

Milford Brownies take water conservation all the way to Beacon Hill



Troop 65354 at the Senate rostrum with Senator Rausch (Girl Scouts Anastasia, Aadhana, Isla, Giuliana, Adeline, Hailey, Mia, Tegan, Adelyn, Aadhiya, Vera, Kira, Semira, Charlotte, Mabel). *Courtesy photo*

By Catherine Tonsberg Syfert

You are never too small to make a big splash. Second and third graders from Milford Girl Scout Brownie

Troop 65354 recently traded troop meetings for the grand halls of the State House, traveling to Beacon Hill to present their very own scientific research to State Senator Rebecca Rausch.

tific research to State Senator Rebecca Rausch.

BROWNIES

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Milford resident advocates for organ donation after mother receives life-saving transplant



Milford residents Betsaida ("Betsy") Pérez (right) and her mother Rosa Cubias (left). *Courtesy of NEDS*

By Ingrid Palacios

Milford residents Betsaida (Betsy) Pérez and her mother Rosa Cubias have a lot to celebrate in August, which is National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Month (NMDAM).

Betsy and Rosa, both of Hispanic descent, are reflecting on the importance of donation this NMDAM.

At 13 years old, Rosa was diagnosed with Lupus, which caused significant kidney damage. Later in her adult life, she was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease, leading her to need a kidney transplant. In 2025, Rosa received the life-saving gift of a kidney

TRANSPLANT

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BROWNIES

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The exciting visit on June 25 marked the finale of the troop’s year-long leadership journey focused on water conservation and environmental protection. During the snowy winter months, the young citizen scientists periodically collected water samples from Milford’s Louisa Lake, which is important to both Massachusetts and the troop members, who love being out in nature and having Girl Scout meetings at the lake.

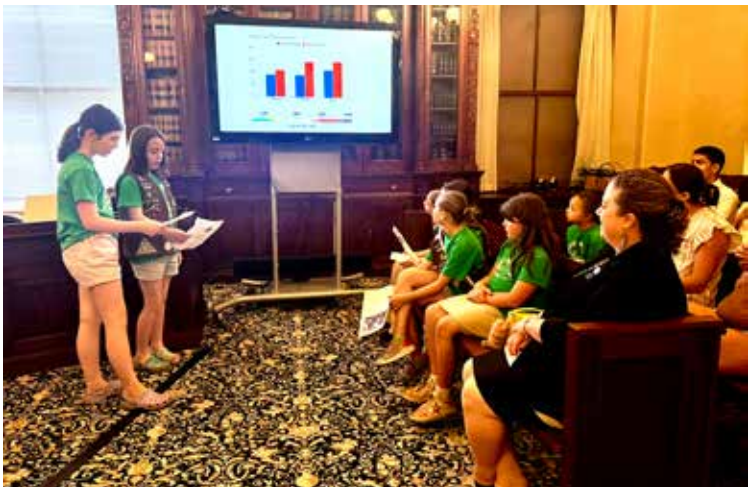
Using testing kits from Salt Watch, a national community science project tracking road salt pollution, the scouts carefully measured chloride levels from winter road runoff, crunched the numbers, and charted their findings. Their fieldwork uncovered elevated chloride levels in the local water source. Prepared with data



Girl Scouts on the train to Boston (Anastasia, Aadhana, Isla, Giuliana, Adeline, Hailey, Mia, Tegan, Adelyn, Aadhiya, Vera, Kira, Semira, Charlotte, Mabel) Courtesy photo

and a thoughtful presentation, the scouts met with Senator Becca Rausch and her staff to explain how everyday winter maintenance impacts aquatic life and local ecosystems. They didn’t just highlight the problem though, they brought smart solutions, teaching adults how

to use road salt responsibly by applying only the recommended amounts and sweeping up excess salt before it washes away. This community action project also earned Girl Scouts Vera, Tegan, Mia, Mabel, Hailey, Charlotte, and Adeline the prestigious Journey Summit Award,



Girl Scouts Mabel and Charlotte presenting data to Senator Rausch. Courtesy photo

the highest honor a Brownie can achieve through completing three leadership journeys. Along with sharing their hard work, the scouts enjoyed fielding thoughtful questions from Rausch, learning firsthand how state leaders work to protect the environment for future genera-

tions, and getting an exciting tour of the state house. If you’re inspired by these citizen scientists, new Girl Scout troops are forming now for girls entering grades K–12! To find out how to get involved, contact girlscouts.Milfordma@gmail.com.

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TRANSPLANT

continued from page 1

transplant from a deceased donor.

Recognizing that her mother’s transplant gave her a second chance at life, Betsy became a volunteer at New England Donor Services (NEDS), where she now dedicates her spare time to advocating for the importance of organ and tissue donation, especially within communities of color. Last year, both Betsy and Rosa participated in NEDS annual Blue & Green Walk/5K in Worcester with a team called “Rosa’s Hope Squad.”

National Multiethnic Donor Awareness Month focuses on raising awareness for organ, eye, and tissue donation, as well as encouraging donor registration within multiethnic communities, who make up a significant portion of the national transplant waiting list often due to higher rates of conditions like diabetes and heart disease that can lead to organ failure.

To learn more, visit <https://neds.org/>.

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Shoes and hats and more, oh my!

Industry in Milford through the years

By Marsha Mancuso
Milford Historical Commission

Most Milfordians know that the shoe factories and granite quarries were a big part of business in Milford in the past, but there were other major businesses as well.

Boots and shoes

The boot and shoe industry started in 1795. Up until this point, Milford was a farming community. Colonel Ariel Bragg started making shoes after purchasing \$2.50 worth of tools and 40 pounds of shoe leather on credit; he bought a little bit of calf skin for \$7 - and from this he made 22 pairs of shoes. With a horse he had rented for 50 cents, he brought the shoes to Providence to sell. From this humble start was born the wholesale manufacturing of footwear in Milford.

Much of the early work was done in home workshops. When power became available, factories emerged. In 1837, there were 128,000 pairs of shoes produced; by 1846 it was just shy of 244,000 pairs. By 1856, there were 11 manufacturing firms, mainly in the area of Central, Jefferson, and North Bow Streets. This manufacturing lessened over time, but was still happening in the late 1970s. (I worked there in the early 70s and I fondly recall the inside of that historic building at the corner of Depot and Central Streets, as well as the one on North Bow Street, both of which seemed very old even then.)

Straw hats

There was a straw-hat business

here, as well. In 1810, Samuel Penniman, Jr. had a small shop in town. By the 1860s, Benjamin H. Spaulding had started a straw business manufacturing women's hats. A couple of years later, he was employing 400 people. The shop, which was on the corner of Pearl and Lincoln Streets, was twice destroyed by fire. A third fire in 1924 annihilated the factory completely. There was a temporary move of the business to Medway, but then in 1928 the company moved back and into the large building on North Bow Street (that later became Milford Shoe Company). For a while in the 1950s that building was occupied by Kartiganer Hat Corporation, but they moved to Upton.

There were a couple of other small straw manufacturers in Milford. One of those, on Pine Street, was owned by a Mr. Bose, who was caught in Chicago and brought back to stand trial for burning his own shop down and defrauding the insurance company. During the height of the industry in Milford, there were over 700 straw operators employed here; two-thirds were women. It was a welcome way to earn money for women who could not work full time. Straw hats were made for summer; wool and felt for winter. The towns of Milford, Medway, and Upton were leaders in the millinery trade for a number of years. But, by the 1950s changes in fashion and the availability of synthetic materials brought about the demise of this industry in town.



Cigars

You may not know that Milford had a robust cigar manufacturing industry. It started in 1880 with just one manufacturer, but in short order there were twenty firms, which were here for about fifty years. The peak for this was in 1887 when there were 2,216,525 cigars made. Along with machinery to produce the cigars, came the end of the businesses. There are some older people who recall the wooden Indian that stood outside the William Hale factory on Main Street. Folklore says that just after the owner destroyed that, he found out he could have sold it for \$1,000. Imagine what it would be worth today!

Quarries

And, of course, the quarries. Yes, Milford is the only place where pink granite is found. It is said that it was first discovered by James and William Sherman at an area near where Route 495 crosses Route 16. They were already engaged in quarrying, but after they split open a huge boulder, they found inside a pink-colored granite. This carved out Milford's destiny and brought this small town to the forefront of the granite-cutting and building business. In 1845 there were six men quarrying granite, but in 1875 there were 200 men



Construction of the Huckins, Temple & Wood Shoe Factory. 7 & 9 Charles Street, opposite 53 Depot Street. Courtesy photos

employed. The earliest site was in the Braggville section of town, where the former Porthole Restaurant was. The construction of the railroad and its coming through town in 1847 allowed the movement of large sections of rock. The history of the quarries is rich. And they also changed names and merged, so that makes it challenging to understand where each one was because what was called a certain name at one point, would be something else at a different point in time. The sheer amount of granite mined in Milford is astonishing. It's estimated that more than a million and a half tons of granite came out of this town.

Here are just a few of the hun-

dreds of places where pink granite from Milford can be found: Memorial Hall (where the museum is located - come and visit!); Bancroft Memorial Library and the Town Hall in Hopedale, Worcester City Hall; Boston Public Library; Pennsylvania Station, Brooklyn Museum, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York; First Division Monument and Eccles Federal Reserve Building in Washington, D.C.; Singapore Changi Airport, Singapore.

Historical Museum

To learn more about Milford's interesting history, stop by the Milford Historical Museum on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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Scouting America Troop 219 summer update

By Michele Duffy

Scouting America Troop 219 is a growing troop of girls, ages 11 to 17, from Milford and surrounding towns.

This summer, the Scouts spent a week at Camp Squanto in Plymouth, Mass., where they learned key life skills, teamwork, and explored new interests, including wilderness survival, movie making, water sports, fire safety, and more.

Their days were filled with merit badge classes and hands-on learning, while the evening activities gave scouts an opportunity to play games, swim at the



waterfront, and build lifelong friendships.

This camp is available to scouts each summer, and is a highlight of their scouting year! Next up, they're preparing for

their Bike Camping Trip to Block Island in September.

To learn more about Scouting America Troop 219, contact us at <https://www.troopwebhost.org/Troop219Milford>.



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Published Monthly on the 2nd Thursday Mailed FREE to the Communities of Milford Circulation: 12,800 households & businesses

Publisher

Jen Schofield

Editor

Theresa Knapp

Send Editorial to:

editor@milfordfreepress.com

Advertising Sales Manager

Jen Schofield 508-570-6544 jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Creative Design & Layout

Bess Couture Kim Vasseur Wendy Watkins

Office Address

9 Industrial Road, Suite 107 Milford, MA 01757

Ad Space Deadline

is the Friday 13 days prior to publication date.

Ad Artwork Deadline

is the Wednesday 8 days prior to publication date.

Reader Submission Deadline

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

Please submit to:

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Women's choral group to hold auditions

Exsultet! seeks sopranos and altos

Do you love to sing? Then we would love to meet you! We are Exsultet!— a fun-loving, women's choral group made up of around twenty musicians. We love making music and challenging ourselves to present concerts which enlighten and entertain. Exsultet! sings a repertoire of choral literature spanning musical periods and cultures, and incorporates readings and poetry

into our performances.

Exsultet! has openings for sopranos and altos for the 2026-2027 season. Auditions will take place on Mon., Aug. 31, at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 725 Washington Street, Holliston.

To audition, download the audition piece, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' from our website, www.exsultet.us, and prepare

to rehearse and sing it with the group. At the end of rehearsal, you will be asked to sing your part in a trio or quartet. Come prepared to sing, work hard, and have fun.

Exsultet! rehearsals for the 2026-2027 season will be on Monday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. in preparation for our two concert weekends. We typically perform our holiday concert in

Exsultet!

early December and our spring concert in April/May.

For more information, contact Carrie Klimeczko at carrie7975@gmail.com.

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Saving for retirement: Are you guessing or planning?



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives,

reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn't your discipline – it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your an-

nual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set

aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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

Mark Freeman, CEPA
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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MPS receives grant to continue After School Math Tutoring Program

The Milford Public Schools (MPS) are very pleased to announce that they have received a grant of \$29,588.87 from the Community Foundation for MetroWest (CFMW) to continue

the After School Math Tutoring Club at Stacy Middle School for the 2026–2027 school year. This funding will support 40 students in grades 6–8, providing targeted, small-group math in-

struction outside regular school hours. This is the fourth year in a row the CFMW has supported this program with a generous grant award.

“Our After School Math

Tutoring program provides students with approximately 45 additional hours of mathematics instruction with a virtual tutor throughout the school year. Students who participate in this

program not only strengthen their mathematical understanding, but also build confidence

GRANT

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Leigh Sanaguaray Moyon, Jhove Gonzalo Gonzalez, Michael Ruben Shannon, Ike Thomas Hamilton, Madeline Margaret Soloman III, Alan Richard Haser, Andrew Robert Sousao De Oliveira, Lorraine Haughey, Emma Katherine Souza, Gustavo Silva Hausmann, Benjamin Mark Stachowski, Luke William Ansara Herpin Hernandez, Jordyn Daynel Stoker, Molly Jane Jacques, Tori Simone Weiner, Giovanna Lucia

Class of 2027 (62 students)

Alvarado, Tyler Christopher Lyubkin, Lina Olivia Aquino, Nathalia Martins Mace, Henry Edward Boccia, Cloe Emma Maldonado, Elle Sol Boulanger, Matthew Paul Maldonado, Emma Luz Bullock, Owen Thomas Maloney, Amelia Grace Burke, Nicholas Lawson Mandrik, Nathan Peter Caguana Caguana, Jennifer Maridsa Mayancela-Agualema, Jessica Veronica Cappelli, Roberto Carneiro Miller, Lucia Melina Cartier, Elise Nicole Miranda, Julia Sa Cavaliere, Cayla Jean Moura, Laysa Victoria

Goncalves Chapman, Angelina Maria Nakirega, Irene Faustine Coelho, Sophia Alves Oliveira, Bryan MacKenzey Colonetti, Kevin Gatto Peniche, Nathan Fernandes Cortese, Ava Mariella Placy, Taika Phaneila Esperanza Cunningham, Reagan Rebecca Putnam, Nicole Ann da Cunha, Giana Alexis Ramos, Lucca Rocha Da Paz, Miguel Ribeiro Cordeiro Rappazini, Dean Joseph De Araujo, Guilherme Costa Quaresma Ricca, Lucas Stephen Delaney, Catherine Margaret Richard, Lucas Eric Denietolis, Brayton James Roy, Mackenzie Dorothy DeTore, Lilliana Rose Sanborn, Madison Ryann Dupre, Trevor Robert Seyfarth, Alexander Logan Estrada, Aryana Elise Silva Hughes, Sophia Andrea Ferreira, Samantha Haley Simao, Maria Eduarda Rocha Gomez Garcia, Mazie Maria Virginia Souza, Matheus Da Silva Hanna Ibrahim, Maria Magdy Monir Stachowski, Alex John Ansara Herpin-Hernandez, Miguel Luis Syed, Rayann Mo-hiuddin Jansons, Emily Kim Vo,

Justin Honk Kenton, Nicholas Jonathan Webster, Julia Elizabeth Kurzontkowski, Gracelyn Marie Wright, Dylan Scott Lentini, Fiona Rose Zou, Benjamin

Class of 2028 (64 students)

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Pascual Sanaguaray Moyon, Jhover Gabriel Ettahiri, Sami Smith, Ethan James Flinkfelt, Caroline Louise Stacey, Camille Marie Geoffroy, Cody Michael Stokes, Brooke Marie Golla, Rupinika Stoney, Josephine Lee Gomes, Davi Marinho de Lima Sweeney, Grace Vivienne Ha, Tina Tabares Restrepo, Melanie Antonella Hally, Ethan Ralph Tobar, Valeria Nicole Haser, Michael Quentin Vervil, Yarlle Maricka Hough, Amelia Jean Villalobos, Alani Raquel Kerr, Nathaniel Anthony Wild, Lilli Abigail KokEnnen, Aiden Charles Williams, Lauren Grace Lakkadi, Anjan Bharath Reddy Zicherman, Cameron Jacob

Class of 2029 (65 students)

Aboalanin, Rami Hassan Knapp, Ella Marie Amos, Nneoma Vanesa LaTour, Cameron Samnang Asong, Rose Agendia Laurindo, Lucas Barbosa, Gabriella Sa Lefter, Anela Joan Bertoni, Jessica Riley Maki, Cameron Michael-Allan Bien, Charlotte Rose Mancini, Keira Elana Bournazian, Madison Jean Martins, Ana Emanuely Brown, Jonathan Nicholas Mauricio, Jordyn Essy Calabraro, Anthony Lorenzo Mayancela

MHS

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MHS

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Guaman, Saywa Anahi Cales, Mila Rayne McDavitt, Adrian Daniel Canto, Rebecca Maria Tavares Miranda, Kelly Sa Capuzziello, Dante Raymond Molina Zhunio, Kerly Darlyn Cartier, Alexis Mae Morais, Pedro De Carvalho Cloherty, Sheamus Ares Murphy, Isabella Francis Connors, Reese Elvis Naves, Grace Alexandra Corbin, Jeffrey Dean Oliveira, Nathiely Olicio Gonzaga De Souza, Gabriel Sabadin Pereira Plant, Colin Joseph Deans, Quinn Richard Prevelige, Leah Rose Demers, Kaia Leigh Reneau, Alexa Lynn DeOliveira Tebo, Iris Alexandra Saad, Samarah Rose Deshommes, Christopher Exdra Sainvilus, Juniece Ramyah Dominguez, Lucas Gabriel Santomenna, Mia Rose Donelan, Sean Matthew Silva, Ellen Kathleen Lemos Duchi Quizhpilema, John Allan Sullivan, Isabella Rose Flanagan, Brian Matthew Tint, Soe Yati Guikema, Emelia Grace Torres, Arianna Harbachuck, Lily Beth Vazquez, Emma Rose Hausmann, William Gabriel Vereker, Grant Walker Held, Colin James Viera, Claire Ashlynn Holland, Margaret Mae Vootla, Aakash Hughes, Lily Anne Wright, Reagan Bowen Karlin, Evan Noah Wright, Riley Ridgway Kearnan, Meghan Patricia

MHS - TERM 4 HONOR ROLL (average of 85 with no grade below 80)

Class of 2026 (48 students)
Abadli, Chihab Eddine
Javier Nunez, Juleisys Altagracia Araujo, Abigail Elizabeth Jutras, Jaklyn Ava Araujo, Anna Maria Kimba, Celeste Kiseme Ateawung, Madison Nyiawung Lala Castro, Fatima Liliana Beagle, Grace Olivia Lima, Italo Alves Breen, Reilly James Mahanta, Avi Burns, Dylan Edward Mayancela Pichazaca, David Burns, Ryan Paul McCarthy, Lucia Rose Burrows, Lillian Elizabeth Palombo, Nadia Flora Marie Cancado, Miguel Naves Parrott, Tyler James Catrambone, Domenico Pierce, Chloe Anne Cela Caguana, Jennifer Potter, Noah Jonathan Da Silva, Gustavo Oliveira Quizhpi Granda, Rosa Angelica De Jesus, Cayson Benjamin Ramos, Lorena Kelly Martins De Oliveira, Gheovanna Santos Ridolfi, Emma Louise Dias, Iuri Rodriguez, Dionicio Esiah DiGiallonardo, Avalina Valia Seri, Talya Victoria DiStauro, Christopher John Simas, Antonio Dominick Flores Garcia, Melany Yazmin Tacuri-Tamay, Jennifer Fonseca, Lara Beatriz Dos Santos Valentim, Haline Vitoria Almeida Franco, Jhenyfer Nicolly Ferreira Vaz, Jake Logan Fries, Grayson Michael Velasco-Aguaiza, Genesis Yadhira Gomes da Silva, Marcelo Yaroshefski, Evelyn Josephine Inacio-Santos, Diego Zheng, Selina

Class of 2027 (39 students)
Carter, Brodey Andrew
Murphy, Amaya Lynn Cas-

tillo, Alex Mutegyeki, Kaylah Katrina Costa Silva, Katlen Marcal Nashawaty, Kyla Elizabeth Costa, Maisa Rodrigues Naula, Jenyne Davermande, Tatchyna Pierre, Kayla Loudine Dickhut, Cameron Christopher Pina, Kiannalese Rose Doiron, Christopher Donald Pinguil-Castro, Josseline Mirella Driscoll, Lilah Rae Salus, Chloe Grace Figueroa, Sofia Merianna Manoogian Samuelson, Annabelle Lynn Gualan Congo, Leonardo Xavier Sanchez Guaman, Kelvin Santiago Guaman Guaman, Lisseth Alexandra Santiago Rivera, Jaleckxis Marian Hannigan, Austin Nicholas Scioli, Ava Rose Hayes, Connor Brian Siqueira, Sara Franca Howarth, Steven Allen Soares, Brenda Alves Jencks, Melanie Rose Sousao de Oliveira, Andrey Junior Kinter, Tobi L Straffello, Kaylynn Ann Langevin, Wilbur Ivan Tenenholtz, Olivia Anna Machado, Julia Carla Souza Wallace, Ellyanna Elizabeth McIsaac, Gavin Joseph Whalen, Faith America Mendes, Sophia Machado

Class of 2028 (40 students)
Alemnkia, Faithful Achale-

feh Ferreira, Estefany Gomes Ambuludi Bermeo, Wendy del Rocio Flis, Callan Joseph Anala, Karthi Sree Anish Aatherya Forgit, Ella Elizabeth Annantunio, Isabella Rose Gomes, Ana Luisa da Silva Arnold, John Michael Ibrahim, Maryama Ayman Ibrahim Arquillano, Wielz Jehuven Labuca Lopes, Thierry Evandro Ballard, Reese Alana Luca, Savannah Lee Boccia, Brayden Henry Manzaba Lopez, Oswaldo Anthony Brown, Amaia Solana Michaloski, Hop Sopheap Brown, Andrew Charles Murray, Autumn Catherine Carchipulla Sucuzhanay, Kimberly Nayeli Quito Pillcorema, Nely Gabriela Cartier, Elizabeth Marie Renaud, Gianna Germaine Carvalho, Daniel Alves Rizzo, Logan Anthony Croeber, Kailyn Elizabeth Rodrigues, Anna Beatriz Araujo da Silva, Daniella Tomas Santos, Isabella Ferreira Da Silva, Guilherme Viana Usher, Annabel Katherine De Freitas, Alessa Ramos Vieira, Geovanna Braga Dort, Jeffrey Michael Villeda, Bella Gisselle Dos Reis, Yasmim Barroso Voss-Leal,

Brian Anthony Fernandes, Mitzi Costa Webster, Nathan Burke

Class of 2029 (33 students)
Abrantes, Benjamin Bonomo Gomes, Christopher Souza Acquafresca, Aleah Grace Jencks, Matthew Joseph Allton, Charlotte Irena Jordan, Connor Christopher Alves, Maria Heloisa Martins Lopez Toledo, Andrea Patricia Alves, Maria Isadora Martins Lyons, Fiona Roisin Atherton, Ryan John Marcotti, Joshua Peneda Auger, Annie Rae Marques, Leticia Helena Barrientos, Leah Danitza Martinelli, Dominic Zeferino Belinette, Jean Erick Mendez-Salazar, April Isabella Blanco Claveria, Jorge Naula-Orellana, Emerson Samid Costa, Isabel Maria Padilla Munoz, Sebastian D'Amico, Olivia Mary Pellegrini, Santino Anthony Devaney, Alexis Veronica Petruska, Gianna Marie Dias, Julio Cesar Calili Rivera, Lucero Mariedith Dos Reis, Emerson Henrique Marques Rodriguez, Kemil Josue Ferreira, Madelynn Elizabeth Souza, Isabella Aragao Gately, Derrick Joseph

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Give your child the gift of clear vision this school year

By ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D. | MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

As summer winds down, parents are busy checking off back-to-school lists—backpacks, notebooks, pencils, clothes. But one critical factor for classroom success can't be bought in a store: healthy, clear vision.

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, a timely reminder to prioritize kids' visual well-being. Experts estimate up to 80% of classroom learning is presented visually. Whether reading, writing, using computers, or watching the whiteboard, children's eyes work constantly. When they can't see clearly, learning becomes difficult, frustrating, and exhausting.

The hidden struggle: screenings vs. real exams

A common misconception is that children will complain if their vision is poor. In reality, kids rarely realize they have a problem—with no point of comparison, they assume everyone sees the way they do, and simply adapt to blurry vision or

eye strain.

Surprisingly, a child can pass a school vision screening and still have significant issues. Screening typically tests only distance acuity and aren't a substitute for a comprehensive eye exam. Studies show 1 in 17 preschoolers and nearly 1 in 4 school-aged children have undetected vision problems affecting their academic performance. Early diagnosis allows these conditions to be treated before they disrupt learning.

Warning signs to watch for

Parents should watch for:

- Squinting, eye rubbing, or head tilting
- Frequent headaches or eye strain after school
- Sitting too close to the TV
- Holding books or devices very close to the face
- Losing their place or skipping lines while reading
- Covering or closing one eye to focus
- Excessive tearing, redness, or light sensitivity
- Sudden avoidance of read-

ing or homework
Trust your instincts—if something seems off, schedule an exam.

Digital eye strain

Modern classrooms rely heavily on computers, smartboards, and tablets, which has driven a rise in Computer Vision Syndrome (Digital Eye Strain). Symptoms include blurred vision, tired or dry eyes, headaches, light sensitivity, and neck or shoulder discomfort. Screen concentration reduces our blink rate, drying out the tear film and fatiguing the eyes.

Simple habits help: the 20-20-20 rule (every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds) relaxes focusing muscles. Kids should also blink deliberately, maintain a comfortable viewing distance, reduce glare, and take regular breaks from devices.

Notably, despite marketing claims, evidence doesn't show blue-light-blocking glasses meaningfully reduce digital eye strain. Proper viewing habits,



breaks, and correcting refractive errors remain the most effective strategies.

The natural remedy: sunshine and outdoor play

One encouraging development is growing evidence that natural daylight helps reduce the risk of myopia (nearsightedness). Outdoor light exposure supports healthy eye growth, and outdoor activities encourage distance focusing rather than the near-

focus demands of books and screens.

Experts recommend at least one to two hours outdoors daily—biking, playing soccer, swimming, or walking. This supports visual development while boosting physical fitness and emotional well-being. Digital devices are valuable educational tools, but shouldn't replace ac-

EYE

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GRANT

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and perseverance.” stated Ms. Kerry Taylor, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction and Student Services. “We are grateful for the support of the Community Foundation for MetroWest, whose funding makes this program possible and represents an investment in our students' success.”

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

Community Foundation for Metrowest Executive Director Jay Kim shared, “The Community Foundation for MetroWest is proud to partner with Milford Public Schools through our Equity in Education Action Project. As we enter our fourth year

of this partnership, we are energized by the progress we've seen among students participating in the After School Math Tutoring Club at Stacy Middle School. By investing in education, we are investing in our community's future.”

Entering its fourth year, the After School Math Tutoring Club has received nearly \$130,000 in total funding from the Community Foundation for MetroWest. Its sustained success has made a measurable difference for students at Stacy Middle School.

“The After School Math Tutoring Club continues to provide valuable support for our students. It has been encouraging to see students make academic gains while developing greater confidence in mathematics and their own abilities as learners. We are grateful for the Community Foundation for MetroWest's continued partnership and look forward to another successful year of growth and achievement,” said Dr. Caridad Lopez, Principal of Stacy Middle School.

Submitted by Milford Public Schools

EYE

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tive outdoor play. Encouraging kids to disconnect and spend time in natural light is one of the simplest ways to promote lifelong eye health.

Safety and nutrition

This month is also a good time to focus on injury prevention. Many sports-related eye injuries can be avoided with protective polycarbonate eyewear during practices and games. At home, keep hazardous chemicals and sharp tools out of children's reach, and teach basic safety habits like not running with pencils or scissors.

Nutrition also supports growing eyes. A diet rich in colorful fruits and vegetables, leafy greens, omega-3-rich fish, eggs, and whole grains provides the vitamins and antioxidants needed for healthy retina development, tear production, and overall eye health.

A clear path to success

As the new school year begins, remember that clear vision is a cornerstone of your child's success, both academically and beyond. Early detection and treatment of vision problems can improve learning, confidence, athletic performance, and quality of life. Making a comprehensive eye exam part of your back-to-school routine is one of the most valuable investments you can make in your child's future.

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Milford Town Library Calendar of Events

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

Summer Hours

The library is closed on Saturdays during the summer. Saturday hours will return after Labor Day (Sept. 7). Weekday library hours remain the same: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Summer ESL Class Schedule

Regular drop-in classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings will return in September. Las clases regulares sin inscripción previa los martes y jueves en las noches volverán en septiembre.

Conversation Circles ~ Círculos de Conversación. Practice speaking English in a small informal group. The circle will meet every Monday at 11 a.m. in the ESL Classroom. Practicar hablar Inglés en un grupo pequeño e informal. El círculo se reunirá todos los lunes a 11 a.m. en el salón de clases de ESL.

Center Book Group

The Center Book Group meets next on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 10 a.m. at the Milford Senior Center to discuss *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie.

Calling all Christie aficionados to discuss her masterpiece mystery, *And Then There Were None*. First published in 1939,

the novel has sold over 100 million copies and earned the distinction as "World's Favourite Christie" when her estate held a global vote. No one beats Christie's intricate plotting and clue placement.

Join the eight people who receive an invitation from an unknown host to visit a small island. Each person carries some secret about their past. The guests never meet their mysterious host, instead are greeted by a butler and housekeeper. The first death by cyanide poisoning happens at dinner soon followed by others. Is the killer among them? What is their motive? The tension and suspense grow with each page.

You needn't be a regular member of the book group to come, though newcomers are always welcome. To reserve a copy, call 508-473-2145 ext. 2 or reserve online, milford.cwmars.org or via the Libby App.

Milford Town Library Adult Book Club

The August meeting of the Milford Town Library Adult Book Club is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. Please join us! Designed for readers 18 and older, our meetings will take place on the third

Thursday of each month.

August's selection, *A Marriage at Sea: A True Story of Love, Obsession and Shipwreck* by Sophie Elmhirst is based on the true story of married couple Maurice and Maralyn Bailey who left their home in suburban England in June 1972 to sail the world.

Despite years of preparation for their odyssey at sea, their boat Auralyn sank after being pierced by a collision with a whale, six months after they departed. Maurice and Maralyn escaped in their dinghy with a few supplies. They were at sea for six months before being rescued by a tuna boat in the Pacific.

Author Elmhirst, a journalist who writes for *The Economist* and the *Guardian*, explores both the interior and exterior impact the shipwreck had on this marriage.

Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk, or check out on the Libby app. Questions? Call 508-473-2145 ext. 2 or email milfordreference@cwmar.org.

A Proper Fit: Women at Work in a City of Corsets

On Wed., Sept. 2, at 7 p.m., the Friends of the Milford Town Library welcome author Anne Marie Murphy for a book talk

on her recently published, *A Proper Fit: Women at Work in a City of Corsets*. The twenty-first century has seen the emergence of the corset as haute couture, red carpet finery. *A Proper Fit* tells only part of the story of the garment's evolution and its importance to large groups of women in a New England city.

For Anne Marie Murphy, what began as curiosity about one female business owner from 1904, became an exploration of a huge industry in Worcester, Massachusetts: corset making. From the Civil War to the 1980s, the city was home to an astounding 126 corset-related businesses. Women were at the helm of half of them. The industry created a wealth of female self-employment opportunities long before American women had the right to vote. One woman, in particular, operated at the highest level—factory owner Mary Heintzelman Gifford Bowne. How did she learn the trade? How did she become a world famous corset designer? And, how did she fare as a female factory owner in the U.S. in that era?

A Proper Fit highlights Mary's story as well as those of other women who supported them-

selves through long-term relationships with clients. Worcester was filled with corset makers, at large factories and small shops where "corsetieres" made garments from scratch or as customized versions of mass-produced products. The Burnside and Slater Buildings on Main Street became hubs with fourteen corsetieres from wildly different backgrounds. Through the makers we learn about the garment itself—how it was made, worn, and sold to the American woman.

A deep dive into the history of both a garment and a city, *A Proper Fit* is a fascinating visit to a once-thriving industry driven and supported by thousands of women in a city of innovation, diversity, access, and opportunity.

Anne Marie Murphy, previously lived in Milford and served on the Board of Library Trustees. She founded Eastern Script in 1993, the first script clearance house to exist outside of Los Angeles County. Eastern Script maintains offices in Worcester, MA, and Kingston, Ontario.

LIBRARY

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Thelma, a white rhinoceros at Southwick's Zoo, died in June

A press release from Southwick's Zoo

It is with profound sadness that we share difficult news with our zoo community. On Tuesday, June 30, 2026, we unexpectedly lost Thelma, one of our cherished white rhinoceroses. This loss has deeply affected our animal care staff, zoo team, and all who consider Southwick's Zoo family.

Louise, Thelma's longtime companion, is currently receiving veterinary care and continues to show encouraging signs of improvement. Out of an abundance of caution, she will remain off exhibit while our veterinary team continues to monitor her closely and completes additional testing.

To better understand the circumstances surrounding Thelma's passing, an experienced pathology team from Tufts Veterinary Hospital performed a comprehensive necropsy. We are also grateful for the support and collaboration of veterinary professionals from Capron Park Zoo, Roger Williams Park Zoo,

and Dr. Jonathan Bergman. Our own veterinary team, Dr. Samantha King and Dr. Peter Brewer, along with our dedicated hoofstock keepers and the entire Southwick's Zoo staff, have worked tirelessly throughout this process to ensure Louise receives the highest level of care.

As many of you know, our rhinos have played a special role in connecting guests with wildlife through educational experiences offered by our nonprofit conservation partner, EARTH Ltd. Thelma was an extraordinary ambassador for her species. Through her calm demeanor and gentle personality, she inspired countless visitors to learn about rhino conservation and the challenges wild rhino populations face. The encounters she participated in helped raise meaningful support for rhino conservation initiatives in southern Africa, directly contributing to efforts that protect this remarkable species.

Those who had the privilege

of working with Thelma knew her as a mellow, trusting, and gentle animal. She and Louise genuinely enjoyed spending time with their dedicated keepers and encounter participants, often leaning in for scratches and affection that would leave them completely relaxed - even drifting off to sleep. The bond they shared with their caregivers was truly special, making this loss especially difficult for everyone who knew and loved them.

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn Thelma, and our team remains focused on Louise's recovery. We are awaiting the final pathology results, which may provide additional information about the cause of Thelma's passing and help guide Louise's ongoing care. Until our veterinary team is confident that she has been fully evaluated and cleared, Louise will remain off exhibit.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the many veterinary professionals, animal

care experts, and zoological colleagues who have generously shared their time, expertise, and compassion. We are especially thankful to the teams from Tufts Veterinary Hospital, Capron Park Zoo, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Dr. Jonathan Bergman, and our own veterinarians, Dr. Samantha King and Dr. Peter Brewer, along with our dedicated hoofstock staff. Their countless hours of treatment, consultation, diagnostics, and unwavering commitment to Louise's care have been nothing short of extraordinary. The willingness of so many professionals to come together in support of our animals is a testament to the collaborative spirit of the zoological and veterinary community, and we are sincerely grateful for their dedication during this time.

We appreciate the compassion, patience, and support shown by our guests, members, colleagues, and the zoological community. Thank you for keeping our ani-



Thelma, a white rhinoceros at Southwick's Zoo, died on June 30.
Photo source: Southwick's Zoo

mal care team and Thelma and Louise in your thoughts as we work through this heartbreaking time together.

We will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available regarding the necropsy findings and Louise's ongoing treatment and recovery.

Submitted by Southwick's Zoo

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Greenleaf Garden Club installs new officers

By Nancy Wojick

The Greenleaf Garden Club (GGC) recently held their annual meeting at which the 2026-2027 officers were installed. The club celebrated a year of great accomplishments. Outgoing President Judy Thomas stated that GGC had an exceptional year.” The revival of our November fundraiser and the ongoing success of the Spring Plant Sale were supported by the addition of 10 new members.

The new Board consists of Candy Skorupa – President, Mary Vono – Vice President, Sandra Champion – Corresponding Secretary, Sara Vono-Caires – Recording Secretary and Patsy Timmons – Treasurer. The Directors are Judy Thomas, Lisa Sherman and Lisa Williams.

Plans are being made for next year’s exciting horticultural and design programs and workshops.

The club will continue its special projects including the

much-loved Garden Therapy program with the residents of Countryside Healthcare, the very popular Junior Gardeners program at the Youth Center and its civic plantings which enhance areas of town, and municipal buildings.

On Mon., Sept. 21, the first meeting of the year will feature a presentation on the beautiful and beloved David Austin Roses by Mike and Angelina Clute of Rose Solutions. The Greenleaf Garden Club will meet at the Milford Senior Center, 60 North Bow Street, Milford. The talk begins at 7 p.m. and concludes at 8 p.m., with time reserved at the end of the program for questions and answers. This event costs \$5 and if you join Greenleaf Garden Club it will be taken off the \$30 fee.

This event is open to the public. Whether you are a seasoned gardener, a beginning rose enthusiast, or simply interested in learning more about gardening, we invite you to join us. It’s a wonderful opportunity to learn



Greenleaf Garden Club President Candy Skorupa presented her Board with tools needed to help them fulfill their duties. Courtesy photo

more about the Greenleaf Garden Club and the programs and activities we offer throughout the year.

The Greenleaf Garden Club is a member of the National Garden Clubs Inc and the Garden Club Federation of

Massachusetts Inc. For more information, contact greenleafgardenclub@gmail.com/ or visit www.GreenleafGardenClub.org.

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Electronics Recycling Day in Milford on Sept. 19

The First Congregational Church of Milford is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Sat., Sept. 19, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The church will ensure that 99% of dropped off items will be re-used and recycled.

All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TV's can be recycled. Generally recycling fees range from \$5 to \$45 per item, projection & consoles range from \$60-\$80. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and



shred all hard drives at no additional cost. This event is an easy and fun way to dispose of the old electronics in your garage, basement, attic and offices. So start setting them aside now and bring them to the church parking lot on Saturday, Sept. 19. A

drive through process will allow those donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available.

The First Congregational Church Electronics Recycling event is held twice a year during April and September. We

very much appreciate the support of those who have previously chosen to responsibly recycle with us and look forward to continuing to offer this recycling opportunity.

Drop off in the church parking lot at 4 Congress Street,

Milford (opposite Draper Park, next to the Post Office). Please enter the lot from the Church Street entrance.

Cash payments only, please. For more information contact the church office at 508-473-5259

Milford High School Class of 1976 to Celebrate 50th Reunion

The Milford High School Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50th class reunion on Sat., Oct. 17, 2026, at the Marchegiano Club on Meade Street in Milford.

The Class of 1976 graduated during America's Bicentennial and was proudly known as "The Bicentennial Class." Fifty years later, classmates will reunite as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary.

The reunion will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person,

with dinner catered by Oliva's. A class photo will be taken at 7:15 p.m., and the evening will also feature a 50/50 raffle.

Reservations are required. Payment is by cash or check only. You can Venmo @Ann-Robichaud-1 or mail a check payable to Ann Robichaud to her at 5 Eames St., Milford 01757.

For additional information or to RSVP, contact Ann at 508-473-0422 or arobichaud1033@gmail.com.



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More Families, Fewer Resources:

A New Reality for Our Local Food Pantries

Before leaving for summer break, a local first-grader was asked what she would miss most about school. Her answer was simple: *"I will miss the blue bags."*

Each Friday, those blue bags are filled with food donations and sent home with students in need, ensuring they have something to eat over the weekend.

Hunger continues to be a crisis throughout our state. According to the 2026 *Massachusetts Food Access Report: Hunger on the Rise* from The Greater Boston Food Bank and Mass General Brigham, a record 40 percent of households experienced food insecurity in 2025. Furthermore, child-level food insecurity rose from 33 percent to 37 percent within the last year.

For thousands in our communities, local food pantries are a lifeline providing essential food assistance to those affected by job loss, seniors on fixed incomes, veterans and people with disabilities. Working families also rely on food programs to make ends meet.

The high cost of groceries, skyrocketing rents and cuts to federal programs are driving more residents to seek food support, placing unprecedented strains on local food pantries already working to meet a growing demand.

This was underscored during a summit on food insecurity hosted by UMass Memorial Health — Milford Regional Medical Center's Community Benefits Committee, where local food pantry leaders shared firsthand insights into the challenges facing their organizations.

Pantry leaders noted significant cyclical declines in donations following the holidays, with challenges becoming heightened after January and particularly during the summer months, because school-based food drives come to a halt.

Another key takeaway from the summit was the profound impact of community contributions. Food donations are always needed and critically important. However, financial contributions provide pantries the flexibility to meet their community's most pressing needs, including offering healthy options.

Food assistance programs not only put meals on the table but help ensure that children have access to the same support they rely on during the school year. Every child deserves to spend their summer feeling carefree and having fun and not worrying if there will be enough to eat tomorrow.

A record 40% of households experienced food insecurity in 2025.



Learn more about your local food pantry's needs by visiting "About Us" at ummhealth.org/milford-regional and viewing "Community Benefits" or scan the QR code.

Food Equity and Sustainable Transformation

A community health initiative designed to tackle regional food insecurity.



FEAST



UMass Memorial Health
MILFORD REGIONAL

Pets of the Month: Rebel & Rascal



Rebel and Rascal are two irresistibly fluffy kittens with big personalities and even bigger hearts. Photo credit: Milford Humane Society

Looking for twice the love, twice the laughs, and twice the purrs? Meet Rebel and Rascal, two irresistibly fluffy kittens with big personalities and even bigger hearts!

This adventurous duo love to investigate every corner, chase toys, and turn everyday moments into exciting explorations.

Rebel and Rascal are a little on the shy side. Their ideal family will have the patience to work with them and understand their cues. Giving them space when they need it but ultimately working towards

integrating them into the family. Rebel and Rascal will bring endless entertainment, companionship, and unconditional love to one lucky family.

If you're ready to welcome this dynamic duo into your heart and home, Rebel and Rascal are ready to meet you. Give these fluffy brothers the happy ending they deserve—and get ready for a lifetime of purrs, cuddles, and laughter!

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





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Auburn*, Charlton*, Douglas, Dudley*, Grafton, Holden, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford*, Paxton, Rutland, Sutton, Uxbridge & Webster*

ZONE 2: REACH 104,764
Ashland, Bellingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millis, Natick, Norfolk, Norwood, Upton & Wrentham

*Beginning with the September editions, the five Yankee North and South communities in Zone 1 (denoted by *) transitioned to convenient, high-visibility pickup locations throughout each town.*

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Reserve your space today by contacting Jen Schofield at 508-570-6544 or by email at jenschofield@localtownpages.com

Recent Home Sales

Date	Milford	Amount
07/24/2026	49 W. Fountain St.	\$600,000
07/24/2026	56 S. Main St.	\$665,000
07/23/2026	2 Esther Dr.	\$647,500
07/23/2026	10 Mayhew Slip	\$669,900
07/23/2026	4 Hawthorne Path	\$640,000
07/22/2026	5 Shadowbrook Ln. #7	\$270,000
07/22/2026	38 Depot St.	\$599,000
07/21/2026	50 Sunset Dr.	\$580,000
07/21/2026	17 Bandy Ln.	\$542,000
07/17/2026	161 Congress St.	\$500,000
07/17/2026	24 Lantern Ln.	\$689,900
07/16/2026	7 Tina Rd.	\$750,000
07/16/2026	217 Congress St.	\$670,000
07/16/2026	66 Haven St.	\$775,000
07/15/2026	4 Clearview Dr.	\$590,000
07/15/2026	9 Prairie St.	\$450,000
07/15/2026	175 Congress St.	\$570,000
07/15/2026	51 Fruit St. Ext.	\$520,000
07/15/2026	12 Zain Cir.	\$592,500
07/14/2026	6 Eight Gibbon Ave.	\$735,000
07/10/2026	31 Muriel Ln.	\$622,500
07/10/2026	33 Purchase St. #A	\$412,000
07/10/2026	276 Central St.	\$382,000
07/09/2026	18 Field Pond Rd.	\$725,000
07/09/2026	107 Highland St.	\$550,000
07/09/2026	77-79 Congress St.	\$818,300
07/08/2026	16 Hamilton Ave.	\$519,900
07/08/2026	59 Grove St.	\$460,000
07/02/2026	9 Paula Rd.	\$525,000
07/02/2026	6 Larson Rd.	\$674,000
07/02/2026	7 S. Main St.	\$389,900
07/02/2026	96 S. Main St. #A	\$425,000
07/02/2026	3 Dino Way	\$517,000
06/30/2026	17 Robin Rd.	\$710,000
06/30/2026	46 Black Bear Cir.	\$649,900
06/30/2026	2 Dino Way #52	\$480,000
06/29/2026	29 S. Bow St.	\$425,000
06/29/2026	67 Zain Cir.	\$645,000
06/26/2026	6 Dennis Rd.	\$610,000
06/26/2026	28 Zain Cir.	\$606,000
06/26/2026	93-93A High St.	\$370,000

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



The 4-bed, 3-bath, 2,448-square-foot house at 7 Tina Road in Milford recently sold for \$750,000. Image credit: www.zillow.com

Fall Playgroup registration starts Aug. 31

All playgroups at the Milford Family & Community Network CFCE(MFCN) are free and intended for children from birth to 5 years old with their parent/caregiver(s), unless otherwise specified. Placement is chosen by lottery. We hold two sessions of playgroups per year. Session I runs from late September through December and Session II runs from late January through May.

Registration for the Fall Session (Session I) of the MFCN Playgroups in Milford and Hopedale will take place daily from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. from Monday, Aug. 31 to Thursday, Sept. 3, and Tuesday, Sept. 8 to Thursday, Sept. 10 at the Milford Family & Community Network Office, located inside the Sacred Heart Parish Center.

The lottery will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

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

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Stacy Middle School Third Trimester Honor Roll

Stacy Middle School Principal, Dr. Caridad Lopez announced Stacy Middle School's Honor Roll for Trimester Three.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST Grade 6

Abrantes, Evander; Alvarenga, Alicia; Amorim, Jullie; Arocho Ramos, Juliana; Asong, Gina; Bandaru, Rithvika; Bertoni, Anna; Bien, William; Borges, Grace; Capuzziello, Mia; Consigli, Juliet; Consigli, Lila; Cunningham, Liam; Davis, Lola; de Faria, Sofia; De Souza, Isabella; DeSouza, Gabriella; Dias Costa, Alice; DiGiando, Owen; Fournier, Isabella; Garcia Ribeiro, Isadora; Gaspard, Jethro; Gautam, Samana; Hamada, Sophia; Harbachuck, Kora; Hurley, Cian; Kelley-Vega, Lilah; Keo, Pisey; Khaliq, Ubaid; Kuhl, Maxwell; Kuras, Maddison; Marcelino, Wesley; Marcotte, Madison; Mehndi, Jannat; Paradise, Riley; Purtell, Connor; Ramos, Henrique; Rebecchi, Ryder; Rondan-Vazquez, Kharla; Sena, Joao Otavio; Silva, Mia; Soares, Kayleigh; Souza Velasquez, Sophia; Spencer Rodriguez, Analba; Tassone, Maven; Wild, Olive; Wild, Penny

Grade 7

Allegrezza, Harper; Burdierd, Sophie; Cales, Selina; Carmo, Julia; Chimborazo Guaman, Daira; Da Costa, Charles; DePietro, Ashley; Held, Anna; King, Daniel; Knapp, Cassidy; Mauricio, Taylor; McLaughlin, Angelyn; Ojoseitan, Joshua; Oliveira, Emanuelly; Oliveira, Mirella; Stacey, Jake; Tessicini, Kelsie; Varner, Zina; Warren, Kiara

Grade 8

Alshawabkeh, Reham; Ateawung, Myra; Awaru, Avika; Bersin, Silas; Brothers, Michelle; Connerney, Carter; Consigli, Rita; Cunningham, Brooke; Damata, Ava; Davis, Balthazar; De Oliveira, Sophia; DiGiallonardo, Brandon; Dos Santos, Nicolly; Earl, Kendall; Falk, Liam; Ferreira, Sarah; Fonseca, Mason; Garay, Judah; Geoffroy, Cali; Gkalios, Demos; Gomes, Matheus; Healey, Brandon; Keenan, Makayla; Macchi, Emma; Mastroianni, Vincent; McGovern, Kennedy; McGrath, Logan; McNeil, Keagan; Metodiev, George; Miranda, Isabella; Naugler, Abigail; Nnyanzi, John; O'Toole,

Emmett; Pinto, Jackson; Powers, Alexandra; Purtell, Melanie; Ross, Addison; Silva Hughes, Isabella; Sobers, Aria; Straffello, Kai; Vieira, Luanna; Villa, Mey; Wallace, Ellie; Wampamba, Amirah; Webster, Samuel

HONORABLE MENTION Grade 6

Albanese, Luca; Alves, Ana Clara; Anderson, Molly; Aredes, Geovanna; Arrandale, Jacklynn; Arruda, Davi; Bonilla, Dream-Eva; Casey, Kendall; Colesano, Josephine; Croeber, Ryan; Da Silveira, Francisco; De Freitas, Yasmim; Dias, Lorena; Drumond, Miguel; Falk, Colin; Fonseca, Savana; Freeman, Trinity; Gonzalez Caraballo, Valentina; Guaman Caguana, Edison; Guaman Guasco, Michelle; Hartford, Grace; Jacobson, Jackson; Johnson, Carter; Johnson, Dexter; KokEnnen, Kellan; Kuhl, Ivy; LaRochelle, Ryan; Larson, Emery; Lema Caguana, Eryck; Lema Mayancela, Bryan; Maki, Amelia; McIsaac, Connor; Meacham, Emma; Mendes, Yago; Mutegyeki, Ivanna; Myers, Alexis; Nulty, Emma; Oliveira, Jonathan; Ortiz Maldonado,

Mateo; Paolini, Ozzie; Pereira, Milina; Quimis Tanguila, Maite; Rodrigues, Nicol; Rodrigues, Sophia; Roldan Gualpa, Maximiliano; Snitko, Rachel; Souza, Karol; Souza, Luisa; Ta, Olivia; Walker, Camden; Zacchilli, Amelia; Zheng, Andy

Grade 7

Aguilar, Corah; Alemnkia, Joshua; Assis, Mariana; Boudreau, Ethan; Calzolaio, Jude; Casto, Ariella; Colesano, Angelo; Costa, Ariele; Day, Jacob; Dos Santos Arruda, Samuel; Dutra, Davi; England, Tanner; Gachau, Isabella; Gaviria Oliva, Joel; Gualpa Castro, John; Hausmann, Cecily; Hornberger, Blake; Jacobson, Anthony; Karlin, Seth; King, Edgar; Lema, Lisa; MacAllister Jr, John; Meehan, Sophia; Mendonca-Young, Rhea; Molinari, Olivia; Monforte, Melissa; Nnyanzi, Matthew; Novelli, Kaira; Papastathopoulos, Joanna; Paredes Ortiz, Danna; Pereira, Livia; Pierce, Marlee; Pierre Philippe, Caleb; Pinto, Guilherme; Rios, Noah; Sena Da Matta, Sarah; Taddeo, Avery; Thomas, Shreya; Voss-Leal, Donovan; Zocoli, Rafael

Grade 8

Amancio, Gabrielly; Ballard, Evan; Berry, Aden Ryer; Bonano-Orellano, Jayce; Bourassa, Mason; Bruschi, Arthur; Bullock, Nola; Callery, Christa; Campos, Alicia; Canenguez Alfaro, Roberto; Carrier, Allison; Carvalho, Kamilla; Carvalho, Lucas; Conceicao, Brunna; Cota, Davi; Cue, Olivia; Da Silva, Kristal; Da Silva, Sarah; Damata, Antonia; Daros, Enzo; De Souza, Erika; De Souza, Luiz; De Souza, Nicolas; Dupre, Kylie; Fagone, Elyse; Falk, Nolan; Fenneuff, Samantha; Files, Kaylee; Gomes, Nathan; Gross, Camden; Gudiel Carias, Estrella; Hanna, Samuel; Iacovelli, Grace; LeBlanc, Landon; Lima, Rhyanna; Madrona, Giovanna; Maforte, Julie; Mancia, Destinee; Mello de Souza, Penelope; Merrill, Colton; Mojica, Solenn; Mutegyeki, Neriah; Neular, Ana; Placy, Marie Christnia; Reynolds, Tristan; Ribeiro, Lucas; Rocha, Joao Victor; Roderick, Cooper; Roderick, Logan; Rodrigues, Arthur; Sanampudi, Vikrant; Simonds, Mac; Tomas, Aiden; Underwood, Lily; Utino, Moara; Valentin, Nicholas; Walthers, Audrey; Zozzaro, Aubrey

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRAND PRIZE & RUNNER UP WINNERS

who correctly identified all 10 HIDDEN ANIMALS
in our May newspapers to win general
admission tickets to  Southwick's Zoo

GRAND PRIZE WINNER - Wachusett Free Press Chelsea T.

Wachusett Free Press.....	Stacy J.	Medway & Millis Local Town Pages.....	Lydia T.
Upton & Mendon Free Press.....	David C.	Hopedale Local Town Pages.....	Lisa B.
Milford Free Press.....	Paulo Sergio P.	Holliston Local Town Pages.....	Alan M.
The Yankee Express - South.....	Emily C.	Franklin Local Town Pages.....	Amanda G.
The Yankee Express - North.....	Hale S.	Blackstone Valley Express - South.....	April H.
Norwood Local Town Pages.....	Kelly A.	Blackstone Valley Express - North.....	Emilia S.
Norfolk & Wrentham Local Town Pages.....	Joseph C.	Bellingham Bulletin.....	Scott R.
Natick Local Town Pages.....	Meg W.	Ashland Local Town Pages.....	Suzanne M.

Thank you to all our readers for your enthusiastic participation in making this contest a fun and successful community event!





Grand Prize Winner enjoys a day at Southwick's Zoo



Grand Prize winner Chelsea T. recently redeemed her four-pack of tickets to Southwick's Zoo, enjoying a memorable day with her extended family. Pictured above, Chelsea is the second from the right.

LIBRARY

continued from page 10

This event is free and open to all. Copies of the *A Proper Fit* and the adult coloring book *Amazing Women of Worcester* will be available to purchase.

Free Little Art Gallery: Open the Blue Door!

We're now accepting your artwork in miniature for the Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG) located in the library garden. Simply bring your small drawing, painting, sculpture, and open the blue doors and add your artwork. You can take any art that appeals to you. In turn, your artwork may be taken.

The FLAG is sponsored by the Milford Cultural Council. Sometimes the Council shares artwork from other towns, cities, and states as well. Questions? Please contact the council at Cultural-council@townofmilford.com.

Mahjong @ MTL

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

Those who are interested can attend any of the meetings. Mahjong sets are provided. Questions?

Alzheimer's support group to meet Sept. 8

Hearts, Hugs & Hope, an Alzheimer's support group sponsored by Cornerstone at Milford, will meet on Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. on Zoom.

Dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia isn't easy, so it is helpful to share your concerns and personal experiences with others who completely understand what you're going through. You will also learn about proven strategies to help you better care for your family member. 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.

Please call the Information Desk at 508-473-2145 ext. 2. Mahjong Summer Meetings are Aug. 18, Sept. 1, Sept. 15 and Sept. 29.

Milford Area Wordsmiths

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

The group meets the first and third Monday of each month (except holidays) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, please call 508-473-2145, ext. 2. Wordsmiths Summer Meetings are Aug. 17 and Sept. 21.

Plant a Seed, Read! Adult Summer Reading Program

The 2026 Adult Summer Reading Program will end Sept. 4. This year's theme is "Plant a Seed, Read" and we're gamifying our reading logs to help you have some fun, while exploring food, gardening, and stories that connect us to our local culture and history! Everyone who participates will win a prize, but the more you participate, the more tickets you will earn to put toward our "Plant a Seed, Read" prize drawings.

To join in, you can visit the Information Desk to pick up your "Milfordland" Garden Path Log, OR print the sheet from our website, www.milfordtownlibrary.org. If you have questions about the program, or if you need any help finding books to



read, feel free to ask the Librarians at the Information Desk. You can also email milfordreference@cwmar.org or call us at 508-473-2145 Option 2.

This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, and supported by our friends at Blooming Hearts Roastery, Kelly's Farm, and the UxLocale!

Ongoing:

The Friends Bookstore and Book Table are replenished weekly. Find your next summer read at bargain prices.

Community Puzzles are always in progress in the adult reading area. MTL is a drop-off location for the Daily Bread Food Pantry. Bring your donations to the blue bin located by the Friends Book Table.

Affordable Housing Lottery
Hawkley Apartments
300 Deer Street, Milford, MA

YOU CAN COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A LOTTERY APPLICATION ONLINE HERE:
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Hawkley Apartments is a brand new 260-unit garden-style apartment community located in Milford located near I-495 and the Upper Charles Trail. Sixty-five (65) affordable apartments will be made available through this program to households earning no more than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). These homes will be located throughout the community and feature in-home laundry, central air conditioning, spacious closets, and modern finishes such as stainless-steel appliances and quartz countertops. The pet-friendly community also offers shared amenities, including a fitness center, pool, pet park, and flexible co-working spaces. There is also an on-site mini market vending where you can find everyday essentials. Hawkley is expected to be ready for occupancy in October 2026.

Maximum Household Income Limits

\$74,800 (1 person), \$85,450 (2 people), \$96,150 (3 people)
\$106,800 (4 people), \$115,350 (5 people), \$123,900 (6 people)

Public Info Session: August 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595. Passcode: 088159

Application Deadline: September 9, 2026 at 2pm

Completed Applications must be completed online or delivered by this date.
Applications may be emailed to info@sebhousing.com, faxed to (617) 782-4500, or mailed to SEB Housing, Re: Fairfield Milford Vista, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham, MA 02494

Lottery: September 16, 2026 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Hawkley Apartments on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900x1 and leave a message or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494.

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SPORTS

Milford shines as Legion state tourney host

Town's performance draws rave reviews from fans, teams

By Chris Villani

Milford Legion Baseball president Cindy Stulac said the 2026 state tournament at Fino Field was everything she could have hoped for, other than the final score of the last game. On the field, Milford won three games and was one of the last two teams standing before falling to Franklin. In the bleachers, the concession stand, the parking lots, and everywhere else, Milford was second to none as a host.

"I got feedback from parents, coaches, everyone, about how impressed they were with what Milford Legion does when it hosts the tournament," Stulac said. "It was just overwhelming, honestly."

All summer, Stulac has stressed community involvement. Sponsors do much more than cut a check. They are featured during the first pitch ceremonies and during the games on the radio broadcast. With Milford playing host to six zone champions — Milford won its own zone to play its way into the tournament, so

Zone 4 runner up Leominster nabbed a spot in the field as well — the pressure was on to put on a good show; and Stulac said the town did not disappoint. Sponsors brought food and water for players and volunteers and the level of volunteer participation left Stulac "speechless."

"We had people show up that hadn't even signed up," she said. "Three or four people a day came down and said, 'What can I do to help?' It was just phenomenal."

Stulac had high praise for the work of the Post 59 board, and the Parks Department, which showed great attention to detail such as finding blue flowers to match the legion team colors and writing "finals" under "American Legion State Tournament" in the grass behind home plate on the tournament's last day.

"They made commitments as to what they were going to do to have us ready for states, and they delivered, above and beyond," Stulac said.

The days were long for



Fino Field before the state championship game between Milford and Franklin. Photo credit: Cindy Stulac

Stulac and many of the other key cogs in the wheel. They worked 12-hour days on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the tournament's opening weekend. Stulac admitted to being exhausted, but she received a high compliment from her longtime processor, Chris Morcone. "He said, 'this feels like the old days,'" Stulac said, "It just warmed my heart."

In a town that prides itself on baseball tradition, many attendees said it reminded them of years past in Milford, when the stands in Fino were always full and a palpable excitement gripped the town when the team went on a winning streak. But it was a comment from an



Volunteers kept players fed through the state tournament. Jaxen Lindsey (left) and Adam Dubowik enjoy a slice of pizza between games. Photo credit: Cindy Stulac

away team parent that stood out to Stulac.

"They said, 'Milford should

host every other year, you guys know how to do it right,'" she recounted.

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SPORTS

Post 59 falls in Legion state finals

Milford rallied after losing in tournament opener

By Chris Villani

After dropping the first game of the 2026 American Legion State Tournament, Milford manager Steve DiVitto had a good feeling that his team would be able to bounce back.

“They didn’t waiver one bit,

through the whole process,” DiVitto said. “We told them after night one that it’s one game at a time, but don’t tell me you can’t win five games in a row. You’ve done this all year.”

Milford finished the season with a 26-6 overall record, and

a 3-2 mark in the state tournament that it hosted at Fino Field. Post 59 lost a 2-1 nail biter to Franklin in the tournament opener. After blowing out three straight foes in win-or-go-home scenarios, Milford played another thriller against Franklin, losing 3-2 in extra innings on a walk off hit batsman.

“It was a hell of a ride,” DiVitto said. “To get to the state final after losing on day one, it’s a tall task and I am proud of the kids for the commitment and sacrifice they made, all season long.”

During the state tournament, DiVitto said the energy from the hometown crowd helped to fuel his team, but Milford was buoyed on the field by great in-

dividual performances all summer. Milford resident Jackson Fournier, a rising senior at St. John’s, hit .466 with four home runs and 33 runs batted in for the season. Milford High graduate Joey McGee played in all of Milford’s 32 games and batted .337.

Hopkinton’s Nick Pedrolini finished the year hitting north of .400 with a team-leading 41 RBIs. He was also the team leader in innings pitched. Sam Schoenberg and Ben Maiorano of Holliston were two more key cogs who rarely left the field.

On the mound, Milford High 2025 graduate Tyler Ballard finished a perfect 5-0 with a minuscule 1.15 ERA. Nipmuc’s Josh

Giancola and Cole McGovern, Hopedale’s Brady Wajda, and Milford High’s Jaxen Lindsey all contributed significantly to Post 59’s deep pitching staff.

Milford has 10 players eligible to return next year from the 18-player roster that nearly won it all this summer.

“It was such a gritty, gutty performance there throughout the season, but also over the course of the last five days,” DiVitto said following the state final loss. “Obviously, we are disappointed, but I really hope the kids understand that they have to keep their heads high.”

He added, “it was such a fantastic year. Our kids should be proud.”



Joey McGee was one of Post 59’s most reliable players this season.
Photo credit: Ashley Lester

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