

localtownpages Hopedale

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

January 1, 2026

Hopedale firefighter Cote recognized during state's 36th Annual Firefighter of the Year awards

Hopedale firefighter Jeff Cote, who is also an instructor at the state's Fire Academy, was recently recognized for his role in a medical emergency on campus in January 2025. He was presented with the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award on Nov. 25 during the state's 36th Annual Firefighter of the Year awards ceremony.

The Massachusetts Fire-fighting Academy serves about 13,000 firefighters at every level of experience each year. The Recruit Training Program is its largest and most complex program, delivered at three regional campuses across the state and providing foundational lessons



Hopedale firefighter and Fire Academy instructor Jeff Cote, third from left, was recently awarded the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award. Photo source: Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

FIREFIGHTER
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Police chief to retire Feb. 2027

By THERESA KNAPP

Hopedale Police Chief Mark Giovanella, who has served in the Hopedale Police Department for 33 years, will retire in 2027.

In a letter dated Dec. 1 to Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti, Chief Giovanella said, "This decision was not made lightly, but I believe the time is right to step aside and allow new leadership to continue building on the strong foundation we have established."

His resignation will be effective Feb. 1, 2027.

The Select Board accepted the resignation/retirement at its meeting on Dec. 8. At that meeting, Rus-

citti said Chief Giovanella has a clause in his contract that says he must provide written notification of his retirement a year in advance. Ruscitti said that ample notice "gives the town time to conduct a search process, hire his replacement, and train his replacement in time for the Chief's retirement in approximately a year."

"Obviously we're going to miss him very much," said Select Board member Glenda Hazard.

"It's been an interesting tenure for him as a police chief," said Select Board

RETIRE

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FIREFIGHTER

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that every new firefighter must master. The instructors who deliver this training, and the Crib staff who support it, have years and even decades as working firefighters. There’s no substitute for that level of knowledge and experience.

At the event, State Fire Marshal Jon Davine explained the incident.

“The Academy’s Stow campus was busy last year on the morning of Jan. 29, 2025.

“It was Training Day 23 and Burn Day 2 for members of Class #328. At about 10 a.m., just after the first burn of the day, one of the recruits appeared to be in distress. In the

span of just a few moments, he lost consciousness and went into cardiac arrest.

“Fortunately, the on-duty instructors and support staff immediately sprang into action. They quickly took his vitals and applied oxygen, a defibrillator, and CPR while calling 9-1-1. They got the recruit’s pulse back, got him breathing on his own, and he was conscious and alert when he was transported – with an instructor riding next to him in the ambulance. I’m very happy to report that he made a full recovery.

“Medical emergencies are part and parcel of a firefighter’s day-to-day work, but let’s be honest – a crisis like this is different when the patient is someone entrusted to your care.



Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Cote shown here in November posing with students at Bright Beginnings after reading "Pete the Cat" and practicing Stop/Drop/Cover & Roll with the children. Source: Facebook @ hopedalefire

Fortunately, as active duty and retired firefighters, they demonstrated the mental clarity and technical skill necessary for the

urgent work at hand. I’ll say it again – there’s no substitute for that level of knowledge and experience.

Each and every one of these personnel played a key role in the chain of care that saved this recruit’s life. I am deeply grateful to them for their rapid, professional, and ultimately life-saving work that morning. They represent the highest traditions of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, and it’s my honor to present them with the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal’s Award.”

Cote was one of 19 staff members to receive the award.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

Author to discuss DUPED, based on Gardner Museum art heist

The Friends of the Hopedale Library will welcome author Bob Ainsworth for an engaging evening on Wed., Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Program Room at Bancroft Memorial Library.

Ainsworth is the author of DUPED, a compelling semi-fictional account inspired by the still-unsolved 1990 art heist at

Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. During his presentation, Ainsworth will revisit the known facts of the theft, explore the leading suspects and possible motives, and discuss why it remains the most valuable art theft in history. He will also share his own personal connection to the infamous crime.

Before turning to writing, Ainsworth built a distinguished career as a CFO, Controller, and accounting instructor. He uncovered several embezzlement schemes in his career and it was his students’ enthusiasm for his real-world fraud stories that sparked the idea for his Harry Bartlett mystery series.

He began writing his first story while commuting and continued after retirement.

Registration is required as seating is limited. Please register online via the Library’s website under Calendar of Events, or call the Library at (508) 634-2209 for assistance.

Community members, BBC unite to enhance students’ learning

Building a strong sense of global citizenship begins right here in our own backyard, and the students at Bright Beginnings Center received a first-hand lesson from some of Hopedale’s most valuable community helpers. BBC welcomed several local figures as part of

their social studies curriculum, which focuses on understanding what it means to be part of a community. The visits provided a link between the concepts the students are learning in the classroom and the real-world connection to Hopedale.

The special guests who dedi-

cated their time to the students included Hopedale Firefighter Jeff Cote, School Resource Officer Steve Mahan, and BBC Principal Kristen Poisson. Each helper spent time reading to the students, which not only supported early literacy but also created a warm, personal connection. They then discussed their respective roles, explaining

in age-appropriate terms how their work contributes to the safety, stability, and education of Hopedale. These visits highlight the close collaboration between our schools and the wider community.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

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RETIRE

continued from page 1

member Bernie Stock. “He’s just one very special human being and we’re very, very fortunate that we’ve had him as a police chief.”

Select Board Chair Scott Savage thanked the Chief for his service. “I’ve really enjoyed my interactions with him. I think the amazing staff and police officers he has shows what level of commitment he has to Hopedale and to his officers.”



Hopedale Police Chief Mark Giovanella will retire in Feb. 2027.
Image source: Facebook @hopedalepolicedept

Transforming Potential into Purpose at Dean College

In the heart of Franklin, Dean College has been shaping futures for more than 160 years. Stroll across its compact, tree-lined campus and you’ll see students headed to class, rehearsing in the theatre, or on their way to internships that put their classroom learning into action. For many, this is where raw potential is transformed into confidence, skill, and purpose.

“Every student walks onto Dean’s campus with unique strengths and aspirations,” says Dr. Scott Sibley, Provost. “Our role is to meet them where they are, challenge them, and guide them toward becoming confident, capable professionals.”

That philosophy is woven into every aspect of the Dean experience. With just 1,200 full-time undergraduates, small class sizes make it easy for faculty to know students by name. Advisors tailor an academic plan to each individual’s goals, while required internships ensure every graduate has a meaningful real-world

experience. Partnerships with organizations like Kraft Sports + Entertainment and the Franklin Performing Arts Company connect students directly to industry networks.

The results speak for themselves, with 96 percent of graduates employed or in graduate school within one year of earning their degree.

For recent graduate, Bree Gazeille ’24, that attention made all the difference. “Thanks to the incredible support from Dean, I’ve surpassed my academic expectations and achieved more than I thought possible,” she says. “Their guidance paved the way for two incredible internships, a job in my desired field post-graduation, and acceptance into grad school.”

In a higher education landscape often defined by large lecture halls and anonymous crowds, Dean offers something refreshingly different with a close-knit community dedicated to helping students achieve their full poten-

tial. That kind of outcome is no accident. Alongside academic expertise, Dean students leave with the skills employers value most, including communication, collaboration, leadership, global awareness, and problem-solving. These abilities are practiced and refined through both coursework and campus life.

Performing Arts alumna, Gabrielle Fernandes credits Dean with giving her more than technical training. “Dean has been an integral part of my professional success,” she says. “Through Dean, I have been able to grow my network by meeting and connecting with other alumni, which has led to jobs and bookings. Dean’s tight-knit community really is a family.”

For a growing number of students, Dean offers something rare in higher education: a place where talent is nurtured, ambition is matched with opportunity, and futures are built one experience at a time.

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Visit dean.edu/summeratdean to learn more and register for Dean’s 2026 Summer Programs.

Clear the Clutter and Start Fresh This New Year

Make the most of the busy new year season—give yourself the gift of space with help from Affordable Junk Removal. “Life is hectic, we are all so busy in our daily lives that we don’t notice how quickly we are being overrun with junk” said Jason Schadler, who founded the business in this area 20 years ago. “It’s nice to park your car in the garage during the cold months, but maybe you need to make room there first, and we can help with that.”

With Affordable Junk Removal, you can rent a dumpster or have their Junk Removal Professionals come to haul away items that have been gathering dust and taking up precious space. Setting a New Year’s resolution to clean up a neglected basement or attic is a great start. Sometimes the biggest challenge

Business spotlight

is not knowing where to begin with cleaning out your home and that is where Affordable can assist you .

“You can load your own dumpster or have our truck guys do all of the work for you,” Schadler explained. “And rest assured, we don’t just take everything to the landfill. We try and recycle as much as possible. Clothing and household items are donated to local organizations that help our friends and neighbors. That keeps them out of landfills, gives them a new life, and helps us keep our prices down. We’re always looking for



ways to be more cost effective because customers appreciate our reasonable prices.”

Changes in legislation have made it increasingly more difficult to dispose of certain items, like mattresses, for example. It is a state law that most textiles and mattresses must be recycled. “Finding places to take mattresses is a challenge and the fees for disposal have gone through the roof,” said Schadler. Items like these carry a separate recycling fee that the commercial transfer stations charge because

of how labor intensive that recycling is. “People are usually shocked at the cost, and we find ourselves educating the customer as to why these fees exist. Here at Affordable, we view ourselves as an avenue our clients can turn to when they have these items and want them disposed of legally, safely and properly.”

Affordable has many repeat customers. “When people call, they reach me, not some automated corporate call center,” he said. “They know me and the crew and trust us. We do a great job and are fast, efficient, and re-

liable. We come when we say we will and if anything unexpected comes up, we communicate. We live here too, we are your friends and neighbors. We sponsor your little league teams and run into you at the grocery store. We are your local guys.” A quick look at the many years of positive online reviews attests to this.

For more information, visit AffordableJunkRemoval.com. For an estimate or appointment, call or text (774) 287-1133.

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Kindergarten registration starts Feb. 9

Kindergarten registration for the 2026-2027 school year will be held Monday, February 9, 2026 through Friday, February 13, 2026 from 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Memorial School Office. Registration packets will be sent to families of eligible children during the week of January 19, 2026. If you do not receive a packet by Wednesday, January 28, 2026, please call the school office at 508-634-2214. Registration paperwork can be dropped off at the office, emailed to ltuite@hopedaleschools.org or

mailed to Hopedale Memorial School, 6 Prospect Street, Hopedale, MA 01747. Please be sure all paperwork is completed and any necessary documents needed to register are with your packet. This registration is for Hopedale residents only.

Please note: Your child must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2026 to be eligible for Kindergarten this year.

Submitted by Hopedale Memorial Elementary School

Hopedale Public Safety Log

Arrests, trespassing, illegal parking

Between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15, 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, cell checks, burglar alarms, abandoned 911 calls, lost/found property, property watches, animal complaints, road hazards, LTC/FIC (license to carry/firearms identification card) matters, illegal parking, suspicious persons/activity, warrant/summons service, court appearances, safety details, school resource officer to various schools, provided public assistance, general information, and record requests.

Hopedale Public Safety also assisted other towns including Mendon, Milford, Upton, and Uxbridge.

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

- Nov. 15 at 1:19 p.m., station, trespassing/unwanted person
- Nov. 15 at 2:50 p.m., Progress St., breaking & entering (past)
- Nov. 17 at 7:38 p.m., South Main St., breaking and entering, arrest. Two men were arrested and charged with assault and battery, disorderly, larceny under, and breaking and entering to a vehicle at nighttime for felony. The Missouri men include a 31-year-old male and a 43-year-old male.
- Nov. 18 at 12:45 a.m., Plain St. and Hartford Ave., suspicious activity
- Nov. 18 at 1:13 a.m., Mendon St., suspicious activity
- Nov. 19 at 3:49 p.m., Airport Rd., keep the peace/civil standby
- Nov. 21 at 5:10 p.m., Hill St., suspicious activity
- Nov. 22 at 2:08 p.m., South Main St. and Charlesgate Rd., intoxicated person
- Nov. 22 at 10:29 p.m., Dutcher St., 911 hangup, arrest. A 26-year-old Hopedale female was picked up on three warrants.
- Nov. 23 at 7:01 a.m., prisoner transported to Chicopee Correctional.
- Nov. 25 at 1:29 a.m., Dana Park, illegal parking
- Nov. 25 at 1:35 a.m., Hopedale St., illegal parking
- Nov. 25 at 1:44 a.m., Jones Rd., illegal parking
- Nov. 25 at 11:13 a.m., Mendon St. and Briar Cliff Rd., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 58-year-old Mendon male was arrested and charged with OUI liquor (2nd offense), possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

- Nov. 26 at 8:44 a.m., Dutcher St. and Robertson Dr., tree damage
- Nov. 26 at 10:34 p.m., Steel Rd., breaking and entering, arrest. A 25-year-old Brighton male was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace, and trespassing.
- Nov. 27 at 11:46 p.m., Mendon St. and Westcott Rd., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 35-year-old Blackstone female was arrested and charged with motor vehicle lights violation, registration not in possession, and an outstanding warrant.
- Nov. 28 at 5:58 a.m., Hammond Rd., warrant service, arrest. A 39-year-old Hopedale male was picked up on a warrant.
- Nov. 28 at 7:18 p.m., South Main St., erratic operator
- Dec. 6 at 8:43 a.m., Memorial School, disturbance, peace restored.
- Dec. 7 at 2:43 a.m., Pierce St., protective custody. A 27-year-old Milford male was taken into protective custody.
- Dec. 7 at 11:33 a.m., Mendon St., hit and run past.
- Dec. 11 at 3:34 p.m., Neck Hill Rd., intoxicated person
- Dec. 13 at 3:59 p.m., South Main St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. A 46-year-old Milford male was picked up on a warrant.
- Dec. 14 at 2:31 a.m., Dutcher St. and Beech St., hit and run, arrest. A 23-year-old Worcester male was charged with OUI liquor, leaving the scene of property damage, negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Source: Hopedale Police Department

de Oliveira on Bishop Feehan Honor Roll

Bishop Feehan High School in Attleboro has announced its Honor Roll students for the first quarter. Sophia de Oliveira, grade 11, of Hopedale achieved First Honors.

Honor Roll is a recognition of high-performing students based on the student’s overall average in any given quarter, regardless of the levels of their classes. Bishop Feehan has three levels of Honor Roll. First Hon-

ors is awarded to students whose overall average in that quarter is grade 93.00 or higher, Second Honors is grade 90.00 or higher, and Third Honors is 85.00 or higher, with no individual grade below 80.



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Special Town Meeting approves more municipal condos, denies Select Board increase to five members

By THERESA KNAPP

At a Special Town Meeting on Nov. 18, Hopedale residents addressed money matters; increased the veterans' tax abatement annual cost of living increase; and approved a \$97,000 capital request for a Little Red Shop Museum foundation repair.

Voters also approved, with a close voice vote, a transfer \$388,117 in excess levy funds to the Stabilization Fund, despite an unfavorable recommendation from the Finance Committee.

The Select Board moved to pass over [not discuss] three articles: (1) a request for planning money for town property at 150-154 Mendon Street; (2) a request for money to purchase assessing-related mapping upgrades; and (3) to supplement FY26 budgets.

The two articles that drew the most discussion were Article 11, which sought permission, and

ultimately passed, to authorize the Select Board to purchase three more condominium units at 54 Hopedale Street to serve as municipal space; and Article 12, a citizens' petition that sought to increase the Hopedale Select Board from three members to five, which was not recommended by the Finance Committee.

Condo purchases

Discussion around the condo purchases lasted about 15 minutes. An audience member noted a previous Town Meeting had approved the purchase of two units in that building, and asked why more units are now needed.

"It provides the town future opportunity should the town decides it needs it for various departments," explained Town Administrator Mitch Ruscitti, noting the hope is to "acquire that building in its totality, piece by piece," which he says would

be cheaper (\$2 million to \$2.5 mil) than building a new Town Hall (\$35 mil to \$50 mil). "We're just asking you tonight to provide us with that additional opportunity, space to grow into that building..It's short money now for a long-term benefit."

The additional units will be used for storage and public meeting space. Ruscitti said the costs of the units are \$170,000, \$200,000, and \$230,000, and said the town will offset the cost with \$185,000 of unused ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds that had to be used by the end of 2025.

Increasing Select Board from three to five members

"Three doesn't represent our community anymore," said lead petitioner Nicole Small, at the start of a 25-minute discussion.

Select Board Chair Scott Savage, speaking as a resident and not an elected official, spoke in favor of the measure, and had originally proposed the idea at a June meeting of the Select Board. He said increasing the board to five members would provide broader representation with more perspectives, reduce the risk of gridlock and improve continuity through staggered elections, and increase



Nicole Small, right, reads her citizens' petition to increase the size of the Hopedale Select Board from three members to five. Town Moderator Eugene Phillips, left, led a 25-minute discussion on the question which ultimately failed. Source: townhallstreams.com

the quorum from two members to three so that two select people can have a private conversation about board business without breaking Open Meeting Law.

Select Board member Glenda Hazard spoke on Town Meeting floor and said increasing to five members, and changing the quorum, could decrease transparency related to Select Board member discussions.

Select Board member Bernie

Stock suggested that, if the town wants to investigate the change, a committee should be formed and more research done before a vote is taken.

The article failed with a voice vote. Small demanded a ballot vote but was denied by the moderator.

A full recording of the meeting can be found at https://townhallstreams.com/towns/hopedale_ma

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



Camera Club seeks new members

The Stony Brook Camera Club meets in person and/or virtually on Thursdays at 7:30pm from September to June, and welcomes new members from the region. SBCC includes and welcomes photographers of all abilities.

In-person meetings are held at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer, 195 Main St. in Franklin. Meetings feature speakers, competitions, and discussions of general interest.

SBCC also sponsors a number of photography activities and workshops throughout the year.



"Birches" by Dan Gyves, a member of the Stony Brook Camera Club.
Photo source: Stony Brook Camera Club

January programs include Jan. 8 (in person) member competition; Jan. 15 (Zoom), "The Power of Imaging to Push Creative Boundaries" with Gerri Jones; Jan. 22 (Zoom) "Abstract Architecture and Geometry" with Dan Waterman; and Jan. 29 (Zoom) "Creating Stories with Video" with Mark Houde.

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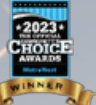
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Contact: Keely Bethel-Penny, Library Director
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kbethel-penny@cwmar.org
www.bancroftmemoriallibrary.org

Library News

The Library will be closed on Monday, January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Helen Symonds Book Group
– Wednesday, January 7th at 1:00pm

The group will be discussing *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.

Community Conversations –
Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30pm

Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about “Foreign Aid and U.S. Involvement in the World.” This meeting can be attended via Zoom; please email kbethel-penny@cwmar.org to request the link.

Get help with Jenna – Tuesday, January 13th from 10:30am-12:30pm

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, January 26th at 6:00pm

This month the adult crafting workshop is Book Folding! 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.

News from the Friends of the Hopedale Library:

The next Friends of the Hopedale Library Meeting is Wednesday, January 21st at 6:30pm in the downstairs Program Room.

Duped! The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Art Theft – Wednesday, January 14th at 6:30pm

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are pleased to host Bob Ainsworth, author of *Duped!*, a fictional account of the robbery, as he reviews the actual details of the theft, the suspects, and the motives behind the world’s most valued art theft. He will also tell of his own brush with the infamous crime. A retired CPA, Bob worked in corporate accounting as a CFO and Controller and taught accounting. He uncovered two fraud cases during his career. The idea for the Harry Bartlett stories sprang from his accounting students’ positive reactions to fraud anecdotes. He started to write his first story while commuting and then continued after retiring. Please register online on the Library website under Calendar of Events or call the Library at (508) 634-2209.

Book Donation Days: Saturday, 1/10 from 10-12pm & Wednesday, 1/28 from 5:30-7:30pm

The Friends of the Hopedale Library would love your like-new books for our Ongoing Book Sale. Children’s books of any age are welcome. Due to space constraints, we ask that adult hardcovers and paperbacks be ten years old or newer. Unfortunately, we cannot accept old books, textbooks or cookbooks. We depend on books in gift-giving quality to raise money to support our programming.

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 1/6, 1/13, 1/20 & 1/27 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 1/8, 1/15, 1/22 & 1/29 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!

All About Me Time Capsule – Saturday, January 3rd from 11:00am-1:00pm

Drop in to create an All About Me Time Capsule. Write down personal information, decorate a capsule, place the paper inside, and seal the capsule. Store the capsule in a special place at home and do not open until 2027; then take a look to see what changed! No registration required.

Builder Saturday – Saturday, January 10th 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, January 17th 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, January 24th 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.

Sunny the Reading Dog and Mrs. Poisson – Monday, January 26th 3:30-4:30pm

Visit with Sunny the Read-

ing dog and Mrs. Poisson from BBC, the human he has claimed! Drop in for a story and read a story to Sunny too. All ages are welcome!

***NEW!* Genre Book Club**

Join the Genre Book Club and create your own bookmark with a cable ring. Read any book you choose on your own schedule—there are no meetings. After each finished book, stop by the Children’s Room to collect a genre badge. Genres include Adventure, Biography, Fantasy, Fiction, Graphic Novel, Mystery, Non-Fiction, Poetry, Sci-Fi, and Sports. The club is open to all, runs on a rolling basis and can be joined at any time.

***NEW!* Reading Dragons - A Card Game Reading Club**

Reading Dragons allows readers to earn collectible dragon cards through logged reading time. Every 30 minutes recorded on a Time Tracker earns one card, and completing two hours earns all four stages of a dragon. The card game can be played with friends as additional dragons are earned. Readers are invited to add book recommendations as “Book Scales” to the dragon display in the Program Room. The program runs on a rolling basis and can be joined at any time.

***NEW!* F.A.I.R. - Family Adventures in Reading**

F.A.I.R. is a program on select Monday evenings for families to spend time together and explore a book together. Each meeting, 6 families will have the opportunity to meet and share a story, a snack and a craft. When the meeting is over the family will get to keep their copy of the book read to add to their home library. Maximum of 6 families per meeting and registration is required. Please check the Library’s online Calendar of Events to see which Mondays this program will be offered and to register.

***NEW!* Family Support Night**

Parents are invited to join us on select Monday evenings as we explore resources the Library offers to support families. Each calendar listing will identify what topic/resource will be



“ WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! ”

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& LET US KNOW!

LIBRARY

continued on page 11

Your Money, Your Independence

Already Bid Adieu to “New Year, New You”?



Glenn Brown, CFP

Did you make New Year’s resolutions to improve your financial wellness in 2026?

The start of a new year invites reflection on what went well, what didn’t, and what to change. Think back to 2025. Was it supposed to be the year you’d pay off all debts, max out savings, run a marathon, learn a new language, and still book that dream vacation—all before February?

Lasting financial change is difficult to achieve. Understanding why resolutions fail can help turn intentions into sustainable strategies.

1. Unrealistic Expectations

The most common reason resolutions fail is that goals don’t match reality.

For example, someone might plan to save half their income while paying off long-standing loans, only to realize monthly expenses and unexpected bills make this unrealistic. Progress feels slow, leading to frustration and eventual abandonment.

Resolution: Break goals into smaller, achievable steps. For example, aim to reduce debt by

25% over six months. Celebrating incremental wins keeps motivation high, builds confidence, and reinforces the habit of financial discipline.

2. Lack of a Clear Plan

Vague goals such as “save more” or “get out of debt” offer little guidance. Goals like these are the financial equivalent of saying “eat healthier” without changing what’s in your fridge.

Rules and opportunities change yearly, so without a clear plan, it’s easy to miss important steps like evolving retirement contribution rules, tax planning opportunities, or other proactive financial strategies.

Resolution: Create a clear plan. Review monthly expenses, budget upcoming projects and aspirations, set up automatic transfers, and monitor progress.

3. Failure to Track Progress

Goals fade without structured review, even when apps are used to track spending. Many avoid holistic review until problems become too great to ignore.

Even small oversights like pausing emergency savings transfers, frequent DoorDashing restaurants a mile away, or buying from social media ads can derail intentions. It’s also important to evaluate actual income, since “spenders” believe their pay will match their top year, overlooking factors like unique company performance or equity grants.

Resolution: Schedule quarterly check-ins that leverage technology and constructive feedback. Celebrating milestones helps maintain motivation and reinforces strong financial habits.

4. Emotional Spending and Instant Gratification

Many struggle with impulse spending or seek instant gratification, especially after a stressful day. Afraid to look at your Amazon spending history? This behavior derails the best-laid plans.

Resolution: Identify triggers and implement strategies to delay or review purchase decisions. Create a spending prioritization strategy by identifying where you want to spend your money; this helps shift focus from immediate desires to long-term financial goals and encourages thoughtful, deliberate financial choices.

5. Lack of Accountability

Some thrive independently; others struggle without support. It’s easier to justify financial decisions when no one else is watching. Couples, friends, or professional advisors who provide accountability often help keep each other honest and motivated.

Resolution: Accountability goes beyond “no.” Sharing progress and receiving guidance builds confidence, strengthens financial habits, and motivates continued long-term efforts.

Quick Hits To Start 2026

401(k) Catch-Up Rules: Workers over 50 making over \$150,000 must direct catch-up contributions to Roth accounts, reducing traditional tax benefits.

Roth Conversions: Converting pre-tax accounts to Roth can be strategic but may trigger higher taxes if not timed carefully, so model in Q1.

Cash Reserves: With slower job growth in late 2025, increasing emergency savings can help avoid reliance on credit or early retirement withdrawals.

Final Thoughts

Financial resolutions can be powerful tools for long-term security but require more than wishful thinking.

Make 2026 the year to socialize your goals, set action steps, and partner with a Certified Financial Planner™ professional to turn intentions into lasting progress.

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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Hopedale BVT students receive Adams Scholarship

UPTON – The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides tuition at a Massachusetts state college or university. Seventy-three Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) seniors – four of whom live in Hopedale - are the proud recipients of an Adams Scholarship. The award allows these students to further their vocational and career training with additional education, advanced training, and credentials.

Hopedale recipients include Ella Foster, Evan Griffin, Edward Holland, and Shiv Patel.

The first-time score on a high school MCAS exam determines eligibility for an Adams Scholarship. Adams Scholar recipients receive free tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts public college or university, renewable for eight consecutive semesters or four years. Recipients must use the tuition credit in the first fall semester following their high school graduation and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better.

"The Adams Scholarship reflects our students' commitment, dedication, and desire to put forth their full effort on exam day," said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele, II. "We're proud of their accomplishments and excited for our career and life-ready seniors to benefit from this scholarship."

Submitted by BVT



Writing Program takes hold at Memorial Elementary

Teachers at Memorial Elementary School have embraced the teaching of writing across all grade levels by utilizing the SRSD approach to writing.

The Self-Regulated Strategy Development writing instruction is an evidence-based approach to teaching genre and essay writing. Teachers in grades K-6 have participated in initial SRSD training in the midst of the 2024-25 school year and have maintained professional development throughout the current year led by our English Language Arts Co-Curriculum Chairs, Mrs. Kelli Mylett and Mrs. Kelly Biwer. Students are learning a variety of research-based strategies to become more thoughtful and aware of their writing, develop their critical thinking skills and grow into strong, resilient writers.

Students have embraced the use of common strategies, such

as the TIDE graphic organizer, where they learn to support topic sentences with important evidence, detailed explanations and a closing end to their topic. Students will build upon their writing skills and output via the use of another strategy, CSPACE, for narrative writing tasks. Here, they learn to incorporate characters, setting, purpose, action and a conclusion into their writing while integrating the character's emotion. Overall, students are more engaged and enthusiastic about writing. Teachers throughout the school have reported many positive & improved outcomes for their students as we endeavor to continue to implement SRSD, strengthen our instructional focus in teaching writing and foster our students' joy and confidence in writing.

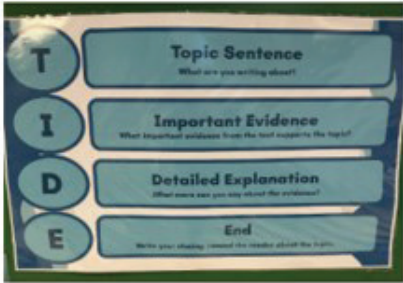
Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools



4th grade students are proud of their CSPACE Narrative Writing!



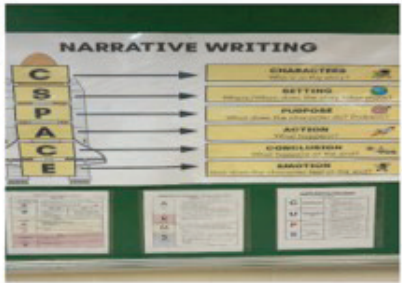
A student in Mrs. Foye's class is showing off her Bat TIDE book.



TIDE Graphic Organizer



A 2nd grade student from Mrs. Consigli's class is working hard on her TIDE!



CSPACE Graphic Organizer

LIBRARY

continued from page 8

discussed that meeting and will cover such things as: electronic learning resources, library supported streaming services and accessing multiple consortiums to find electronic books and audios. This is a drop-in program with no registration required and is open to anyone interested. Please check the Library’s online Calendar of Events to see which Mondays this program will be offered.

Celebrate your birthday! – Ages 1-12

Beginning in January, drop by the Children’s Room during your birthday week and choose a prize from the prize box at Ms. Laura’s desk!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Bancroft Memorial Library offers the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program for young families and early readers. At registration, you will be provided a starting kit with a library book bag, cable for achievement tags, program information, suggested book list, log for books 1–100, and four

books to start a home library. Every 100 books read earns a tag for the cable, and reaching 1,000 books earns a lawn sign celebrating the achievement. This program runs on a rolling basis and can be joined anytime.

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.bancroft-memoriallibrary.org

Meet Jenna Gouin, Hopedale’s Community Health Worker

Meet our Community Health Worker, Jenna Gouin.

Jenna has been serving in this role since March 2024 so chances are you might have seen her around Hopedale. She has over 10 years of experience in social services and has several ties to surrounding communities. She is available to any resident or family in the community who needs assistance with accessing public benefits, various community resources, or who just has a tricky situation they need some help figuring out.

Jenna also holds monthly office hours at the Library, offering free 30-minute sessions at a time.

This position is funded through a shared-services grant that supports the Blackstone Valley Partnership for Public Health (BVPPH) in collabora-



tion with the local Hopedale Board of Health.

In Hopedale, you will often find Jenna working with the Fire Department. She has developed a strong working relationship

with the staff, as these staff members are often the first ones to identify individuals in need of additional assistance outside of emergency medical services. When a situation is encountered where Jenna’s expertise may benefit the resident, the Fire Department shares Jenna’s contact information so they can reach out directly to talk more in detail about their situation.

“I like to think of this role as being as unique as the needs of the residents in our communities. If I don’t have the answer for someone, I have plenty of connections and will certainly find the answer,” says Gouin.

To schedule a free 30-minute appointment with Jenna sign up through the Library’s Calendar of Events on the website, or call the Library at (508) 634-2209.

Library to focus on family-centered programs in 2026

Bancroft Memorial Library’s Youth Services Librarian Laura Brilliant-Giangrande will be placing special emphasis on family-centered programming in 2026. Beginning in January, she will be introducing a new series of monthly events designed to inform, engage and connect families within the community. The programs include ‘Family Support Night’ and ‘F.A.I.R. - Family Adventures in Reading.’ Brilliant-Giangrande said, “The Library is committed to supporting families throughout our community by offering welcoming spaces, reliable resources, and programs that in-

spire learning together.” Both new programs will be held on select Mondays; for dates, registration details and additional information, please visit the Library’s online Event Calendar or call (508) 634-2209 for more assistance.

Family Support Night

Family Support Night will introduce families to the many resources the Library offers to support learning at home. Open to both public school families and homeschoolers, these adult-only, drop-in sessions will focus on one or two specific resources each meeting, such as digital resources for educational sup-

port. Participants will learn how to navigate these resources, understand what they offer and explore practical ways to use them. The Library’s online Event Calendar will list the resources featured at each session, and suggestions for future topics are always welcome.

F.A.I.R. – Family Adventures in Reading

F.A.I.R. — Family Adventures in Reading will be held every other month and is designed to encourage shared family reading. During each one-hour session, families will enjoy a selected book, a snack, and a related activity or craft. Thanks to the

generosity of the Friends of the Hopedale Library, each participating family will receive a copy of the featured book to keep, helping them build (or expand!) a home library. Registration is required as participation is limited

to six families per session. The Library’s online Event Calendar will include details about the selected book and snack, with food allergies thoughtfully taken into consideration.

Senior Center needs volunteers

The Hopedale Senior Center is in search of volunteers. It is meaningful work and a lot of fun! Volunteers work between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays, and can work as few as two hours a month. There is a special need for Meals on Wheels drivers. For more information, call 508-634-2208.

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Roger Kaldawy, M.D.

Dr. Kaldawy is an eye physi-

cian, surgeon, and corneal specialist trained at the University of Rochester and the University of Iowa. A former Assistant Professor at Boston University, he has performed more than 32,000 surgeries, pioneering advanced techniques in corneal transplants, innovative glaucoma surgery, premium implants, and bladeless femtosecond cataract surgery. He has trained numerous physicians, has been featured in multiple news articles including Channel 5, and serves as Medical Director of the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford.

Alyse Richard, M.D.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Alyse Richard, who will join our team in January 2026. She is a well-regarded retina specialist with expertise in macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal tears, and retina-related

emergencies. Dr. Richard completed her medical degree at Albany Medical College, residency at the University of Rochester's Flaum Eye Institute, and a medical retina fellowship at New England Eye Center, Tufts Medical Center. She is known for her efficient, skilled approach to patient care and her commitment to maximizing diagnostic precision. She performs intraocular injections, laser procedures, and repairs of retinal tears and detachments.

Dan Liu, M.D.

Dr. Liu graduated from Northwestern University and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. She completed residency at Albany Medical Center as Chief Resident and a fellowship in Cornea and Anterior Segment Surgery at Tufts.



Her expertise includes cataract surgery with ORA, DMEK/DSEK/PK corneal transplants, keratoconus treatment, MIGS glaucoma procedures, ocular surface tumors, and pterygia. She is board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

ship roles at Boston community health centers. Her clinical focus includes diabetes, glaucoma, and community-based care.

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Purvi Patel, O.D.

Dr. Patel earned her Doctor of Optometry degree at SUNY and completed a residency in Ocular Disease. As a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, she has held leader-

Hopedale's Frongillo earns Offensive Athlete of the Week for first time this season

Bri Frongillo is a student at Emerson College

Emerson College swept the New England Women's and Men's Basketball Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) weekly awards in women's basketball, presented by SKYBOKX 109, following its 2-0 week to wrap up its first semester schedule the Conference announce today.

Senior guard Bri Frongillo (of Hopedale) has earned NEWMAC Offensive Athlete of the Week for the first time this season and sixth time in her career, while junior forward Claire English (of Winchester) has repeated as NEWMAC Defensive Athlete of the Week, collecting the honors for the third time this season overall. Frongillo is the second Emerson women's basketball student-athlete to be named Offensive Athlete of the Week, joining sophomore Jessie Silk (of Newton), who was selected on November 17, while English has received three of four Defensive Athlete of the Week honors collected by the team, joining junior Kaylin O'Meara (of Littleton) who received the award on November 10.

Frongillo averaged a team-leading 29.0 points on 44.4-percent shooting (20-for-45), including 12-for-35 (48%) from three-point range, in the 2-0 week for Emerson. She made all six free-throw attempts and contributed 4.0 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 2.0 steals per game while playing all but one minute over the Lions two games. Frongillo led Emerson to a 66-48 win at Suffolk University on Tuesday with a game and season-high 25 points and in the process be-

came the 12th player in program history to score 1,000 points in her career at the College. She rounded out the night with four rebounds, two assists, and two steals. Frongillo set a scoring season-best for the second-straight game with 33 points on 11-of-25 shooting, including 7-for-13 from three-point distance, in Thursday's 68-57 win over Salem State University with four rebounds, three assists, two steals, and a blocked shot.

English led Emerson's defensive effort that held its two opponents to 52.5 points per game on 26.4-percent shooting, including 6-for-31 (19.4%) from three-point distance, for the week, averaging 3.5 blocked shots and 11.5 rebounds per game, including 9.0 per game on the defensive end. She averaged a double-double for the week by contributing 10.5 points per game, along with 2.5 assists for the week. English tallied 11 points, nine boards, two assists, three blocked shots, and a steal in the win at Suffolk and contributed her third double-double of the season with ten points and a game-high 14 rebounds against Salem State, blocking a season-high four shots with three assists.

Frongillo, named a preseason All-American by D3Hoops.com, has started four of the five games she has played since returning from a first semester internship on the West Coast. She has averaged 22.0 points on 43.2-percent shooting from the floor, including 47.4% (18-for-38) from three-point distance, draining all 16 free-throw attempts, contributing

3.2 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.2 steals in 36.6 minutes per game. Frongillo has scored in double-figures in all five games played this season, and in 20 consecutive games dating back to last season overall, with 20-plus points in two games, including her sixth career 30-point outing on Thursday. She has led the Lions in scoring in four of the five games since her return and 39 times in her career overall.

Frongillo, the reigning NEWMAC Athlete of the Year and an honorable mention All-American by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), is a two-time All-NEWMAC first team selection since transferring from Division I Bryant University. She has now scored 1,036 of her 1,092 career points at Emerson, including 56 as a first year at Bryant, also totaling 196 rebounds, 223 assists and 66 steals in her 61 career games played. She is a 45.1-percent shooter during her time at Emerson, including 38.4% from beyond the arc, having converted 87.2% of her free-throw attempts.

Frongillo, a College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District and two-time NEWMAC Academic All-Conference performer, has scored in double figures in 49 of the 61 games she has played in her collegiate career. She has recorded three career double-doubles – all with points and assists – netting 20-plus points 28 times in her career, including 30-plus points six times with a pair of 40-point games. She netted a career-high 44 points with a career-best 12

assists in a win over Coast Guard Academy last January.

English has started all 11 games for Emerson this season and is ranked second among NEWMAC leaders with her team-high 2.3 blocked shots per game, while ranking seventh with 8.5 rebounds and sixth with 2.7 offensive boards per game. She ranks third on the team with her 8.9 points per game on a team-best 62.2-percent shooting, while adding 1.7 assists and 1.0 steals in 22.2 minutes per contest. English has recorded three double-doubles for the Lions, scoring in double-figures in four games this season overall while pulling down double-digit rebounds in four contests.

English, named to the NEWMAC Academic All-Conference team last winter, has started 37

of her 55 career games played at Emerson and totaled 335 points as a 56.6-percent career shooter, 346 rebounds, 72 blocked shots, 49 assists and 39 steals. She has scored in double-figures 14 times over her career, with double-digit rebounds in 17 contests and ten double-doubles.

Emerson (8-3, 0-0 NEWMAC) is off until Saturday, January 3, when it visits No. 23-ranked Amherst College for a non-conference matchup at 3 p.m. The Lions next home game is on Saturday, January 17, when they open NEWMAC play by hosting Salve Regina University at Bobbi Brown and Steven Plofker Gymnasium at 1 p.m.

Submitted by Emerson College

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EYES

continued from page 12

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tients receive the highest level of safety while staying in-network and benefiting from true ambulatory surgery center quality. No office-based surgery fees with us. Every procedure includes IV sedation and is staffed by anesthesiologists to ensure the safest and most comfortable experience.

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

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Hopedale Senior Center

Incredible season for Hopedale sports teams

The Senior Center will be closed on Jan. 1 and Jan. 2 for the New Year's holiday, and Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mondays

- 9 a.m. Free Panera
- 9 a.m. Bridge
- 10 a.m. Low impact exercise
- 12:30 p.m. Mah Jongg
- 12:30 p.m. BINGO (no BINGO on Jan. 26)
- Jan. 12 only: 12 p.m. Lunch at Senior Center
- **Closed Jan. 19

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

- 10 a.m. Low impact exercise
- 11 a.m. Meditation
- 12:30 p.m. Literature
- 12:30 p.m. Cribbage
- Jan. 21 only: 9:30 a.m. Nurse Clinic

Thursdays

- 10 a.m. Watercolor class
- 1 p.m. Tai Chi
- Jan. 15 only: 11 a.m. Gate assessment program
- Jan. 15 only: 12 p.m. Lunch for program participants only
- Jan. 22 only: 10 a.m. New Years' Breakfast
- **Closed Jan. 1

Fridays (closes at noon)

- 10 a.m. Low impact exercise
- **Closed Jan. 2

This 2025 Fall athletics season we saw over 150 athletes participate in soccer, golf, volleyball, cross country, field hockey and co-op football with Nipmuc. This was the inaugural year of the Central Mass Athletic Conference (CMAC) which includes 32 schools all within the MIAA District 2. A new schedule and some new opponents presented some challenges and some great competitions.

Golf

Golf ended the year 16-2 regular season and came in 2nd at the CMAC Championships. They came in 2nd at the MIAA Districts and then ended up 5th at the State Tournament with Colin Haynes coming in 2nd in the individual state tournament. Girls Volleyball ended the regular season 15-5. Senior Olivia Barroso the setter got her 1000th assist and the team held onto the #1 ranking for most of the year entering the state tourney at #1. Volleyball ended with a win and amazing 3-0 win in the state tournament to be named D5 State Champions!!

Soccer

Girls soccer ended their season 11-6-1 and undefeated in their CMAC conference. The team landed at #2 in the MIAA state tournament. The girls continued to fight hard and made it to the Final 4 of the state tournament where they lost 1-0 to Hull.

Boys Soccer finished the regular season 7-6-5. The team also landed at #2 in the MIAA state tournament. Boys rode the success they had throughout the year and made it to the state finals where they unfortunately lost to Boston International 2-0 to be the D5 state runner ups.

Field Hockey

Field Hockey was 13-3 at the end of the season. Junior Molly Gosselin got her 200th career save and many shutouts to help her team. The team was the #6 seed in the state tournament. They persevered through tough matchups and lost in the elite 8 in an outstanding game against Cohasset.

Cross Country

Girls Cross Country ended the season 5-3. 8th grader Teagan Richards helped lead the way for the team as well as junior Mabel Carreiro. The girls team made it through regionals and onto states where they ended 15th in the state for D3 and Teagan Richards came in 15th individually.

Boys Cross Country was undefeated in the regular season 8-0 and won the CMAC Conference East Championships. Middle school boys ended the season with a CMAC MS Championship as well. The boys varsity came in 4th at regionals and then ended up 8th at the state race. Ben Stone medaled coming in at 4th and Quinn Cook came in at 15th.

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Sports

Girls Basketball, improvement on the horizon

By CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Last winter, the Hopedale girls basketball team went 16-4 during the regular season and qualified as the number one seed in the Division 5 State Tournament. Unfortunately, the Blue Raiders found themselves getting upset 44-41 by Lee High School in the Round of 8. This year, Hopedale has a mission to not only get back to the round of eight, but forge forward from there.

“The girls got a taste of almost making the Final 4,” said Hopedale Coach Jay Rojee. “It was tough on them; we were actually up by eight late in the game before hitting a bump and losing. They now have a chip on their shoulder and an edge in their game to get back there and beyond.”

Senior Phoebe Carroll, the team’s big forward who eclipsed 1000 points last year as a junior for the Blue Raiders, will be a leader on the court for Hopedale this winter. Carroll averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds a game last year and makes it look easy on the court. According to the coach, she is one of the best in blocking shots and will definitely be the team’s center piece as they begin the season.

Another senior, Anna Fafard, will take on the point guard role this season giving the Blue Raiders a strong presence. She is a tough individual on the court and will be looked upon to lock down the opposition best player with her grit and determination.

Also returning will be junior guard Lexi Carroll, a great defender and one of the best slashers to the basket that Hopedale has. She can also defend with the best of them.



Junior Layla Huntley will also be coming back to play a forward/center position giving Hopedale a low post presence.

With four of the five starting positions already locked up, Rojee will be looking for someone to step up their game and grab hold of that final starting position. Jenna Weeden will be looked upon as one of those possibilities. Last year, she came off the bench and provided the team with phenomenal offensive play.

Mia Casey and Kiley Tesseo are two other athletes who

could possibly step into that fifth starter role. Casey is a gritty rebounder who possesses a tough demeanor on the court, while Tesseo is a hard-nosed defensive player who also came off the bench last year. She is probably the team’s best lockdown player.

The rest of the team will be made up of guards Gianna Gallerani and Chloe Carpenter, both can not only handle the wall, but can come off the bench when needed and knock down a three-point shot. The Blue Raiders Bigs bringing a

physical presence to the court will be Maddie Bean and Mackenzie Viens, Hopedale’s tallest player.

Rojee and the girls are looking to earn a spot in the Final 4 of the Division 5 State Tournament this year and once they get there they know that anything beyond that is possible. However, with the move from the MIAA to the newly formed CMAC A, Hopedale will have a much more difficult time going up against some tougher teams, not to mention their non-league schedule is loaded. The tougher

opponents will not only be a challenge but will have the squad prepared for the tournament at the end of the year.

“The biggest unknown this year will be the move into the CMAC; our strength of schedule will be tough,” Rojee said. “Our margin of victory this year will definitely be different from a year ago. We will be tested, but with 10 returning players from last year’s team, we are already ahead of last year at this point. There will not be a lot of teaching.”

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Real Estate Corner

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Date	Hopedale	Amount
12/09/2025	211-211A S Main St.	\$430,000
12/08/2025	15 Tammie Rd.	\$665,000
12/08/2025	29 Harmony Trl.	\$775,000
12/05/2025	3 Birch Cir.	\$654,000
12/03/2025	1 Fieldstone Way	\$598,000
11/25/2025	16 Warfield St.	\$350,000
11/19/2025	322 S Main St.	\$552,500
11/14/2025	103 Laurelwood Dr.	\$420,000

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

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The 5-bed, 3-bath, 3,679-square-foot house at 29 Harmony Trail in Hopedale recently sold for \$775,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com



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