14th

annual performance. The concert is funded in part by the Milford, Hopedale, and Uxbridge Cultural Councils.

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Hopedale Girls Volleyball won the MIAA State Championship on Nov. 15, 2025. Courtesy photo

CHAMPIONSHIP

continued from page 1

new stuff at them, making them accountable for the changes in both the offensive and defensive systems.”

Hopedale began the season with a loss to Notre Dame Academy in Worcester, a team that would eventually go 19-1. Despite the opening night loss, the Blue Raiders were not intimidated and would beat Nipmuc and Whitinsville both times, for the first time in a while. The girls then knew the possibilities that sat in front of them for the remainder of the season.

Not long after, the first power rankings were released and Hopedale found themselves ranked number one due to their strength of schedule opponents. At that moment, the team’s confidence grew and luckily, not having a deep roster, they continued the season without any injuries and finished with a 14-6 regular season record.

Senior captains Olivia Barroso, the team’s setter, and libero Josalyn Moyer helped the first-year Hopedale coach achieve the ultimate goal. According to Patch, the two seniors played a big part in keeping the rest of the team positive while helping to adapt to the culture change that he brought to the program.

Another senior who played an enormous part in achieving the school’s first-ever volleyball state title was Phoebe Carroll. The senior was very instrumental in being competitive with the stronger teams that

Hopedale had to face. Offensively, she was the team’s most efficient player and led the team in kills. Mia Casey, a senior outside hitter, also provided some big plays to help the Blue Raiders climb the elusive mountain.

While Patch was the guiding force behind the Blue Raiders first Stat Championship, he just wanted to go through the season with an opportunity to become better.

“I’ve been doing this for so long that there was no pressure on me this year,” he said. “I just wanted the girls to progressively get better, that was our plan, while eventually making the tournament.”

Having obtained something that had eluded the team in the past, it may be very difficult to repeat next year since, the majority of this season, the coach ran with five seniors and one junior on the court.

“Next year is going to be a complete rebuild,” Patch said. “One good thing is that being a small school Hopedale can start training 7th and 8th graders in the program so that by the time they touch the ball for the first time as freshmen, they are ready to go. The experience of learning the game at practice, as well as getting to see it firsthand during games, will have them fully ready to take to the courts.”

Patch is also hoping the success the program had this year entices girls to come out for the team in the future. They have already had an elementary school clinic where 24 girls signed up – according to the coach that is a good sign for the future of volleyball at Hopedale.

Hearts, Hugs & Hope: An Alzheimer’s Support Group at Cornerstone at Milford

December 9, 2025, 6:00 pm at Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch Street, Milford. This group for caregivers meets in person. Dealing with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia isn’t easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal experiences with others who completely understand what you’re going through.

You will also learn about proven strategies to help you better care for your family member. Call 508-473-0035 to RSVP or contact Director of Compass Programming Jenn Hozempa at jhozempa@cornerstonemilford.com for more information. This group meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

Hopedale father-daughter duo to perform in The Nutcracker

Performances in Milford on Dec. 13-14

The Greater Milford Ballet’s will hold its production of “The Nutcracker” on Dec. 13 and Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Milford High School.

Hopedale’s Lorelei Lefever, and her father Jason Lefever, are characters at the Silberhaus holiday gathering. Lorelei has a lead role of Soldier Doll and is also a Lady in Waiting, and in Angel, Marzipan and Flower Corps. Jason is a Party Guest.

Katherine Vigly and Joe Lynch from Ballet RI are the featured professionals in the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. The rest of the cast are from Hopedale, Blackstone, Bellingham, Grafton, Milford, Mendon, Millville, Webster, Wrentham, Uxbridge, and Cumberland, RI.

The performance will feature an exciting 47-member cast of characters, colorful costumes

and dazzling choreography. This production is local, easily accessible, and affordable.

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Hopedale Skellies

Here are a few of the entries in this year’s “Show Us Your Skellies” campaign by the Friends of Historic Hopedale. These skeletons, and several others, haunted Hopedale streets throughout the month of October. Many more photos can be found on Facebook @FriendsofHistoricHopedale.

Source: Facebook @FriendsofHistoricHopedale





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BCL Home Services – Leo is Ready to Tackle your Winter “To-Do” List

Homeowners have all been there - looking at an ever-growing list of things to complete around the house in the Winter months and being utterly overwhelmed by it. Winter is a great time to tackle those interior paint projects, sticky doors, cabinet door adjustments, or any other task that’s been put off repeatedly, people often don’t have the time, expertise or motivation to get things done when they are busy with other responsibilities.

That’s when you call Leo. Leo Doran is no stranger to great customer service. Having owned six Massachusetts Gymnastics Center (MGC) locations providing services to thousands of young gymnasts and their families over the years, he strongly believes that responsiveness, clear communication, and a positive attitude are pivotal when it comes to working with clients. Providing a high level of support is second nature to him and has made him highly successful in his ventures. Though he is now ready to move on from the gymnastics world, he isn’t ready to turn in the proverbial towel and retire either.

With a dad who was a firefighter and painter, Leo spent time on his summer breaks in high school and college to help with painting, and it’s something that he found he was really great at. It started within him a life-long passion for making spaces even more functional and beautiful.

“I recently did most of the work to upgrade our entire kitchen here in Hopedale, knocking down walls, putting in new counters, cabinets, fixtures, flooring and windows. Investing in remodeling and home improvement projects greatly increases the equity of any home,” shares Leo.

In fact, when Leo’s parents moved into an assisted living facility from the home they built nearly 30 years ago in Harwich, he and his wife bought the house and Leo jumped right in to improve and renovate it.

“The home needed quite a bit of work, and I did most of those projects myself. The truth is, I really do enjoy all of it – it’s fun for me. So, when it came to thinking of what the next step in my career journey would be, I decided to apply my business and

Business spotlight

customer service background, get my handyman license, and start BCL Home Services – where I can actively work and do something I am truly enthusiastic about.”

BCL stands for *Better Call Leo*, so clients can rest assured that he is going to stand behind his name.

“People need dependable workers who are going to do what they say they are going to do. Integrity is lost a lot of the time with these kinds of things, with people not showing up or doing shoddy work. I am going to be there when I say I’ll be there and do the job right, whatever the task – because I care about providing a level of service that goes above and beyond expectations.” “In the past 8 months, I have already helped a number of people around town with various projects and their reviews have led to many other word of mouth projects.”



Leo provides a variety of services including, but not limited to painting, small repairs, furniture assembly, fixture installation, fence and gate repair, power washing, drywall repair, light carpentry, babyproofing, and other odd jobs. His attention to detail and dedication to providing quality results shines through in everything he does, ensuring that

every task is done with care and expertise.

BCL Home Services is based in Hopedale but provides services to all of the surrounding communities. To reach out to Leo for a work assessment and quote, call 508-922-8422 or email BCLLD063@gmail.com.

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Hopedale Senior Center

The Senior Center will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Dec. 24 to Dec. 26. They will also be closed on Dec. 31.

Mondays

- 9 a.m. Free Panera
- 9 a.m. Bridge
- 10 a.m. Low impact exercise
- 12 p.m. Mah Jongg
- 12:30 p.m. BINGO
- Dec. 15 only: 12 p.m. BINGO Lunch Holiday Party

Tuesdays

- 12:30 p.m. Mah-Jongg
- 12:30 p.m. Bridge
- 3:30 p.m. Dance

Wednesdays

- 10 a.m. Low impact exercise
- 11 a.m. Meditation

- 12:30 p.m. Literature
- 12:30 p.m. Cribbage
- 12:30 p.m. Line dancing
- Dec. 17 only: 9:30 a.m. Nurse Clinic
- **Closed 12/24,12/31

Thursdays

- 9 a.m. Walking group
- 10 a.m. Watercolor class
- 1 p.m. Tai Chi
- **Closed 12/25

Fridays (closes at noon)

- 10 a.m. Low impact exercise
- 12 p.m. Senior Center closes
- **Closed 12/26

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Hopedale Public Safety Log

Arrests, neighbor dispute, trash complaint

Between Oct 15 and Nov. 14, the Hopedale Police and Fire Departments responded to hundreds of calls, many related to motor vehicle stops, vehicle accidents/crashes, traffic complaints, preventative patrolling, community policing, well-being checks, theft/larceny/forgery/fraud, burglar alarms, abandoned 911 calls, lost/found property, property watches, animal complaints, road hazards, LTC/FIC (license to carry/firearms identification card) matters, suspicious persons/activity, warrant/summons service, court appearances, safety details, school resource officer to various schools, responded to requests for public assistance, general information, and record requests.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Entries of note include:

Oct. 15 at 12:04 a.m., Bath House, suspicious activity

Oct. 17 at 8:23 a.m., Warfield St., wires down

Oct. 18 at 10:06 a.m., Inman St., disturbance

Oct. 18 at 4:01 p.m., Dutcher St., animal complaint

Oct. 18 at 4:34 p.m., Mendon St., disturbance

Oct. 21 at 5:23 p.m., Hopedale St., suspicious activity

Oct. 22 at 4:54 p.m., Nelson St., well-being check

Oct. 23 at 3:03 p.m., Adin St., erratic operator

Oct. 23 at 8:40 p.m., Progress St., theft/larceny/forgery/fraud

Oct. 24 at 8:30 a.m., Overdale Pkwy, private investigator information

Oct. 24 at 12:33 p.m., Ballou Rd., well-being check

Oct. 24 at 11:57 p.m., South Main St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 23-year-old Milford male was arrested on a warrant from another jurisdiction.

Oct. 25 at 8:11 p.m., Jones Rd., animal complaint

Oct. 26 at 12:43 a.m., Mendon St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 51-year-old Holliston male was arrested on a warrant from another jurisdiction

Oct. 26 at 4:35 p.m., Depot St., trash complaint

Oct. 27 at 4:34 p.m., Greene St., neighbor dispute

Oct. 31 at 11:45 a.m., Plain St., warrant service

Oct. 31 at 12:42 p.m., Hopedale St., prisoner transport

Nov. 4 at 8:09 a.m., Oak St., unattended death

Nov. 7 at 11:45 p.m., Mendon St., arrest. A 24-year-old Hopedale Male was arrested and charged with OUI liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, possessing open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Nov. 10 at 1:44 p.m., Freedom St., summons service

Nov. 11 at 10:25 p.m., Dutcher St., harassing phone calls

Nov. 12 at 4:05 p.m., Jr/Sr High School, trespassing/unwanted person

Nov. 13 at 12:41 a.m., Mendon St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 26-year-old Worcester male was arrested and charged with unregistered motor vehicle, no inspection sticker, motor vehicle equipment violation; he also had an outstanding warrant from another jurisdiction

Nov. 13 at 11:44 a.m., HPD, car seat installation

Nov. 14 at 1:19 p.m., HPD, trespassing/unwanted person

Nov. 14 at 2:50 p.m., Progress St., past breaking and entering

Source: Hopedale Police Department

Winter Stroll and Shop Hop on Dec. 6

The 14th Annual Hopedale Winter Stroll and Shop Hop will be held on Sat., Dec. 6.



The stroll takes place at many stops along Hopedale Street and Dutcher Street, including many historic buildings such as the Draper Gym, Hopedale Community House, Bancroft Memorial Library, Hopedale Unitarian Church, Union Evangelical Church, and the Little Red Shop Museum.

Grab a drink from the mobile Irish pub and a meal from one of our food trucks or Hopedale restaurants, and then shop multiple vendor locations that will showcase work from local vintage vendors, hand makers, artisans, food

vendors and mobile shops. Many businesses across Hopedale will take part in the Stroll and Shop Hop with special offers for customers. Hop on the shuttle bus and visit them!

All of this will end in the long standing and popular town tradition of the tree lighting and Santa visit at the Hopedale Community House.

For more information, visit <https://friendsofhistorichopedale.com/winter-stroll>

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SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones



Your Money, Your Independence

Slow Down, Show Up and Spend Ahead



Glenn Brown, CFP

My work focuses on financial planning and aligning priorities, but the season upon us is also a reminder to pause, reflect, and reduce stress. December can feel like a sprint between holiday preparations, kids stressed over exams and shows, travel plans, shopping, and year-end deadlines, it's easy to get overwhelmed.

Consider focusing on three simple actions: slow down, show up, and spend ahead. Small steps that help you stay grounded and intentional amid the season's demands.

1. Slow Down: Protect a Few Quiet Moments

In a world that rarely pauses, now is a good time to tap the brakes:

Block "no-plan" time. Take a day away from work or schedule a low-pressure activity, like a walk on a rail trail in the winter air, grabbing coffee and browsing local shops, or finally enjoying a hobby you've been putting off. Unscheduled space lets everyone reset.

Put phones away for an evening. Board games, walks to see holiday lights, or uninterrupted conversation often do more for connection than any planned outing. Families who pick one evening a week to unplug together often create the best memories of the month.

Say "no" without guilt. Skip traditions or gatherings where being there feels more like an obligation than an opportunity to share joy. Focus on the experiences and events you'll remember and talk about in 10 years. Plan next-day commitments thoughtfully so you can fully enjoy the evening. There's nothing worse than being distracted or leaving early because "I have to do ____ tomorrow," when it could be handled earlier or later. Thoughtful "no's" free up space and make your "yes" moments richer.

2. Show Up: For Your People, Your Community, and Yourself

Presence is often the best gift, and showing up can take many forms:

Support school and community events. Attend concerts, games, or fundraisers, even when they feel small or routine. Kids notice which events adults treat as important. Your presence often matters more than a perfectly wrapped gift.

Choose local when possible. Small purchases at neighborhood shops or restaurants make a difference and keep spending aligned with your values.

Reach out intentionally. A quick note of appreciation or a short call to a teacher, coach, colleague, or friend can leave a lasting impact. Small gestures often create bigger memories than elaborate gifts.

Show up for yourself. December is also a time to reflect on the year. Take 30–60 minutes to review and journal your accomplishments from the past year.

3. Spend Ahead: Raise Cash and Mark Your Calendars

Planning ahead prevents stress later:

Set aside cash now. Travel, home renovations, summer rentals, or other big-ticket aspirational items happening in 2026? Don't wait until "when the time comes" or, worse, reacting to market changes. Allocating funds now reduces stress, supports budgeting, and ensures trips are booked, contracts signed, and projects scheduled.

Mark key dates. Add school breaks, work deadlines, travel plans, and major milestones to your calendar. Early planning creates a roadmap for the year ahead, helps avoid last-minute stress, and ensures everyone in the household is aligned.

These steps reduce stress and give you confidence in completing your aspirational goals next year. These actions make the year ahead feel more manageable and intentional.

Closing Thoughts

By slowing down, showing up, and spending ahead, you can finish the year grounded, organized, and connected to what matters most.

If you'd like help balancing your money, priorities, and peace of mind, talk with your Certified Financial Planner.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

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

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Christmas Candlelight Service

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Pet of the month: Meet Daisy

Winter is just around the corner but you could bring a little bit of spring home by adopting Daisy(2)! Like a breath of fresh air, Daisy is ready to greet you each day with her sunny disposition.

Daisy is a pleasingly plump grey tabby with mischievous green eyes. As soon as you enter the room, Daisy rubs against your legs and rolls over for a belly rub. She really hopes you are there to see her, but she totally understands if you have other things to do and will go in search of some exciting toys to entertain herself.

Daisy doesn't seem interested in interacting with other cats, so she might do best as the only pet in her new home. But don't worry, this ray of sunshine will fill your home with all the warmth of a spring day!



For information on meeting Daisy(2), or the other cats at the Milford Humane Society, please visit <https://www.milfordhumane.org/>





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Bancroft Memorial Library

Library News

The Library will be open from 10am-2pm on Wednesday, December 24th and will be closed Thursday, December 25th for Christmas. The Library will also be open from 10am-2pm on Wednesday, December 31st and closed on Thursday, January 1st.

Santa's Porch Drop Off Location

The Bancroft Memorial Library is a drop off location for Santa's Porch! Donations of new, unwrapped gifts are being accepted through Wednesday, December 17th.

Giving Tree

We invite our generous patrons to donate handmade knitted items (hats, mittens, scarves, etc.) that will be given to the Daily Bread Food Pantry in Milford. Donations are being accepted through Wednesday, December 17th.

Hopedale Winter Stroll & Shop Hop – Saturday, December 6th from 10am-4pm

The Library will be open from 10am-4pm as part of the 2025 Friends of Historic Hopedale's Winter Stroll & Shop Hop. There will be crafts for all ages from 10am-3:00pm and hot cocoa beginning at 12:00pm. The Friends of the Hopedale Library invite you to hear the sounds of the season starting at 1:00pm with the local acapella group Holiday Harmony Quartet. This free event will take place in the upstairs Reading Room. To register, please sign up online on the Library's Event Calendar, at the Circulation Desk, or call 508-634-2209.

Cribbage Tournaments

We are excited to partner with Blackstone Valley Libraries to host Cribbage Tournaments! Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, this event is open to players of all levels. Enjoy an evening of strategy, fun, and great company! Registration is mandatory; please contact the hosting Library directly to sign up. The next tournament is at Shrewsbury Public Library, Wednesday, December 3rd 5:30-7:30pm

Helen Symonds Book Group – Wednesday, December 3rd at 1:00pm

The group will be discussing *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach.

Community Conversations – Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm

Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about "Setting a National Standard: How to Get Everyone on board for the Common Good." This meeting can be attended via Zoom; please email kbethel-penny@cwmar.org to request the link.

Get help with Jenna – Tuesday, December 16th from 11:00am-1:00pm

Need help with applications or accessing support services? Jenna, a Community Health Worker with the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health, is here to help! She works closely with the Hopedale Board of Health and has a Master's degree from Nichols College, along with extensive experience in healthcare and human services. Whether you need assistance with applications for MassHealth, WIC, Fuel Assistance, or Medicare – or you're looking for support with past-due bills or navigating life's challenges – Jenna can provide guidance. Schedule a FREE 30-minute appointment with Jenna through the Library's Calendar of Events on the website, or call the Library at (508) 634-2209.

Maker Monday – Monday, December 15th at 6:00pm

This month the adult crafting workshop is making a facial scrub with sugar! Registration is required using your library card. Please register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events or call the Library at (508) 634-2209.

Drop in Cribbage – Fridays 12/12, 12/19 & 12/26 at 1:30pm

Join us every Friday in the Program Room where we offer a relaxed, come-when-you-can atmosphere to enjoy friendly games with players of all levels.

News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library:

The next Friends of the Hopedale Library Meeting is Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30pm in the downstairs Program Room.

Holiday Harmony Quartet – Saturday, December 6th at 1:00pm

Come hear the sounds of the season on Saturday, December

6th at 1:00pm with the local acapella group Holiday Harmony Quartet. This free event will take place in the upstairs Reading Room. To register, please sign up through the Library's Calendar of Events on the website, or call the Library at (508) 634-2209.

Shop Our Ongoing Book Sale During the Hopedale Winter Stroll!

Be sure to stop by the Ongoing Book Sale area and Program Room during the Winter Stroll on December 6th from 10:00am-3:00pm. We will have a special selection of gift-giving quality holiday books and puzzles. Prices start at just 50¢.

Celebrate a piece of Hopedale history!

Be sure to purchase a limited-edition Bancroft Memorial Library handcrafted glass ornament, created in honor of the Library's 125th Anniversary! Beautifully designed and made in Massachusetts, each ornament captures the timeless charm of this beloved landmark and makes a perfect keepsake or holiday gift. Priced at \$15.00, these ornaments come packaged in a gift box. A select number will even be available gift wrapped for your convenience during the Hopedale Winter Stroll & Shop Hop, a wonderful opportunity to shop local, support the Library, and take home a sparkling reminder of our community's heritage.

About the Friends of the Library

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

News from the Marjorie Hattersley Children's Room:

Tummy Time Play – Tuesdays 12/2, 12/9, 12/16 & 12/23 at 10:00am, ages 0-18 months

Join us for some infant fun in a safe environment! Along with

a story there will be fun, developmentally appropriate toys that encourage gross motor development. Drop in!

Toddler Tunes – Thursdays 12/4, 12/11 & 12/18 at 10:00am, ages 18 mos– 3 years

This program is perfect for energetic toddlers! Along with a story, we will work on gross motor skills and play with balls, a parachute, instruments, bean bags, scarves and more. Drop in!

Builder Saturday – Saturday, December 13th from 10:00am-1:00pm

If you love Legos, we've got thousands to play with! Use our Legos to create a masterpiece that we can put on display for all to see. Drop in and all ages welcome!

Movie Matinee – Saturday, December 20th from 11:00am-1:00pm

Join us for a movie at the Library! Bring some snacks, a cozy blanket, get comfy and enjoy a family friendly flick!

Volunteer Saturdays for High School Students – Saturday, December 27th 11:00am-1:00pm

Each month there will be an opportunity for high school

students to earn 2 hours of volunteer time from 11am - 1pm. Registration is required. Please register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events or call the Library at (508) 634-2209. We will provide all necessary supplies, you just bring your energy and motivation.

B.A.S.H. (Bancroft After School Hangout)

B.A.S.H. is a drop-in program for children in grades 4–6. It runs weekly from 2:30pm to 4:00pm Monday through Thursday. Students can walk to the Library from the elementary school and play video and board games, use library laptops or get creative with arts and crafts. This program offers a fun and safe way for kids to socialize after school in a positive environment. Children must be able to contact a parent, guardian, or caregiver in case of emergency and are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior while in the Library.

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

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Sixth graders read original poems at veterans ceremony

Hopedale’s Council on Aging hosted a poignant Veterans Day program at the Hopedale Community House on Thurs., Nov. 6.

Six members of the Memorial Elementary School’s 6th grade class were invited to share their original poems during the program. The Junior Senior High School’s A Capella Chorus, led by Mr. Christopher Chatham, performed as did Hopedale’s Senior Chorus.

State Representative Brian Murray expressed words of thanks and appreciation as did Mr. Thomas Beder, veteran of the United States Marine Corps. The program was a touching tribute to our local veterans, including those citizens of Hopedale who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

“Untitled”

By ELLY TE

Silence talks louder than words,
And in your hand you can hold
A poppy not shimmering gold,
But a flower to give the deserved,

We have this day
To remember the way
We honor all those people
Even with uniforms
That started to fray.

You risked your like
Just for us
To live a good life
And now we will hush.

Anyone who goes against
The brave
For we will defeat
And they will behave.

“Veteran’s Day”

By ADELINE OLEKSYK

A day of love
A day of life
A day of remembering
Those in the fight.

A day of thanks
Tangled and tied.
Written and wrapped
For people who tried.

A day of veterans
One by one
Who marched straight down
Clutching their guns.

And even if
Some were lost in the fight,
We will embrace them
Every day and night.

This is why we still stand
From the grassy hills to the wavy sand.
This is why we’ll never forget
To always honor our beloved vets.

“Giving Thanks”

By CHARLOTTE McDONNELL

Thank you for supporting our country
Thank you for fighting for us
Thank you for always being there when we need it
Thank you for staying loyal to us
Thank you for never giving up
Thank you for being brave for us
Thank you for helping solve some of our problems
Thank you for dedicating your lives to us
Thank you for paving a path for us
Thank you for the sacrifice you made
And finally being here today!



Hopedale Junior Senior High School’s a capella chorus, led by Mr. Christopher Chatham, performed at the Nov. 6 Veterans Day program at the Hopedale Community House on Nov. 6. Source: Hopedale Public Schools

“The Past is Gone”

By MARLEY KAYE

The past is gone, hip hip hooray and we give thanks to those who saved the day.
The past is gone, but we celebrate on this very day of Veterans Day.
The past is gone, but we still remember the ones who died for our freedom.
The past is gone, but we still give honor to family or friends who passed.
The past is gone, but we still give our gratitude to the ones who made it out.
The past is gone, but the ones who live hate the sound of pain from so long ago.
The past is gone, but the memories will never ever disappear from the mind.
The past is gone, hip hip hooray and we give thanks to those who saved the day.

“Veterans Day”

By RILEY CRONIN

Dear Veteran, we just want to say
We think of you on this special day.
You went far away so we could stay
Safe and free every day.
Because of you, our flag can still fly,
Across our land, beneath the sky.
Because of you, we get to be
Kids who live brave and free.
You marched through the heat
You stood tall on your feet.
You fought through the rain
You had courage and faced the pain.
Today we honor all you gave.
The strong, the best, and the brave.
Thank you, Veteran, for all you’ve done.
In our hearts, you’re always number one.

“Veterans Day”

By JUJU CARNEIRO

On Veterans Day, we honor and remember those who served
And remember their hard work.
On Veterans Day, we show our appreciation
We show this because of their dedication.
On Veterans Day we admire their work
And cherish the lives this job has took.
November 11th, 2025, we gather here today
To celebrate the ones with flags over their graves.
This day is not just for anyone.
It is for the ones who are watching above.
So thank you to the ones who are still here.
We greatly appreciate the work from these fellow peers.
We appreciate the ones who are here today
And especially the ones where the ground is where they lay.
So thank you all for joining us today
And happy Veterans Day.



Memorial Elementary School sixth grade students read their original poems at a Veterans Day program held on Nov. 6. (L to R) Adeline Oleksyk, Juju Carneiro, Marley Kaye, Hopedale Public Schools Superintendent Karen Crebase, Charlotte McDonnell, Riley Cronin, Elly Te. Source: Hopedale Public Schools

Joshua Gould wins private after-hours birthday party

Prize was part of the library's summer auction

On Nov. 15, Bancroft Memorial Library hosted a Mario Kart-themed 12th birthday party for Joshua Gould, who won the private after-hours event as part of the Friends of the Hopedale Library's summer online auction.

Joshua's party included video games, a lively round of Jeopardy, pizza, cupcakes, candy, and 12 enthusiastic kids who filled the library with nonstop energy and laughter.

Bancroft Memorial Library Keely Bethel-Penny said, "It was a fantastic event and a wonderful way to see the library come to life after hours. We are deeply grateful to the Friends of the Hopedale Library for their ongoing support and for providing funding for equipment, materials, and programs beyond the library's regular operating budget. Their efforts, along with the dedication of their town-wide membership, make special events like this possible."

Submitted by Bancroft Memorial Library



Winter parking ban now in effect

Hopedale's winter parking ban is now in effect through April 1.

The ban prohibits overnight on-street parking between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m., and also when the

Highway Department must treat and or plow the roads.

Vehicles left on the street during these hours will be subject to fines.

Source: www.hopedale-ma.gov



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Living Healthy

EVO ICL: Is this the New Lasik?

By: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, LASIK became the crown jewel of refractive surgery. Patients rushed to correct their vision, thrilled by the idea of being free from glasses and contacts. Over time, however, some of LASIK’s limitations became clearer: cutting and thinning of the cornea, potential for worsened dry-eye symptoms, night-vision issues, and concerns about corneal stability — especially in thinner corneas — as well as challenges in achieving precise intraocular lens calculations if cataract surgery is needed later in life.

A new technology has since emerged in the United States — the EVO Visian ICL (often simply called “EVO ICL”) — and its adoption has grown rapidly since FDA approval in 2022. Designed for adults with mod-

erate to high myopia, with or without astigmatism, EVO ICL offers a compelling alternative to LASIK.

What makes EVO ICL different — and increasingly preferable?

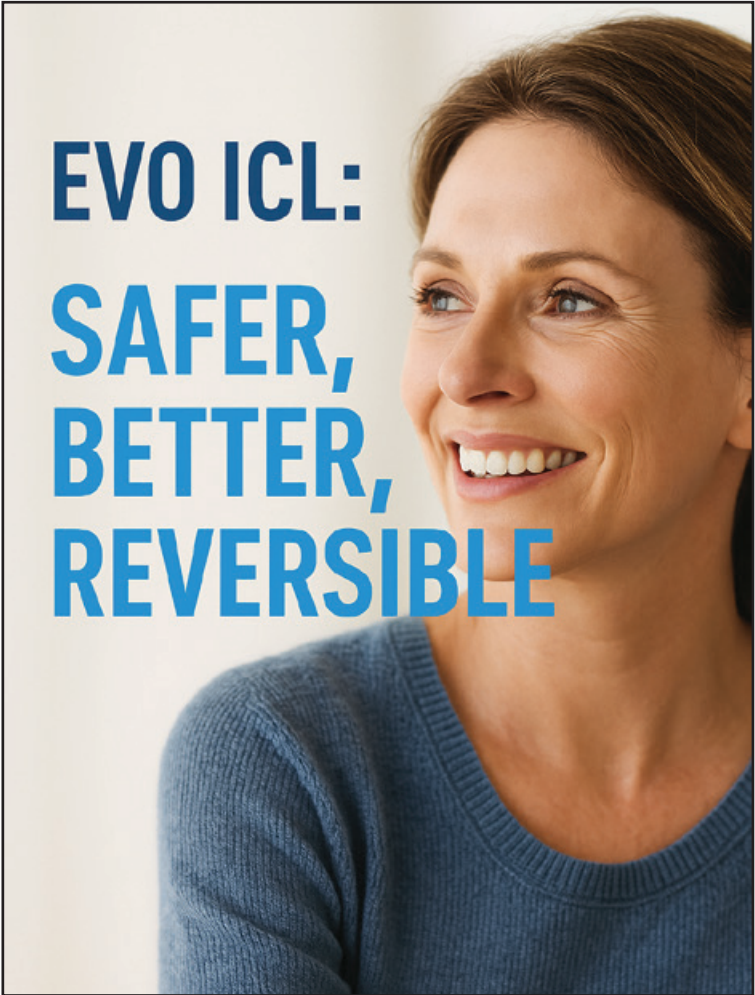
Unlike LASIK, EVO ICL does not remove or thin the cornea. The lens is placed behind the iris and in front of the natural crystalline lens, leaving the corneal architecture untouched. There is no flap creation, no tissue removal, and no weakening of the cornea.

Because the cornea remains intact, the risk of corneal ectasia — a rare but serious complication associated with LASIK — is virtually eliminated in properly screened patients. EVO ICL also tends to minimize dry-eye symptoms, since the corneal nerves are not disrupted as they are during laser-based procedures.

Night-vision problems such as glare or halos, often reported after LASIK, are less common with EVO ICL. Because the eye’s optical system remains more natural and unaltered, patients frequently report crisp, high-quality vision even in dim light.

Another major advantage is that EVO ICL is reversible and additive rather than subtractive. The lens can be removed or replaced if needed, preserving the eye’s natural anatomy. This feature becomes especially important later in life when cataract surgery may be needed. Since the cornea is untouched, calculations for premium intraocular lenses — such as multifocal implants that restore both distance and near vision — remain highly accurate.

Across the country, surgeons are reporting rapid growth in EVO ICL procedures since its



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approval. More patients are asking for it, more practices are offering it, and the procedure has quickly become a mainstream choice for vision correction.

Clinically, LASIK remains an excellent option for patients with mild to moderate myopia, healthy corneal thickness, and no significant dry-eye history. But for patients with thinner corneas, higher prescriptions, greater astigmatism, or those thinking ahead to future cataract surgery, EVO ICL is quickly becoming the preferred option. Many surgeons are now offering it even for mild myopia because of its safety, comfort, and strong outcomes.

In short, LASIK may now represent the past for many patients and practices, while EVO ICL stands as the future of refractive correction. Both have their place, but the shift is unmistakable: more people are choosing EVO ICL for its safety, reversibility, comfort, and compatibility with future vision care.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we are proud to be at

the forefront of this evolution. Dr. Roger Kaldawy is among the first surgeons in the region to offer EVO ICL technology in our state-of-the-art surgery center. With over 30,000 intraocular procedures — and an even higher number of laser cases — Dr. Kaldawy brings unparalleled experience to this advanced form of refractive surgery. He and his colleagues are committed to helping you achieve your vision goals: reducing your dependence on glasses and contacts while protecting your long-term eye health.

If you’re ready to explore true refractive freedom — and considering a meaningful gift of sight this holiday season — contact us for a consultation and discover why EVO ICL may be the procedure of tomorrow, available today.

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Sports

Hopedale Hockey looking to get past first round

By Christopher Tremblay
Staff Sports Writer

The Hopedale boys' ice hockey team is one that is made up of all-star players, and also players who have the potential to be. The Blue Raiders may not have that one superstar, but they do have a bunch of hard-working athletes who are looking to get the best out of their abilities on the ice.

After grabbing a number 31 seed in last year's Division 3 State Tournament, Hopedale took out Somerville 3-0 in the first round and then lost to Shawsheen Valley Tech 3-1 in its next game. Coach Mike MacQuarrie is hoping that, despite graduating some talented seniors, the Blue Raiders can get back into the tournament and get past the second round.

"It is a little bit of a rebuilding year where we are looking for the kids to step up and fill in the vacant roles," the coach said. "As it always is, we are looking to qualify for the tournament, win a game and go from there. It may be a lofty goal, but we have done it in each year that I've been here, and I want to keep that going."

Being that the team already plays a tough schedule against a lot of teams that end up in the playoffs, things are going to get a lot tougher this winter as the MIAA has been shifting schools around and putting them into new leagues.

"With the redistricting, we are going to see a lot of new



Griffin Paquette began his career on the defense and was moved up to a forward position last year. Courtesy photo

teams – so I am not sure what is going to happen once the season gets underway," MacQuarrie said. "Usually, by the time that we get to the tournament we have already played many teams that are over our weight class. This year, we will hook up with Taunton, a team we haven't seen in three or four years, and two new unknown teams in Greenfield and Westfield, to name a few."

Junior Noah Smith and senior Griffin Paquette are going to be looked upon to be the defensive stalwarts in front of the net. As a sophomore last year, Smith, a very athletic individual, got a ton of minutes on the ice and with that experience MacQuarrie is hoping that he can take the next step and lead the team in the defensive zone.

Paquette, who began his career on the defense, had to be



Ricky Nashawaty is Hopedale Hockey's senior captain, has great vision on the ice. Courtesy photo

moved up to a forward position last year to help stabilize the team's lack of offensive players. This year, the coach is going to be relying on Smith and Paquette, one of whom will most likely be on the ice at all times.

Another individual on defense will be Vance Garvin who does the little things on the ice. Hopedale will also have a handful of freshmen, whom MacQuarrie has not seen much of

them playing the position on the varsity level, trying out for the squad. One of them will eventually become the Blue Raiders fourth d-man.

Ricky Nashawaty, the team's senior captain, will be a key piece in the playmaking aspect of the game as he has great vision on the ice. Josh Balzarini is most likely the team's best goal scorer and, along with Nashawaty, will be looked upon to lead the Blue Raiders on the offensive side of the ice. Mike McGrath, a hard-nosed player, will also be looked upon to put the puck in the back of the net while stepping up his game.

Between the pipes, Hopedale has two goalkeepers with neither having seen all that much varsity action in the past. Brandon Mills was last year's third string goalie with the varsity who only got into one game. The other keeper is freshman Hunter Lendre, who had dressed as an eighth grader last year to see what the varsity experience was like. As an eighth grader, he was ineligible to play and MacQuarrie doesn't believe that he'll see a lot of minutes this year with the varsity squad.

"We are going to rely on Brandon, who saw a lot of junior varsity action last year and played pretty good on that level," the coach said. "He has been working his butt off while attending a lot of goaltending clinics. He is foaming at the mouth to play and show what he can do."

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Sports

Sports Bonus

A coach profile: Assistant Varsity Coach Tom Hammann

By KEN HAMWEY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Tom Hammann is an assistant varsity coach in basketball at Hopedale High during the winter and he pivots quickly in the spring, taking on the role as a varsity assistant for Millis High's baseball team.

The 60-year-old Hammann, who excelled in both of those sports at Bellingham High in the early 1980s, takes no money for coaching — no salary, no stipend. He's strictly a volunteer and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Hammann isn't unique but he sure is a rare breed. He's approaching his 16th year as an unpaid Hopedale assistant to varsity coach Tony Cordani, and last spring he assisted Millis coach Jack Nally for the first time. It was Nally's first head-coaching post and Hammann just wanted to help a friend.

Often asked why he works for free, the personable Hammann cited two reasons.

"I do receive something back," he emphasized. "I get lots of joy seeing kids succeed in sports, or in the classroom and in daily-life situations."

Hammann also likes seeing the two programs use money that he would get to buy what's needed to meet expenses — like uniforms, equipment, or busing costs. "It's kind of like winning a 50-50 raffle at a football game," Hammann added. "You win but you give the money back to the program."

However, Millis Athletic Director Derek Phinney insisted Hammann accept money. Hammann reluctantly accepted but hopes to return next spring for no pay.

His volunteer work is a labor of love and Hammann definitely qualifies as Bellingham's gift to Hopedale basketball. The Blue Raiders ended their season in March 2020 by sharing the Division 4 State title with Abington after the MIAA canceled all playoff finals because of the coronavirus. That co-championship was Hopedale's first in the program's history.

"Last year, we had a chance to capture a second State crown but we lost to Pioneer Valley Regional," Hammann said. "We won three tourney games but couldn't win in the final. That season was a thrill because of the journey. We beat some good teams."

A fan favorite, Hammann is liked by the players and respected highly by Cordani. "Tom is a great guy who's developed excellent relationships with the players," Cordani said. "He's helped us so often and his knowledge of the game is a huge asset."

Hammann's savvy and his keen ability to relate to players, whether starters or reserves, make him a valuable asset and obviously a key piece in the Blue Raiders continual success.

"My role is to be supportive, especially for the kids who don't get much playing time," Hammann said. "I try to emphasize the value of teamwork and when I'm asked for advice, I'm happy to give it."

The players relate well to Hammann, obviously because he's easy-going, talks softly, and knows how to build confidence.

Hammann doesn't sit near Cordani or jayvee coach Josh Euglow during games. He sits at the opposite end of the bench. "I don't want too many cooks in the kitchen," he emphasized. "There's no reason to have three coaches talking to the kids. Every year, one of the players is designated to sit next to me for every game. We talk about the game in progress, about strategy and even things that aren't game-related."

Hammann's high school days

During his playing days, Hammann was the spark that ignited a championship basketball team during Bellingham's 1982-83 season. The 5-foot-9, 160-pound point guard guided the Blackhawks in stylish fashion, always getting the ball into the right hands at the right time. Hammann kept the engine purring, the link to the squad's top shooters — Cliff Lander and



Tom Hammann is always willing to help Hopedale High basketball players improve their skills. Courtesy photo

Roger Canestrari Jr.

The results were magnificent — a 17-3 record and the TVL title. At one point, the Blackhawks were 15-0. Hammann averaged 12 points and eight assists that season. Lander starred at center, Canestrari was a phenomenal off-guard, and Mike Reed and Pat Tannen were quality players at forward. Kevin Winship often got lengthy stretches of playing time off the bench.

"I was proud to be one of the captains," Hammann said. "We were a classic run-and-gun team. Everyone knew their role and no one complained about how many points they got or didn't get. I took the quarterback reins gladly when [coach] Jim Bonollo handed me control."

Hammann had some super efforts for the Blackhawks. The Holliston game was one he recalls fondly. "We were playing in a packed house in Holliston," he noted. "It was a close game and Canestrari fouled out. They kept fouling me late in the fourth quarter. I went to the free-throw line and sank 12 straight shots to give us a one-point win. I was intent to stay calm and never thought about missing any of

them. I ended with 22 points and 12 assists."

When Bellingham opened the tourney against Oliver Ames, it won easily — by 28. Hammann finished with 15 points and 10 assists. The season ended in a loss to Rockland.

Also a star in baseball, Hammann played second base for three seasons, hitting .400 as a sophomore and finishing with a career .340 batting average. "Our teams were .500," he said. "My top thrill came as a sophomore against Holliston. I got a winning RBI-single off all-star hurler Rich Glickman in a 3-2 victory."

After high school

After graduation, Hammann went to Dean College for two years, playing basketball and baseball. A second baseman, he excelled, hitting .300 for two seasons. In basketball, he played guard in a reserve role. After getting his associate degree, he enrolled at UMass-Dartmouth where he majored in history.

In 1994, Hammann started his own construction company — Hammer's Roofing Co. In 2008, he was hired in Hopedale as the facilities manager for the

town's three schools. He retired from that post in 2020.

"When I played sports, my philosophy was to work hard and learn from every practice," he said. "When you work hard, good things usually happen."

These days

Bellingham will host the Barry Hutchinson Memorial Basketball Tournament later this month and Hammann always enjoys returning with the Hopedale squad. "It's always nice to be back, coaching against my alma mater," he said. "I've known TJ Chiappone [Bellingham's hoop coach] for 30 years."

The father of five children, Hammann firmly believes it's better to give than to receive.

Two months ago, in October, he was volunteering out of season. He helped Cordani run a youth basketball camp at Hopedale Elementary School. "We worked for four Sundays, from 5 to 8 pm, with three different grade levels," Hammann noted. "It was fun instructing kids from grades 1-8."

Tom Hammann's giving nature isn't unique and his caring style truly is a big plus in this day and age.

More than 100 people attend first-ever Craft Swap

Next event planned for spring

On Nov. 10, more than 100 people attended the Friends of the Hopedale Library first-ever Craft Swap at Bancroft Memorial Library, marking an exciting new addition to the library’s community programming.

The swap lasted three hours and people were lined up before the event started.

Among the crowd were art teachers and a local fashion designer whose presence added an extra layer of enthusiasm and expertise to the day.

In preparation for the event, residents generously contributed a remarkable variety of materials such as yarn, fabric, paper, ribbon, beads and even paper towel rolls.



A variety of craft supplies were available at Bancroft Memorial Library’s first-ever Craft Swap in November. Due to its success, another event is being planned for the spring.



The Program Room at Bancroft Memorial Library was filled with craft supplies, and people, during the library’s Craft Swap on Nov. 10. Courtesy photo

Participants browsed the tables, exchanged materials, shared ideas, and enjoyed conversations about their projects and interests. By the end of the event, nearly all supplies were

gone. Organizers say the turnout and positive feedback were so strong that many attendees immediately asked when the next swap would be held, prompting plans for another event in the spring of 2026.

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*Product availability varies by market and minimum order values may apply. A shipping fee of \$20.99 is applied to US orders; additional fees may apply for same-day delivery.

Real Estate Corner

Recent Home Sales

Date	Hopedale	Amount
11/13/2025	57 Hill St.	\$333,000
10/29/2025	19 Oak St.	\$350,000
10/29/2025	17 Harmony Trl.	\$900,000
10/29/2025	11-13 Malquinn Dr.	\$680,000
10/28/2025	112 Greene St.	\$392,500
10/23/2025	100 Freedom St.	\$365,000
10/23/2025	164 Greene St.	\$570,000

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



The 4-bed, 3-bath, 4,002-square-foot house at 17 Harmony Trail in Hopedale recently sold for \$900,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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