

localtownpages Hopedale

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Free to Every Home and Business Every Month

July 1, 2026

Hopedale Public Schools welcomes Purchase as new superintendent

Dr. Cari Purchase will begin on July 1

The Hopedale School Committee is pleased to welcome Dr. Cari Purchase who begins in her official role as the next Superintendent of Hopedale Public Schools on July 1. Her selection followed an extensive and thoughtful search process designed to ensure that the district identified the best possible leader to guide Hopedale into the future.

In consultation with the community, the School Committee conducted an intensive superintendent search that included multiple rounds of interviews, full-day site visits to both Hopedale and the home districts of the three finalist

candidates, community surveys, and in-person focus groups representing a wide range of stakeholders. The process concluded with public open house sessions that gave students, families, staff, and community members the opportunity to meet each finalist and provide valuable feedback. After carefully considering the input gathered throughout the process, the School Committee unanimously selected Dr. Purchase, who currently serves as Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning in Bellingham Public Schools.

Dr. Purchase brings more than two decades of experience in public education and



Dr. Cari Purchase will be the new Superintendent of Hopedale Public Schools as of July 1. Source: Hopedale Public Schools

PERCHASE
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Town Administrator Ruscitti resigns to take position in Swansea

By THERESA KNAPP

Mitchell Ruscitti has resigned after three years as Hopedale's Town Administrator.

On June 5, Ruscitti posted on Facebook a message to "Hopedale friends and family" that he had "made the difficult but necessary decision to leave my position as Town Administrator and accept a leadership position in another community."

Effective July 6, he will be the new Town Administrator in Swansea, according to a press release from the Swansea Select Board.


The Hopedale Select Board officially accepted



Mitch Ruscitti resigned from his position as Hopedale's Town Administrator in June and will start at Swansea's Town Administrator in July. Photo source: LinkedIn

Ruscitti's resignation on June 10 at a meeting called specifically for that purpose.

RUSCITTI
continued on page 5




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In memory of beloved writer Ken Hamwey, please see tribute on page 2.

This notice honors his contributions and invites readers to celebrate his legacy.

October 14, 1943 - May 25, 2026

Ken Hamwey, in Memoriam

He wrote about the good

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Ken Hamwey never missed a deadline, and he had a passion for telling a good story. Getting the word out about something or someone inspirational, conveying its importance, meant the world to him. That kind of drive, a level of investment scarcely seen in the world today, deserved your full attention. Our Town Publishing didn't just lose a sportswriter when we lost Ken Hamwey, we lost a lion-hearted wordsmith who cared deeply about the people he wrote about, and their moments of glory.

"Ken Hamwey was an amazing sportswriter and a consummate professional," said Jen Schofield, owner of Our Town Publishing, "He was someone I truly enjoyed talking with, listening to his stories, and his passion and dedication for covering high school sports was unmatched. He genuinely cared about the athletes, teams, and communities he wrote about, which was evident in his work."



Ken Hamwey October 14, 1943 - May 25, 2026

"Ken was very dedicated in getting the stories," added Chuck Tashjian, who worked with Ken for many years as former publisher of Our Town Publishing, "He went above and beyond, especially with championship games. He really loved what he did. He loved writing, and he loved sports."

"He just cared about the kids. If there was anything that stood out about him it was his passion

for what he did ... He cared so much about making everyone look good, and that was such a good trait, and the way he'd remember things," said Bellingham High School Football Coach Dan Haddad, who added both he and Ken were motivated by "love of the kids." Student athletes Ken interviewed would tell the coach that Mr. Hamwey was "probably the nicest guy I've ever met."

"What was unique about Ken was how he wanted to learn about me personally and what life experiences led me to where I am rather than other reporters who would just ask about jobs and responsibilities listed on a resume," says Bellingham Town Administrator Joseph Laydon, who says he truly appreciated this approach in Ken's regular Municipal Spotlight column for the *Bellingham Bulletin*.

Just 24 in 1967 when he entered the field of journalism, the young graduate of Natick High and Babson College began his career at *Framingham News*, now known as the *MetroWest Daily News*, covering the small-town beat of Millis. Ken would get the opportunity of a lifetime a year later, covering the Celtics' defeat of the 76ers in Philadelphia to win the Eastern conference one day after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. In a lifelong story of his own he'd often tell, the late, great Celtics coach and general manager, Red Auerbach, in fact, held up the press corps bus so young Ken could call in that story. Ken would move on in 1973 to the Pulitzer Prize winning *Providence Journal*, and after 35-plus years as the Night Sports Editor, he received a citation from the Rhode Island State Senate honoring his excellence as a journalist.

For many years, Ken would follow the trajectory of local sports heroes' stories in a *MetroWest Daily News* column called "Yesterday's Heroes." In semi-retirement, Ken would continue to cover high school sports for local papers such as *Bellingham Bulletin* and *Local Town Pages* papers.

Ken was immensely proud of the recognition he received for his efforts. He was inducted into the Millis Athletic Hall of Fame in March 2022, and later, into the Bellingham Athletic Hall of

Fame, and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association selected him for its Distinguished Friend Award in 2010.

"High school sports lost a legendary storyteller with the passing of Ken Hamwey," wrote Millis Athletics on X, "For nearly six decades, Ken dedicated his life to highlighting the achievements of local student-athletes, beginning with his very first varsity football story in Millis back in 1967." Dover Sherborn Basketball also lauded his "passion and dedication for covering sports in our area...RIP."

Ken Hamwey once told Dan Haddad, "I want to write about the good."

In his own life, Hamwey, the beloved husband for 36 years of Pauline A. (Allard) Hamwey and the late Martha (Loan) Hamwey, and the loving father of Travis M. Hamwey and his wife, Katie, aspired himself to be the best person he could be, volunteering time as a coach and library trustee, devoting

himself to his faith, and valuing each individual with whom he interacted. He once told me how much it meant to him that his coverage of young athletes might help them make it into college. He had an energy that drove him to weave a story of pride and potential that would shine a light on and lift up his subject. He offered such respect that you wanted to rise to be worthy of it.

"Ken was kind, dependable, and always willing to go above and beyond. Even shortly before his passing, while battling illness and facing deadline pressure, he completed his last three stories—a testament to his remarkable work ethic and commitment to journalism," said Schofield, adding, "He was a one-of-a-kind colleague and friend, who will be deeply missed by everyone in his Our Town Publishing family. His legacy will live on through the countless stories he told and the many lives he touched."

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In 2010, Ken received the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Distinguished Friend Award.

Memorial Elementary celebrates a day of fun, teamwork at Annual Field Day

Smiles, laughter, and plenty of school spirit filled the air as Memorial Elementary students in grades 1-6 participated in this year's Annual Field Day, a day dedicated to physical activity, teamwork, and celebrating the end of another successful school year. Students enjoyed a variety of games and challenges that encouraged cooperation, friendly competition, and, most importantly, fun.

This year's event was made possible because of the Hopedale Community House, which graciously hosted Field Day after Town Park was unavailable. Their willingness to open their facilities ensured that this Memorial tradition could continue. The school is incredibly grateful for their partnership and support of our students.

Throughout the day, students rotated through a wide range of activity stations designed to keep everyone engaged and active. Favorites included tug-of-war, kickball, cornhole, dodgeball, and many other games that promoted teamwork, sportsmanship, and healthy competition. Whether cheering on classmates or participating in the events themselves, students embraced the day with enthusiasm and positivity.

A special thank you goes to our Unified Arts teachers, Jody Blood, Amy Carroll, Amy Lanagan, Kaitlyn Drew, Cassie Marcucci and Erika Fay, who led the various stations and contributed to the fun. Additional thanks to our Physical Education Teacher, Jack Hughes, whose planning and



organization made the event such a tremendous success. Coordinating a day filled with multiple stations, schedules, and activities takes countless hours

of preparation, and his dedication created an experience that students will remember for years to come. His commitment to providing opportunities for

students to build confidence, stay active, and have fun was evident throughout the day.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

PERCHASE

continued from page 1

has an established reputation as a collaborative, innovative, and student-centered leader. In her current role, she oversees curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning, and student support systems while helping to develop and implement districtwide improvement initiatives that align educational priorities with student success. She has also led the expansion of a district Vision of a Graduate framework, strengthened Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, and co-founded a district Artificial Intelligence Committee to promote thoughtful and responsible innovation in education.

Prior to her district leadership position, Dr. Perchase served as principal of Marshall Simonds Middle School in Burlington, and previously as both principal and assistant principal of Medway Middle School. Throughout her leadership career, she has championed high-quality instruction, expanded inclusive educational practices, strengthened supports for students with diverse learning needs, and fostered school cultures built on collaboration, belonging, and high expectations. Her accomplishments include successfully leading a \$22 million occupied school renova-

tion project while maintaining continuity of learning for students and staff.

A lifelong educator, Dr. Perchase began her career as a classroom teacher before moving into administration. She earned her Doctor of Education in Curriculum, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership from Northeastern University, where her research focused on social justice and equity-driven leadership. She continues to contribute to educational leadership across the region through her work as co-chair of the Blackstone Valley Curriculum Consortium and as a visiting team member supporting school accreditation and continuous improvement efforts.

Throughout her career, Dr. Perchase has been recognized for her ability to build strong relationships, engage stakeholders in meaningful collaboration, and create systems that help every student thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Her leadership philosophy centers on preparing students for success in college, careers, and civic life while honoring the unique strengths of each school community.

As she prepared to join Hopedale, Dr. Perchase shared her excitement about becoming part of the community and partnering with students, families, educators, staff, and residents to build upon Hopedale's long-

standing tradition of excellence.

School Committee chair Kate Guertin said, "Throughout the search process, Dr. Perchase distinguished herself as a thoughtful and student-centered leader with a strong commitment to collaboration. The School Committee is pleased to welcome her to Hopedale and looks forward to working

together as we continue to support the success of our students and strengthen our school community. Even before officially beginning her role, she has already started attending community and school events, and we are grateful for the warm welcome she has received from students, families, staff, and residents as she begins building

connections throughout Hopedale. The School Committee is confident that her experience, vision, and commitment to educational excellence will help shape an exciting future for Hopedale Public Schools and welcomes her warmly to the Hopedale community."

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

Hopedale Class of 2026 graduated on June 6

BY PRINCIPAL DEREK ATHERTON

The sun shone brightly on the Community House on Sat., June 6, as the community gathered at 1 p.m. to celebrate the Hopedale Junior-Senior High School Class of 2026. Seventy proud graduates took the stage, marking the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and resilience.

As principal, it was my distinct honor to witness this exceptional group of young adults receive their diplomas. The Hopedale Jr. Sr. High Class of 2026 has consistently demonstrated remarkable character, leadership, and academic excellence, and Saturday's ceremony was a beautiful reflection of their journey.

The afternoon's exercises were guided by a spectacular lineup of student leaders.

Class President Charlie Gin-gras opened the ceremony with a warm welcome followed by his speech that perfectly captured the unique bond and shared memories of this tight-knit class.

Academic excellence was also on full display. Valedictorian Josiah Lefever delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking address, focusing on the profound impact athletics had on shaping his life. Following the valedictory speech, Co-Salutatorians Devon Thomson and Avery Miller shared the stage to offer wonderful words of encouragement, wisdom, and thanks to their classmates and teachers.

The ceremony was also a milestone for our district administration. Superintendent Karen Crebase delivered her final



Hopedale Class of 2026. Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

commencement address to the graduating class. With her retirement approaching at the end of this school year, her words carried a special weight, offering the graduates timeless wisdom, encouragement and thanks.

The community expressed its deep gratitude for her years of service with a resounding ovation.

To the 70 graduates of the Hopedale Class of 2026: you have left an indelible mark on

our school. As you step out into the world, carry the lessons you learned here, support one another, and continue to make Hopedale proud.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!

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Memorial Elementary celebrates 6th grade graduation

On June 16, Memorial Elementary School proudly celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2032 during its annual Sixth Grade Graduation Ceremony. The event marked an important milestone as students, families, teachers, and staff gathered to recognize the hard work, growth, and memories that have defined the students' years at Memorial.

The ceremony provided an opportunity to reflect on the many experiences that have shaped this class, from academic achievements and classroom projects to friendships, leadership opportunities, and community involve-

ment. Students were recognized for their perseverance and dedication as they prepared to take the next step in their educational journey.

As part of the program, Superintendent Karen Crebase delivered her final farewell message to the graduating sixth graders, encouraging them to embrace new opportunities, continue to be kind and curious, and remember the values they developed during their years at Memorial

Elementary. She reminded students that while they are leaving Memorial, they will always be an important part of the school community and expressed confidence in their ability to succeed in the years ahead.

The joyful atmosphere reflected both the excitement of completing elementary school and the anticipation of beginning a new chapter.

As these students prepare to

enter Hopedale Junior-Senior High School, we wish them continued success, confidence, and happiness. They leave Memorial Elementary with the skills, experiences, and relationships that will serve as a strong foundation for the future. We also extend our congratulations to their families, whose encouragement and support have played such an important role in their children's accomplishments. The entire Memorial community is proud of the Class of 2032 and looks forward to all they will achieve in the years to come.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools



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Ignore at your peril: Why fund a Trump Account for your child



Glenn Brown, CFP

Save yourself the political angst, as I'm going to educate as a fiduciary on why you should open and fund a Trump Account for your child. Let me repeat: "educate as a fiduciary."

Building generational wealth via disciplined investment, forward-thinking tax planning, and unapologetic pragmatism shouldn't be partisan. Parents and grandparents need to look past political branding and understand this financial opportunity starting July 4 through the U.S. Treasury via IRS Form 4547, then deployed to major institutions, including Schwab, Fidelity, and Vanguard.

Reality Beyond Reels

Media outlets and social influencers are hyper-focused on flashy elements: the narcissistic naming, Michael Dell's \$6.25 billion gift, and the one-time \$1,000 newborn cash seed funded by the U.S. government for 2025–2028.

This noise has millions of parents completely ignoring the program, assuming their older children aren't eligible or out of political disdain. What a massive financial planning error.

The truth is any U.S. citizen under 18 with an SSN qualifies for a parent or grandparent established Trump Account. The real opportunity is investing up to \$5,000 annually tax-deferred, which transitions directly into a Traditional IRA in the child's name at age 18. Free of spending restrictions, this complements a 529 plan.

Doing 10-year-old math

Say you have a 10-year-old and max contribute \$5,000 prior to each December 31 deadline until they turn 18. Your total out-of-pocket investment over those eight years is \$40,000.

Treasury mandates require these funds to be placed in di-

versified, low-fee index funds mirroring benchmarks like the S&P 500 (which has averaged 10.5% historical annual return since its 1957 inception). Assuming a 10% annualized return over that eight-year window, this 10-year-old's account grows to \$62,897 by age 18—meaning \$22,897 is investment growth.

The age-18 IRA handoff

At age 18, regulations dictate the account must transition directly into a Traditional IRA under the child's control. Because your original \$40,000 in contributions was made with after-tax dollars, it carries over into that Traditional IRA as a non-deductible basis, meaning the principal can eventually be withdrawn tax-free. Why is this important?

The Roth conversion strategy

Instead of leaving this IRA to compound for a massive tax bill down the road, the optimal wealth-building move at age 18 is a full Roth IRA conversion. As a student entering adulthood with little to no earned income, they can exploit their standard

deductions and baseline federal tax brackets to effectively neutralize the conversion tax.

Due to pro-rata rules governing Roth conversions, your 18-year-old will owe ordinary income taxes only on the converted growth portion (\$22,897) on their own tax return, not yours.

Consider an 18-year-old Massachusetts student with zero personal income:

- **Federal Tax:** Standard deduction shields the first \$16,100 of growth. The rest falls into the 10% bracket, resulting in a \$680 tax bill.
- **State Tax:** Massachusetts applies its \$4,400 personal exemption, then levies its flat 5% tax for a \$925 obligation.

For \$1,605 paid in taxes, this Massachusetts 18-year-old has converted the entire \$62,897 into a Roth IRA. So, what now?

A \$3.4 million Roth IRA by age 60

If this Roth IRA is left untouched to compound at 10% annually with \$0 further added, the account will swell to over \$3.44 million by age 60—en-

tirely tax-free upon distribution.

The truth is \$3.4M today isn't the same as \$3.4M in 50 years. However, by demonstrating the power of compounding through incremental investment, you lay the behavioral foundation for your child to keep saving and investing during their career.

Ignore at your own peril, but be prepared in 20 years for: "Mom, Dad, what happened? Why didn't you choose to do this?"

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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RUSCITTI

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Select Board Chair Glenda Hazard said Ruscitti's original end date was Aug. 3 though, with the use of vacation time, his last day in the office would be mid-June; however, she said at the 6 p.m. meeting, "Just before this meeting, I received notice that he has decided to [also] use his sick time and to leave effective immediately."

Ruscitti attended the meeting via Zoom and spoke during public comment, noting he had alerted the Select Board two months prior that he was a finalist for a position in another town. "I had sent the board an email eight weeks ago about leaving and asking if they needed help with a transition plan, and I didn't receive a response."

Hazard said she did not receive that notification but, after

further discussion, said, "Yes, we did receive an email that you were a finalist."

Ruscitti said he had been notified that day [June 10] by Town Counsel that the Select Board was going to place him on leave that evening. Hazard said she had not planned to place him on leave, and the emails and conversations Ruscitti had with KP Law were not accurate.

At press time, the board was deciding whether to use a search firm or conduct interviews themselves for an interim and permanent Town Administrator. Select Board member Bernie Stock said he could conduct interviews (he previously served as Hopedale's Town Administrator for many years), but board member Carole Mullen thought hiring a firm could be faster. She said, "We need help; we are desperately down people," referring to several recent town employee departures.

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Summer cleanout is greener with *Affordable Junk Removal*

There are plenty of reasons to call a junk removal service. Maybe walking through your basement has gotten difficult or there is no more room in the attic? Perhaps you are planning to move, and you need to de-clutter before your open house?

Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

Or you can call Affordable Junk Removal and let a local small business with deep community roots take care of everything.

Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with stuff, take back your space and let the

pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or concrete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truck-load of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the

Business spotlight

team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an anonymous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

Affordable Junk Removal is fully licensed and fully insured, and they'll treat your property with care and respect.

They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply



involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can

handle everything!
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Hearts, Hugs & Hope: Alzheimer's Support Group sponsored by Cornerstone at Milford

Next meetings are to be held on July 14 and August 11 at 6 p.m. and are sponsored by Cornerstone at Milford Assisted Living and Memory Support Community, 11 Birch Street, Milford.

The July and August caregivers meetings are being held on Zoom. Dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia isn't easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal ex-

periences 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.

Contact Director of Compass Programming Jenn Hozempa at jhozempa@cornerstonemilford.com for more information and the Zoom link. This group meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

10th annual Hopedale Fairy Walk, a magical success



(Above) An estimated 2,500 fairy-friendly folks attended this year's 10th annual Hopedale Fairy Walk on June 13. For more photos, visit @TheWitchesOfSutton on Facebook



(Below and right) Hopedale Aspire, a service program for adults with disabilities, was excited to create a display at this year's Fairy Walk called "Where We All Belong," which featured an inclusive fairy garden where all are welcome. Photo source: Hopedale Aspire



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Bancroft Memorial Library news

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Library Director
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The Library will be closed on Fri., July 3, and Sat., July 4, in observance of the July 4th holiday.

REMINDER: Our Friday Summer Hours (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) begin on July 10.

Summer Reading is underway, and it's not just for kids - we have exciting Grand Prizes for adults too! To participate, simply complete a registration form at the Library. Read or listen to 5 items (books, audiobooks, magazines, etc.), and complete a reading log. Each completed log earns a raffle ticket toward a Grand Prize drawing. Best of all, there is no limit to the number of entries you can earn, so keep reading all summer long!

Community Conversations – Wed., July 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Community Conversations will meet in the Program Room to talk about “Wish List for Government Reform.”

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE HOPEDALE LIBRARY:

Online Auction coming in August!

The Friends of the Hopedale Library are excited to host an online auction during the week of Aug. 10! With prizes ranging from Bruins game tickets and hotel stays to gift certificates for local restaurants and more, there's something for everyone. Auction details and the bidding link will be available soon on

the Library website and social media, so be sure to watch for updates. Every bid helps support Library programs, services, and collections. Bid often, spread the word, and share the auction with friends and family both near and far!

Ongoing Book Sale

Looking for a book to bring to the beach or keep in your car? Visit the Friends of the Hopedale Library Ongoing Book Sale, located downstairs outside the Program Room. The sale is open when the Library is open, making it easy to browse at your convenience. We offer a wide selection of books for adults and children, as well as puzzles. All proceeds support Library programs and services, including Summer Reading, museum passes, and other enhancements not covered by the regular library budget. Prices start at 50¢. The selection is refreshed weekly!

NEWS FROM THE MARJORIE HATTERSLEY CHILDREN'S ROOM:

Summer Reading 2026 – “Plant a Seed, Read!”

Summer Reading is underway! This year's theme is “Plant a Seed, Read!” and registration is ongoing. Programs run now through Fri., Aug. 14. Each week brings something new with themed activities and events. Grand Prize Raffles will be held for kids, teens, and adults - everyone has a chance to win!

Family Stand Up Night! – Wed., July 1, from 4-6 p.m.

Help us celebrate International Joke Day by joining us for Family Stand Up Night. Drop

in and try your hand at stand up with an open mic (we can provide the jokes if you need some). Wear a goofy outfit and write some jokes so we can create a Bancroft Library Funny Flyer to share!

Open Play – Thursdays 7/2, 7/9, 7/16, 7/23 & 7/30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for kids in Grades 2 - 6

School age kids can drop in for Open Play in the Program Room. Different play opportunities will change weekly, such as arts & crafts, a crochet lesson, board games, Wii gaming, assorted puzzles, life size games, learn a card game and more!

Planting Our New Library Herb Garden – Mon., July 6, from 4-6 p.m.

Join us in the Library yard as we plant our new Community Herb Garden beds! **Tummy Time Summer Reading Style – Tuesdays, 7/7, 7/14, 7/21 & 7/28 at 10 a.m.**

Drop in for some safe and comfortable movement and socialization for infants from birth through 18 months.

Rock Painting – Wed., July 8, from 4-6 p.m.

Drop in and decorate some rocks! You can leave them at the Library to share or take them home for your own yard.

Summer Reading Big Book Story Time – Fridays, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24 & 7/31 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Big Book Story Time is an interactive Story Time we make together. Attendees will choose which Big Book we will read together then we will all collaborate and build our story time activities. Drop in!

Saturday Movie Matinees – Saturdays, 7/11, 7/18 & 7/25



from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Drop in at the Library to beat the heat or just to enjoy a fun, family friendly movie! (G or PG titles only). You can bring a snack, a blanket, a stuffy and even come in your PJs! Stop by or call the Library to find out what the movie is.

Summer Dance Party – Mon., July 13, from 2-3 p.m.

Drop in for dancing fun with laser lights, glow bracelets, tattoos and bubble fun!

Photosensitive Paper Art Science – Wed., July 15, from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Learn how to make Turmeric based photosensitive paper and then to use it to create unique natural art!

Super Food, Super Hero! – Mon., July 20, from 4-6 p.m.

Drop in for Super Hero FUN! Make your own Super Food Super Hero costume and then we can create an action scene to act out! We will also take "action shots" of our Super Heroes that we can share with our Library community!

Still Life Art – Wed., July 22, from 4-6 p.m.

Drop in and try your hand at Still Life Art. We will provide the models and a variety of art materials such as pencils, pens, pastels and watercolors.

Bee Motel and Mason Bees – Mon., July 27 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Join us as we hang our new Bee Motel to welcome mason bees! Learn all about these pollinators and their behaviors as we introduce them to our new herb garden beds.

Seed Art – Wed., July 29, from 4-6 p.m.

Get creative with seeds of all shapes and sizes to make one-of-a-kind artwork. Drop in!

ROLLING PROGRAMS:

Genre Book Club – All ages

Join the Genre Book Club and create your own bookmark with a cable ring. Read any book you choose on your own schedule; after each finished book, stop by the Children's Room to collect a genre badge. The club has no scheduled meetings, is open to all and can be joined at any time.

Reading Dragons: A Card Game Reading Club – All ages

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.

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 and a log for books 1-100. 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.

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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HOP

HOP

BVT students assist Calvinist Cadet Corps, includes Tobin of Hopedale

UPTON – Sophomores in the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Painting & Design Technology program recently had the opportunity to design, print, and install a custom trailer wrap for the Calvinist Cadet Corps. The non-denominational youth ministry organization often serves as a church-based alternative to traditional scouting.

From concept to completion, the project provided Mackenzie Johnson of Douglas, Hannah Gosselin of Douglas, and Hayden Tobin of Hopedale with valuable hands-on experience while showcasing their creativity, technical skills, and teamwork throughout the design and installation process. With guidance from their Painting & Design Technology Instructor, Tom Lamont, the students communicated directly with the customer, coordinated trailer delivery, prepared the trailer surface, and completed measurements before installation began.

To develop their designs, students met with the customer to discuss the organization's vision for the trailer transformation. Incorporating the various ranks, badges, mottos, and missions of the Calvinist Cadet Corps was an important part of the project.

"We were also given creative freedom throughout the design process," said Mackenzie Johnson.

After conducting extensive research on the Calvinist Cadet Corps and its mission, the students created a nature-inspired layout featuring various shades of blue and gray. The final design incorporated customer-provided merit badges, ranks, and troop numbers to create a

customized and meaningful visual presentation.

The completed graphics were printed on wrap vinyl using the Roland TrueVis wide-format printer. The process also included laminating the graphics with a Royal Sovereign laminator before applying them to the cleaned and measured trailer surface.

"It was not an easy application because the trailer surface was not smooth," said Hannah Gosselin. "There were many rivets along the sides of the trailer, which made applying the wrap a challenge. We made sure everything lined up perfectly and used heat correctly for a smooth application."

The Painting & Design students said they are incredibly proud of this collaborative community project. The newly wrapped trailer will transport equipment and gear used to support cadets in outdoor skill building, camping activities, and badge work while promoting the organization's mission throughout the Blackstone Valley.

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

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



(Left to right) BVT Painting & Design Technology sophomores Mackenzie Johnson, Hannah Gosselin, and Hayden Tobin stand along one side of the completed trailer wrap created for the Calvinist Cadet Corps. Courtesy photo

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Fourth Grade Wax Museum brings history to life

History came alive at Memorial Elementary School as the fourth-grade students hosted their annual Wax Museum, an engaging and interactive learning experience that transformed the school into a living museum of famous historical figures. The event showcased the culmination of weeks of research, writing, and preparation, while giving students the opportunity to share their knowledge in a creative and memorable way.

Each fourth-grade student selected a notable historical figure to study, researching the individual's life, accomplishments and lasting impact on history. After completing detailed reports, students developed presentations that highlighted the significance of their chosen person. On the day of the Wax Museum, they took their learning one step further by dressing in costume and becoming their historical figure.

Visitors were invited to walk through the museum and "press the button" at each student's station. At that moment, the once-still "wax figure" sprang to life, delivering a first-person presentation about their life and achievements. Students also created informative poster displays featuring photographs, facts, timelines, and key ac-

complishments, allowing guests to learn even more about each individual.

The event welcomed families, staff members, and students from other grade levels, all of whom had the opportunity to interact with the exhibits and celebrate the hard work of our fourth graders. Visitors reported enjoying the event, commenting on the students' confidence, creativity, and depth of knowledge. Younger students especially enjoyed seeing history presented in such an engaging format and left inspired by what they learned.

The Fourth Grade Wax Museum is an outstanding example of project-based learning, combining research, writing, public speaking, and creativity into one meaningful experience. Most importantly, it allowed students to develop a deeper appreciation for the people who have shaped our world while building important communication and presentation skills. Memorial Elementary is proud of our fourth graders for their dedication and enthusiasm, and we thank our teachers and families for supporting this memorable event.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

Summer concerts in July

The following summer band concerts will take place at the Hopedale Community House on Wednesdays in July from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Rain dates are the following Thursday.

July 8: The Pub Kings (elec-

tro acoustic quartet)

July 15: Soul Syndicate

July 22: Elastic 5 (pop, rock, folk)

The concert series is sponsored by the Hopedale Cultural Council.

Bancroft Memorial Library introduces new WhaZoodle audio devices for children

Bancroft Memorial Library is excited to announce the addition of WhaZoodle audio devices to its collection of family-friendly resources.

Designed for children ages 3 to 12, WhaZoodles are screen-free audio players filled with stories, music, games, educational activities, calming audio content and more. These easy-to-use devices provide hours of entertainment and learning without the need for Wi-Fi or a tablet - everything is preloaded and ready to enjoy.

"These devices provide a wonderful way for children to learn, play, and explore through audio," said Youth Services Librarian Laura Brilliant-Giangrande. "We are always looking for new ways to expand our collection of innovative resources while continuing to support literacy - WhaZoodles are a



perfect addition. The fact that they are completely screen-free makes them even better."

WhaZoodles are available for checkout with a valid library card. Families are encouraged

to stop by the Library to learn more and checkout a device.

For more information, visit the Library, call 508-634-2209, or visit the Library's website at bancroftmemoriallibrary.org.

Second grade Living Zoo showcases student learning, creativity

The halls of Memorial Elementary School were transformed into a vibrant Living Zoo as second-grade students invited families, staff, and classmates to explore the animal kingdom through an exciting and interactive learning experience. The event celebrated weeks of research and creativity while giving students the opportunity to become experts on the animals they studied.

Each second grader selected

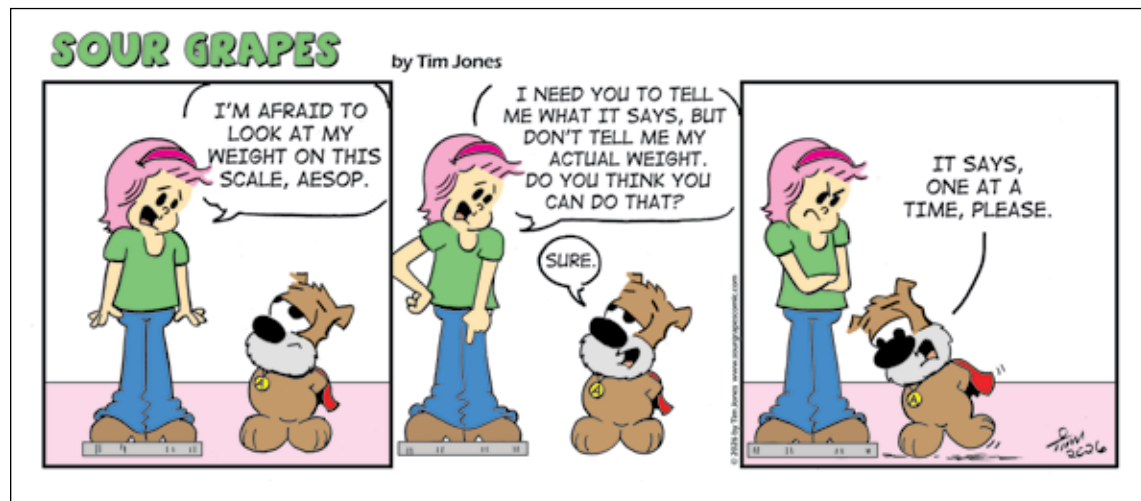
an animal to research, learning about its habitat, diet, physical characteristics, adaptations, and other fascinating facts. Students organized their findings into written reports, strengthening their reading, writing, and research skills while developing a deeper understanding of the natural world. To complement their research, each student also designed and built a detailed diorama that recreated the animal's habitat, showcasing both scientific knowledge and artistic talent.

The highlight of the event was seeing the students bring their animals to life. Dressed in creative costumes representing their chosen species, the young zoologists stood proudly beside their displays, ready to share what they had learned with visitors. As families, teachers, and students from other grade levels traveled through the "zoo," they had the opportunity to ask questions, admire the dioramas, and discover interesting facts about animals from around the world.

The Living Zoo provided an authentic audience for students to practice their speaking and presentation skills while demonstrating the knowledge they had gained throughout the project. Visitors commented on the enthusiasm and confidence displayed by the second graders, as well as the impressive quality of their research and creative displays.

Experiences like the Living Zoo exemplify the engaging, hands-on learning that takes place at Memorial Elementary. By combining literacy, science, art, and communication, the project allowed students to explore the wonders of the animal kingdom while building skills that will serve them well in future learning. The second graders should be proud of the dedication, curiosity, and creativity they demonstrated in making this year's Living Zoo such a memorable success.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools



Bright Beginnings Center celebrates with annual pre-K picnic

The Bright Beginnings Center closed out another wonderful school year with its annual Pre-K Picnic Celebration, a heartwarming event that brought together students, families, and staff to celebrate our youngest learners and all they have accomplished. 54 students completed pre-kindergarten at BBC this year and will head to kindergarten in the fall. Held on a beautiful morning outside on the BBC playground, the celebration provided the perfect setting for families to gather and create lasting memories.

Students in the four pre-k classes, taught by Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Mrs. Gosselin, Mrs. Rebello, and Mrs. Watson, were celebrated at the ceremony. Parents and loved ones spread out blankets across the playground, sitting alongside their pre-k graduates and classmates as everyone enjoyed the festive atmosphere. The event reflected the strong partnership between home and school and highlighted the supportive community that surrounds our youngest students as they prepare for their next educational adventure.

Adding a special touch to the celebration, each classroom

teacher shared a series of fun facts about every pre-k graduate. Before each child was called forward to receive their certificate, families and classmates listened to clues and tried to guess which student was being described. The activity brought smiles, laughter, and excitement as everyone celebrated the unique personalities, interests, and accomplishments of each child.

The graduates made a memorable entrance, walking into the celebration to the traditional strains of "Pomp and Circumstance," proudly marking this important milestone in their young lives. One by one, students were recognized for their hard work and growth throughout the year as they received their certificates to the applause of family members, friends, and staff.

Following the classroom presentations, the celebration continued with a community picnic where families, students, and staff enjoyed pizza and ice cream together. The opportunity to relax, visit, and celebrate made for a joyful conclusion to an incredible year of learning and growth. The school was grateful for the support of the Parent Teacher Organization,



Pre-k graduates from Mrs. Fitzgibbon's class. Courtesy photo

Friends of Bright Beginnings, who provided the pizza and ice cream for the event. Friends of Bright Beginnings also provided the annual BBC pre-k yearbooks, which were handed out to students during the picnic.

The Pre-K Picnic Celebration was a wonderful reminder that our youngest students achieve

remarkable milestones. Congratulations to all of our pre-k graduates and their families! We wish these students continued success as they take their next excit-

ing steps in their educational journey, and we look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the years ahead.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

Pet of the month: Nalia

This petite little miss is a boss, but she also knows how to let loose and have fun. To see Nalia sitting so regally in her bed you would never guess she can zoom around the room like a pinball bouncing off the bumpers. Bring out the string toys, and she leaps into the air like a gazelle.

Nalia has no problem relaxing either. She is happy to lounge in a cozy bed and take plenty of catnaps.

At 5 years old, Nalia knows her own mind. If you are petting her and she thinks you might stop, she may reach out her paw to pull you back. If she's had enough, she will let you know she's done. Nalia likes to let the other shelter cats know she's the boss, too. For this reason we think she would do best as the only pet in her new home.

Nalia is taking visitors at Milford Humane Society on Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

For information on the Milford Humane Society or the cats in our care, please visit <https://www.milfordhumane.org>



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Understanding macular degeneration:

Causes, symptoms, and new treatment options

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.

What is macular degeneration?

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is one of the leading causes of vision loss in adults over the age of 50. The disease affects the macula, the central portion of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision needed for reading, driving, recognizing faces, and performing daily activities. Although AMD usually does not cause total blindness, it can significantly impair central vision and reduce independence and quality of life if not diagnosed and treated early.

AMD develops from aging changes within the retina combined with genetic and environmental factors. Over time, retinal tissues become less efficient at clearing waste products, leading to deposits called drusen

beneath the retina. Several risk factors increase the likelihood of developing AMD, including advancing age, family history, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, ultraviolet light exposure, and poor nutrition. Because early AMD can progress silently, routine eye examinations remain essential for early detection.

Common symptoms of AMD

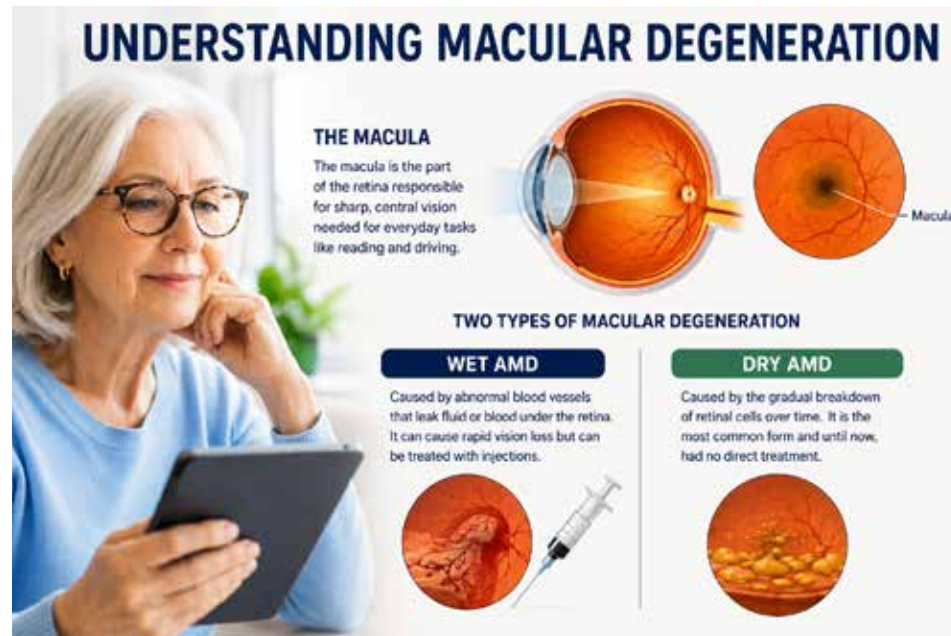
Patients with macular degeneration may experience blurred central vision, distortion of straight lines, difficulty reading, trouble recognizing faces, dark or empty areas in central vision, reduced color sensitivity, or an increased need for brighter lighting. Symptoms may develop gradually or suddenly depending on the type of AMD involved.

There are two primary forms

of AMD: wet macular degeneration and dry macular degeneration. Although both affect the same part of the retina, they behave very differently and require different treatment approaches.

Wet macular degeneration: the more serious form

Wet AMD is less common but far more aggressive and dangerous. In wet AMD, abnormal blood vessels grow beneath the retina and leak blood or fluid into the macula, causing rapid and potentially permanent vi-



sion loss if treatment is delayed. Patients may suddenly notice wavy vision, blurred central vision, distortion, or dark spots that worsen over days or weeks. Because vision can deteriorate quickly, wet AMD requires urgent evaluation and treatment.

Fortunately, major advances in retinal medicine have dramatically improved outcomes for patients with wet AMD through the use of intravitreal injections. These specialized medications are injected directly into the eye and work by reducing abnormal blood vessel growth and leakage. These treatments have revolutionized wet AMD care and have helped many patients stabilize or even improve their vision.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, patients with wet AMD have access to advanced retinal diagnostics and modern injection therapies using the latest evidence-based treatments available today. Early diagnosis remains critical because time equals vision.

Dry macular degeneration: the most common form

Dry AMD accounts for approximately 85–90% of all cases of macular degeneration and progresses more slowly than the wet form. In dry AMD, retinal cells gradually deteriorate over time, leading to progressive central vision loss. Although it is generally less aggressive than wet AMD, dry AMD can still significantly affect quality of life and independence.

Traditionally, ophthalmologists often had difficult conversations with patients diagnosed with dry AMD because there was no direct treatment available for the disease itself. Patients were commonly told, “You have the dry form of macular degeneration. Unfortunately, there is no treatment available.” While vitamins, lifestyle modifications, smoking cessation, and monitoring could sometimes slow progression, there historically has been little available to directly target the disease process.

A new breakthrough: PMB therapy for dry AMD

That is now beginning to change with the emergence of PMB therapy, one of the most exciting recent advances in ophthalmology for dry macular degeneration. PMB represents a promising new treatment option that offers hope to patients who previously had limited choices beyond observation and supportive care. This innovative technology may help slow disease progression and preserve functional vision in patients with dry AMD.

Milford Franklin Eye Center is proud to be among the first practices in Massachusetts to offer PMB therapy and currently remains the only practice in the area providing this advanced treatment option for dry AMD patients. This reflects the

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Finding metal, forging friendships

Local metal detecting club welcomes new members

BY JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Is it a trinket or a treasure? For Jim Riendeau and Joe Bustamonte, the real value of metal detecting lies in the friendships, history, and time spent outdoors.

In January, the Bellingham brothers-in-law launched the Central New England Relic Hunters, a regional metal detecting club that meets at the Bellingham Sportsman Club on the second Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Members showcase their finds, vote on favorites, hold raffles, and collect donations for Loaves & Fishes Pantry in Bellingham. The club has already attracted 49 members from across Massachusetts, as well as New Hampshire and Connecticut.

"It is such a cool hobby. It's lots of fun and great people," said Riendeau, who introduced Bustamonte, the club's president, to the pastime.

Members have uncovered relics and coins throughout the region, often working with historical societies and coin dealers

to identify their discoveries. One member found an Oak Tree Shilling—a rare coin minted in the Massachusetts Bay Colony between 1660 and 1667—worth more than \$50,000. Others have recovered George Washington inaugural buttons from 1789, valued at several thousand dollars.

For many detectorists, however, the monetary value is secondary.

"We all do it for the love of history—both the items we find and the towns where we find them," Riendeau said.

The group organizes three or four outings each year, always securing permission to search, removing litter, and carefully restoring any disturbed ground.

On the club's first outing of the year in Wellesley, member John Silva of Attleboro unearthed a Spanish 8 Reales coin minted during Mexico's colonial era.

Metal detecting involves far more than waiting for a machine to beep. Bustamonte said members spend hours researching historic properties, studying

old maps, and identifying locations marked by stone walls and other clues.

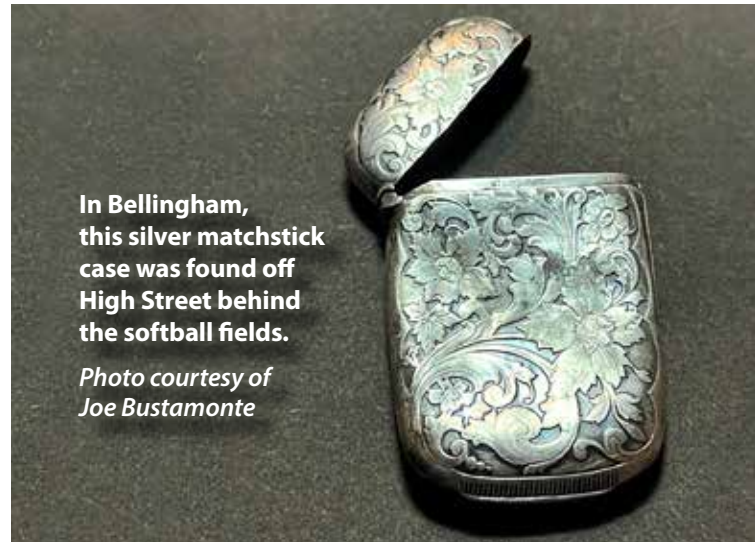
"You go onto old maps and try to figure out what was there 100 or 200 years ago," he said. "A lot of it is researching war sites, Puritan settlements, and colonial areas."

The hobby combines historical research with modern technology. Detectorists use mapping applications and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery to identify long-forgotten foundations, roads, and homesteads hidden beneath forests and fields.

Oxford resident Robin Rivera, who has been metal detecting for about 16 years, said LiDAR imagery can reveal subtle features that are invisible from the ground.

"If there's an old foundation in the middle of the woods, you're apt to see it," she said.

Rivera recently found a small metal bird on a neighboring property. After researching the item, she learned it was a sewing bird, a tool used in the



In Bellingham, this silver matchstick case was found off High Street behind the softball fields.

Photo courtesy of Joe Bustamonte

mid-1800s to hold fabric while sewing. In another case, she recovered a pocket watch that a property owner later matched to an old family photograph, allowing the artifact to remain with its descendants.

Many enthusiasts belong to multiple clubs. Marty Conceicao of Carver joined Central New England Relic Hunters to meet fellow detectorists and explore new locations.

"It's a chance to metal detect

areas I haven't done before," he said.

For Bustamonte, the club's appeal extends beyond the finds themselves. "It's about friendships, laughter, and amazing finds," he said. "We're bringing history back to life, one hole at a time."

New members welcome. For more information visit their public Facebook page @CentralNewEnglandRelicHunters.

Edited by Theresa Knapp

EYE

continued from page 12

practice's commitment to bringing state-of-the-art retinal care and innovative technology to the community.

On-site retina specialty care

Milford Franklin Eye Center is also proud to provide on-site retina specialty care through Dr. Alyse Richard, a highly trained retina specialist dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases including dry and wet macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, retinal vascular disease, retinal tears, and other complex retinal conditions.

Dr. Richard combines advanced subspecialty expertise with compassionate, patient-centered care and is committed to helping patients preserve their vision using the latest evidence-based treatments available today. Having on-site retina specialty care allows patients to receive comprehensive retinal evaluations, advanced imaging, injec-

tions, monitoring, and ongoing treatment in one convenient location.

Early evaluation can preserve vision

Macular degeneration remains one of the leading causes of vision loss in older adults, but advances in retinal care are rapidly transforming outcomes for patients. Early evaluation and treatment can make a meaningful difference in preserving vision, maintaining independence, and improving quality of life.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with dry AMD, now is the time to learn more about this exciting breakthrough in treatment. Patients are encouraged to contact Milford Franklin Eye Center for immediate appointments and second opinions regarding this revolutionary new technology that is changing the future of dry macular degeneration care.

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August auction will support library

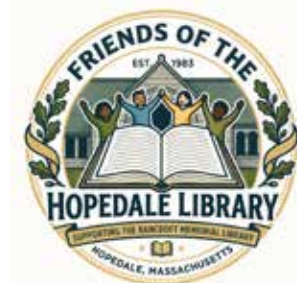
The Friends of the Hopedale Library are excited to announce an online auction taking place the week of August 10.

This year's auction offers an impressive variety of items and experiences for all ages and interests. Highlights include a one-hour private reading with medium Ellen Henry, an overnight stay at the historic Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, generous gift cards to favorite local restaurants, relaxing riverboat cruises, museum passes, and tickets to sporting events. Additional items and surprises will be added as the auction ap-

proaches, providing even more opportunities to bid and win.

The online auction is a wonderful way to support the Library while discovering unique experiences, special outings, and local treasures. Whether you are looking for a fun family activity, a thoughtful gift, or a special treat for yourself, there is something for everyone.

Every bid directly supports Library programs, services, and collections that benefit the entire community. From children's programming and summer reading to technology access and community events,



your participation helps keep Bancroft Memorial Library thriving.

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Bright Beginnings' Field Day brings fun, laughter, school spirit



Students enjoy playing with the parachute during Field Day. *Courtesy photo*



BBC staff race in their inflatable costumes at the conclusion of Field Day. *Courtesy photo*

On June 2, the Bright Beginnings Center celebrated its annual Field Day, giving our preschool students a day filled with excitement, movement, and unforgettable memories. The BBC playground was transformed into a space for adventure and play as students rotated through a variety of engaging activities designed to encourage teamwork, confidence, and, most importantly, fun.

Throughout the morning, students enthusiastically participated in events including an ob-

stacle course, a water race, and a rubber duck hunt, along with many other age-appropriate activities that kept smiles on every face. The laughter and encouragement shared among classmates, staff, and families created a joyful atmosphere that truly reflected the spirit of the Bright Beginnings community.

A special thank you goes to the BBC staff for their tremendous coordination and planning efforts. Their creativity, organization, and dedication ensured that every child had the oppor-

tunity to participate, celebrate, and enjoy a successful day of outdoor fun. Events like Field Day require countless hours of preparation, and the commitment of our staff made the day a wonderful experience for all.

Students also proudly wore their Field Day t-shirts, generously provided by Friends of Bright Beginnings through donations from several local sponsors. We extend our sincere appreciation to these community partners for their continued support of our preschool and

for helping make this special tradition possible. Sponsors of BBC's Field Day event included Desmeule Home Improvement, DMG Trucking & Paving, Felt Sense Psychotherapy, Makcare, Marcov Sharp Gymnastics, Ligris, Maya House, Movement Mortgage, The Northeast Longhorns, Pace Auto Services, Quick Realty Group, Sarah Greco Premiere Properties, Telora Consulting Group, Upper Construction Inc., Valente Plumbing, Heating, & AC, and The Flaherty Family.

One of the most anticipated moments of the day came at the conclusion of the festivities, the staff costume race. Dressed in fun and creative costumes, staff members raced to the delight of the crowd, bringing students and staff members to their feet with cheers, laughter, and applause. The event served as the perfect ending to a day centered on joy, community, and celebrating our youngest learners.

Submitted by Hopedale Public Schools

Public Safety Log includes attempted murder, threats, trash

Between May 16 and June 15, the Hopedale Police and Fire Departments responded to hundreds of calls, many related to motor vehicle stops, vehicle accidents/crashes, traffic complaints, erratic operators, preventative patrolling, community policing, illegal parking, theft/larceny/forgery/fraud, burglar alarms, lost/found property, property checks, animal complaints, LTC/FIC (license to carry/firearms identification card) matters, suspicious persons/activity, trespassing, well-being checks, court appearances, 911 hang-ups/open lines, safety details, school resource officer, general

information, records requests, public assistance, and training.

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

May 16 at 12:18 a.m., attempted murder. A 60-year-old Hopedale man was arrested and charged with attempted murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (over 60), strangulation or suffocation, assault and battering resulting in serious bodily injury, and assault and battery on someone +60/disabled with serious injury.
May 16 at 9:16 a.m., Southwick Zoo, public assist.
May 16 at 9:59 p.m., Adin St.,

suspicious activity

May 17 at 5:36 p.m., Dutcher St., animal complaint
May 19 at 11:44 a.m., Dutcher St., well-being check
May 20 at 3:19 a.m., Rosenfeld Dr., burglar alarm
May 20 at 8:25 a.m., Dana Park, arrest. A 26-year-old Hopedale man was charged with a warrant in another jurisdiction
May 22 at 10:29 a.m., Shaw's, summons service
May 22 at 8:21 p.m., Charlesview Rd., open door/window
May 23 at 9:42 a.m., Lake St., well-being check
May 27 at 6:10 a.m., Ballou Rd., animal complaint

May 27 at 8:44 a.m., Draper St., illegal parking

May 27 at 6:27 p.m., trespassing. A 32-year-old Milford man was charged with assault and battery, and walking/riding on railroad tracks.

May 28 at 2:36 p.m., West & Hazel Sts., hit and run

June 1 at 3:22 p.m., South Main St., theft/larceny/forgery/fraud

June 5 at 3:46 a.m., Freedom St., suspicious activity/person/vehicle

June 5 at 11:29 a.m., Laurelwood Dr., threats

June 5 at 3:19 p.m., South Main St., trash complaint

June 6 at 11:24 p.m., Park



Street, tree damage
June 8 at 11:57 a.m., Freedom St., tree damage
June 13 at 5:56 a.m., Hopedale St., disturbance, peace restored
June 13 at 12:47 p.m., Chapel St., illegal parking
June 13 at 9:50 p.m., South Main St., disturbance, peace restored
June 14 at 12:45 a.m., South Main St., disturbance
June 15 at 6:45 p.m., Jones Rd., disturbance

Source: Hopedale Police Department

HOPEDALE SPORTS

Blue Raiders chasing familiar postseason success

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

For the past few seasons, the Hopedale Softball team has put together some very eerie numbers. The Blue Raiders have finished the regular season earning a number three seed in the Division 5 Softball Tournament where they went as far as the Final 4 before losing each time to the number two seed. Two years ago, Greenfield took out Hopedale and last spring it was Turner Falls.

This year, the Blue Raiders finished with a 10-10 regular season record and once again earned themselves a number three seed in the post-season. Coach Jim Casey was expecting his players to take to the field once again as a competitive team and at the very least get back into the Final 4.

In order to accomplish that feat for the third straight year Hopedale put together a very competitive schedule so they would be ready come the playoffs.

“In the past our regular season schedule hadn’t been as competitive and we wanted to step it up this year,” Casey said. “Because of our past performances when the MIAA restructured the leagues we were put into the CMAC – A, where we are the only Division 5 team.”

In addition to the new league where Hopedale had to face some talented teams, they also scheduled some really challenging non-league games to give them a better chance for a deep run in the tournament.

One of the Blue Raiders’ biggest assets is freshman pitcher Emily Atwood.

“It all starts with her; she is our ace in the circle as well as one of our top three hitters,” the coach said. “She pitched in all but four games for us this year. She is a pitcher of positivity and wants to be given the ball in all the big games.”

Last spring, Atwood notched 205 strikeouts and, despite having to go up against stronger hitters, the freshman hurler was still able to punch out another 103 batters while holding

a 1.51 ERA.

Layla Huntley is the team’s top hitter and leads Hopedale in just about every offensive category. At press time, she had hit .443 with a .506 ops, where she had clubbed 3 home runs, had 28 RBI and added 28 runs scored. The junior first baseman has started three years for Hopedale and over that time has accumulated a total of 9 homeruns and is approaching 100 hits.

Following Huntley on the hit chart is senior captain and catcher Delaney Vaillette, who is hitting .380 with a .433 ops and 1 homerun, 14 RBI and 19 runs scored. Atwood sits in third at .345 and an ops of .435.

With the bats swinging away, the Hopedale defense has also managed to become much improved over last sprig due primarily to two sophomores in second baseman Bella Federico and third baseman Lucy Mandeville. Right fielder Hannah Gallerani and shortstop Mia Casey have also been part of the defensive equation.

Prior to the season getting underway, Casey knew that Hopedale had a challenging schedule in front of them. There was some concern mid-season when the Blue Raiders were hit with some injuries that set the team back, but now as they get ready to enter the tournament the team is fully healthy.

At they get ready to embark in yet another wild journey through the tournament Casey knows that having secured the three seed, Hopedale is guaranteed three home games and if they are able to capture all three victories once again they will have put themselves back into the Final 4 for the third straight year.

“We want to make a deep playoff run, that’s why we put together the tougher schedule,” the Coach said. “A lot of the girls have been here the last two years so they have the playoff experience to push further ahead.”

Editor’s note: The team played in the Division 5 championship after the newspaper went to print.



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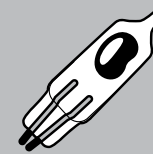
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Date	Hopedale	Amount
06/19/2026	20 Mellen St.	\$535,000
05/28/2026	89 Laurelwood Dr.	\$425,000
05/19/2026	116 Adin St.	\$625,000
05/05/2026	19 Bens Way	\$550,000

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



The 5-bed, 5-bath, 5,764-square-foot condo at 116 Adin Street in Hopedale recently sold for \$625,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

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